

**PARISH OF MARTLESHAM
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 20 APRIL 2017**

PRESENT: Mr M Irwin, Mr L Brome, Mr L W Burrows, Mr S Denton, Mr J R G Forbes, Mr J Kelso, Mr M I O'Brien Baker, Mr R Staines, Mr W J Welch, Mr E Thompson, Mrs M Burrows, Sonya Burrows, Mr P Smith, Mr J Baker, Mr S Corley, Mr E Crichton, Mr A Gartan, Mr P Davis, Inspector A Pursehouse, Margaret Kersey, Peter See, Paul Hadley, A Hadley, Rhea Gardener, Elizabeth Berry, Philip Wilmot, David Foster, Chris Rodgers, Bob Simpson, Jenny Morcom, Martin Kenyon.

IN THE CHAIR: Mr M Irwin (Chairman, Martlesham Parish Council - MPC).

33 people attended the meeting.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Robertson (Clerk to MPC), Mrs D Linsley (Deputy Clerk to MPC).

Mr Irwin, Chairman, introduced himself and welcomed all those present to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence: Miss Bear, Cllr Patricia O'Brien, Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, Cllr Colin Hedgley, Cllr Patti Mulcahy, Cllr Chris Blundell, Miss Jackie Bear, Mr Woldsmith, Cllr Caroline Page.

2. To approve minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th April 2016

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Any matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Introductions and 5. Presentation of Grant Cheques

The following were presented with grant cheques by the Chairman of the Parish Council. Each recipient spoke briefly about their organisation and how their grant would be spent.

a) Deben Rotary Club

Martin Kenyon thanked the Parish Council (PC) for its generosity and explained that the grant would go towards the running of a Memory Café which provides facilities for those with dementia and their carers.

b) Disability Advice Service (DAS)

Jenny Morcom informed the meeting that DAS were busier than ever helping increasing numbers of people to deal with welfare reforms and rising prices. She thanked the PC for its donation.

c) Greenways Project

James Baker, Project Manager, outlined the longstanding work of the Greenways Project in Martlesham; its partnership with Martlesham Heath Householders Ltd on the Western Corridor heath, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and the success of work undertaken on Martlesham Common over recent years which had resulted in the removal of trees along Main Road for safety reasons, the reduction of bracken on site and the increase in heather. He thanked the PC for their continued support.

d) Martlesham Conservation Project

Philip Wilmot outlined the work of the group which had included undertaking monthly practical conservation tasks. Work had included scrub clearance and providing bare ground for insects and reptiles to use. The group had been part of the Megabash in February organised by the Greenways Project and continue to undertake wildlife surveys and promote their work in the monthly newsletters. Mr Wilmot thanked the PC for its continued support and giving recognition to their activities.

e) Martlesham in Bloom

Maureen Burrows thanked the PC for its financial assistance which would pay for the group's insurance. The group was in its 20th year and continued to find sponsors for hanging baskets and put on events. The group had recently launched a wildlife survey of Martlesham Common for the Parish Council and had several volunteers involved in the project.

d) Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS)

Elizabeth Berry thanked the PC for its continued support of its high level staff, all of whom were volunteers able to respond to serious incidents in Suffolk. The group does not receive any financial assistance from the government. SARS had been to Martlesham on two occasions in the last year. The last year had been busy with, on average, a call out each day. The group had been given space in a new office and recruited two new doctors.

6. Presentation on the Martlesham Heath Centenary Weekend, Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th July 2017

Peter Davis explained that the event had been three years in the planning. 11 people made up the busy event committee. Many local organisations were involved with the event which he hoped all residents would take part in and enjoy. He acknowledged that there would be disturbance for locals and hoped that they would be sympathetic. A commemorative stone is to be erected in June. Fly passes are planned as part of the event. The committee continued to look for sponsorship and volunteers. He was thankful to PC for their financial support.

Group photographs of those who had received grant cheques were taken by Sonya Burrows.

7. Report on Parish Council activities and finances

The Chairman reported on the three areas of work undertaken by the Parish Council; the provision and maintenance of a wide range of facilities for leisure and recreation, support of local organisations and representing the Parish on planning issues.

The Portal Woodlands Conservation Group (PWCG) was thanked for their continued work on managing Portal Woodlands and their work with volunteers.

Mr Kelso highlighted the work of the Playspace Sport Fund Working Group in providing sports facilities for adults and asked for any interested volunteers to join the group.

A member of the public queried whether the Parish Council had allowed enough time to collate and submit comments on the Adastral Park Planning Application. The Chairman and Clerk were aware of the tight schedule and reassured the meeting that they would be able to meet the deadline.

Those present were reminded to send their individual comments to the district council, the planning authority.

Mr Brome, Chairman of the Development Plans Committee, added that the PC had convened an extraordinary ordinary meeting on 10th May to consider the application. He mentioned that the proposed 2000 homes on Adastral Park were part of the Local Plan.

Mr Welch, Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee (R&AC), drew people's attention to the PC's website where they could access more information on the work of the R&AC and the PC. He asked for volunteers to help monitor the PC's trees.

Mr Burrows, Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, informed the meeting that the Committee met four times a year and made sure that the PC ran efficiently and transparently. This Committee deals with the PC's overall budget and recommends to the full council an amount for the precept each year. The PC was building up its reserves to enable it to provide for an increasing population. He hoped that he had assured everyone that the PC was doing its best, in an open and transparent way, for the benefit of all parishioners.

8. Police Report

Inspector Andy Pursehouse informed the meeting that he had been in his current post for just three and half weeks but was familiar with the area. He covers the areas of Felixstowe, Woodbridge, East Ipswich and the surrounding villages. He reported that Suffolk Police was celebrating 50 years in Martlesham and that the police faced very different challenges to those of 50 years ago. Insp. Pursehouse stressed that although the police might not be seen on the streets as much as in the past Suffolk Police were part of the community dealing with local problems and tackling crime in a variety of ways. Martlesham is in a low crime area, however, crimes committed at the Police Control Unit are added to the crime figures for Martlesham giving a misleading picture of the level of crime in the parish. He urged people to deter burglars by securing garages and sheds and to report unusual occurrences by phoning 101 or by using the Police website. These reports were often instrumental in solving crime.

9. Recreation Ground Trust (reg charity no 304793) Report

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council was a Corporate Trustee of the Recreation Ground Trust. How the Trust and the PC operate with each other had recently been reorganised; simplifying procedures and making management of the Recreation Ground more efficient.

10. Any matters which parishioners wish to raise

Stephen Corley, Chairman of the PWCG, thanked the MPC staff for all their support over the year.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Chairman,