



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2024 AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

103/24 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam, Besant, Boswell, Newton, Rabot, Robertson and Tippen (in the Chair). The Clerk and Borough Cllr Russell were also in attendance.

104/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Gibson, Stevens, Summersgill and Turner had given their apologies. County Cllr Parfitt-Reid had also given apologies.

105/24 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Changes to Register of Interest

There were no changes to Cllrs Registers of Interest.

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

106/24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

107/24 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned for the following items:

PUBLIC FORUM

EXTERNAL REPORTS

County Councillor Report

Not in attendance.

Borough Councillors Report

Borough Cllr Russell had circulated a report giving details of the Rural England Prosperity Fund; Events planned by MBC throughout 2024; Boundary Changes coming into effect in 2024; MBC Budget proposals and restraints and MBC out of hours emergency contact details.

Community Warden Report

Not in attendance but a report had been submitted which had been circulated to Cllrs. The Community Warden would be asked to provide a report on the youth services within the village.

The meeting was reconvened to discuss item 108/24 onwards.

108/24 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that the Vestry Hall had been booked for 9th March for the Changing Rooms public consultation; the application for the Assets of Community Value on West End Tavern had been submitted to Maidstone Borough Council; the request from Russet Runners to use the playing field had been cancelled and moved to Marden Sports Ground; the application for the Local Council Award Scheme was being completed and would be placed on the February agenda to start agreeing documents to be submitted; Several consultations were still open; and the Clerk requested that Cllrs give agreement to remove the list of future

meeting dates from the agenda as a list was circulated independently to Cllrs throughout the month.

109/24 PARISH MATTERS

Reports from MBC and KCC

Nothing further to add from Borough Cllr report above.

County Cllr reported that she was arranging a meeting with the Deputy Cabinet Member to discuss the Children's Centre closure.

Police Update/Report from Police Forum

Crime Figures could be found on the Kent Police website.

Communication

Newsletter

Cllr Boswell was finalising the draft and had emailed village organisations asking if they wished to submit a report to be included. The newsletter, once edited, would be sent to print on 23rd February.

Marden Flooding

Draft Kent Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024-2034 consultation closing 30th January 2024 – Cllrs wished a response to be sent back and this would be returned by the Clerk.

There have been several flood incidents in the past few weeks where Maynards sewer overflowed twice and Southern Water attended to clear site, flood signs were also placed in Plain Road.

Cemetery

Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates

There were no ERB certificates to sign.

Allotments

The Clerk had chased Redrow again regarding the Highwood Green Allotments. Redrow were currently in negotiations with Maidstone Borough Council regarding agreeing the S106 variation to allow the allotments to be transferred.

MBC Prosperity Fund

Cllr Tippen reported that the Memorial Hall will be applying for storage batteries for the solar panels already on the building.

Napoleon Drive Play Area – Damage to Play Table

The Clerk reported that although the caretaker had repaired this play table it was damaged again prior to Christmas and is now beyond repair.

Cllrs proposed, following Finance Committee approval, to accept the quote from Komplan for a new picnic/play table.

Windsor Meadow/The Parsonage footpath

Two quotes had been received and report provided to Cllrs.

Cllrs agreed to wait for the third quote to be received and put before Finance Committee next week.

Marden PC Policies and Procedures

Cllrs were requested to start reviewing the policies and procedures currently in place and to discuss if further documents are required.

Policies relevant to Committees would be added to the relevant agenda to discuss and recommend any changes.

All policies would be put before the March Full Council meeting for agreement/adoption.

110/24 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Amenities Committee

There was no Amenities Committee meeting in December. The next meeting will be held on 23rd January 2024.

Planning Committee

Draft Minutes of Planning Committee meeting held on 19th December 2023 and 2nd January 2024 had been previously circulated and available on the Parish Council website – next meeting to be confirmed.

Finance Committee

There had been no meeting held in November – next meeting 16th January 2024.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars attended

15th December – meeting with County Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid. Notes of this meeting had been circulated to Cllrs.

4th January – meeting with new PC – update given at the meeting.

4th January – Marden Community Forum – update given at the meeting.

8th January – Conservation Area meeting with MBC Officers – update given at the meeting.

The public consultation open day was being held on 30th January at the Memorial Hall.

8th January – Infrastructure Spend Plan meeting – revised document had been circulated to Cllrs. The document would be deferred to Amenities Committee meeting and a public consultation would be held on 9th March along with the changing room consultation morning.

9th January – Highway Improvement Plan meeting with KCC Officers. Report given at the meeting and the updated document will be circulated shortly.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Events forthcoming

11th January – Marden Memorial Hall Committee meeting

13th January – Emergency Planning meeting- it was agreed to cancel this meeting and further suggested dates would be circulated.

16th January – Meeting to discuss Mission Statement

17th January – Snow Volunteer Training (Webinar)

18th January – Nature Prescribing Meeting

18th January – Flood Volunteer Training (Webinar)

22nd January – South Eastern meeting with SET representatives

24th January – Emergency Planning Training (Webinar)

25th January – NALC Climate Change (Webinar)

31st January - Emergency Planning Training (Webinar)

5th February – Christmas meeting

Following query raised by the Clerk in her report Cllrs agreed to keep future meeting dates on the agenda/minutes.

111/24 CORRESPONDENCE

Parish Church Magazine – January edition - noted

The Clerk – January edition - noted

112/24 FINANCE

Bank Statements:

Revenue Accounts

Unity Trust Bank: £40,177.74

Nat West: £33,485.24 (the Public Works Loan payment of £9,118.96 was due to be paid on 29th January 2024)

Capital

Santander: £72,016.47

The Clerk would contact Santander prior to the Finance Committee meeting to ensure all signatory information was now in place. Details of the CCLA Deposit Fund had been circulated to Finance Committee.

Payments for Approval

Electronic Payments

The following invoices were due for payment:

Castle Water – public conv. Water supply £115.40

Marden Parish Church – magazine subscription £12.00

Alison Hooker – Mailchimp Subscription x 6 £75.04

Cllrs agreed payment and Cllrs Adam and Boswell would authorise on Unity.

Other

Grant Request from Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre – this item would be deferred to Finance Committee meeting next week.

113/24 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Highways

Highways Improvement Plan

Update given to Cllrs from the meeting held earlier in the day. Kent Highways would update the document and send to the Clerk. Once received this would be circulated to Cllrs.

Consultation

Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan - Public Consultation – closing date 10th January 2024: Cllrs Adam and Rabot reported to the meeting and Cllrs agreed a response to be sent.

Public Transport

Meeting with South Eastern arranged for 22nd January 2024.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.05pm

Signed:

Cllr Kate Tippen, Chairman, Marden Parish Council

Date: 13th February 2024

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