



## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018 at 7.30pm IN MARDEN MEMORIAL HALL.**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Cllr Tippen (in the Chair), Vice-Chairman Cllr Adam, Cllrs Brown, Mannington, Newton, Robertson, Stevens and Turner. Also in attendance were Alison Hooker (Parish Clerk); Erika Lock (Asst Parish Clerk); County Councillor Eric Hotson; Borough Councillors Annabelle Blackmore and David Burton; PCSO Nicola Morris and Community Warden Mira Martin. Approximately 30 members of village organisations & societies and residents were also in attendance.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Boswell, Harvey and Jones. Apologies were also received from Revd Ali Duguid, Kent Air Ambulance, Parish Magazine, Julie Nichol of Marden Horticultural Society; Marden Medical Centre.

The Chairman, Cllr Tippen, opened the meeting by welcoming all in attendance and thanked everyone for coming along.

### **MINUTES THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Minutes of meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

### **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

Cllr Tippen gave her report on the Parish Council for the last 12 months:

At the end of Cllr Tippen's report a presentation was made to Dorothy Reed on behalf of the Community for the work that she has undertaken over many years for both the Parish Council and Marden Thursday Club. Cllr Brown presented Dorothy with flowers.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Newton, in Cllr Boswell's absence informed the meeting that the full report would be available in the handout. However for the purpose of the Minutes it is included below.

#### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Mannington, Vice-Chairman of Planning Committee, read out the Planning report on the last 12 months:

### **REPORTS**

#### **PAROCHIAL CHARITIES:**

The village charity reports were in the pack.

**PARISH CHURCH – ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS:**

No representatives from the Parish Church were in attendance.

**OTHER VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**

All village organisations had been contacted and some had provided a report on their activities since the last APM. These were contained in the handout.

Village Organisations Speakers:

Sian Burr, Chairman of the Patient Reference Group: Represent the patients of Marden Medical Centre and speak for them at meetings. The AGM is on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May at the Vestry Hall and all are welcome to attend. The PRG are aware that there are a lot of changes in the future for what is being proposed. Will also be attending the Big Musical Picnic.

Bev Reid, Marden Village Club: The refurbishment was completed nearly a year ago and the Club re-opened and there had been an increase in members. Unfortunately were not successful in the CAMRA Most Successful Village Club with the main reason being given that it was still a "building site" when the judges came around. Last year's charity was STROKE and donated over £4,000 to purchase much needed equipment. Two new charities have been chosen for 2018 for Kent Association for the Blind (Maidstone based) and Dr Roger Eltringham's charity. A large number of 18-30 year olds were also becoming members along with a high number of lady members.

Dinah and Hannah, Marden Theatre Group: The group has started up again and looking forward to their next production of Oliver.

Kasha, Children's Centre: Marden is part of Maidstone Children's Centre and take instructions from them but unfortunately do not have as many resources as previously but want to continue the good work. Event planned on 27<sup>th</sup> June celebrating Diversity for children and families at The Cockpit from 1pm to 4pm including an small animal farm.

Clive Baxter, Marden Cricket and Hockey Club: A final party was held in the old club house at the weekend. Sports matches had already commenced at the new site but still a small amount of work on the tennis courts. The club house is hoped to be ready for the official opening at the beginning of September.

Question: resident of Maidstone Road who is anxious of the application for the late licence: Currently old licence runs until 11pm on the existing ground but Committee felt that occasionally some events go past this time. The times of the new licence, although very late, MC&HC would be looking to possibly extend slightly and in talks with the Licensing Authority. A full time manager has been appointed.

Resident asked why the first opening game of cricket was cancelled – CB understood that this game should have taken place when there was a tremendous downpour which resulted in cancellation of the game.

Any news of when the development will commence on the old site. At the moment development is on hold as the new Clubhouse has not been completed and the tennis courts need to be playable therefore the old site has not been signed off.

Provision of footpath: Some feedback from Network Rail was to put in a footpath along the railway embankment however it is not looking likely. In the meantime they are looking at other options as it is a planning condition to have a footpath leading to the new site.

David Burton, Marden Business Forum: Dedicated to businesses in Marden and all businesses work together and involve the local community. One of the largest employers, ADL, has vacated 6 or 7 large warehouses but these have refilled as quickly

as they were vacated. Brand new businesses are joining and Marden is lucky to have such a wide variety of businesses.

**GUEST SPEAKER: SAM CLARK-KEEN: MARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL** - unfortunately not in attendance

**GUEST SPEAKER: ANDY WARDLEY: KENT FIRE AND RESCUE** – unfortunately was called away on a shout. However he wished it reported that Kent Fire and Rescue are on a big recruitment drive for retained fire fighters and at the moment Marden is unable to cover certain times of the day/night.

**BOROUGH COUNCILLOR: CLLR ANNABELLE BLACKMORE**

A hard copy was available in the handout and Cllr Blackmore gave a brief resume of what was included.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR ERIC HOTSON:**

Report available in the handout and thanked the Parish Council for the involvement. Has helped financially with some village organisations through his County Council fund. EH reported that £330m would need to be spent to repair all the potholes within Kent which, obviously the funding is not available -therefore teams had been instructed to repair pot holes when reported.

RA – asked for an update on the library service and rural bus services: There are no plans at the current time to close any library in Kent EH is hoping to put a future plan together for libraries. Rural bus services – some services KCC assist and a review is due to take place next month on what parishes/communities want and would like. The two major bus companies and smaller companies and taxis are also in talks with KCC. Cuts currently reported are those set by the bus companies and not by KCC at the current time. Approx £4m needs to be saved by KCC over the next two years in bus services. Some parishes have their own community bus service. Any cuts in the future will be open to consultation.

Resident: concerned over the speed through the village, no speed/traffic calming within the parish. The Chairman updated the resident of what highways improvements are included in the development planning conditions and asking residents to volunteer for Speedwatch.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPORT: PARISH CLLR ANDY TURNER**

**RAIL REPORT: PARISH CLLR RICHARD ADAM**

A brief update regarding the railway service to Marden. RA spoke about the closure of Marden Station during the snow earlier this year and informed the meeting that many bodies had been contacted to support the Parish Council in keeping the station open. Continue to push South Eastern/Network Rail on station repairs, infrastructure etc. with some successful but very slow in responding. As there is no User Group within Marden the Parish Council represents all users with responding to consultations etc. Meetings to be arranged regarding access to the new Marden Cricket & Hockey Field and additional parking solutions. A new timetable is coming out on 20<sup>th</sup> May with very little change to Marden. There is still one missing train stopping at Marden in the evening but the early morning stop had been put back into the timetable.

**OTHER PARISH MATTERS**

**Other comments from the floor:**

Resident: Asked if the Parish Council had any plans to commemorate the World War 1 tribute in November.

Resident: Asked whether additional lighting was planned for the playing field and if the Rookery Path could be strimmed.

There were no further comments or questions from the floor.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.49

The meeting was followed by a wine and cheese evening where members of the public were able to meet with their local councillors.

Signed:

Date:

Agreed 16th April 2019