

MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Martin Parish Council held on Monday, 13th January, 2014 in the Blandford Hall, Martin.

Present: S. Sampson (Chairman), B. Hapke, H. Lawes, W. Perry, J. Richards and S. Spreadbury.

Cllr. Edward Heron (HCC and NFDC)
Two Members of the Public

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS:

- Drainage: A local resident was present at the meeting to outline the recent problems caused by heavy rain downfall particularly along Martin Road near to Townsend Lane and Longbarrow Lane. The Highways Manager for the New Forest Area had been contacted and he had visited the sites in question.

Cllr. Heron explained that the County Council were dealing with the effects of flooding throughout the County and explained the duties of Riparian Land Owners. However, he would ask the Highways Manager to visit the site again (weather permitting) to assess what could be done to prevent future problems in the area. He also suggested that a list of areas where ditches had not been properly maintained should be drawn up.

The Clerk further explained that he had also contacted the County Council and he understood that a blocked pipe near to the affected areas would be jetted out when the machinery was available. He would make further contact with HCC to urge that this work be done as soon as possible and to request the site meeting suggested by Cllr. Heron. The Resident would be kept informed.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 9th December, 2013

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of Martin Parish Council held on 9th December, 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendments:

MINUTE No. 8: The names Rev. R. Eardley and Mark Farmer being deleted and Hazel Lawes substituted.

The sentence commencing "Wendy Perry was talking to" be amended thereafter to read "the Downland Care Group about volunteering to transport patients" (with the words "local residents" deleted).

The Amendments were made and the Chairman signed the minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

- i) COOPTION: A local resident was present who had expressed an interest in being considered to be co-opted onto the Parish Council. The matter was deferred until the next meeting.
- ii) Defibrillator: The cost of a defibrillator was believed to be in the region of £980 plus VAT. St John's Ambulance would help with training. Other Parish Council's had successfully provided a defibrillator in their Parish Areas and Wendy Perry agreed to pursue the matter further including fund raising suggestions.
- iii) NHS Services: The Clerk outlined his view on NHS Services available to Parish Residents. The particular concern was the availability of out of hours Doctor Services as it was believed this was available from Totton some distance away from

the Village. Other emergency services were available but it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group for their advice on out of hour's services.

- iv) Grass Verge – Martin Road: No further information was available regarding the surveying activity in this area. However, it was suggested that it may be work in anticipation of a further planning application in the area.
4. DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: Cllr. Heron outlined the present position regarding the provision of Faster Broadband in Hampshire and the current work being undertaken by Hampshire County Council to achieve this. He understood that the Rockbourne Exchange was on the list to be upgraded which might help with broadband speeds in Martin. He advised that the Parish Council should take advice before pursuing alternative means of achieving faster speeds.
Cllr. Heron was also asked to ascertain the current position regarding the land in Downview Road and whether NFDC had made progress regarding the use of the land for temporary grazing purposes.
5. PLAYGROUND UPDATE
 - i) Inspection of Equipment: Suzanne Spreadbury would inspect the play equipment and report to the next meeting.
 - ii) Children's Play Facilities: The meeting to discuss the provision of Play Facilities in Martin had not yet been arranged and would be pursued further.
6. FINANCE:
 - a) Schedule of Payments for Approval: None
 - b) GRANTS: The Clerk reported that there were three outstanding Grant requests received for consideration by the Parish Council. He outlined the details received from each applicant.
RESOLVED: That a grant of £50 each be made to the following Organisations:
 - The New Forest Disability Information Service
 - The New Forest Citizens Advice Bureau
 - Victim Support HampshireThe total cost of £150 could be met from the Council's Budget.
7. SPEEDWATCH: Janet Richards had completed the training for this scheme. Another date would be arranged shortly for the Group to carry out a speed check in the Village.
8. LENGTHSMAN PROJECT: The Clerk reported that the Lengthsman would be working in Martin either this week or next. A direct telephone number was available and Wendy Perry agreed to contact him. In addition to the outstanding work he would be asked to dig out the grips and clear vegetation were needed.
9. BROADBAND SPEEDS
In order to push forward local demand for faster Broadband Speeds in the Village it was suggested that a local Group should be set up to encourage residents to sign up to the Hampshire County Council Faster Broadband Campaign. Current proposals did not favour rural areas like Martin and this should be addressed as Martin was not in the 90% Area to be

covered by 2015. The Parish Council supported the suggestion and a Group consisting of Janet Richards together with Mark Farmer and the Revd Rob Eardley would draft a letter to be delivered to each resident encouraging their support for faster broadband. Volunteers would also be needed to help distribute the letter personally to each resident.

10. RIGHTS OF WAY: The Chairman reported that together with Wendy Perry they had walked FP501 and had identified certain problems including damaged stiles. Other stiles in the Village needed to be repaired. The HCC Rights of Way Officer had been unable to visit the Village but he had indicated that he would attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to discuss any items of concern.

The Chairman reported that further walks would be arranged but in the meantime it was AGREED to invite the Rights of Way Officer to the next meeting and also ask for a copy of the Definitive Map for the Parish.

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

i) **Planning Applications: None**

ii) **Planning Decisions**

- 13/11184 Alterations and conversion of part of building to create a single holiday let and a residential unit at Martin Club, Martin Road, Martin. REFUSED

iii) Tree Works Application: Field Maple (Ivy Band) Two Ash Trees – Crown Lift to 2 metres over garden (Ivy Band) Rear of 8 St. Georges Cottages, Martin Road, Martin Application 14/0012 NO OBJECTION

12. LITTER PICK: The Chairman reported that it had been 2 years since the last Litter Pick in the area and she suggested that one should be arranged this year. It was agreed that this would take place on Saturday, 8th March, 2014 between 0930 and 1130hrs and advertised in the Highlights Magazine seeking volunteers to help. A Risk Assessment would be prepared on behalf of the Council. Suitable equipment would be obtained.

13. BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2014/15: The Clerk circulated an amended Budget for the year 2014/15 as discussed at the last meeting. The Grant to be received from NFDC had been confirmed as £157 for the year.

The implications for the Council Tax Per Band D of this Budget was noted and discussed. It was the unanimous view of all present at the meeting that any increase in the Precept should be kept to a minimum in the current financial climate and further savings, if possible, should be made. To this end it was agreed that Grants and Donations would be reduced by £100 and the Grass Cutting at The Orchard – Downview Road be met from the Commuted Sum saving a further £400 leaving a total Budget Requirement for 2014/15 of £5345. The Precept figure would be £5188 (following the deduction of the £157 Grant).

No further amendments were proposed and it was:

RESOLVED: That Martin Parish Council set a Budget of £5345 for the financial year 2014/15 and after deduction of Grant a Precept be required of £5188 and that the Clerk be authorised to make this request on behalf of the Council.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of Martin Parish Council be held on Monday, 24th February, 2014 commencing at 7.00pm.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- i) HIGHWAYS: The Clerk reported that due to sick leave the Area Highway Engineer was on sick leave. His duties were being covered on a temporary basis. Problems could be reported on www.hants.gov.uk/highways
- ii) Resilience Plan: The Chairman agreed to draft a letter for circulation so that the Resilience Plan could be updated.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 pm

Signed Date.....

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL