



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10TH
SEPTEMBER 2024 AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN COMMENCING AT
7.30PM**

041/24 PRESENT

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

042/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs received apologies from Cllr Dobinson along with County Cllr Parfitt.

043/24 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Summersgill was an MBC representative on the Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board but had not attended a meeting nor was aware of the email content (Item 047/24 – Flooding/Water)

Changes to Register of Interest

Cllr Besant reported to the meeting that his Register of Interest form required amendment.

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

044/24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllrs received and accepted, as a true record, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th August 2024. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

045/24 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

No members of the public were in attendance.

EXTERNAL REPORTS - VERBAL

County Councillor Report

Not in attendance

Borough Councillors Report

Cllr Russell reported that she now Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee who are now currently looking at S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy payments, the Scope of MBC and Planning Enforcement.

She had logged on to the NPPF Advisory Service and received information on the update to the criteria regarding housing numbers and it seems as though MBC will not be required to review the Local Plan immediately.

Borough Cllr Summersgill reported that the Judicial Review was still proceeding and no new Local Plan would go through the system during the current four year term.

MBC currently has a resident's survey which is out for consultation.

19.40 Cllr Turner arrived at the meeting.

Police Report

Police were not in attendance.

The meeting was reconvened to discuss item 046/24 onwards.

046/24 CLERK'S REPORT

Cllrs received and noted the Clerk's report which provided details of Outlook calendar, CCLA application, outstanding meetings and the Quality Gold award.

047/24 PARISH MATTERS**Written Reports received from MBC and KCC**

Cllrs Couch and Summersgill had submitted a written report which had been circulated to Cllrs.

Police UpdateCrime Figures

It was noted that the crime figures for Marden could be found on the Kent Police website. Cllr Rabot reported on the figures from May to July ranging between 28 to 32 per month.

Other Police Issues

A Police Surgery is planned for Friday 4th October at the Village Café.

CommunicationNewsletter

The next edition of the newsletter was due to go to print 25th October for delivery w/c 4th November.

Marden Flooding/Water

Cllrs received the response from Southern Water in regard to letter sent 11th March 2024. Cllr Summersgill reported that a copy of the original letter had been sent to the contact who was undertaking recent SW works and was awaiting a further response.

Cllrs received email from Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board. Cllr Adam reported that there were a couple of streams within the parish which fell under the UMIDB remit and these were on MPC's flooding spreadsheet. However, the email received was not clear as to what information they required. MPC wished to be involved and the Clerk was asked to add to the Planning Agenda for 17th September.

Cllrs noted works at Marden Playing Field. It is understood that this work was part of the SW work throughout the parish.

CemeteryExclusive Right of Burial Certificates

No ERB certificate was required to be signed.

MPC Byelaws

Cllrs discussed the next step of Open Space Byelaws and it was proposed that a consultation period be run in line with the Neighbourhood Plan Review.

Local Council Award Scheme – Quality Gold

Cllrs had been provided with details of the Parish Council's award of Quality Gold status. It was agreed both the Chief Executive of KALC and Maidstone Mayor be invited to a meeting to present the certificate.

Rookery Path

The Chairman proposed that in accordance with Section 3(d) of Standing Orders that this item be moved to a Part II Confidential item at the end of the meeting. Cllrs agreed.

Planning Appeal3/504068/OUT PINS reference: APP/U2235/W/24/3346817 – Land East of Albion Road and North of Copper Lane, Marden

Outline application with some matters reserved (access only sought) for the removal of 2 former agricultural sheds and erection of up to 117no. dwellings and associated infrastructure including partial footways on Albion Road.

The above appeal response was discussed and agreed at MPC's Planning Committee on 3rd September 2024. The written representation had been sent to the Planning Inspectorate and copied to MBC.

048/24 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Amenities Committee

There had been no Amenities Committee meeting held in August.

Planning Committee

Cllrs noted the Minutes of Planning Committee meeting held on 20th August and 3rd September as these were available on the Parish Council website. Regulation 14 consultation was required on the Neighbourhood Plan Review which will be discussed in more detail at the next Planning Committee meeting.

Finance Committee

There had been no Finance Committee meeting held in August.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars attended

Those in attendance updated the meeting on the following:

Microsoft Forms webinar – 22nd August 2024: Deputy Clerk attended and would report to the Communications Sub-Group at its next meeting.

Events Sub-Group – 29th August Events Sub-Group Cllrs attended. The notes had been circulated to Cllrs.

Microsoft Teams Meeting with MBC for Neighbourhood Plan Review held on 30th August 2024. This had been reported to Planning Committee on 3rd September and the next steps discussed. Further discussion would take place at the Planning meeting on 17th September.

Environmental Sub-Group Meeting - 3rd September. Environmental Sub-Group members attended and an update would be provided at Amenities Committee meeting.

Ward Cluster Meeting – 10th September. Cllr Rabot attended and gave a brief update on anti-social behaviour, residents need to be encouraged to report crime/ASB and speeding to 101 or Crime Stoppers anonymously.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Events forthcoming

Community Forum – 12th September

Memorial Staking/Making Safe Memorials – 13th September

Borough Cllr Meeting – 16th September

Memorial Hall Meeting – 16th September

KALC Finance Conference – 17th September

Cemetery Sub-Committee meeting – 19th September

Making Space for Nature – 26th September

PPG Meeting – 26th September

KALC Area Committee Meeting – 30th September

Nature Prescribing Meeting – 1st October

Parish Councils Environmental Network Meeting – 2nd October

Cloudy IT/Microsoft 365 Training – 3rd October

Police Surgery – 4th October at Village Café.

049/24 CORRESPONDENCE

MPC Correspondence Log

Cllrs received the office correspondence log for August which had been placed on the website.

Cllrs received and noted the following correspondence:

Marden Parish Church Magazine

September edition for information

KALC Newsletter

September edition – previously circulated to Cllrs

KCC Consultation – Local Transport Plan

It was agreed that Cllr Adam would respond on behalf of MPC.

050/24 FINANCE**(A) Bank Statements:**Revenue Accounts

Nat West: £20,183.29

Unity: £100,249.66

Capital Account

Santander: £72,582.55

(B) AGAR – Completion of Audit

Cllrs noted the conclusion of audit from Mazars and confirmed inspection period to end 8th October. Cllrs noted that no “matters arising” had been raised by the External Auditor. The report and notice had been uploaded to the website and placed on notice boards.

(C) Notice Board Grant

An application had previously been submitted to MBC for a grant for funding of a new notice board at Marden Playing Field. Cllrs noted the grant information from MBC which stated that a grant of £500 would be made available and agreed to accept this and to fund the additional £664.98 out of capital funds.

(D) Unity/Nat West Bank Accounts

Cllrs agreed to add Cllr Dobinson to the mandates for Unity and Nat West Bank accounts.

(E) Payments for ApprovalElectronic Payments

The following invoices for payment were submitted to the meeting.

Kent County Council – photocopier rental - £108.02

Marden Scout Group – Play Scheme Scout HQ hire - £250.00

Graham Carey – grounds maintenance - £516.00

Castle Water – Changing Rooms/Toilets/Cemetery water supply – £23.66

Marden Memorial Hall – office rent, refuse, cleaning and hall hire x 2 - £729.14

Total: £1,626.82

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

051/24 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT**Highways**Highways Improvement Plan

Cllrs noted the updated Highways Improvement Plan. The priority list would be reviewed in January 2025.

Other Highways Issues

Email received from resident regarding speeding in Pattenden Lane. The Clerk had responded with details of responsibility and reporting.

Details of damage to village gateway in Thorn Road. Kent Highways were aware and were processing an insurance claim.

Public Transport

Autumn Timetable starts on 13th October but no changes were noted.

The Clerk was asked to contact South Eastern/Network Rail for an update following the Teams meeting in January.

In accordance with Standing Orders the Chairman read out the following statement to discuss item 047/24 – Rookery Path:

I PROPOSE THAT PURSUANT TO PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960, THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING BECAUSE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED:

Borough Cllr Russell left the meeting.

047/24 Rookery Path

Cllrs received information from the Clerk regarding the proposed transfer of part of Rookery Path. Cllrs agreed in principle but asked the Clerk to obtain two more quotes for legal fees.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.54pm

Cllr Kate Tippen, Chairman

Date: 8th October 2024

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