

# MARTIN WITH MARTIN DALES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 30 November 2009 in the Village hall at 7.30pm.

## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr P Bradwell. It was noted that Cllrs S Phillip and L Sanby were absent. Since this is the third consecutive occasion that Cllr L Sanby had failed to attend a scheduled meeting, under the rules he should be required to resign. The Chair confirmed that Cllr L Sanby had been reminded in writing in advance of the meeting both of the detail and the requirements of the rules; but no communication had been received in response. Accordingly it was resolved that the Chair is to communicate to Cllr L Sanby that he has been removed – this led to a short discussion as to the process for replacement and the Clerk advised that once formal notification of removal has been made to the relevant District authority, the post will need to be advertised locally and invitations invited from any party interested in joining the Council. Should there be more than one individual interested it may be necessary to hold an election with consequent costs to the Parish. Those present Cllrs M J Stephens MBE, WK Busby, J Evans, B Downing, H Whittle, L Whittle and C Vickers. Also present District Cllr F Ambridge and Mrs K Stephens Parish Clerk.

## 2. Declaration of interest

In accordance with the Local Code of Conduct any personal or prejudicial interest must be declared and if a personal interest, the nature of the interest must be declared. Note that such a declaration must be made as soon as it becomes apparent to the member. A member can declare an interest when the item is first discussed. None were made at this time.

## 3. Minutes

To receive and approve for accuracy purposes the minutes of the meeting held 21 September 2009. Cllr C Vickers drew to attention that he had been in attendance; paragraph 1 was duly amended to show this. The amended minutes were accepted as a true record, proposed by Cllr J Evans and seconded by Cllr C Vickers and agreed by all present and duly signed by the Chair.

## 4. Reports by Outside Bodies

- a. Mrs Sharon Bark and Ms Janet Williams Officers of North Kesteven District Council gave an update on the replacement of the Parish Playing Field. It was advised that the intended purchase of land adjacent to Timberland Road had not proved possible. Accordingly, the District Council revisited the possibility of reinstating the existing site. It transpires that a recently developed process of removing the contaminated soil and combining some of this with a binding agent and relaying this as a cap to the contaminated land significantly reduces the cost. The District Council have commissioned a project development report and it is hoped to have this to hand by mid December. Once this is received, the formal tendering process will follow with the work to be commissioned as quickly as feasible thereafter. It was stressed that urgency was necessary both to reflect the importance the District Council regards resolving this long lasting problem and to ensure the earmarked funding is utilised. It is anticipated that work will commence before the end of this Financial Year. A short discussion ensued as to the length of time that this situation has been allowed to drag on and an assurance from the Officers was given that every effort would be made to meet the timelines now set out. It was also noted that drainage of the site has in the past proved problematic; this was noted by the Officers who will ensure that the project takes account of this and provides resolution. It was also advised that there did not seem to have been any significant attempts to find alternative sites. In responding, it was confirmed that the District Council Agent had researched several alternatives, but that for various reasons these had been discounted and that the current plans were viable and cost effective and further research inappropriate.
- b. PC Daniels spoke at length on the recent fatal accident at Martin Dales and this prompted a lengthy discussion as to the Council's ongoing concerns about traffic speeds in this area and various measures that could be taken to address these. It was resolved that the Clerk is to

communicate the concerns to County Cllr Bradwell together with the various suggestions made and reinforce the request made on many previous occasions for an extension of the speed limit beyond Kirkstead Bridge. PC Daniels provided data drawn from the Speed Indicator Device that had been deployed at the Dales immediately after the accident and a copy of this data is attached to these minutes. This prompted a short discussion on the merits of this equipment and how it is deployed in the Parish – PC Daniels noted the observation that parked traffic has in the past obscured the display and thus reduced its effectiveness. He will ensure that in the future account will be taken of this. Turning to the recent occurrences of low level vandalism/anti- social behaviour that have been reported, PC Daniels advised that active investigations were ongoing and that his team were taking account of these in their day to day activities.

- c. District Cllr F Ambridge had nothing to report but drew to attention that a street light outside the Hall was not working and asked the Clerk to report this.
- d. Cllr Evans requested that an additional item be considered – a report from the Standards Committee. The Committee have expressed concerns that communications from Parish Councils are not always initiated and signed by the relevant Clerk. It is stressed that all communications from and on behalf of a Council must be produced and signed by the relevant Clerk as this individual is regarded in law as the only valid voice of any particular Council. Should a Council Officer wish to communicate with any authority in their private capacity, this must not be on Council Headed paper.

#### 5. Public Questions

- a. Mrs Hingley has advised that she has been in communication with the County Road Safety Partnership regarding traffic speeds through the village and requesting a pedestrian crossing by the school. It was noted that the Council have made the same but unsuccessful requests reflecting these concerns and will continue to press for these.
- b. A parishioner at the Dales has complained to the Chair of “boy racers” in the area requesting that action be taken. Detail was passed to our local policing team but the fatal accident detailed above has since intervened. It was noted that the impact of this accident had been to reduce speeds for some days afterwards but that the situation is once again as before.
- c. The Chair had responded to a press enquiry following the fatal traffic accident reinforcing that the Council has long had concerns about traffic speeds at the Dales and has represented these on many occasions.

#### 6. Clerk’s Report

- a. Missing road sign at the Moors junction – the Clerk was tasked to remind the County Council that this has still to be replaced.
- b. Data Collection for Speed Monitoring Device – it is confirmed that this will be collated by the Chair of N Kyme PC and circulated through the Cluster Meetings.
- c. Allotment Agreements. The Clerk produced as required the current agreement documents and these were reviewed by the Council and confirmed as still applicable. The Council then proceeded to discuss continuing concerns about the use of these allotments and the condition. The Chair confirmed that all holders had been reminded recently in writing as to the terms and conditions of use and counselled regarding sub-letting. It was agreed that the allotments will be subject to particular scrutiny in the coming months and should further concerns arise these will be addressed.
- d. Burial Ground. The Chair advised that once again no progress has been made in determining ownership of the land that the Council is seeking to purchase. The Council discussed at some length this problem and instructed the Chair to take this up at a higher level with a view to resolving the dilemma and progressing this.

#### 7. Correspondence

For Information:

- a. Spatial Planning Group – Core Strategy on Draft Mineral Policy. Noted without comment. Refuse/Recycling Services over Christmas and the New Year. The Clerk has received detail

of these and copies were distributed to the Council with a copy to be displayed on the Parish Notice Board.

- b. Lincolnshire Playing Field Association – request for financial support is to be considered at the next meeting as set out in the policy for donations and grants.

For Action:

- a. Keep Britain – the Big Tidy Up. After a short discussion the Council decided not to participate in this activity.
- b. County Cllr P Bradwell has advised that the CEMEX quarry planning application is to go back for consideration following advised changes to the expected traffic flows particularly through the Parish. Following on from considerable discussion the Clerk was instructed to write to the District Council reinforcing objections previously advised about the volume of heavy goods traffic through the village and the disruption and nuisance experienced.
- c. Litter Picker/Dog Warden. The Clerk advised that funding grants from NKDC have been approved for the coming Financial Year. It is confirmed that these posts will be advertised shortly and may be combined. The necessary policies will need to be drawn up and approved by the Council before such employment can commence.
- d. NKDC Litter/Fly Tipping Hot Spots. The Council is invited to advise NKDC of known trouble spots outside of the 30 mph speed zones and on public land/highways. It was confirmed that the small “lay by” at Martin Moor continues to regularly attract rubbish, as does the entrance to the Parish Allotments. The Clerk will report these.
- e. NKDC Register of Electors. Those Councillors present duly signed the relevant document.
- f. NKDC TEXT Reporting. This is a new method for reporting when dog/litter bins are full. A publicity notice will be published shortly – the impact of this is that members of the public will be able to report directly to the District Council who will action as necessary. Whilst welcoming this initiative, the Council are concerned that this could lead to unnecessary collections with resultant increased costs and asked would these fall to the Parish? The Clerk is to address these concerns to NKDC. It is noted that the fee for emptying these bins will be £90.00 per bin per year for the coming financial year.
- g. Memorial Request in respect of the late Mr Derek Oakes. After consideration by the Council, it was proposed by Cllr J Evans and seconded by Cllr C Vickers that this be agreed as presented; all were in favour.

#### 8. Planning Applications

- a. The demolition of 5-7 Pound Road and the erection of 11 dwellings have been approved by NKDC.
- b. An application has been made by the Trustees of Mrs Mary King’s School to erect a solar heating array on the south-facing roof of the school hall.
- c. The County Council have advised that they wish to make no observations on this array at Mrs Mary King’s School.
- d. Permission has been agreed for the erection of an attached single garage and a bow window installed at 85 High Street.
- e. Permission has been given for the erection of a first floor extension over the existing ground floor

#### 9. Financial Matters

- a. Budget forecast for 2010- this was discussed at length. The Council concerns centred on the anticipated costs of extending the Burial Ground, the desire to enhance the playing field when finally provided and the wish for improvement measures within the village. A specific measure suggested being the purchase and installation of speed measuring devices for each end of the High Street. District Cllr Ambridge undertook to research the costs of such equipment. Since the provision of such equipment has financial implications, this will have to be formally proposed and considered at a subsequent meeting. Cllr H Whittle suggested £5.00 per head and this was formally proposed by her as the rate for the coming year. This proposal was seconded by Cllr M Stephens MBE and unanimously approved.
- b. Received necessary form from Village Hall for precept for discussion in January according to Policy on Grants and Donations.

- c. Received bank transfer of £698.56 for Litter Picker/Dog Warden for the coming financial year.
- d. The Chair declared a personal interest in this agenda item and took no part in the discussion. Payments Mrs K Stephens Salary £487.82 Expenses £30.87 Total £518.69. Cheque no 000719. Proposed by Cllr J Evans and seconded by Cllr C Vickers with all in favour. It was noted from the budget forecast discussed earlier that in accordance with recommendation from NALC the hourly rate for the Parish Clerk should have been increased to £8.34 per from September 2009. Although the budget forecast anticipated that the council would wish to enhance the salary, this was reflected as being implemented with effect from 1 April 2010. However, having discussed this, the Council were minded to adopt the recommendation with immediate effect and that it should be implemented as per the recommendation from 1 September 2009. Proposed by Cllr C Vickers, seconded by Cllr B Downing with all except Cllr M Stephens who abstained, voting in favour.
- e. Village Hall account received at this meeting and it was resolved to settle this account forthwith. Proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr V Vickers that £69.00 is paid immediately with all in favour.

Bank Reconciliation 23 Nov 2009

Balance B/Fwd	£7,446.96
Plus Receipts	£5,761.78
sub total	£13,208.74
Less payments	£3,282.70
	£9,926.04

Represented by:

Current Account Statement 29 Oct 2009	£3,160.27
Reserve Account statement 20 Nov 2009	£6,765.77
	£9,926.04

11. Dates of Meeting for 2010

Monday 25 January  
Monday 29 March  
Monday 24 May  
Monday 26 July  
Monday 27 September  
Monday 29 November