

MINUTES OF MARTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 16 September 2026 at 7.30 pm

545/26: Public Participation – questions from members of the public were received.

Seven members of the public were in attendance and there were a number of items raised some of which were not related to items on the agenda. Members of the public were reminded that *‘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 only’*.

Allotments - a resident recently moved to the village asked for an update on the waiting list for available plots. The Clerk clarified the process and details of why there is a waiting list and feedback had been received in relation to the website form. The list is currently in excess of twelve people and it was a first come first served basis. A request to put a gate in a fence backing onto the allotment site was discussed with the Chair confirming that it was within the gift of the council to give such permission as the council was a tenant of the site owner who was confirmed as Norfolk County Council.

SMEE – lead volunteer Steve gave an update on recent work he added that the recent rains have meant that the cut grassland on the Smees is growing apace. Paths were mowed last week and I enclose some photos. You can see how verdant it is down near the dyke. We plan to cut the site for the last time this year at the end of October and it would be great if you could help with another raking task on Saturday 31st. Please put that date in your diary/on your calendar if you think you can. Will be in touch again with more details nearer the time.

Norfolk County Councillor – a verbal report was received from County Councillor Jason Hughes Footpath Request from Somerton to Martham it was confirmed that permission is not required to walk on the bank. The Chair highlighted that the road is still a 60mph. Sycamore Avenue Planning application – some departments from GYBC are not supporting the current application. Chair agreed to share SAM2 sign data in relation to Somerton Road. **ACTION: Cllr Fossey**

Great Yarmouth Borough Councillors - no Borough Councillors were in attendance.

546/26: ATTENDANCE - To consider apologies and note those present.

Present: Cllr Bob Fossey, Colin Starkings, Andy Wilson, Ian Bradford, Graham Bye, Chris Overton.

Apologies: Sharon Coates, Andy Neave and Jack Horner-Glister – other engagements.

547/26: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

548/26: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 July 2026 were AGREED and signed as a true and accurate record.

549/26: MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES – for information only

All matters previously raised were items on the current agenda so no updates were received.

550/26: CORRESPONDENCE/COMMENTS/CONSULTATIONS/INVITATIONS

Email: Anglian Water's Webinar- 3rd September 2026 – slide previously circulated.

An update was received from Anglian Water's parish council webinar held on 3 September 2026. Anglian Water outlined planned investment of approximately £930 million across Norfolk by 2030 to improve water supplies, upgrade wastewater infrastructure, support population growth and protect the environment. The webinar highlighted continuing drought pressures and the need for sustained rainfall to replenish rivers and groundwater. Long-term measures include proposed reservoirs, desalination schemes, the strategic water pipeline, leakage reduction and smart metering. Concerns regarding housing growth, storm overflows, river quality and local flooding were discussed. Anglian Water outlined investment in treatment works, sewer capacity and sustainable drainage, alongside partnership work to improve river health. Communities were encouraged to conserve water, reduce rainwater entering foul sewers and avoid disposing of wipes, fats and oils through drains. Parish-specific queries were being followed up directly.

Email: Local Government Reorganisation- Norfolk Association of Local Councils (Norfolk County Council) reported that on the 7 September 2026 - Government announced review of Local Government Reorganisation. The Government has announced a review of its Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme. As part of this announcement, the Government has withdrawn its previous decisions relating to Norfolk, Essex, Hampshire and Suffolk and confirmed that these areas, alongside a number of others across England, will be included in a wider review. The Government has stated that the review follows updated legal advice and will consider whether the process is robust, legally compliant and aligned with the priorities of the current administration. At this stage, we have limited information beyond what has been announced publicly and do not yet know the scope, timetable or implications of the review for Norfolk. We will consider the details of the announcement as further information becomes available and will provide updates when we are able to do so.

Email: Norfolk County Council will temporarily close part of Cess Road, Martham, near Hyrn Close, for property repair works. Closure is expected from 21–22 September 2026, with pedestrian access maintained. If necessary, the restriction may remain in place until 3 November 2026. NOTED

551/26: PLANNING: GREAT YARMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL (GYBC)

No applications or decisions were received and can be accessed for more information here [GYBC](#)

546/26: PROJECTS: Updates on projects were received and included:

Pond Action Plan – Cllr Bradford gave an update on latest developments.

A long discussion took place on how the pond project should be undertaken and it was highlighted how there were no members of the public or council who were either experts or qualified to undertake this work so this expert advice has been undertaken with a quote expected imminently. It was highlighted that before dredging or additional work can proceed, the Parish Council must establish all necessary permissions, assess the impact on wildlife and habitats, and ensure appropriate working methods, risk assessments and insurance arrangements are in place. It is proposed that the removed silt will be taken to a farmer's field. The relevant certification must be checked to confirm that it covers the receipt and use of this material, with suitable arrangements for its transport and any required waste documentation.

The Chair added that the Council welcomes residents' interest and offers of assistance. A meeting had been set up for the following week. Cllrs Bradford and Fossey will update on the offer of help.

It was clearly communicated that any removal, dredging or associated clearance must be coordinated and authorised by the Council. Volunteers must not begin work independently, as even well-intentioned activity could harm protected wildlife, cause pollution or expose those involved to injury and legal liability. Any volunteer involvement will therefore be subject to the necessary checks, an agreed scope of work and appropriate supervision and will be discussed with any individuals involved. Ongoing updates can be found here:

https://www.facebook.com/MarthamParishCouncil/?locale=en_GB

(ii) Car Park Resurfacing – Cllr Starkings gave an update as the appointed contractor had allowed for a quicker response as the surface is in urgent need of repair. White lines being added with new spaces to be allocated to disabled spaces in the future. The cost of the work undertaken is £35,100.00 from use of the Parish Councils reserves balance as the car park was in need of emergency repair. The council are due to receive the second precept payment in due course so this will help to replace the reserves fund balance used for this work.

(iii) Bus Shelter – Cllrs Fossey and Coates met with a contractor. More details have been requested to move the project proposal to the next stage for council to consider however these had not yet been received so the Clerk will send another reminder. **ACTION: Clerk**

552/26: VILLAGE MATTERS - To consider any proposals or receive any updates.

a) Events - Cllrs Fossey, Overton, Coates, Bye and Bradford

An update was received from members in relation to the latest village events including:

Vintage Fair – 30 August 2026. Martham's first Vintage Fair, jointly organised by Martham Fun Carnival and Martham Parish Council was reported to have been a successful and enjoyable community event. Attractions included vintage vehicles, stalls, live music, a Punch and Judy show and character appearances. Thanks were extended to the organisers, volunteers, stallholders, vehicle exhibitors, entertainers and businesses involved, and to everyone who attended and supported the day.

The Village Litter Pick - 5 September 2026. The second litter pick attracted a good turnout and benefited from favourable weather. Thanks were extended to everyone who participated and to residents who regularly collect litter around the village, helping to keep Martham clean and tidy. A discussion was held in relation to the Christmas tree and light requirements for 2026. It was deemed to be too late for this year however further consideration would be given to next year as a suitable electric supply would be required moving forwards. Wrentham Christmas Trees have been sent a request for early delivery and have confirmed they will deliver the tree mid to late November.

Neighbourhood Policing– Cllrs Fossey

An update was received in relation to the Rural Flegg, Caister and Coastal Villages Neighbourhood Meeting which took place at Fleggburgh Village Hall on 25 August, attended by local police, Great Yarmouth Borough Council representatives, Parish Councillors Bob Fossey and Sharon Coates. Police and partner agencies provided updates on local priorities, recent activity and community

engagement. The meeting concluded with thanks to PC Chris Martin for his dedicated service and strong community relationships ahead of his move to a new policing role in November. Issues raised included: Speeding and near misses in Martham and Caister, Noisy vehicles in Caister and Rollesby, Speeding and anti-social motorcycle riding near The Grange/Smoke House in Ormesby, Dangerous use of electric bikes and scooters by young people in Hemsby, Concerns about possible cannabis use in Martham, requests for more visible policing across the area. Traffic congestion outside Haven Holiday Park on changeover days, which is being considered by the local county councillor as a highways matter. The meeting will be held on Thursday 3 December 2026 at 6.00pm at: Rollesby Pavilion, Main Road, Rollesby, NR29 5EH.

c) Martham Playing Field Play Area Equipment - Cllr Bradford and Starkings

An update on the Open Space Submission for Martham Playing Field Play Area - new replacement play equipment as the installation of new fencing along the perimeter of the play areas/ playing field is planned for early October.

d) Trees on the Green

A number of trees has not been maintained despite agreement to take place by the appointed contractor. Further consideration was given to appointing an alternative contractor to complete outstanding tree work. It was **RESOLVED** to delegate the action to the Parish Clerk with support of Cllr Colin Starkings agreed he will work with the current tree survey report and tree preservation order permission received to undertake the work as no response had been received from Great Yarmouth Services.

ACTION: Clerk/Cllr Starkings

553/26: FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) **Accounts:** an update on income received and bank balance was received.

b) **Expenditure:** to authorise expenditure payments for August and September 2026. It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the payments as previously circulated.

554/26: ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a) **Training Matters** - To note Councillors attendance to Autumn Seminar for Councils. **NOTED**.

555/26: NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING – The date of the next Full Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday 21 October 2026 was **NOTED**. It was **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting to allow for a comfort break before the next items on the agenda were discussed.

556/26: EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public from the meeting under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1060 as it may not be in the public interest to disclose discussion on the items below due to the discussions relating to contracts or staffing.

- Progress on outstanding legal matters including - Community Centre Lease was **NOTED**
- Status with legal matters in relation to previous legal proceedings was **NOTED** and it was **RESOLVED** to re-open the matter and progress in line with legal advice.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed Chair.....

Payments List August and Sept 2026*

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Scribe	Accounts	111.6
BT Group	Phone	102.91
NPTS	Training	36
Wescotec	SAM2 Sign	4264.8
Unity	Service charge	7
Santander	Service charge	4.99
Plan	Mobile Phone	93.73
PC Expenses	Subscription	19.99
Norse	Bin Rent & Collection	93.9
Administration Aug	Core Costs	5841.2
Administration Sept	Core Costs	3816.2
GY Services	Tree Survey	283.58
Cllr Expenses	Event Supplies	35.32
Broadland First Responders	Events	105
Admin/Caretaking/Cleaning	Community Centre	1120
Admin/Caretaking/Cleaning	Community Centre	1495
Ryan Poultry Services	Village Grass Cutting	1086.19
Chapmans Farms	Permissive Path	400
Martham DIY	Maintenance Supplies	26.44
Wave Utilities	Back Lane Pond	40.47
Wave Utilities	Allotments	341.45
Cllr Expenses	Land Registry	28
Total		<u>£19,353.77</u>
Balance per bank statements 31 August 2026		
Santander Savings		1,693.61
Santander Current		2,138.58
Nationwide Savings Building Society Account		32,490.48
Unity Trust Current Account		91,312.84
Lloyds		354.53
Total		<u>£127,990.04</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Interest	Nationwide	£39.97
Alford	Recycling	£30.00
Fundraising	Defib Fund	£280.63