

## MINUTES OF MARTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 17 December 2025 at 7.30 pm

**Public Participation:** 8 members of the public were in attendance.

**Planning** - One member of the public raised an issue in relation to a previous planning application. The Chair explained how the Planning System works to clarify the situation.

**SMEE Volunteer** – a session was held at the end of November with 8 volunteers attending in the rain. Paving slabs and fixings have been purchased with the remaining funds from the Martham Boat Dyke Trust grant received. Benches made by Cllr Starkings have been placed in the Smee, the Dissenters Graveyard and one in St Marys Churchyard. Signs have been produced with a friendly message asking people to pick up their dog mess. Another session will take place in January 2026.

Great Yarmouth Borough Councillor and Norfolk County Council Councillor James Bensly reported the gully and pothole near the pond to Highways. His latest NCC report includes:

***Norfolk County Council** has voiced strong disappointment at the Government's decision to delay the 2026 mayoral election for the proposed Norfolk & Suffolk Combined County Authority until 2028 and significantly reduce associated devolution funding. As a result, Norfolk will receive only about one-third of the originally promised investment, threatening progress on transport, infrastructure, skills, housing, and regeneration. The Council criticised the lack of consultation and is seeking urgent talks with ministers to restore funding and mitigate impacts.*

*Alongside this, residents are being invited to take part in a UK Government consultation on reorganising local government in Norfolk. Options include creating one, two or three new unitary councils. Norfolk County Council supports a single unitary authority, arguing it would deliver major annual savings (£36–40m), simpler services, better coordination, and stronger strategic leadership. The consultation runs from November 2025 to January 2026. The report also highlights a range of other council initiatives and updates:*

**Parish Partnership Scheme:** £848,702 available in 2025/26 to support parish and town councils with 50% match-funded local infrastructure and highway projects.

**Winter services:** Norfolk's gritting fleet has begun operations, covering key routes with upgraded auto salting technology.

**Employment support:** In response to potential large-scale redundancies, the Council is launching an online redundancy support portal and specialist assistance. The new Connect to Work programme will support over 4,000 people with health conditions or other barriers to employment.

**Economic progress:** Early advances in agri-food, life sciences, digital and manufacturing sectors, including broadband expansion and new digital facilities, aligned with the Norfolk Business Board's 2024–2029 Action Plan.

**Community safety:** Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is promoting winter home safety advice and free fire safety checks.

**Transport and travel:** Seasonal restrictions on roadworks in Norwich aim to reduce festive congestion; Tap on Tap Off contactless payment has launched across First Bus services in Norfolk.

**Environment:** Norfolk and Suffolk have published Local Nature Recovery Strategies to guide efforts to restore nature and deliver wider benefits such as flood risk reduction.

#### **467/25: ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Councillors Fossey (Chair), Starkings (Vice-Chair), Bye, Coates, Neave, and Wilson.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Ian Bradford and Vick Smith (other engagements), GYBC Cllr Leslie Mogford and NCC and GYBC Andy Grant.

It was also **NOTED** that Cllr Vick Smith has resigned from her position after a lengthy period of dedicated service to the Parish. Cllr Smith received thanks from the Chair and Council as a whole for all her hard work and contribution. Cllr Smith will continue to handover information and support the transition of tasks to new members.

**468/25: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS** - No new interests were declared.

**469/25: CO-OPTION** – An application for co-option onto the council for the vacancy of councillor was considered. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to Co-opt Andy Wilson onto the council.

**470/25: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 November 2025 were **AGREED** and signed as a true and accurate record.

**471/25: MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES** – for information only

Daisy Close Land Plans – in progress. The Clerk agreed to pick up the action.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### **472/25: CORRESPONDENCE/COMMENTS/CONSULTATIONS/CLERK REPORT**

The matter of the Electrical Vehicle Charging Point is ongoing as the regulations require clarification for the circuit improvements.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### **473/25: PLANNING: GREAT YARMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL (GYBC)**

Applications received from [GYBC](#) were considered:

**06/25/0972/TRE:** 24 Walnut Tree Avenue (trees adjacent the highway) Martham NR29 4QS. Works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order (TPO No. 2 2025) - 4no. trees, comprising: 1no. Walnut on Walnut Tree Avenue, and 3no. Norway Maple on Sycamore Avenue - Reduce crowns by up to 1m overall. **Council Comment: NOTED**

**06/25/0960/F:** Water Management Alliance (Eastern) Cess Road NR29 4RF Removal of 3 shipping containers, erection of new storage building; removal of two-storey portacabin and replacement with single-storey portacabin, Installation of gates. **Council Comment: No objection**

**06/25/0958/TRE:** 3 Sycamore Avenue (land adjacent the highway) Martham NR29 4QW Works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order (TPO No. 2 2025) G2 - T1 (Norway Maple) and T2 (Norway Maple) - Crown reduction by 0.3m - 0.45m, all sides, to maintain shape. **NOTED**

#### 474/25: VILLAGE MATTERS

a) **Smee** – Consideration was given to the proposal for use of a SMEE. It was AGREED to give permission for use in line with all regulatory requirements. Further work is required on the agreement with a regular review period.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### b) Chairmans Update

The Chairman's report was received and included: **SAM2 Sign** back up and moved again from Repps Road to Hemsby Road recording the volume of the traffic. Third party report about someone getting knocked down on the crossing and a car has hit a wall close to the pub due to speeding. **Traffic calming** may need to be considered in future. A new volunteer has taken on the leadership of speed awareness group. **Defibrillator** checks continue. The **Christmas Tree Festival** was successful and attended by Cllr Fossey and Cllr Coates. The Chair is also in the process of becoming a volunteer for the **East Anglian Air Ambulance** as a trainer for using defibrillators.

#### c) Councillor updates

**Cllr Sharon Coates – War Memorial** - monitoring awaiting a survey. **Defibrillator Project** - fundraising continues in the new year with attendance at the Garden Club selling jigsaws.

**Trees** - an overhanging branch on a footpath near Oak Tree Close. Noticeboard improvements continue. Christmas Tree Festival contribution of a tree with the help of local volunteers and attending the event was successful. A **'Thank you'** card has been received from St Marys Church.

**Cllr Starkings** – the **new benches** are now built and installed. **Christmas decorations** and the installation of the Christmas tree in the village undertaken and usual support with the council finances within the month completed.

**Cllr Neave** – Allotments are progressing with invoices going out to people who have shared emails. **GYBC Parish Liaison Meeting** was also attended with Cllr Fossey where an update on Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution was received. The **'Three Unitary Option'** is preferred by Great Yarmouth Borough Council.

**Cllr Graham Bye** - attended the Village Hall meeting as a representative of the Parish Council.

#### 475/25: FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) **Accounts**: an update on monthly income received £203.57 and bank balance £132,860.82 reconciliation to 30 November 2025. **NOTED**.

b) **Expenditure\***: payments of £6328.38 for November/December 2025 were **AGREED**.

#### 476/25: NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING

The date of the next Full Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday 21 January 2026. **NOTED**

Chairman..... Date.....

**Expenditure Payments****Dec 2025**

<b><u>Payee</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Scribe	Administration	116.6
BT Group	Phone	85.5
Vantech Media	IT	30
SSAF	Signs	22.2
Chairmans Exp	Recognition	17.5
Unity	Service charge	6
Christmas Lights	Lights and supplies	100
Plan	Mobile Phone	60.82
Administration	Council/Community Centre	5629.02
Cleaning	Community Centre Supplies	10.95
Viking	Supplies	£92.59
Konica	Printer	£124.20
Volunteer	Smee Expenses	£25.50
Norse	Bin	£7.50
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>£6,328.38</u></b>

**Balance per bank statements 30 November 2025**

Santander Savings	1,677.24
Santander Current	2,178.50
Nationwide Savings Building Society Account	32,136.62
Unity Trust Current Account	96,513.93
Lloyds	354.53
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>132,860.82</u></b>

**Income**

Interest	Nationwide	£39.57
Room Hire	Community Centre	£150.00
Alford	Recycling	£14.00
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>£203.57</u></b>