

MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 March 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

1. Apologies for Absence – apology was received from District Cllr F Ambridge as he was going to be late and arrived at 8.00pm. Those present County Cllr P Bradwell, Cllr M J Stephens MBE, Cllr J Evans, Cllr C Vickers, Cllr W Busby, Cllr B Downing and the Parish Clerk Mrs K Stephens.
2. Declarations of Interest - the Chair declared an interest in item 7a, to be addressed at the appropriate stage of the meeting.
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting - to receive and approve for accuracy purposes the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2008. These were accepted as published and duly signed by the Chair, proposed by Cllr C Vickers, and seconded by Cllr WK Busby.
4. Reports from Outside Bodies
 - a. County Cllr P Bradwell advised that she has been involved in various discussions with regards to the proposed quarry extensions and resultant increase in heavy goods traffic through the village. The planned public meeting that she and Cllr Wk Busby had intended to attend did not take place. Cemex are preparing new submissions for fresh consideration. County Cllr P Bradwell indicated that she has had recent and further discussions with Highways with regards to the School Safety Zone. Progress on this is hoped to be achieved shortly, it is anticipated that a no waiting zone will be established and defined. However, the first stage of this process has to be a consultation with those who might be affected and action might be delayed dependant upon their responses. A short discussion then took place as to the implications of this activity. She then advised that road works in the vicinity of Anwick will inevitably cause disruption to the main Sleaford Road, requiring detours through Ruskington. She has reminded Highways of the works scheduled for Billingham and has been assured there will be no conflict. Cllr C Vickers enquired as to progress with regards to further speed restrictions at Kirkstead Bridge in the light of promises made by the Highways Officer. Cllr P Bradwell indicated she would again take this matter up and advised that imminent changes in legislation will allow Councils to make such decisions locally. There followed some discussion about recent and proposed work on various pot holes across the parish, it was agreed that presently there are not thought to be any significant problems.
 - b. District Cllr F Ambridge reported on the detail of a recent meeting held between himself, the Land Agent, Cllr B Downing and a local landowner's representative with regards to possible replacement for a sports field. Having considered options it was considered that the southern most end of the field immediately outside the village on Timberland Road was potentially a viable site, requiring only limited works. The Council will now undertake further research into its suitability and probable cost. Further discussion on this took place with the Council accepting that this would prove an acceptable solution, but leaves in the air what is to be come of the existing area. It was agreed to defer further consideration of this until such time in the future as the situation becomes clearer. District Cllr F Ambridge advised that NKDC intend to have constructed in the area of West Grove a new, environmentally friendly affordable home based on straw construction. Necessary planning process will follow shortly. He also confirmed that the District Council intend to build further homes in this area and also at Pound Road. Negotiations are now underway with the housing association; further details will follow in due course. It is noted that the two bungalows at the Eastern end of West Grove are unoccupied in expectation of the construction of these new homes.
5. Public Question Time – to receive questions from members of the public notified to the Chair before the start of the meeting.
 - a. Email from Mrs Forman raising concerns about the rubbish dumped inside the first 5 bar gate going up North Moor Lane. She is aware that this is private land and the rubbish is put there by the owner, but her concerns are for children and animals that might enter the field. Rubbish consists of broken glass and material with sharp metal edges that have been smashed and lying

in shards amongst the grass. She wishes to know if the local residents can be informed of the danger in order to prevent any accidents which may occur. The Council noted this and also the further information that the Environment Agency now have the matter in hand. Publicity will be afforded through the medium of these minutes.

6. Clerk's Report

- a. NKDC informed of work in progress on the garage at The Cottage, 1 Church Road, Martin Dales and the colour and quality of the brick work in the construction of the barn conversion at Drove Farm, South Drove, and Martin Dales. – Spoke with Pierre Davidson on both these matters.
 - Single storey garage, apparently if you put in for planning permission and it is refused and changes are made, it doesn't necessarily mean he cannot go ahead, providing the garage is 4 metres or less in height permission is not required. With a view to using it as a room where family can go and sit and sleep is perfectly acceptable, as long as the family do not bath or cook in the facility. I have had confirmation that the garage is fine, it has been looked at once again, and all that remains is usage. The Council remain concerned with regards to the implications of the in particular the height of the construction and future usage and together with the District Council will continue to monitor the situation.
 - Barn Conversion, Drove Farm – Kevin Berry who was dealing with this matter has retired and his responsibilities are being distributed. We will be contacted in due course. The Council having considered this information are concerned that building progresses in using inappropriate materials and that this situation reflects a changing emphasis on maintaining the existing character of a building or area.
 - The Clerk was required to advise these concerns to the District Council as soon as possible.
- b. Cemex Planning Application – see earlier comment now deferred.
- c. Road Closure Billingham – this has now been put on hold until the autumn.
- d. School Crossing Patrol, email sent but have had no response. County Cllr P Bradwell as previously indicated is pursuing this matter.
- e. Mrs Jackson – reservation fee, have sent a letter no response to date the Clerk is to continue to try to resolve this matter.
- f. Benches – No action taken on instructions of Chair- for further discussion. Council records do not show the benches as belonging to the Parish Council and accordingly concerns arose with regards to the Public Liability insurance implications from undertaking these repairs. However it is confirmed that these are Parish council property and the Council records should be amended accordingly and the necessary repairs put in hand.

7. Correspondence

For Information

- a. Audit Commission – distributed before Meeting for comments if necessary. Confirmed that the Council are content with this decision by the Audit Commission to appoint Clement Keys the external auditors for this period.
- b. Billingham Cluster Meeting – Noted.
- c. What's on in February at the Hub – displayed on Notice Board.
- d. Temporary Road closure – Displayed on Notice Board.
- e. Access & Policy Unit – Leaflet, noted.
- f. Local Councils Update Jan/Feb 2008 and March 2008 noted no action necessary.
- g. North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment, noted.
- h. Planning Training – Chair and Parish Clerk to attend on 18 March 2008.
- i. Good Citizens Awards 2008 – Poster for display for villagers to nominate those whose voluntary work has made a difference in the community. Nominations to be in by Tuesday 25 March 2008. noted.
- j. Cluster News February 2008, noted.
- k. The Reel Project, Cllr C Vickers indicated interest and took this publication for further consideration.

- l. Enjoy St George's Day, noted
- m. Plantscape - product catalogue 08/09, noted.
- n. ICT Information Events March 2008, noted.
- o. NKDC - Dog Waste Bins. The charge is to be raised from £80.00 per bin to £82.50 per bin, noted and will be actioned in due course. .
- p. Hub Activity – March 2008 – Notice Board
- q. Street Numbering – Plot 5 Mill Lane (Adj. No. 5) – 1 Mill Lane, Martin.

For Action - the Chair confirmed a prejudicial interest in item a, that follows and accordingly invited the Vice-Chair Cllr C Vickers to take over the meeting in order to allow consideration of the recommendation to review the pay of the Parish Clerk. Cllr MJ Stephens MBE, accompanied Mrs K Stephens the Parish Clerk, left the room.

- a. Local Councils Update December 2007 regarding pay review. The Council agreed that the pro-rata salary of the Parish Clerk should be upgrade in accordance with the recommended scale with effect 1 Apr 2008. However, given the implications of the backdated recommendation; and the impact upon the budget, required that further research with LALC be undertaken as to how this was delayed until December last and had not previously come to the attention of the Council and brought back to the next meeting. Cllr MJ Stephens MBE and Mrs K Stephens rejoined the meeting.
- b. Local Crime, Community Sentence – They would like to know if we are interested in a presentation, possibility for Public Meeting. The Council confirmed their wish to take up this offer and required the Clerk to undertake the necessary action.
- c. Calor Village of the Year 2008 – Closing date 30 April 2008, the Council are not minded to enter this competition.
- d. Training for people responsible for a Children's Play Area – Wednesday 16 April or Thursday 17 April 2008. Cost £7.00 per person. Training will cover Routine Inspection & Maintenance, Easing the Fear of Litigation, and Funding Opportunities for Playgrounds. The Chair will attend this training.
- e. LALC
 - Community Training Events – details of these were noted.
 - Application for IT Provision – none required at this time.
 - Annual Training Scheme noted no further action at this time.

8. Planning – None.

9. Financial Matters

Bank Reconciliation

Balance Brought Forward	£ 7458.38
Plus Receipts	£ 5708.30
Total Receipts	£13166.68
Less Payments	£ 4927.79
Total	£ 8238.89

Represented by

Current a/c	£1202.13
Reserve a/c	£7036.76
Total	£8238.89

Requests for payment

000674 NKDC Dog Waste Emptying	£240.00
000675 Local Councils Update Subscription	£ 65.00
000676 LALC Subscription 2008/2009	£204.45
000677 Mrs K Stephens Salary £416.00	
Expenses £ 21.16	£438.02

It was proposed by Cllr J Evans and Seconded by Cllr C Vickers, that the accounts be accepted as presented and that payments be made as set out.

11. Other Business

- a. Training on the Local Code of Conduct – Cllr J Evans as representative of this Council advised and aware.
- b. Plant Fair, Aubourn Hall, Aubourn – noted.
- c. Views on Proposed Closure of the Lafford High School. This was discussed at some length and the impact upon the Parish deplored. However, it is noted that notwithstanding the consultation process advised, the authorities have effectively begun to close the school with the decision to send this year's intake to other schools and that the advised falling rolls made this closure inevitable. Accordingly it was agreed that formal representation would not be made but the appreciation and high regard felt by the Council for the work of this school over the years would be recorded.
- d. Lincolnshire Best Kept Village – noted.
- e. Calendar of meetings 2008 – 2009 District, noted.
- f. Clerks & Council Direct March 2008 - noted.
- g. Affordable Housing. The letter from NKDC of 11 Mar 2008 detailing proposals for the village had already been explored item 4 above, no further action at this time.

12. Remaining Dates of Meetings to be held in 2008

19 May also public meeting – Clerk is to display the appropriate notices.
28 July
29 September
24 November
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