

MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29 September 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr S Phillip was unable to attend the meeting. Present C Cllr P Bradwell, D Cllr F Ambridge, Cllr MJ Stephens MBE, Cllr C Vickers, Cllr J Evans, Cllr WK Busby, Cllr B Downing and Mrs K Stephens Parish Clerk.

2. Introduction of Potential Councillors

Mr Laurie Whittle and Mrs Helen Whittle attended the meeting as observers having put themselves forward for membership of the Council. Chair advised that the Electoral Registration Officer at NKDC has confirmed the vacancies on the Parish Council, but no further action will be taken until his return next week. It is anticipated that the Council will be advised that cooption will be appropriate. After note: Subsequently Electoral Registration Officer required formal advertising of vacancies – this was done. He is now required to confirm co-option is appropriate.

3. Declarations of Interest

Chair advised of procedure and of the importance of this. There were none at this time.

4. Minutes

To receive and approve for accuracy purposes the minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2008.

5. Reports from Outside Bodies

- a. County Cllr P Bradwell advised of a new team of workers responsible for road and footpath repairs/improvements – they would appear to have recently cleared the tarmac path along side Linwood Road. The Chair asked if any progress had been made with regards to parking restrictions around the school, County Cllr P Bradwell responded that this was still being addressed. Discussion then followed on the following:
 - Hedges – it was noted that those alongside Moor Lane have been trimmed, it is understood they will now be included in the regular cutting programme.
 - Speed restrictions – it was noted that throughout Metheringham, small 30mph restriction repeater signs have been erected. The council requested that consideration be given to similar signs throughout Martin.
 - The matter of extending the speed limit by Kirkstead Bridge was raised – the recent changes in legislative procedures would seem to give the County Council greater powers in this respect. The matter has now gained further urgency as the recently introduced school bus exchange point results in the school children being picked up and delivered at the bus stop by the bridge. County Cllr P Bradwell agreed to raise this with the appropriate officers.
 - Reactive signs – these are presently being provided by through the district Council Clusters, a short discussion took place on their use, limitations and potential.
 - Cllr J Evans asked if the repair team could pay attention to the area of the small lay by on the B1191 with the B1189. County Cllr P Bradwell agreed to put action in hand.
- b. District Cllr F Ambridge – playing field, this is still with the Corporate Management Team due to the significant costs involved. The Council discussed the implications of this and in particular the further delay in making any progress towards reinstating this valuable village resource. It was agreed that the Chair should write to the District Council expressing these concerns and requesting the presence of an appropriated officer at the next Council Meeting with a view to expediting action. Concern was also noted as the suitability of the proposed alternative site, with particular regard to the soil condition and drainage.

District Cllr F Ambridge was asked about the proposal to remove the village from the 3rd Tier under the District Plan; it is not thought that this has happened.

It was noted that various street lights are not functioning/on during day time – a survey of these will be undertaken and the appropriate report made to the District Council.

6. Public Question Time – to receive questions from members of the public notified to the Chair prior to the start of the next meeting – none.
7. Clerk's Report
 - a. Hedging/Speeding situation – has been actioned.
 - b. Mr Johnson re benches – the Chair has undertaken this matter and is in the process of repairing the bench and the timber has been ordered.
 - c. Burial Ground – a further letter has been sent, Chair attempted to visit, still awaiting response. It was agreed by the Council that if no response is forthcoming, a further letter should be sent advising that under these circumstances, reservation of a burial plot cannot be assured. Cllr J Evans enquired as to the number of burial plots still available (13 consecrated and 5 unconsecrated plots available) need to determine the Council's future actions, it was agreed that this is to be an agenda item for the next meeting.
 - d. Parish Vacancies – NKDC informed and notice for application on notice board. See also 2 above.
8. Correspondence

For Information

- a. Visit of Mobile police Station 12 September 1008 – posted on notice board.
- b. Holy Trinity Church Council – Letter expressing gratitude for generous donation.
- c. Local Council Update August 2008.
- d. Communities – East Midlands Fire and Rescue Control Centre Publication.
- e. Local Validation Criteria Draft for perusal if required.
- f. Clerk & Councils Direct – September 2008.
- g. NKDC – Putting People First. Posters rotated on notice board.
- h. LALC News/ Annual Report.
- i. The Clerk.
- j. Blachere Illuminations – Christmas lighting
- k. SLCC – notice of Annual General Meeting, to held in Reading 18 Sept 08.
- l. Legal Services Lincolnshire – Public Path Extinguishment Order 2008.
- m. Lincolnshire Police Authority – Local Police and Community Forums – on notice board.
- n. NKDC – Standards Committee Meeting 18 Sept 2008.
- o. Billingham Cluster Meeting, Next meeting Monday 13 Oct 2008.
- p. Planning - new processes.
- q. Lincoln Magistrates' Court Open Day invitations, noted.
- r. Standards Board for England – Town & Parish Standard September 2008 leaflet, noted
- s. East Midlands Region Assembly – EXPO 2008 invitations distributed.
- t. NKDC Dog & Litter Bins – Map of village showing position of bins and the day on which they are emptied has been received, noted.
- u. September Cluster News – Copies for each Cllr were distributed.
- v. Leisure Connection – Spires & Steeples Challenge walk or run, noted.

For Action

- a. East Midlands Regional Plan of State's Proposed Changes published for consultation. Chair drew to attention significant changes in this document, these were duly noted.
- b. LALC Training – Councillors and Clerks, none at this time.
- c. Lincolnshire Assembly – Survey to help shape tomorrow's Lincolnshire today – distributed to those present.
- d. NKDC – Parish Litter Picking – Funding available, application by Friday 3 Oct 2008.

- e. NKDC – Parish Dog Warden – Application for funding by Friday 3 Oct 2008 – it was agreed that at this time the Parish Council would not seek funding for Litter Picking/Dog warden but would again advertise in the village.
- f. NKDC – BT Payphone proposals, the implication of this were discussed and it was resolved not to take any action.
- g. Playing Field Association – Annual General Meeting 16 Oct 2008, noted.
- h. Communities and Local government - The Making and Enforcement of Byelaws Consultation Paper. Comments are invited from the Council by 20th November 2008. None were recorded.
- i. NKDC Parish Partnership Officer (Sarah Attrill) – has advised of a pilot project in conjunction with Hill Holt Wood to develop the District Council allotments within the Parish. Residents of the village would be encouraged to plan and take on an area with the Rangers assisting with the provision of prepared plots with the provision of materials, raised beds, paths etc. The Project is in the very earliest stage of development and the Council's views were requested. All were agreed this is a good idea, but concerns were noted on the possible impact for the development of sustainable housing, also proposed by the Council for this area.
- j. Count of Rough Sleepers in North Kesteven, are any Cllrs aware of any in Martin? It is not thought that the Parish experiences rough sleeping.
- k. Police Authority 'Access to Scrutiny' online Survey – attention was drawn to this.

9. Planning

- a. Permission granted for extension at 112 High Street, Martin, noted.
- b. Approval granted 43 High Street Martin, noted.
- c. Permission granted barn conversion The Stables Studio, High Street, Martin.
- d. Erection of freestanding non illuminated double sided advert, junction of B1189 & B1191, noted.
- e. Permission granted installation of roof light at Jays Barn, 4 Manor Form Martin Lincs, LN4 3QS, noted...
- f. Erection of two storey side and rear extension & detached double garage with studio above. 102 High Street, Martin Lincoln. Cllr J Evans declared an interest and abstained from comment. This application prompted some discussion and it was resolved to address the following comments to the District Council:
 - Overdevelopment of the site and area.
 - Massing
 - Overlooking of adjoining properties
 - Impact upon the Conservation Area.

10. Financial Matters

Review of allotment rents with effect next year. The Council confirmed that these rents fall due for review and the proposal by the Chair that they should increase by 4%, being the presently advised rate of inflation is appropriate. This increase is to be effective 1 April 2009. Seconded by Cllr J Evans, with all in favour.

Insurance: Allianz informed of benches, one being cancelled and the new donated bench. No extra payment required.

Audit Return – The Chair advised that the external auditor had raised questions that he had successfully addressed and the audit has been signed off. The Clerk displayed the required notice.

Request for Payments

688 Drainage Rates	£251.17	reminder received.
689 Clerks & Council Direct	£ 10.00	subscription
690 Billingham Swimming Pool	£200.00	grant
692 Mrs K Stephens	£569.50	(Wages 487.82 + 70.96 error July + 10.72 expenses)
693 Mr G Smith	£100.00	Grass Cutting Aug/Sep 2008
694 Clement Keys	£141.00	Audit Fee
695 B Knight & Son	£114.90	Materials for bench repairs
Total	£1500.57	

Bank Reconciliation

	£
Balance Brought Forward	7400.96
Plus Receipts	3479.48
Total Receipts	10880.44
Less Payments	2636.23
Total	8244.21
Represented by	
Current a/c	1212.91
Reserve a/c	7146.30
Total	8359.21
Less unrepresented cheques	
684 Village Hall	250.00
	8109.21
Plus receipt not on statement burial fee	135.00
Total	8244.21

11. Next Meeting - 24 Nov 2008