

## MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Martin Parish Council held on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 in the Blandford Hall, Martin.**

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

Mr. A. Herring – Planning Officer NFDC

Cllr. Edward Heron

No Members of the Public

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS: None

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None

2. COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Cllr. Heron reported on the current situation regarding repairs to the highways in the County following the recent flooding. Hampshire had been the worst affected County after Somerset and he explained the financial implications facing the County Council.

He advised that all potholes should be reported to the County via their online system ([hants.gov.uk](http://hants.gov.uk)) and this was particularly important for the more dangerous highway defects. Due to the financial and staffing levels it may take some time for the roads to be restored but progress was being made including repairs to the roadside verges and banks.

The County Council had published a leaflet outlining the responsibility of Riparian Owners to keep their ditches clear and a pro-forma letter was also available which could be used by Parish Councils to notify local landowners when a ditch was blocked.

In conclusion he reported that the Mobile Library service was being reduced and based on the usage figures there was no justification to continue with the service in Martin. Other Library services would be available to residents who were unable to visit the Library in Fordingbridge.

Cllr. Heron was asked to explain why some pothole repairs were not done when a gang was in the area. He explained the way the system worked but in some cases it could be a lack of appropriate materials or simply that the work schedule did not allow sufficient time to complete unreported jobs. However, all crews were now asked to carry out such repairs when appropriate.

With regard to the Lengthsman scheme and any outstanding work he felt that the Parish Council should, in the first instance, discuss any outstanding issues with Fordingbridge Parish Council.

Work had commenced on improving Broadband Speeds in the County.

3. VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENTS/NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS:

The Chairman welcomed Andrew Herring to the meeting and he explained his role within the Planning Framework at NFDC. He explained the process that the Parish Council would have to undertake if it wished to have a Village Design Statement/Neighbourhood Plan. At present only 4 such plans had been prepared in the District at Fordingbridge, Milford, Hythe and Braemar.

There were other ways that Martin Parish Council could influence the way planning policy at NFDC was implemented. He suggested that a discussion be had with the local District Councillor as his input and support would be useful. There had not been a Conservation Area Appraisal for the Village of Martin and the Environmental Design Team could be asked to undertake this work. If this was to be done it could also include the outer areas of the Village adjacent to the Conservation Area. The District Council would soon be undertaking a Review of its Local Plan and again this would give an opportunity to the Parish Council to put forward its views on local planning issues.

Members felt that Mr. Herring had given a useful outline of what the Parish Council could do to influence the planning process and a request for a Conservation Area Appraisal would give an opportunity to establish the local Village characteristics and would be a first step towards making a decision on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. It was, therefore, RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to Cllr. Edward Heron and ask him to support a request to NFDC for a Conservation Area Appraisal to be undertaken for the Parish of Martin.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of Martin Parish Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING:

- i) Rights of Way: The Clerk reported that the County Council's Small Grants Scheme supported proposals for the repair and improvements to rights of way. There were some stiles which needed repair and/or replacement but these were on private land. However, the gate to the Recreation Ground was owned by the Housing Association and Cllr. Lawes would contact them to report this matter.
- ii) Grasscutting: The Clerk explained that the Contractor had now started the grasscutting in the Village but the cost of cutting the Community Orchard would remain the same even with less cuts due to the time needed to clear and tidy up the area if the grass was allowed to get too long. The Contractor had suggested that this cost could be reduced if the clear up was done by volunteers. The Parish Council agreed that this suggestion should be pursued to keep costs down.
- iii) Mobile Library: In view of the comments made by Cllr. Heron in his earlier report it was agreed that the Parish Council would not respond to the public consultation. Any local resident affected by the withdrawal could submit their comments directly to Hampshire County Council.
- iv) Resilience Plan: The Clerk reported that he had received three offers of help in the event of a local incident. A further comment had been made by a local resident and a response would be made to him in due course. The Plan was still in the preparation stage and would complement the County and National Plans currently in place. All suggestions and comments would be considered.

6. PLAYGROUND UPDATE

- i) Inspection of Equipment: The Chairman submitted the playground inspection report carried out on the 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2014. A swing had been wrapped around the frame. Two notices were missing and the Clerk reported that JC Signs had charged £354 for the supply and installation of 4 signs in August, 2014. The Clerk would request the supplier to quote for replacement signs.

7. FINANCE:

a) Schedule of Payments for Approval:

Blandford Hall Committee	Hall Hire	£60.00
Longford Estates	Rent - Bustard Pond	£5.00
Edwin Macknamara	Clerk's Salary 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2014	£263.00
HMRC	PAYE/NI	£46.00

- b) NOTICE OF AUDIT: The Clerk had received the Notice of Audit for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2014 which would be publicised in the normal way. Mr. P. Horley had agreed to undertake the Internal Audit as required.

- c) Provision of Defibrillator: Cllr. Perry would circulate information for consideration at the next meeting.
8. LENGTHSMAN PROJECT: An updated work schedule would be submitted to Fordingbridge Town Council. They would be asked to confirm the current funding available to Martin Parish Council for the new financial year.
9. MARTIN ROADS:  
Repairs to the roads in Martin was ongoing following the recent flooding. However, there was concern that the roadside verges had been sprayed with weed killer leaving them in an unsightly condition within the Conservation Area.
10. BROADBAND SPEEDS  
Cllr. Richards reported that the Sub-Committee had now been set up and a letter would be delivered to each resident encouraging their support for faster broadband. Martin was not included in the 1<sup>st</sup> Phase but it was hoped that increased demand would help support a case for including Martin in an early Phase.
11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:  
i) **Planning Applications:** 14/10177 Single storey extension and conversion of part of building to create two holiday let flats at Martin Club, Martin Road, Martin.  
In view of the number of Councillors who had declared their Membership of the Club a General Dispensation was given by the Clerk under the Localism Act, 2012 so as not to prejudice the business of the Council.  
RESOLVED: That no objection be made to Application No. 14/10177 (Five Votes in Favour and One Against) CARRIED  
ii) **Planning Decision**  
**14/10138** New access; drive and turning area at 1 Townsend Lane, Martin.  
REFUSED  
iii) **Tree Works Applications: None**
12. LITTER PICK: The Litter Pick had taken place on the 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2014. Nine Volunteers had assisted and 16 Bags of Rubbish collected.
13. MARTIN COMMON – STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION  
The Parish Council had no objection to the proposals to the proposals Martin Common outlined in the Stakeholder Consultation. It was agreed that Robert Lloyd be asked to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to give an update on the Common to Residents.
14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:  
i) Development Control: Change of use from agricultural to garden at Beech House, Martin Road, Martin and Cladding at Sweet Apples Farmhouse, Sillens Lane, Martin.  
The Clerk was asked to investigate whether planning approval had been obtained.  
ii) The Green: The Lengthsman would be asked to tidy up the Village Green.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of Martin Parish Council be held on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 (Statutory Business Only) to follow The Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7.00pm in the Blandford Hall, Martin

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 pm

Signed ..... Date.....

DRAFT