



**MINUTES AGREED AT MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020 BUT NOT SIGNED**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

**Due to the Coronavirus outbreak all Parish Council meetings will be held remotely via Zoom virtual conferencing until further notice.**

**256/20 PRESENT**

Cllrs Adam, Barker, Boswell, Jones, Mannington, Newton, Robertson, Stevens and Turner. County Councillor Eric Hotson. the Deputy Clerk and one member of the public were also in attendance.

**257/20 APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Tippet and Brown had given their apologies. The Clerk, Community Warden Mira Martin and PCSO Nicola Morris were also not present.

In the absence of the Clerk the Deputy Clerk took the minutes of this meeting.

**258/20 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were agreed as a true record but would be signed at the next meeting when the Full Council convenes in person.

**259/20 COUNCILLORS INFORMATION**

**Registers of Interest**

There were no changes to Cllrs Registers of Interest.

**Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 262/20 as a neighbour of Southons Field. Cllr Jones declared an interest in item 262/20 as a neighbour of Marden Playing Field. Cllr Barker declared an interest should any anti-social behaviour be discussed at item 262/20. Cllr Stevens declared an interest in item 262/20 under Allotments as a resident of Redrow Highwood Green. Cllrs Adam and Newton declared an interest under External Reports as members of the Marden History Group.

**Granting of Dispensation**

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

**260/20 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING**

There was one member of the public in attendance but they did not wish to speak on any item. County Councillor Eric Hotson wished to speak under External Report, County Councillor.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for the following items

**PUBLIC FORUM**

The member of the public did not wish to speak

**EXTERNAL REPORTS**

**County Councillor**

Cllr Hotson informed Cllrs about upcoming grants for local community groups and that if they knew of any local community groups that would benefit to get in touch before Christmas. KCC Finances - should be able to make ends meet by year end, but 2021 they expect to have a shortfall of £17m. The budget would be set at the September meeting. In the Autumn, the Government will push their White Paper on Devolution which will also affect Parish and Town Councils. There is a meeting with all leaders of the districts to get their views on what they want to do in the future. Cllr Hotson is happy to restart meetings outside soon.

**Library Update:** Cllr Adam asked for an update as to when it was expected to open Marden Library. There was an announcement from KCC that the next batch of libraries would be opening soon but Marden was not included. Cllr Hotson was aware that there is incredible pressure to open more libraries. The decision on which library to open is based on top tier and the busiest libraries. Marden may be the last group of the libraries to open which could even be 2021. The mobile libraries will start to visit again. Cllr Newton asked how they classify how busy a library is and he explained to Cllr Hotson how important Marden Library is to the community as the Heritage Centre is based there. Cllr Robertson said it is a real hub for the village. Cllr Hotson asked Cllr Newton to write to him with how Marden Library benefits the village and that he will try and help.

**Other:** Cllr Adam said during the recent months, he has conducted a lot more walking on local footpaths. He stated he was pleasantly surprised that he had found local footpaths in good condition and a lot of reported problems have been rectified. Cllr Adam thanked Cllr Hotson for a job well done. Cllr Hotson said he appreciated hearing this and would pass on his comments.

*19:53 – Cllr Hotson left the meeting*

### **Borough Councillors**

Cllrs wished it to be noted that their best wishes had been passed to Steve McLoughlin following his announcement of his retirement as Borough Councillor as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

### **Police**

In the absence of PCSO, Nicola Morris, The Deputy Clerk had received a report and informed Cllrs that there had been six crimes of note. These being 4 criminal damage, 1 theft and 1 theft of a dog.

There had also be seven further reports of anti-social behaviour which included youths causing a nuisance. Other items of note were motorbikes being seized which were believed to be stolen, theft of three bikes from Marden Train Station (although this was under the remit of British Transport Police) which had been recovered and enquiries ongoing and quarantine visits/calls had been made to local residents returning from abroad with information received from the Home Office.

### **Community Warden:**

The Clerks had been informed by the Community Warden that she would not be returning to work until the Library was open. Cllrs asked Deputy Clerk to ask the Community Warden for the reasons for this and how we can help.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting for the remainder of the agenda

## **261/20 CLERK'S REPORT**

Report sent to Cllrs prior to the meeting and a brief update was given at the meeting. The Deputy Clerk reported that she had made extensive investigations regarding the website and would discuss her findings with the Clerk on her return from annual leave.

## **262/20 AMENITIES**

### **Update on any open space issues (Southons Field, Playing Field or Cemetery)**

Caretakers are going through the list of open space jobs. The Parish Council notice board is being erected back outside the Old Post Office Coffee House after being refurbished. Several

yellow developer signs have been removed and the paving slabs have been laid by the Ken Rhodes bench outside the Library.

### **Southons Field**

The Clerks had been informed by residents of Barnes Walk that they have been experiencing a lot of noise as some families tend to migrate towards the large Oak tree by their properties on Southons Field. Marden Parish Council had been asked for signage to be erected asking families to respect neighbouring properties. Cllrs agreed that a sign can be erected. However, the sign would be homemade (printed and laminated) and there would be no cost to the Parish Council. Cllr Jones asked that consideration be given to a similar sign at the Playing Field, if requested by neighbouring residents – this was noted and would be added to the next meeting agenda.

Cllrs had received the quote regarding new picnic benches for Southons Field following discussion at the previous meeting. Cllrs agreed to go ahead with the quote for all six benches as some of the existing picnic benches are broken.

The Deputy Clerk had received a quote from a contractor for the removal of the Beech Hedge for £420.00 on Southons Field. Cllrs accepted the quote and agreed the Deputy Clerk can let the contractor know that the work can commence.

### **Cemetery**

The Deputy Clerk informed Cllrs that the new Cemetery notice board had arrived and was being stored at the Parish Office. The Caretakers will be installing shortly.

### **Playing Field**

Cllr Boswell asked the Deputy Clerk where we were on the Legionella Risk Assessment and the deep cleaning of the Football Changing Rooms. The Deputy Clerk informed Cllrs that we had submitted our order for the risk assessment and are awaiting a date for the assessment to be done. The Clerk had contacted the contractor with regard to the deep clean and the Deputy Clerk would find out when or if this had been completed.

### **Allotments**

Cllr Boswell gave an update on a meeting that she and Cllr Tippen had attended via Zoom with Matthew Finch at Redrow. He confirmed that Redrow are still committed to everything they agreed pre lockdown including MPC legal costs, work to be done at the site and commuted sum etc. However, he needs to speak to his Land Director and also MBC re the S106 variation to allow the site to be passed to MPC. We confirmed that the site would be all allotments and managed by the Allotment Society. A copy of the proposed site plan drawn up by the Allotment group and MPC's Allotment Policy has now been sent to Matthew. We also emphasised that MPC only want to take on the land inside the fence and not the car parking and landscaping outside the fence. Once we have heard back from Matthew, we will update the Allotment group and start to draw up a draft hire agreement. Cllr Stevens informed the meeting that a Residents Association had been formed and it would be likely he would be actively involved.

## **263/20 PLANNING**

### **Planning applications**

#### **20/503205/TPOA – 2 Lime Close**

TPO Application – Oak T1 – Crown lift to 4m, remove low branches over fence and into neighbours property due to excessive shading.

Cllrs raised no objections.

#### **20/503271/FULL – The Clovers, Goudhurst Road**

Erection of single storey rear extension, insertion of 2 front windows at first floor level and 2 rear dormers.

Cllrs raised no objections.

### **MBC Planning Decisions:**

20/502444/FULL – The Old House, Howland Road - Granted

### **Other Planning Issues to report**

There were no other planning issues to report.

### **264/20 UPDATE ON ANY MEETINGS HELD / DUE TO BE HELD**

13<sup>th</sup> August – Meeting with PCSO on Playing Field to discuss anti-social behaviour and other issues.

14<sup>th</sup> August – Meeting with Jones Homes. Cllrs Boswell, Mannington and Tippen to attend together with the Deputy Clerk.

### **265/20 FINANCE**

#### **Bank Statements**

##### Reserve Accounts

NatWest Current Account: £0.00

NatWest Business Reserve Account: £35,153.68

Unity Bank Account: £86,729.58

##### Capital Account

Santander Account: £47,077.62

#### **Invoices for Payment**

##### Electronic Payments

HMRC – PAYE/NIC - £1,281.72

Rams Hill – Mower repairs £192.00

Stanleys Garage – Fuel and CoVid-19 supplies £87.13

Viking – CoVid-19 and office supplies £98.76

Graham Carey – grounds maintenance £582.00

Ian Jones – Locking/unlocking toilet/S Field £200.00

Total: £2,441.61

Invoices were approved and Cllrs Boswell and Mannington would authorise.

### **266/20 HIGHWAYS**

Cllr Adam reported that he noticed some fly tipping in the surrounding areas that we would need to keep an eye on.

### **267/20 OTHER URGENT PARISH MATTERS:**

#### **For Decision**

##### Community Infrastructure Levy

Update from meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> August. Cllr Adam asked that the Cllrs who were not at the meeting could look at the document and that Cllrs need to make sure we have the right plans on the list. Cllr Mannington asked for the document to be circulated to all Cllrs once it had been amended by the Clerk. This would be ongoing and a few meetings would be needed to discuss further. A Zoom meeting was planned for Tuesday 18 August 2020 at 7.30 pm.

##### Community Pay Back Team

The Deputy Clerk had emailed her contact but had yet to receive a response. The last response was after lockdown and they were starting back up by catching up with existing projects before starting any new projects such as Marden.

##### Section 106

An email had been received from MBC regarding payments made from The Parsonage contributions. The Clerk had sent an email to Cllrs regarding the response back from MBC re The Cockpit payment. Cllrs noted and the Clerk is awaiting further response back from MBC. The Clerk will contact again on her return from annual leave.

#### **For Discussion / Information**

There were no items raised for discussion or information.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Date:

Signed:  
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The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020