

MINUTES OF MARTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 17 July 2026 at 7.30 pm

534/26: Public Participation – To receive questions from members of the public and to receive reports from County Councillor and District Councillors. In line with standing orders, each member of the public may address the Council for a maximum of five minutes about items on the agenda.

a) Planning Application 06/26/0296/O – 42 residents were in attendance to raise their concerns during the Public Participation session regarding Outline Planning Proposal: Application for Outline Planning Permission including details of access, for residential development of 17 dwellings. (Details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale reserved for future determination). Location: Land south of Sycamore Avenue and Cherry Tree Avenue Martham NR29 4QW. To receive representations from local residents regarding planning application 06/26/0296/O submitted by Cripps Developments and to consider the Parish Council's response to the consultation.

Members were advised that significant local interest has been expressed by residents of the Avenues Estate, Hall Road and Maple Close, with over 50 residents attending a recent community meeting to discuss the proposals and a substantial number intending to submit objections prior to the consultation deadline of 20 July 2026. Residents requested the opportunity to discuss their concerns with the Parish Council and are seeking the Council's support in relation to matters including:

- The principle of development and its impact on the character of the area.
- Highway safety and traffic implications.
- Pressure on local infrastructure and services.
- The effect on neighbouring residential amenity.
- Any other material planning considerations raised by residents.

Members made arrangements for additional time for the public participation at the meeting given the anticipated level of attendance and interest from local residents and stakeholders.

b) SMEE – Steve shared an update on current work with help from Cllr Jack Horner-Glister. Advice on biodiversity matters shared with Cllr Sharon Coates which was gratefully received.

535/26: ATTENDANCE

Present: Cllrs Fossey (Chair), Coates, Starkings, Wilson, Neave, Overton and Horner-Glister.

Apologies: were received from Cllr Ian Bradford – other engagement and Graham Bye – sickness.

536/26: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS - No new declarations were made.

537/26: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 June 2026 were AGREED.

538/26: MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES – for information only

Bus Shelter – Cllrs Fossey and Coates met with contractor to give a quotation. At the meeting it was deemed the shelter would be better to be reduced and opened to give view of oncoming buses, to provide shelter and to display proposed artwork and images. The suggested design and quote will give more indication of what permissions are required.

539/26: CORRESPONDENCE/COMMENTS/CONSULTATIONS

Email: Upper Thurne Drainage Improvements Project. NOTED

"We're pleased to share that the project has reached several important milestones in recent weeks, with progress being made across multiple pumping station sites. The new pumps at the Horsey and St Benets Pumping Stations are being commissioned, meanwhile, construction activity continues to gather pace on the next phase of works at Brograve, Martham and Potter Heigham.

To find out more about these latest developments, visit the project webpage and explore the latest "Related Project News" articles: <https://wlma.org.uk/projects/upper-thurne/>. The project webpage remains the best place to stay informed about construction progress".

Emails: Trees on the Green NOTED

Emails received from parishioners regarding tree works within the parish on the Greens were considered. Further enquiries regarding the incomplete tree works have identified active nesting birds within the large willow adjacent to the pond and ducks nesting within the basal growth at the base of two lime trees. In accordance with wildlife protection requirements, the outstanding works cannot be undertaken until the nesting season has concluded. The Arboricultural Officer at Great Yarmouth Services Ltd confirmed that the sites will be reassessed in approximately four weeks, at which point an update will be provided and any remaining works programmed as appropriate.

Email: Martham Pond Condition and Housing Development Behind Portobello Drive

To receive correspondence from a parishioner, via the office of Rupert Lowe, raising concerns regarding the condition of Martham Pond, including reports of algae, litter, dead wildlife and deterioration of the pond banks, together with concerns regarding the unfinished housing development and site condition behind Portobello Drive. The Parish Council has responded to advise that The Council is aware of the issues affecting Martham Pond. DEFRA has been contacted regarding the removal of deceased waterfowl. The Council is working with Norfolk Wildlife Trust to develop an appropriate management and improvement plan for the pond. Members have undertaken site visits and are obtaining quotations for clearance and remedial works, recognising that the scale of the work extends beyond that which can reasonably be expected of volunteers.

540/26: PLANNING: GREAT YARMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL (GYBC)

To consider any applications received and note any decisions received [GYBC](#)

06/26/0519/TCA: Development: Works to trees in a Conservation Area: T1 (Willow) - Fell to ground level and kill the stump due to excessive shading. T2 (Cedar) - Fell to ground level due to being dead. Location: Oddfellows Hall, 26 Black Street, Martham, NR29 4PN.

Council Comment: no objection.

541/26: VILLAGE MATTERS - To consider any proposals or receive any updates

Carnival: Cllrs Fossey, Coates and Overton attended the village Carnival which was a success as it was very well organised and the Parish Councillors raised £207 for the defibrillator fund selling books and jigsaws.

a) Pond Action Plan – Cllrs Bradford, Bye and Horner-Glister

To consider a proposal to work on an 'action plan' which the agreed actions to be published on the Parish Council website. It was AGREED to defer to the next meeting (September) as Cllr Bradford was not in attendance and he leads on this matter. In the interim quotes for work on the pond are in progress.

b) Tillers Yard Development Site – Community Safety Update – Cllrs Coates and Fossey

Reports of unauthorised access and anti-social behaviour at the Tillers Yard development site, formerly the potato store off Somerton Road, and to receive an update for information. Members are advised that concerns regarding young people accessing the site have been raised with both Great Yarmouth Borough Council and the developer, Bennett Homes. The Borough Council's Property Enabling Officer has confirmed that the developer has taken appropriate steps to secure the site and that, from an enforcement perspective, all reasonable measures expected have been implemented. NOTED.

Norfolk Police and Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service have been notified of the concerns, particularly in advance of the summer holiday period, and local intelligence has been shared with the neighbourhood policing team. Bennett Homes has confirmed that the matter has been referred to its Construction Director and that monitoring of the site will continue, alongside periodic inspections by Great Yarmouth Borough Council officers. The update is provided for Members' information and to enable discussion of any further concerns or actions considered appropriate by the Council.

c) Neighbourhood Policing Online Drop-In Sessions – Cllrs Fossey and Coates.

Members were advised of the monthly online neighbourhood policing drop-in sessions hosted by the local policing team, providing residents, councillors and businesses with an opportunity to raise local concerns directly with officers. The sessions operate without a formal agenda, allowing attendees to join at any time during the allocated period to discuss local issues affecting their communities. The most recent session held on **Rural Flegg Villages (G11)** – 30 June 2026, 1:30pm to 2:30pm where Councillors were invited to provide any feedback or updates arising from attendance at these sessions.

d) GYBC Parish Liaison Meeting – Cllrs Coates, Wilson and Overton.

An update on meeting attended on Tuesday 30 June 2026 at 6pm including Local Government Reorganisation and devolution proposals affecting Norfolk was received from Cllrs Coates, Wilson and Overton. Planning matters were highlighted as unprecedented change will happen to the planning system with all of England expecting significant increases in housing development.

e) Martham Playing Field Play Area Equipment - Cllr Starkings gave an update on the Expenditure of Developers Contributions meeting as managed by GYBC toward Open Space Submission for Martham Playing Field Play Area - new play equipment. An update on Developer Contributions was received regarding a meeting held with members of the Martham Coronation Recreation Ground Charity and Parish Councillors representing local residents. GYBC Officers stated the Borough Council continues to progress the planned improvements to Martham Playing Field, with a total

project budget of £120,000 funded through a combination of Section 106 developer contributions and additional Pride in Place funding.

Due to the project value exceeding procurement thresholds, a formal procurement exercise is required to ensure compliance and secure competitive pricing and best value for money. Whilst this has extended project timescales, it is expected to result in a more robust and cost-effective scheme. The Council was invited to meet with officers and ward councillors to discuss the project proposals and any additional items to be considered within the final specification. Members added how concerns remain regarding the existing multi-play unit, which continues to be out of service and is generating ongoing safety issues due to repeated damage to the protective fencing. Delays have been experienced in obtaining replacement parts from the supplier to facilitate temporary repairs pending delivery of the wider improvement works.

f) **Arboricultural Tree Condition Report** - The report as produced by Great Yarmouth Services Ltd was received and actions noted.

542/26: FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) **Accounts:** income received £388.58 and bank balance of £139.719.9. NOTED.

b) **Expenditure:** to authorise expenditure payments of £6398.85 for June/July 2026. AGREED

543/26: ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a) **Training Matters** - an update was received from members who have recent attended training. Cllrs Fossey and Coates attended Parish Online training which was very good.

544/26: NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING - The date of the next Full Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday 16 September 2026 was noted.

The meeting closed at 8.26pm

Signed

Chair.....

Payments List August Sept 2026

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PC Expenses	Subscription	£84.99
Scribe	Accounts	111.6
BT Group	Phone	97.57
NPTS	Training	72
Unity	Service charge	7
Santander	Service charge	4.99
Plan	Mobile Phone	93.73
PC Expenses	Subscription	19.99
Norse	Bin	60.6
ICO	Subscription	47
MCRG	Insurance	1078
Expenses	CC Supplies	4.45
Cllr Expenses	CC Tables	30.99

Open Spaces	Trolley	114.74
Administration	Core Costs	4656.19
Total		<u>£6,398.85</u>