

MINUTES OF MARTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held at the Community Centre, Playing Field Lane, Martham on
Wednesday 17 January 2024 at 7.30pm

Public Participation – Two members of the public were in attendance.

SMEE volunteer update

The group have been looking after the area since 2019. They were given a robust lawn mower at this time, however is now 40 years old and is starting to show its age. Steve made a request to council for help with the purchase of a replacement. It was suggested that an application to the Martham Boat Dyke Trust is the most suitable place to access funding. Council members suggested accessing the application form at mbdt.org.uk to apply for a replacement.

Further advice was given which indicated using Acle Garden Machinery who are able to give advice on specifications. The fuel allowance was confirmed for the use of fuel on the SMEE. Thanks were given for all of the hard work. The next get together is on the 2nd Saturday in February Clerk to put in on noticeboards and the Communications Group to put on social media.

Clerk/Cllrs Smith/Bradford

Norfolk County and Great Yarmouth Borough Councillor Update

Andy Grant gave an update on the toilets which are now open again, he confirmed £1250 given for a contribution to the Village SAM2 Sign and if any Councillor does want to meet with the NCC Highways Engineer and Cllr Grant, please let him know what is to be discussed and when he is meeting with him. He added how a fund for environmental items can be accessed however it would be a lengthy process to access a grant.

Clerk

180/24: ATTENDANCE

Present - Cllrs B Fossey (Chair), G Bye, P Hooper, I Bradford, L Pallett, and T Watson, C Starkings, S Coates, and A Sayer.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Huxtable and Smith. Noted.

181/24: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

No new declarations were made.

182/24: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in December 2023, were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

183/24: MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES – for information only

An update was received from Cllrs Fossey and Hooper on the pampas grass clearance at Back Lane Pond. Eight volunteers from the village attended, who helped to reduce the grass down to six inches and a successful day was held by all.

184/24: CORRESPONDENCE/CONSULTATIONS

The Village Toilets owned and maintained by Great Yarmouth Borough Council are open. There has been a number of personnel changes at Great Yarmouth Borough Council (GYBC). The Chairman confirmed the toilets were one of only two villages where the toilets are open all year as they operate as a satellite toilet for the Northern parishes and a vast amount of GYBC workers use these in addition to villages and visitors.

185/24: PLANNING

Great Yarmouth Borough Council - to consider applications [GYBC](#)

<u>06/23/0873/HH</u>	Grange Farm, Repps Road, Martham, NR29 4RP	Proposed extension and internal alterations to bungalow, removal of garage and construction of cart lodge	Parish Council Comments: No objection
<u>06/23/0849/HH</u>	1 Hamilton Walk, Martham, Great Yarmouth, NR29 4TB	Proposed single storey side and rear extensions and provision of additional length of 1.8m high close board boundary	Parish Council Comments: No objection
<u>06/23/0804/CU</u>	Hall Farm, Hall Road, Martham, NR29 4PD	Proposed change of use of former agricultural barns to commercial self-storage use (Use Class B8) and the siting of 40no. containers for commercial self-storage use (Class B8)	Parish Council Comments: No objection

Decisions received:

<u>06/23/0688/HH</u>	Rectory House Repps Road Martham NR29 4RA	Proposed single storey side extension	25-08-23	Householder	APPROVED BY GYBC
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Appeal Decision Appeal Ref: APP/U2615/W/23/3317602 - Mill Barn, Hemsby Road, Martham, Great Yarmouth NR29 4QQ. **REFUSED**

Broads Authority applications – to consider applications and decisions received. **None**

Norfolk County Council - to consider applications and decisions received. **None**

186/24: PROJECTS

To receive any updates from projects.

The Martham Village Defibrillator Project was launched by Cllrs Fossey and Coates. The first unit has been installed in collaboration with Heart2Heart Norfolk and Norfolk Fire and Rescue (Martham Fire Station). Road surfacing was raised and it was suggested to investigate new contractors who take on smaller projects.

Clerk

187/24: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

An update about the Speed Reduction Group was received from Cllr Fossey

An update on the matter of Village Hall Road Access was received. Norfolk County Council correspondence had inferred there was a speeding issue whereas access was the main challenge. These details were passed to Cllr Andy Grant and Cllrs will add this to the list of matter when meeting with the NCC Highways Engineer.

Clerk/Cllrs

188/24: VILLAGE MATTERS

It was AGREED to grant permission for use of the Village Green for the cake stalls with usual restriction on parking.

Clerk

189/24: FINANCIAL MATTERS

Income, bank balance and reconciliation to 31 December 2023 was received.

Expenditure payments for January 2024 were AGREED.

The Precept and revised budget for 2023/2024 was AGREED to request a total of £95,000 per annum, £71.27 for a Band D property which equates to £15.11 per year/29p per week increase. This is a balanced budget and takes into consideration the GYBC reduction and loss of £11,400 in concurrent function grant for 2024-2025.

190/24: ADMINISTRATION

To review and adopt any policies or discuss administrative matters.

All policies reviewed at the November 2023 meeting were AGREED as no further comments were received.

191/24: NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING

The date of the next full council meeting of Wednesday 15 February 2024 was AGREED.

Cllr Coates gave her apologies in advance for this meeting.

171/24: It was RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1060 on the grounds that it is not in the public interest to disclose discussion on the items below due to the discussions relating to confidential matters.

A discussion took place regarding external communications. The Clerk gave an update on legal advice received. Cllr Hooper reminded council of the current procedures and policy in place and suggested an adequate response at this stage.

Cllr Fossey/Clerk

The meeting closed at 21.01pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Staffing costs	HMRC/PENS/PAYE/NI	£2,176.04
Rodney Scott Gardening	Litter Picking/Hedge Cutting	£501.25
PC Expenses	Fire Alarm Checks	£75.00
EKS	Litter Picking	£342.04
Plan Communications	Mobile Phone	£45.00
Norse	Bin Rental and Empty	£80.94
BT	Office Phone	£64.74
URM	Recycling costs	£133.92
Martham DIY	Supplies	£8.24
Martham DIY	Supplies	£11.36
Wave	Utilities	£209.37
Wave	Utilities	£34.83
Unity service charge	Bank Account Fee	£18.00
Wrentham Xmas Trees	Civic Events	£117.00
Flogas	Utilities	£299.44
SSE Energy Solutions	Utilities	£1,483.95
Viking	Stationary/Supplies	£197.28
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	£378.00

GYB Services	Grass cutting	£4,733.13
GYB Services	Grass cutting	£4,088.52
		<u>£14,998.05</u>

Income

Nationwide Interest	£57.73
Allotments	£743.00
Recycling	£19.50
Total	<u>£820.23</u>

Balance per bank statements as at 31 December 2023

Santander Savings	1,643.46
Santander Current	1,392.29
Nationwide Savings Building Society Account	30,952.95
Unity Trust Current Account	41,954.06
Lloyds	354.53
Total	<u>£76,297.29</u>

Please note £30k is allocated for Earmarked Emergency Business Continuity

