



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11TH
OCTOBER 2022 AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN COMMENCING AT
7.30PM

068/22 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam, Barker, Besant, Burton, Gibson, Newton, Robertson and Turner (in the Chair).
 Borough Cllr Russell and the Clerk were also in attendance.

069/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Boswell, Stevens and Tippen.

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Tippen, Cllr Turner took the chair.

070/22 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declaration of Interest

Cllr Gibson declared an interest on item 074/22 (Allotments) and would leave the meeting if any discussions or decisions took place.

Changes to Register of Interest

No changes to registers of interest

Granting of Dispensation

No requests for dispensation.

071/22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Clerk reported that the company name at item 067/22 (Fingerpost Signs) should read Lexiam Interiors and Services and not the individual name as indicated on the draft minutes. Cllrs agreed this amendment and the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th September 2022 (deferred from 13th September due to mourning period) were agreed and signed as a true record.

072/22 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

No members of the public were in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned for the following items:

PUBLIC FORUM

No member of the public in attendance.

EXTERNAL REPORTS

County Councillor Report

Not in attendance

Borough Councillors Report

Cllr Russell gave an update following the MBC planning training undertaken on Monday evening which Cllr Turner also attended. From 25th October the MBC Local Plan will be five years old and therefore will no longer be used. There will be a tilting balance during the period of the end of this Local Plan and the emerging new Local Plan. Planning applications will still need to adhere to the National Planning Framework and Neighbourhood Plans will have more weight on planning decisions. MBC will be happy to receive sustainable reports during this period of material considerations on larger developments. Parish Councils should

be mindful of the tilting balance when looking at applications. At the current time MBC still has a five year housing supply.

Police Report

Not in attendance but had sent an email to report that there had been no crimes reported since 27th September; there had been a few incidents at the station which had been related to mental health issues and British Transport Police were involved; working closely with Golding Homes and Medway Housing, along with assisting with an eviction and with Moat housing regarding another resident.

Community Warden Report

Not in attendance but had sent an email informing the council that she had been working with the Task Force and attended their surgeries. She has been walking around the village with the youth worker to try and engage with the youngsters and had events planned for the future.

The meeting was reconvened to discuss item 073/22 onwards.

073/22 CLERK'S REPORT

Due to the September Full Council meeting being held only two weeks ago, and with annual leave and sickness the Clerk reported verbally to Cllrs that the Community Protection Team were also chasing Golding Homes in regard to the installation of the CCTV; a new internet hub was due to be installed in the office along with new phones – the number remains the same and all relevant equipment will be updated with the new password. The internal auditor was due to visit for the interim audit on Friday 14th October and the Clerk was in the process of providing all the relevant information to be made available to him. The Admin Assistant was due to attend an Excel training webinar on 13th October.

074/22 PARISH MATTERS

Reports from MBC and KCC

No reports received from MBC and KCC

Police Update/Report from Police Forum

Crime Figures

Reported in 072/22 above.

Maidstone Task Force

Still working in Marden and Collier Street and planned to do so for at least another year.

They are working closely with housing associations and other agencies to help support residents and deal with any issues. They continue, along with the Community Protection Team, to hold fortnightly meetings in Marden.

Other Police Issues

No other police issues raised.

Communication

Newsletter

The newsletter was currently being edited and would be going to the printers next week.

Marden Dementia Group would be providing a flyer to be inserted and the Clerk had informed them that help would be required for sorting and delivering of newsletters. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Boswell and the Deputy Clerk for the work involved.

Marden Flooding

A meeting is due to be held at Yalding on 18th October with the Environment Agency. The Chairman and Clerk were unable to attend but it is hoped that Cllr Gibson would be able to represent Marden.

Cemetery

Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates

There were no certificates to sign.

Allotments

Notification had been received from Redrow that they were now in a position to start to the transfer of the allotment site (not including the car parking area). Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to send over solicitor's details.

Office IT

Cllr Newton had reported to the last meeting information regarding an upgrade in office IT. The Clerk wished it recorded that there would be some cost as new laptops would need to be purchased. A full report and costings would be taken to the next Finance Committee meeting.

Remembrance SundayMPC to lay wreath at Church service

A wreath had been purchased from Royal British Legion and Cllrs Boswell and Tippen had indicated to the Clerk that they would be happy to lay a wreath at the service on 13th November.

Marden Parish Council Infrastructure Spend Plan

The Clerk had made changes to ISP document following the last meeting. However, it was noted in the minutes that the benches at Southons Field would be a revenue purchase. The Clerk requested that Cllrs consider that the new benches would not be like for like but one would be for wheelchair users and one would be for children. Agreed and this would be put before Finance Committee.

Tree Planting Date

Cllrs discussed proposed dates for planting of trees and Cllr Besant suggested 18th or 19th November at Marden Playing Field. Cllrs agreed for Cllr Besant and the office staff to make the final decision depending on when a contractor is available to assist. Costings were being obtained for a contractor to prepare the holes and Cllr Besant was contacting Golden Hill Nurseries in regard to the best way to transport the trees once at the field for planting.

075/22 COMMITTEE REPORTS**Amenities Committee**

No Amenities Committee meeting was held in September. The next meeting of the Amenities Committee is 25th October.

Planning Committee

Draft Minutes of Planning Committee meeting held on 4th October had been previously circulated and available on the Parish Council website.

Finance Committee

No Finance Committee meeting was held in September. The next Finance meeting will be 29th November to start drafting the budget for 2023/24.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars attended

PPG Meeting – 29th September

Young Farmers Open Evening – 29th September

MBC Planning Training – 10th October

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Events forthcoming

SLCC Excel Webinar – 13th October

Internal Auditor Interim Audit – 14th October

Kent Rail Summit – 18th October

Meeting with Environment Agency – 18th October

NALC Climate Emergency Webinar – 27th October

Communications Sub-Group Meeting – 31st October

HR Sub-Committee meeting – 31st October

KALC Area Committee Meeting - 28th November

KALC Training Sessions

076/22 CORRESPONDENCE

Marden Parish Church Magazine – October edition - noted

The Clerk – September edition – noted

KALC Newsletter – not on agenda but circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

077/22 FINANCE**Bank Statements:**Revenue

Nat West £72,386.28

Unity Trust Bank: £40,148.67

Capital

Santander: £71,615.69.

Other Financial IssuesOffice Computer Systems

Discussed under item 074/22

Payments for ApprovalElectronic Payments

The following invoices were submitted for payment:

Marden Memorial Hall – Hall hire, office rent and cleaning - £370.35

Stanleys Garage – mower fuel and paint - £76.86

RJP Window Cleaning – Public convenience cleaning - £665.00

SLCC – Clerk's subscription - £294.00

Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre - £150.00

Kent County Playing Fields Association - £20.00

Graham Carey – grounds maintenance - £576.00

Castle Water – public convenience water supply - £43.83

Cllrs agreed payments and Cllrs Newton and Turner would authorise on Unity.

078/22 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT**Highways**Highways Improvement Plan

(i) Update from meeting held on 12th September

Cllr Turner gave an update on the changes to the HIP which had been circulated to Cllrs.

Cllrs agreed the amendments to the document.

(ii) Template received from Kent Highways to list MPC's priorities

Cllr Turner reported that a new template had been received which required only five priorities from the parish. Cllrs discussed the priorities which had been listed in the document in the document and agreed for the following to be added:

(1) HIP007: B2079 Goudhurst Road – parking restrictions south of Marden Primary Academy – extension of single yellow lines

(2) HIP009 and HIP010: South of Pattenden Lane - junction with B2079 – lessen the width of the junction and to review HGV signage into Pattenden Lane.

(3) HIP026: Bell Bollards at Maidstone Road junction on opposite side to those currently in situ.

(4) HIP025: Stanley Road/Albion Road junction – double yellow lines either side of Stanley Road junction and to junction with Seymour Drive.

(5) HIP016: Pattenden Lane single yellow lines – the Clerk to investigate how far this has progressed as an informal consultation had already taken place with residents and businesses in Pattenden Lane and Kent Highways were due to submit at Traffic Regulation Order.

(iii) KALC had sent an email asking for views on the process of HIPs. Cllrs wished it report that there had been a lack of communication regarding the process; there had been a change of personnel within Kent Highways and we had lost consistency with working with one officer regarding work in progress; we had received no help regarding prioritising issues and had had to work through these ourselves; any discussions we have had with Kent Highways have not been followed through; and have been told we have had a lot of issues which can't all be dealt with.

Road Closure Notices

Issue had been raised previously regarding the erection of road closure signs being left up once road is opened. The Clerk was asked to speak with Kent Highways again stating that we appreciate that road closure signs are lifted when road is open (ie evenings and weekends) but

the signs should be placed back when the road is closed and removed immediately work has been completed. There have been examples recently especially in Hunton Road when this has occurred causing unnecessary diversions for residents.

Other Highways Issues

Work is currently be undertaken on South Road/Stanley Road to replace the damaged road surface.

Public Transport

Concern was raised over non-arrival of buses from and to the village and Cllrs asked whether technology can be looked into for users to be able to view details. The Clerk was asked to raise with County Councillor Parfitt-Reid.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.42

Date:

Signed:

Cllr Kate Tippen, Chairman
Marden Parish Council
Parish Office, Goudhurst Road
Marden

01622 832305 / 07376 287981 / clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk / www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk