

Minutes of the Martham Annual Parish meeting
Held on Wednesday 11th May 2016
Community Centre, Playingfield Lane, Martham
At 7.30pm

Present: 14 Parishioners plus the Clerk.

Chair: Mr Mark Johnson

Clerk: Mrs Sarah Hunt

1. Approval of minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2015. Proposed Mrs Julie Beales, seconded Mrs Jenny Banham. Signed as a true and correct record by the Chairman.

2. Parish Council Chairman's Statement 2015/16.

The Chairman extended his thanks to the Vice-Chair Mr Paul Hooper for his support during the year. Congratulations were extended to District Councillor Barry Coleman on his re-election. The Elections on 5th May had been an event for the Parish Council with the first poll for many years. The Parish Council was sad to lose Cllrs Gates, Hurkett and Manifold and welcomed Cllrs Huke, Llewellyn and Sutton. Income and Expenditure details are available from the Parish Clerk – the Council had an income of £82,644 for the 2015/16 financial year, predominantly from Precept and Concurrent Functions, against an expenditure figure of £70,470.00.

The Ponds are once again the focus of the Council, another application of Siltex has been made in the Central Pond to clear the water – the main issue on this pond is the number of ducks which is an ongoing issue and needs addressing. The other pond by the Fish and Chip Shop also needs addressing.

The thanks of the Parish Council were extended to the gardening club who maintain the tower flower displays on the village green.

The ongoing Court Case with regard to access over the Village Green is due to be concluded shortly, and a judgement is anticipated this Summer.

Great Yarmouth Borough Services are once again contracted to undertake the grass cutting in the village, they provided an excellent service last year and came in at a very competitive price.

Trees on the Village Green continue to be managed, a couple had to be felled during the year, the Cherry has already been replaced, however the Horse Chestnut cannot be replaced immediately due to the risk of transfer of disease. Some others have been tidied and made safe.

Planning is very busy in the village – the Parish Council is not the planning authority, decision are made by Great Yarmouth Borough Council however the Parish Council is a consultee and does submit comments for consideration. Two hundred houses already have permission in the village, with applications for more due to be submitted. The Parish Council continues to push for the inclusion of affordable homes in every development. The Parish Council arranged for Great Yarmouth Borough Council to attend the village last June, 80 villagers attended the presentation and it was a good

opportunity for parishioners to address Planning Officers directly with their concerns.

The Community Centre now has catering supplies, is available for hire and is self-funding.

The Litter Pick was not as well supported this year, however the Rainbows and Guides continue to be a good support, and a third of the village was litter picked the weekend before the Scarecrow Festival.

The Parish Council has applied for the War Memorial to receive Grade II listing.

Vodafone 3G Suresignal has been brought to the village, and many thanks were extended to Cllr Vick Smith for all of her hard work in achieving this.

The toilets are not closed, after many different options were explored Great Yarmouth Borough Council took the decision to leave them open, with some slight changes to the opening times and operational staffing. The Parish Council still considers them a vital service to be maintained.

All benches are now being inspected and either refurbished or replaced. The British legion has already donated a bench near the Fish and Chip shop, and more are being installed later on this year.

Parishioners are setting up a Good Neighbour Scheme, being supported by Community Action Norfolk, providing a wonderful service for fellow community members.

The Council maintains a website and Facebook page, both of which are proving good ways of staying in touch.

The Community Led Plan is now in abeyance after facing a number of issues. The phone box on Somerton Road has been repeatedly vandalized, and the decision has been taken to move it to the Community Centre and use it to host a defibrillator which is being applied for – gratitude was expressed to Martham Boat Dyke and Cllr Barry Coleman both of whom have provided grants towards the installation cost – the unit is under application from the British Heart Foundation.

There are five assets of community value listed in the Great Yarmouth area, and two are in Martham – both pubs are now on the register.

The Youth Club continues to run on Friday evenings for 6 – 11 year olds between 5 and 7pm at the Community Centre.

The Parish Council once again supported the Scarecrow Festival organisers with printing – it is however a small contribution compared to the work put in Peter and Liz Carpenter and Steve and Julie Beales who must be congratulated yet again on a super weekend enjoyed by literally thousands of people. Their efforts paid for the new Christmas Lights on the village green last year.

Allotments are available, anyone interested should contact the Clerk.

The Parish Council continues to maintain footpaths within the Parish.

3. Presentations included:

- Police Report –Martham had a relatively low crime rate and reported incidents of anti-social behaviour. There were 410 calls for Police advice or assistance between 1st April 2015 and 31st March 2015, compared to 409 the preceding year.

Priorities during the year have included Marine Crime, Burglaries to Sheds/Outbuildings etc, Anti-social behavior.

- Trinity Centre – Julie Beales explained that the Centre had recruited a new Leader last October – this year the government has reduced support for children’s centres. 967 families are currently helped by the Martham Centre. The centre works with these families in many ways, supporting parents as well as directly working with children.
- Scarecrow Festival – Julie Beales thanked everybody in the village for joining in with the weekend. There were over a hundred scarecrows, 61 garden/garage sales and 30 yarn bombings on the programmes. Sunday was busier than Monday. £1,900 was raised, and the committee are looking at providing new benches on the village green.
- Carnival – Bob Warnes reported on behalf of the new Committee who are taking this event forwards. The Carnival this year once again contains floats, and many people are now involved in delivering what is shaping up to be a very large event. Support has been gained from many organisations.
- Youth Club – Mark Llewellyn reported that the Youth Club continues to meet on a Friday at 5pm for 6 – 11 year olds in the Community Centre. It is a very accepting group offering a wide range of opportunities for children who attend.
- Martham Boat Dyke Charity – Chris Locke reported on behalf of the five Trustees. The Charity manages the Parish Moorings, generating income which is then distributed to people within the parish – both individuals and organisations. Applications are welcome. Currently the Trust is seeking another Trustee.
- History Group - Pat Mitchell reported that the membership now stands at 73. The Annual subscription is £10. Visitors are always welcome to functions. Many events have been organized throughout the year – a visit to Heigham Holmes, a guided coach trip to Constable Country, an evening entitled Revisiting the Asylum. The group continues to search for a space to host the Archive.
- Village Hall – The hall is a registered charity, initial building took place in 1920. It is run by committee, and has a very busy programme of use. Charges are £15 for a four hour hire.

The meeting closed at 8.36pm.