



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10TH
OCTOBER 2023 AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN COMMENCING AT
7.30PM**

064/23 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam, Besant, Boswell, Gibson, Newton, Rabot, Robertson and Tippen (in the chair) were present. The Clerk and Borough Councillor Russell were also in attendance.

065/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Stevens, Summersgill and Turner.

066/23 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Changes to Register of Interest

There were no changes to Cllrs Register of Interest.

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

067/23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th September 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.

068/23 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

No members of the public were in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned for the following items:

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance.

EXTERNAL REPORTS

County Councillor Report

Borough Councillors Report

Report received from Borough Cllr Russell and this had been circulated to Cllrs. Borough Cllr Russell gave a verbal report included update on the Local Plan Main Modifications consultation which is ongoing; a change regarding payment for replacement refuse bins has been agreed, only bins requested to be replaced, which have not been broken, will be charged for; waste crime penalties have been increased; MBC are looking to make changes to the new draft of the Parish Charter; Mote Park Café is now open and has recently been named as regional winner of “Best Public or Community Building” – the grand final is 19th January for those shortlisted. Creative Communities Grant is open for applications (closing date 30th November); the literary festival is on in Maidstone this week which is being held in a lot of the historic buildings around the town; events were being planned for Summer 2024.

Community Warden Report

Although not in attendance the Community Warden had sent a report to the Clerk via email outlining what actions she had been taking in the past month. This had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

The meeting was reconvened to discuss item 069/23 onwards.

069/23 CLERK'S REPORT

Report had been previously circulated to Cllrs detailing staff annual leave/flexi, confirmation that the developers/management companies have agreed for the footpath between Windsor Meadow and The Parsonage to be joined and an updated list of meeting dates.

070/23 PARISH MATTERS

Reports from MBC and KCC

Verbal report given by Borough Cllr Russell above. No report received from KCC.

Police Update/Report from Police Forum

Crime figures for previous months were available to view on the Kent Police website.

Crime figures report had also been received from PC Johnson for 21st August to 21st September 2023 which numbered 13 for this period including: 4 criminal damage; 2 graffiti; 2 drugs possession; 2 theft and 3 public order offences. There had also been a report of a dangerously out of control dog.

It was also reported that there had been a few thefts of motor vehicles in Yalding.

Communication

Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter was currently being edited and will be sent to print on 13th October. A list for delivery has been circulated to volunteers and Cllrs.

Marden Flooding

Nothing to report.

Cemetery

Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates

No Exclusive Rights of Burial certificates to sign.

Allotments

The allotment timeline had been sent to Noah Ovenden at Redrow but nothing had been received.

Marden Parish Council Meeting Structure

Two co-opted Cllrs were offered the opportunity to be appointed to any Committees or Sub-Committees that currently have vacancies.

Cllr Rabot wished to be appointed to Amenities Committee and Emergency Planning Sub-Group. The Clerk to contact Cllr Summersgill to ascertain which Committees etc he wished to be appointed to.

Footway linking Windsor Meadow to The Parsonage

Confirmation had been received from the developers/management companies to proceed with the project. The Clerk was asked to contact contractors to meet on site to ascertain type of surface, and edging, that would be the best option.

Marden Parish Council Maintenance Strategies

Maintenance Strategies for Cemetery, Southons Field and Playing Field proposed by Amenities Committee for ratification by Full Council had been circulated to Cllrs. The Clerk raised a couple of amendments which were agreed. Cllrs ratified and adopted the proposals.

071/23 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Amenities Committee

Draft Minutes of Amenities Committee meeting held 26th September 2023 had been previously circulated and available on the Parish Council website – next meeting 24th October 2023.

Planning Committee

Draft Minutes of Planning Committee meeting held on 19th September had been previously circulated and available on the Parish Council website – next meeting 17th October 2023.

An Extra Ordinary Full Council Meeting had been arranged prior to the next Planning Committee meeting to discuss the proposed application for Copper Lane/Albion Road.

Planning Application

23/504124/LBC - Pond Oast, Tanner Farm, Goudhurst Road, Marden

Listed building consent for installation of boiler with external flue (works completed).

Cllrs passed no comment on the retrospective application for the boiler and external flue.

The Clerk was to confirm whether a further application would be forthcoming for the relocation of velux window. In the avoidance of doubt Cllrs reserve the right to comment on the relocation issue until this has been clarified.

Finance Committee

There was no Finance Committee meeting held in September – next meeting 31st October 2023.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars attended:

19th September – Marden Memorial Hall meeting - report given to Amenities Committee.

21st September – Play Scheme Meeting report given to Amenities Committee and fee recommendations to Finance Community.

21st September – Christmas meeting report given to Amenities Committee.

21st September – Community Forum: Cllr Tippen attended – Warm Hubs were discussed and the Village Club were opening for this; also raised was a project for assisting patients to access the Medical Centre via NHS app and other ways for accessing information.

25th September – KALC Area Committee – Marden Parish Council gave apologies.

2nd October – Golding Homes Charter signing – The Clerk, as Proper Officer, signed the document on behalf of Marden Parish Council along with other agencies.

3rd October – Mission Statement meeting cancelled and new date to be confirmed.

4th October – Conservation Area Meeting: Several Cllrs attended. MBC going through the process and suggestions were given from Marden PC. There will be a public consultation on the final document. The Clerk requested to contact MBC to ask for the Non-Designated Heritage Asset List for Marden and for sight of the final document prior to the consultation.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Events forthcoming:

12th October – HR Sub-Committee meeting

13th October – Site Meetings at Cemetery and Southons Field

13th October – Communications Sub-Group

13th October – Events Sub-Group

13th October – Cemetery Sub-Group meeting to discuss fees

14th October – Site Meetings at Public Toilets and Playing Field.

18th October – KCC Rail Summit

21st October – Environmental Sub-Group

24th October – Nature Prescribing Meeting

25th October – Cemetery boundary meeting

26th October – Internal Audit

10th November – Memorial Safety training – Deputy Clerk and Cllr Newton attending.

13th November – Communications Sub-Group

25th November – Emergency Planning Sub-Group

072/23 CORRESPONDENCE

Marden Parish Church Magazine – October edition - noted

Clerks & Councils Direct

Noted

The Clerk

Noted

Kent Police – Rural Crime Survey

Completed

National Highways & Transport Survey (closing date February 2024)

Each section was delegated to a Cllr to complete and would be placed on the January agenda for agreement.

073/23 FINANCE**Bank Statements:**Revenue:

Nat West: £56,707.88

Unity: £57,996.85

Capital

Santander: £72,016.47

Payments for ApprovalElectronic Payments

The following invoices were submitted for payment:

Graham Carey – contract grounds maintenance - £426.00

Stanleys Garage – vehicle fuel - £81.98

Castle Water – Changing Rooms water - £6.96

Mazars – External Audit - £504.00

Signature Plants – horse trough plants - £49.00

P&F Cleaning – Public toilet cleaning - £695.00

Cloudy IT – IT support - £106.56

Castle Water – Public Toilets water - £8.38

Total: £1,877.88

Cllrs agreed payment and Cllrs Newton and Tippen would authorise on Unity.

For Cllrs information October salary and HMRC payments totalling £8,109.87 were authorised by Cllrs Boswell and Turner between meetings.

074/23 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT**Highways**Highways Improvement Plan

Responses have been received regarding the informal consultation for single and double yellow lines on Albion Road/Stanley Road and Goudhurst Road. Cllr Gibson raised the question as to whether letters could also be sent to residents in Gurr Walk, Mayes Road and Gravel Pit Lane. This was agreed and the closing date for this is 20th October.

The Chairman proposed that a Sub-Group be held on 7th November to discuss the findings. Cllrs Besant, Boswell, Newton and Tippen, along with the Clerk, would be involved to provide a report to take to the November Full Council meeting.

Fingerpost Signs

Work has started on painting the signs at Howland Road/Battle Lane junction and at the Old Post Office.

The Clerk has contacted the contractor regarding Plain Road sign requesting that he arranges for the groundwork to be undertaken.

Public Transport

Update received from Southeastern regarding the recent publication of additional service.

The Clerk was asked to respond stating that Cllrs are very concerned about the comment in the fourth paragraph of the email that “they will be looking at service frequency in Marden, with a view to improving the spread of trains”. Cllrs felt this appears to imply that there may be stops removed on existing services and that Marden is being treated unfairly.

The Clerk was asked to review the comments raised at the meeting held in July and to ask for another meeting in the New Year.

On 4th October the Prime Minister announced that the £2 bus fare cap would be extended to 31st December 2024. However, Nu-Venture does not subscribe to this. Cllrs asked that pressure be put on Nu-Venture to consider being part of this scheme.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.58pm.

Signed:

Cllr Kate Tippen, Chairman, Marden Parish Council

Date: 14th November 2023 / 01622 832305 / clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk