



Minutes agreed at the meeting held on 26th January 2021 but would be signed at the first face to face meeting of the Council.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL ON 12TH JANUARY 2021 HELD VIRTUALLY AT 7.30PM

415/21 PRESENT:

Cllrs Adam, Barker, Boswell, Mannington (in the Chair), Newton, Robertson, Stevens and Tippen. The Clerk, Deputy Clerk and 2 members of the public were also in attendance.

416/21 APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllrs Brown, Jones and Turner. County Councillor Hotson also gave his apologies.

417/21 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th January 2021 were agreed as a true record and would be signed at the first face to face meeting of the Parish Council.

418/21 CLLR INFORMATION

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

Changes to Cllrs Register of Interest

There were no changes to Cllrs Register of Interests

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation on any item on this agenda

419/21 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

One member of the public expressed an interest in item 425/21 (Highways/Flooding) and may wish to comment.

The meeting was adjourned for the following item

420/21 PUBLIC FORUM

No member of the public wished to address the meeting.

EXTERNAL REPORTS

County Councillor Hotson, in his absence, had sent a report which the Chairman read out:

- (1) He will continue to support MPC following the result of the Youth Services meeting earlier today;
- (2) He continues to receive objections from many Chainhurst residents re Reed Court Farm application;
- (3) The draft County Council budget had now been published. This was to be agreed at KCC's Full Council meeting mid-February with the proposal for Council Tax to be 4.99%. It was a difficult decision to make with 2% agreed by Government which must be spent on elderly and young peoples care as KCC has statutory care responsibilities. This year Government have allowed such authorities to raise Council Tax by an extra 1% should they wish. 1% would raise an extra £7.3m. However, many people have been hit badly during the pandemic. He asked for MPC's views on this.

Cllrs responded asking that an email be sent back to County Councillor Hotson thanking him for the opportunity to comment and wish consideration in the budget for Children's Centres, Libraries, Public Rights of Way, Highways and Youth Services.

Borough Councillors Burton and Blackmore, PCSO Nicola Morris or Community Warden Mira Martin were not in attendance.

The meeting was reconvened to discuss items 408/21 onwards.

421/21 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk provided a verbal report to inform the meeting the final response to MBC regarding Reed Court Farm planning application had been circulated to Cllrs earlier today. Cllrs were asked to inform the Clerk by 9am on Thursday if they had any further comments after this the Clerk would send to MBC; the Yew Tree which had fallen in Rookery Path had been cut down and cleared away; the Lockdown Newsletter was due to be printed on Thursday and would be distributed before the weekend to all Cllrs who had volunteered to help deliver.

409/21 PLANNING

Planning applications with Marden Parish

20/506043/FULL – Murzie Farm, Hunton Road

Erection of a potting shed and oil tank with timber fence

Cllrs raised no objection to this application. However, they wished MBC to confirm with the Environment Agency that the bund was above flood level.

20/506073/FULL – 3 Wades Close, Maidstone Road

Erection of two proposed octagonal timber garden buildings in the rear garden

Cllrs raised no objection to this application.

Planning applications outside Marden Parish

There have been no applications outside the parish relevant to Marden

MBC Planning Decisions:

No planning decisions had been received since the last meeting.

MBC Local Plan Update:

No updates on the Local Plan had been received from MBC.

Other Planning Issues to report

KCC Statement of Community Involvement

KCC - Revised Minerals and Waste Safeguarding Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Cllr Adam reported that he had read through both the above documents. The SCI is specific to the Minerals and Waste document and refers to how public are consulted in regard to planning applications on minerals and waste. At the current time MPC does not receive applications of this type. He was pleased to see that Neighbourhood Plans had got a mention within both documents. Cllrs Tippen and Mannington had also read the documents but had no further comment to make.

Cllrs agreed to note this documents but would not respond to the consultation.

423/21 UPDATE ON ANY MEETINGS/OTHER HELD / DUE TO BE HELD

11th January – KALC Volunteer training - Deputy Clerk had attended but unfortunately had lost connection when this was raised. The Clerk would ask for any details to be emailed to Cllrs.

12th January – Emergency Planning meeting – Cllrs Tippen and Turner together with the Clerk and Deputy Clerk had attended. Discussed what actions were being undertaken and

Cllr Turner and the Clerk were putting the draft plan together. The Clerk was making contact with key personnel/venues and would be contacting Staplehurst PC for further information regarding agency contact details. Cllr Turner would be speaking with his colleagues at work to ascertain how Marden's plan would link in with the local authorities. A notice was being put up on social media and would be added to the Spring Newsletter.

12th January – Youth meeting with KCC Officers - Cllrs Boswell, Robertson and Tippen together with Clerk and Deputy Clerk had attended. County Councillor Hotson and Ellen Shaw, Youth Hub Delivery Manager for KCC were also in attendance. Successful meeting and Ellen Shaw reported that she could offer Marden a youth service once a week (Thursdays 6.30 to 8.30 in the first instance) as soon as they were able to meet. Initially this would be a detached service with the possibility of moving to the Memorial Hall in the future. KCC Youth Service had put together some online events which Ellen would send to the Clerk to advertise both on social media and via posters on the youth shelter. KCC were looking to recruit new members of staff in the next financial year and a further meeting had been arranged at the end of February. Majority of resources could be provided by the Youth Service but MPC may be approached to assist with funding.

15th January – Communications Sub-Committee - Sub-Committee members and Deputy Clerk to attend

19th January – Budget/Precept meeting

26th January – EFCM to agreed budget/precept

28th January – Getting in Front of the Camera training - Cllrs Boswell, Robertson and Tippen together with Deputy Clerk to attend

TBC – Allotment meeting – The Clerk would send out dates in the next few days

28th January (time to be confirmed) – Assets of Community Value meeting – The Clerk would send out dates in the next few days

424/21 FINANCE

Bank Statements

Revenue Accounts

Nat West: £34,021.48

Unity: £71,891.82

Capital Account

Santander: £47,087.15

Invoices for Payment

Electronic Payments

Alison Hooker – purchase of hamper for Christmas window winner - £25.00

Graham Carey – grounds maintenance - £206.00

RJP Window Cleaning – public convenience cleaning - £635.00

Pitney Bowes – Franking Machine Rental - £15.54

Wright Landscapes – to take down and dispose of Yew Tree - £150.00

Ian Jones – locking/unlocking of Southons Field and public conv. - £200.00

Marden PCC – annual magazine subscription - £10.00

TOTAL: £1,241.54

Details circulated to Cllrs. All invoices were agreed and Cllrs Mannington and Tippen would authorise on Unity.

Other

A further grant had been applied for regarding lost revenue for a total of £762.29

The Clerk had updated the financial plan and emailed to the Chairman of Finance. Once agreed this would be circulated to Cllrs prior to next week's Finance meeting.

425/21 HIGHWAYS**Flooding**

Cllr Adam had done some work putting a log together of all flooding. It was proposed, and agreed, that this would be forwarded to Cllrs and the Clerk would continue to maintain when further information was received.

Cllr Adam had also revisited the Surface Water Management Plan for Marden which had been put together by KCC in 2017. There were still a number of actions still outstanding, and even the ones which KCC indicated had been completed still needed to be reviewed. Cllr Adam would continue to go through the document, update, and when finished would circulate to Cllrs to discuss further action.

Cllr Tippen reported that she had started drafting the Flood Plan and once she had received Cllr Adam's report would finalise. Cllr Adam agreed to read through once completed.

Cllr Newton asked if a form could be put up on MPC's website for residents to complete regarding flooding issues. It was agreed that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk would look at Microsoft Forms. An item would also be placed in the Spring Newsletter and would be placed on the 2nd February agenda to discuss further.

426/21 OTHER PARISH MATTERS:**For Decision**Marden Parish Council E-Newsletter

The Deputy Clerk had sent around an e-newsletter to Cllrs and Cllrs agreed to the colour. They also discussed the name of the publication and agreed, for the time being, for it to be called "Village Round-Up". It was proposed that the Deputy Clerk would start advertising for it to go "live" on 29th January. An online survey would be held in a month or so for residents to give their views on the publication and name.

The Old Post Office Notice Board

The Parish Council had been approached by the owners of The Old Post Office Café to ask if they could use part of the notice board for their menus etc. After discussion it was agreed by Cllrs that MPC notice boards should only be used for Parish Council notifications and village organisations to advertise events. They should not be used for commercial purposes.

However, Cllrs agreed to review the situation once the library was reopened to discuss whether to relinquish part, or all, of this notice board. It was proposed that a survey would be undertaken in the future to discuss whether it would be worthwhile to keep it.

Marden Parish Litter Pick

It was agreed, due to the current pandemic, that the Spring Litter Pick would not be held. Cllrs would consider holding a litter pick in the Autumn if Government guidelines permitted.

For Discussion / InformationParish Christmas Trees

Unfortunately, one of the contractors who were due to take down the parish Christmas trees was shielding and the other two were Firefighters and were being called into work due to heavy workload. As this was not felt to be urgent work the Deputy Clerk had put up on social media and posters on notice boards advising residents of this and if residents could take the trees down safely and store them it would be appreciated. However, if this were not possible the trees would have to stay up for the current time.

There were no confidential items to discuss.

427/21 ENFORCEMENT

No enforcement issues were raised

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.52pm

Signed
Date
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The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on 9th February 2021

As from 1st February the Parish Council would revert to holding Committee meetings as well as Full Council as follows:

2nd February – Planning
9th February – Full Council
16th February – Planning
23rd February - Amenities