



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13TH
DECEMBER 2022 AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN COMMENCING AT
7.30PM

092/22 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam, Barker, Besant, Boswell and Turner.

093/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Burton, Gibson, Newton, Robertson, Stevens and Tippen. The Clerk and Borough Cllr Russell had also given their apologies.

In the Chairman's absence Cllr Turner took the chair.

In the Clerk's absence Cllr Besant took the minutes.

094/22 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.

095/22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th November 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record.

096/22 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 in attendance.

EXTERNAL REPORTS

County Councillor Report

Not in attendance

Borough Councillors Report

Not in attendance

Police Report

Not in attendance

Community Warden Report

A written report had been submitted prior to the meeting by the Community Warden. Which reported that a visit to the Boxing sessions on a Thursday had been paid and was very well attended and the Community Warden would look at further activities in the Spring.

The meeting was reconvened to discuss item 097/22 onwards.

097/22 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had provided a report to Cllrs outlining staff annual leave/flexi and an update on Marden at Christmas.

098/22 PARISH MATTERS**Reports from MBC and KCC**

A written report had been submitted prior to the meeting by Borough Cllr Russell which highlighted the following: The Local Plan review continues to progress and the stage 1 hearings are now complete and MBC is waiting to hear wither the inspector proceeds to the stage 2 hearings; Air Quality Management Area consultation is open until 29th January; Boundary Review changes are complete; MBC has undertaken a rough sleeper count in November and support is available from Outreach at MBC; and Maidstone Christmas trail is now open around the town which closes on 6th January.

Police Update/Report from Police ForumCrime FiguresMaidstone Task ForceOther Police Issues

No information had been received on the above items prior to the meeting.

CommunicationNewsletter

Cllr Boswell had started drafting the Spring edition and requested that Cllrs consider inserting a Community Contact List – Cllrs agreed.

Marden Flooding

Meeting with four representatives of Southern Water held on 5th December 2022 which Cllrs Adam and Tippen together with the Clerk attended. Cllr Adam provided a verbal report outlining what had been discussed.

Southern Water had made no promises but informed the Parish Council that the concerns for Marden were on their radar and will produce a package for Marden but no details had been received to date. They reported that Roughlands pumping station was working at its design capacity and the same with Pattenden Lane and Sovereigns Way pumping stations. However, the amount of water in recent weeks had been overwhelming where Sovereigns Way became overloaded. Southern Water are investigating the reasons/causes behind this.

CemeteryExclusive Right of Burial Certificates

No certificates to sign.

Allotments

Redrow had agreed to pay the Parish Council's legal fees and were in the process of liaising with the Council's Solicitors to being the transfer.

The issue of parking was still being investigated and Redrow were looking at contracting out to an independent company whereby a charge could be made. Cllrs noted this and agreed to continue with the transfer.

Infrastructure Spend Plan (ISP)

Cllr Tippen had requested that Cllrs consider the extension to the library footpath be added to the ISP document. This was agreed to be added as high priority. The Clerk was asked to review costings and obtain approval from MBC as owners of the land. The Clerk was also requested to contact the County Cllr for a contribution.

2021 Census

Breakdown of the population data for Marden following the 2021 census had been provided and it was noted that there had been a 35% increase in population grown in the past 10 years (Population: 5027 / Households: 2055). Cllrs requested the Clerk contact the author of this data to ask if they would attend a meeting to provide a presentation.

099/22 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Amenities Committee

Draft Minutes of Amenities Committee meeting held on 22nd November had been previously circulated and are available on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Boswell updated the meeting of the following: A meeting to discuss the future of the changing rooms was planned for next month; Christmas lights had been installed on the street columns; the car park consultation had closed at the end of November and the data was due from the survey shortly.

Planning Committee

Draft Minutes of Planning Committee meetings held on 15th November and 6th December had been previously circulated and are available on the Parish Council website.

It was reported that the application for land rear of The Taj was on MBC's Planning Committee agenda for 15th December. Unfortunately, no Cllr was able to attend but the Clerk would be asked to contact Committee Services at MBC for an urgent update to be read out at the meeting.

Cllr Turner reported that he had attended the last MBC Planning Committee meeting when Staplehurst Transits application for a dwelling had been on the agenda. Although MPC recommended approval MBC refused. It was noted that the workshop application for the same site had been approved by MBC.

Finance Committee

Draft Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on 29th November had been previously circulated and are available on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Adam reported that although it was an intense but fruitful meeting with the majority of the budget of 2023/2024 drafted. The impact of inflation was a concern and a further meeting to finalise the budget and precept would be held during January 2023.

HR Sub-Committee

Draft Minutes of HR Sub-Committee meeting held on 21st November had been previously circulated and were available on the Parish Council website.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars attended

KALC AGM – 19th November

KALC Area Committee Meeting - 28th November: It was noted that the borough elections for 2023 would be held on 4th May but MPC were not due for election until 2024.

KALC Parish Liaison Meeting – 5th December

Southern Water meeting – 5th December

Peninsula – HR Document Review – 6th December: It was reported that draft policies and contracts would be provided and HR Sub-Committee would review in January 2023.

Community Forum Meeting – 8th December: Cllr Boswell provided a verbal report. It was noted that the warm hubs and Medical Centre were busy. Cllr Tippen was liaising with MBC to arrange a Cost of Living Roadshow in the new year and asked that this be added to the agenda for the January Full Council meeting for Cllr discussion.

SLCC Event – 8th December

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Events forthcoming

Highways (HIP) Meeting -14th December (virtual): Cllrs Adam, Boswell and Tippen to attend.

100/22 CORRESPONDENCE

Marden Parish Church Magazine – December edition: noted

Boundary Review – Maidstone Borough Council final recommendations

Details provided to Cllrs prior to the meeting and it was noted that Hunton would be included in the Marden ward.

101/22 FINANCE**Bank Statements:**Revenue

Nat West: £50,010.11

Unity: £34,550.35

Capital

Santander: £71,644.34

Other Financial IssuesEmails/Microsoft 365

Cllrs requested that this be deferred to the January 2023 meeting when the Clerk was in attendance.

Office Laptops

This item had been deferred from Finance Committee due to the previously agreed laptops no longer being at sale price. Cllrs agreed that a budget of £649.99 be set for each laptop with Windows 11. The Clerk would liaise with Cllr Newton to ascertain the best for office use at this price.

Cases for the laptops at a cost of £20 each had previously been agreed at Finance Committee.

Payments for ApprovalElectronic Payments

There were no invoices for payment.

102/22 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT**Highways**Highways Improvement Plan

A virtual meeting was being held on 14th December to discuss Marden's priority list.

Requests from Residents

Station Approach lighting

This was already on the list with Network Rail and South Eastern and the Clerk was asked to respond to the resident informing them of this.

Howland Road layby parking

The Clerk was asked to ascertain ownership of this layby and feedback to resident.

Public Transport

Feedback from KCC Rail Summit

Marden was on the nomination list for potential lift installation but no funding had yet been guaranteed and the new timetable was discussed. Cllrs requested that MPC provide a formal feedback on this and asked that an item be added to the January Full Council agenda.

The Clerk was asked to chase Network Rail / Southeastern for a meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Date: 10th January 2023

Signed:

Cllr Kate Tippen, Chairman

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Marden

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