



MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2024 AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Prior to opening the meeting the Chairman reported to Cllrs that due to personal reasons, Cllr Besant had resigned from the Parish Council as from 7th October 2024. The Chairman thanked Cllr Besant for his drive and enthusiasm.

Cllr Besant stayed for the remainder of the meeting as a member of the public.

059/24 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam, Boswell, Dobinson, Gibson, Newton, Summersgill, Tippen (in the Chair) and Turner. The Deputy Clerk, Borough Cllr Russell, the Managing Director of ILOS New Energy and three members of the public (*one ILOS New Energy colleague and the landowner*).

060/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs received apologies from Cllr Rabot, the Clerk and County Cllr Parfitt.

In the Clerk's absence, the Deputy Clerk was in attendance to take the minutes.

061/24 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

No declarations of interest were received.

Changes to Register of Interest

There were no requests for changes to Cllrs Registers of Interest.

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

062/24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Cllrs received and accepted, as true records, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th September 2024 and the Extra Ordinary Full Council meeting held on 24th September 2024.

063/24 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Managing Director of ILOS New Energy, and the two members of the public, wished to give a short presentation to Cllrs in the Public Forum.

Borough Cllrs Russell and Summersgill requested to speak under External Reports.

The meeting was adjourned for the following items:

PUBLIC FORUM

See item 063/24. No other issues wished to be raised.

ILOS New Energy UK

The Chairman welcomed to Managing Director of ILOS New Energy to the meeting who gave a short presentation to Cllrs. A handout was handed out to Cllrs. Although not able to comment as had not been submitted as a planning application Cllrs raised a number of questions regarding footpaths, use of the land (sheep grazing) while the solar panels are in situ, the ecology changes and Cllr Adam raised a question about a footpath which is not a public right of way. A public consultation was to be held on 14th October 2024 at Marden Sports Club, Maidstone Road where all were welcome to attend.

20:00 3 ILOS Energy representatives left the meeting.

EXTERNAL REPORTS - VERBAL

County Councillor Report

There was no County Councillor in attendance.

Borough Councillors Report

Waiting for the strategic plan and but nothing else going on.

The meeting was reconvened to discuss item 064/24 onwards.

064/24 CLERK'S REPORT

Cllrs received and noted the Clerk's report which provided details of the office correspondence log for September, Full Council action log, changing room proposals and newsletter (both of which are to be discussed further in the meeting).

065/24 PARISH MATTERS

Written Reports received from MBC and KCC

Borough Cllr Summersgill had submitted a written report for September which had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllrs Summersgill requested that Cllrs complete the MBC Residents Survey.

Police Update

Crime Figures

Cllr Rabot had provided a short report of crime figures from Kent Police website.

Other Police Issues

There was a Community Protection and Kent Police surgery on 4th October. The Maidstone Independent Advisory Group (IAG) had requested to hold an open meeting in Marden on 10th December 2024. Cllrs considered covering the cost of the hall hire at Marden Memorial Hall and agreed to fund to £42.00 for two hours hire.

Communication

Newsletter

The final draft had been completed and the Deputy Clerk was currently typesetting ready for printing. Due back from printers beginning of November for delivery.

Marden Flooding/Water

Nothing to report.

Marden Changing Room

The Clerk had submitted a request for plans to be drawn up by the architect and had received an email in return. Cllrs discussed and agreed to the payment for £220.00 to draw up the plan. Cllrs also agreed to obtain budget costs.

Cemetery

Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates

Unfortunately, due to the Clerk's absence certificates were not available to sign at the meeting.

Marden Playing Field

An email had been received from Southern Water regarding additional works required. Cllr Adam requested that there be good signage to use Roundel Way if the footpath is being closed off.

066/24 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Amenities Committee

Cllrs noted the Minutes of Amenities Committee meeting held on 1st October (deferred from 24th September) and were available on the Parish Council website. Cllr Tippen reported that the Council had applied for a grant which has been successful in obtaining £4,200. This would be put on the next Amenities Committee Meeting agenda.

Planning Committee

Cllrs noted the Minutes of Planning Committee meetings held on 20th August and 3rd September and were available on the Parish Council website. Cllr Tippen thanked Cllr Adam for his comments on the Albion Road/Copper Lane appeal.

Finance Committee

There had been no Finance Committee meeting in September. The next meeting will be on 29th October to discuss draft budget.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars attended

Those in attendance updated the meeting on the following:

Ward Cluster Meeting – 10th September. Cllr Rabot had attended and action list from this meeting had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

Community Forum – 12th September. Cllr Tippen attended.

Borough Cllr Meeting – 16th September. Notes of the meeting had previously been circulated to Cllrs.

Memorial Hall Meeting – 16th September. Cllr Turner, as MPC Representative on the Hall Committee, had given a report to Amenities Committee

KALC Finance Conference – 17th September. Cllr Tippen and the Clerk had attended and Cllr Tippen was pleased to report that all financial aspects of Marden PC were in line with procedures.

Maidstone Independent Advisory Group (IAG) Meeting – 17th September. Cllr Rabot had attended and would circulate the minutes of the meeting once received.

Cemetery Sub-Committee meeting – 19th September. Reported to Amenities Committee meeting.

Making Space for Nature – 26th September. Cllr Summersgill had attended and would report to the next Environmental Sub-Group meeting.

PPG Meeting – 26th September. Cllr Boswell had attended.

KALC Area Committee – 30th September. Cllr Summersgill had attended and minutes of the meeting had been circulated.

KCC Making Space for Nature Priorities Species Workshop – 1st October. Cllr Summersgill had attended and would report back to the Environmental Sub-Group meeting.

Nature Prescribing Meeting – 1st October. Cllr Boswell had attended. Wildlife postcards have gone out to 35 patients. Continuing with project as feedback is good.

Parish Councils Environmental Network Meeting – 2nd October MPC Reps had attended and would report back to the Environmental Sub-Group meeting.

Cloudy IT/Microsoft 365 Training – 3rd October. Cllrs Boswell and Summersgill attended along with the Deputy Clerk.

Environmental Sub-Group workshop – 7th October – cancelled.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Events forthcoming

KALC Standards Conference – 10th October - Deputy Clerk to attend

Kent Rail Summit – 17th October – *Cllr Adam will try to listen in to Zoom meeting.*

KALC Advanced Planning Training – 17th October - Cllr Turner to attend

KALC HR Training – 30th October - Cllrs Gibson, Newton and Tippen to attend

KALC Climate Change Seminar – 5th November - Cllrs Boswell and Summersgill to attend

Environmental Sub-Group – 19th November

KCC Highways Seminar – 20th November - Cllr Tippen to attend

067/24 CORRESPONDENCE

Proposed Solar Farm

Cllrs received and noted correspondence from ILOS New Energy re proposed solar farm in Pattenden Lane. A brief presentation was given at the start of the meeting.

Discretionary Rate Relief Policy Consultation

Cllrs considered the Rate Relief consultation document and Cllr Tippen proposed that this be sent to the Hall Trustees for completion.

22/501335/FULL (APP/72235/W/23/3321094) PROW Diversion KM248(part)**Land North of Little Cheveney Farm, Sheephurst Lane, Marden**

Cllrs viewed details of PROW (Diversion) KM248 (part) on land North of Little Cheveney Farm, Sheephurst Lane, Marden. Cllrs noted.

MPC Correspondence Log

Cllrs received and noted the office correspondence log for September

Cllrs received the following correspondence:

Marden Parish Church Magazine

Noted

KALC Newsletter

Noted

Clerks & Councils Direct

Noted

The Clerk

Noted

068/24 FINANCE**(A) Bank Statements:**Revenue Accounts

Nat West: £18,791.38

Unity: £95,171.24

Capital Accounts

Santander: £72,582.55

(B) Payments for ApprovalElectronic Payments

The following invoices were submitted for payment:

SLCC – Clerk’s Membership - £348.00

Kent County Playing Fields Association – Annual Subscription - £20.00

Cloudy IT – monthly IT support - £225.60

Castle Water – monthly toilet water supply - £8.44

Stanleys Garage – mower/vehicle fuel - £75.01

KALC – Finance Conference x 2 - £168.00

P&F Cleaning – monthly toilet cleaning - £725.00

Castle Water – monthly toilet water supply - £8.64

Viking – Toilet supplies - £100.51

KALC – Standards Conference x 1 - £84.00

Employees/HMRC – October Salaries/PAYE/NIC - £8,780.07

Kinch Tree Surgeons – Urgent tree work at Rookery Path - £600.00

Total: £11,143.27

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

069/24 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT**Highways**

Cllrs noted the Road Safety Newsletter which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Public Transport

There were no issues to report. The Clerk would be asked if a response had been received from South Eastern regarding the meeting in January.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.45.

Cllr Kate Tippen, Chairman

Date: 12th November 2024.

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