



**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL ON
TUESDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2021 HELD IN THE OLD SCHOOL ROOM, GOUDHURST
ROAD COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

065/21 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam, Barker, Besant, Gibson, Robertson, Stevens, Tippen and Turner. The Clerk, Borough Cllr Russell and one member of the public were in attendance.

066/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Boswell, Burton and Newton.

067/21 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Register of Interest

No changes to Cllrs Registers of Interest

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Adam had submitted a change of employer to his Declaration of Interest.

Granting of Dispensation

No granting of dispensation was requested.

068/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th September 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record.

069/21 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

Member of the public wished to speak in the Public Forum.

The meeting to be adjourned for the following items:

PUBLIC FORUM

Member of the public raised a concern about the misuse of PROWs on land where dogs and children have been allowed to run through crops. Unfortunately, the minority are ruining this for the majority. The resident requested that MPC consider putting something onto social media and newsletter. Cllrs would look to put an item in the newsletter regarding the Country Code and for walkers to take responsibility on using the PROWs.

7.45pm – Member of the public left the meeting

EXTERNAL REPORTS

County Councillor Report

Not in attendance

Borough Councillors Report

Borough Councillor Russell gave a verbal report on Maidstone Borough Council which included details of the SPI meeting held on 4th October and the Full Council meeting on 6th October; Ward Cluster 6 meeting held earlier today; The Chainhurst chicken farm application was now with the Major Projects Manager at MBC and updates were expected shortly; the Community Protection Team were now able to operate fully out of hours work following an expansion in resources and had sent out fixed penalty notices to landowners of Copper Lane; the motion for Whole Council Elections had been defeated therefore Marden Ward will

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continue having elections every 3 out of 4 years; MBC has re-opened the bus station in Maidstone and lots of activities are being planned at Maidstone Museum over the half term; and several surveys are running at the moment including community safety and the use of Maidstone Leisure Centre.

Police Report

Not in attendance

Community Warden Report

Not in attendance

The meeting to be reconvened to discuss item 070/21 onwards.

070/21 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk gave a verbal report providing Cllrs with information regarding the installation of the speed indicator device and Speed Watch.

071/21 PARISH MATTERS

Reports from MBC and KCC

Report from MBC given under External Reports. No report received from KCC.

Police Update/Report from Police Forum

Crime Figures

Not received as PCSO off sick

Other Police Issues

PCSO restructure: The recent consultation on PCSO structure resulted in no changes being made to Marden at the current time.

Communication

Newsletter

Cllr Boswell had circulated the draft newsletter to Cllrs on 4th October and the Deputy Clerk was currently putting it into printable format. It was due to go to print on 22nd October with delivery expected 29th October.

Marden Flooding

The Clerk had received a telephone call regarding the pilot flood/road closure scheme and Marden may be able to be involved. A meeting is due to be arranged next week.

Cemetery

Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates

Any new certificates will be available for Cllrs to sign at the next meeting.

Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon-Neutrality

The Clerk continues to work on addressing the policies.

Risk Assessments

Parish Meeting Room & The Allens

The Clerk is currently working on these and they will be made available to Cllrs once drafted.

Closure of High Weald Academy

Notification had been received via social media of the planned closure of High Weald Academy in September 2022. A Listening Period Exercise is available to complete online and Cllrs wished it noted that they were very disappointed that all stakeholders had not been consulted prior to the decision being taken. Cllrs also wished to express their support of the letter sent by Staplehurst Parish Council and the Clerk was asked to submitted a letter from Marden PC to Helen Grant MP.

072/21 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Amenities Committee

Draft Minutes of the Amenities Meeting held on 28th September had been previously circulated and available on the Parish Council website. The Clerk updated the meeting that new benches and litter bins had been installed at the playing field and that the soil had been removed from the cemetery.

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Planning Committee

Draft Minutes of Planning Meetings held on 21st September and 5th October had been previously circulated and available on the Parish Council website.

The Chairman had received an email from the Kent Messenger regarding the recent MBC meetings on the Local Plan requesting a comment from Marden Parish Council. Cllrs support a statement to be sent.

Cllr Besant reported that Highways England are due to undertake works at the top and bottom of Detling Hill (A249)

Finance Committee

No Finance meeting held

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars attended

21st September – Meeting with Max Tant – Marden Flooding issues. Cllrs Tippen and Gibson along with the Clerk attended virtually. A verbal report was given outlining the items discussed including: Surface Water Plans are not going to be revisited; Drainage and Waste Water Plans were thought to be more productive which Southern Water were due to undertake and will need to be reviewed every five years; Southern Water is due to review work on Horsmonden Sewage Catchment Area; contact details given as to the best people to contact regarding flooding.

The Chairman proposed that meetings be arranged with stakeholders including KCC Drainage, Upper Medway Drainage Board and Southern Water.

8.30pm – Cllr Barker left the meeting

25th September – MPC Open Morning – Cllrs were disappointed in low numbers attending

27th September – KALC Area Committee – minutes have been circulated to Cllrs

12th October – Ward Cluster Meeting – The Chairman attended. A large number of attendees as this cluster included Marden, Staplehurst and Headcorn wards. Ongoing Action Plan will be owned by the PCSO and a meeting will be arranged once the PCSO has returned to work.

8.40pm – Cllr Stevens left the meeting

12th October – Meeting with Borough Cllr Russell – update given at the beginning of the meeting.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Events forthcoming

16th October – Village Litter Pick

25th October – Village Events Sub-Group / Communications Sub-Group

2nd November- Internal Auditor

13th November – KALC AGM

073/21 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk Magazine – September edition - noted

Horsmonden Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 14 Consultation - noted

MBC – Community Safety Survey and Police and Crime Plan Survey

Cllrs were advised to respond on a personal level rather than from the Parish Council. The Deputy Clerk would be asked to share on social media.

MBC – Budget Survey

The Chairman went through survey and Cllrs responded accordingly.

Reconnect Locality Grants

A subsequent grant period was due in January 2022 when it was agreed the Parish Council would submit an application for funding for Summer Play Scheme.

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074/21 FINANCE**Bank Statements:**Revenue Accounts

Nat West Reserve Account: £44,808.20

Unity Account: £68,594.44

Capital Account

Santander: £71,583.45

Payments for ApprovalKent County Playing Fields Association

Cllrs agreed to continue the annual subscription to the Kent County Playing Fields Association at a cost of £20 per year.

SLCC – Clerk’s Membership

Cllrs agreed to continue the annual subscription for the Clerk to SLCC at a cost of £289.00.

Electronic Payments

Employee – October Salary £257.32

Graham Carey – Grounds Maintenance £600.00

SLCC Training x 4 £162.00

TOTAL: £1,322.32

Cllrs agreed all invoices and Cllrs Tippen and Turner would authorise on Unity.

OtherNat West Bank Mandate

The Clerk is waiting to receive the mandate form from Nat West.

075/21 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT**Highways**Highways Improvement Plan

This was made available at the Open Morning on 25th September. Comments were received on the date and available to residents to respond by end of November. An item is to appear in the newsletter with a response date of 30th November.

Fingerpost Signs

Specifications have been put together and the Clerk is contacting companies for quotes.

Public Rights of Way

There was currently a campaign by Ramblers.org regarding protection of informal footpaths. Cllrs Adam and Besant would look into this and report back.

Marden Highways Conditions

A response had been received from Kent Highways on highways conditions laid out in planning agreements for the new developments. The Clerk was asked to circulate to all Cllrs.

Other Highways Issues

Issues raised by Residents: there were no issues raised by residents to report to the meeting.

Cllr Adam asked that Road Closure notices and signage be added to the next agenda

Public Transport

Cllr Adam asked the Clerk to investigate who is the contact regarding train timetables.

Leaf fall timetable came into force yesterday which runs through to December.

Cllr Adam would look to see if he was available to attend the Rail Summit to be held on 20th October.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.15pm

Date: 9th November 2021

Signed: *Kate Tippen*

Cllr Kate Tippen, Chairman

Marden Parish Council

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Marden

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