



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11TH
DECEMBER 2018 AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN
COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

093/18 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam, Boswell, Brown, Harvey, Jones, Mannington, Newton, Robertson, Stevens, Tippen (in the Chair) and Turner. The Clerk, Borough Councillor Steve McLoughlin and 13 members of the public were also in attendance.

094/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Borough Councillor David Burton, County Councillor Eric Hotson and PCSO Nicola Morris.

095/18 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Changes to Register of Interests

Cllr Robertson had become a Governor of Marden Primary School and the Clerk would contact MBC to see whether this needed to be record.

Declaration of Interests

There were declarations of interest.

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for granting of dispensation.

096/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th November 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record.

097/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (for information only)

Update from Parish To Do List

There were no new items outstanding.

19:32 Cllr Adam arrived at the meeting

19:34 Borough Councillor McLoughlin arrived at the meeting

098/18 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

All members of the public wished to speak regarding anti-social behaviour which was not an agenda item.

The Chairman therefore adjourned the meeting for the members of public to speak. Comments at Appendix A.

PUBLIC FORUM

No other items were raised by the members of the public.

20:05 12 Members of the public left the meeting following the public forum.

EXTERNAL VERBAL REPORTS (if in attendance)

County & Borough Councillors

Borough Councillor McLoughlin had no items to report.

Police

Not in attendance – report give at item 099/18 (Police Update)

Community Warden
Not in attendance

The meeting was reconvened for the rest of the agenda.

099/18 PARISH MATTERS

Reports from MBC and KCC

No reports had been received. The Chairman reported that a meeting was due to be held with Borough Councillors on 18th December at 1pm.

Police Update

6 Crimes since the November Full Council meeting: 1 burglary; 2 theft from motor vehicle; 1 theft of motor vehicle; 1 theft from property; 1 draining of oil tank.

PCSO Nicola Morris also reported on the assault at Marden Railway Station which had been reported to the British Transport Police and 6 reports of anti-social behaviour. Joint meetings have been held with Education, Youth Services, Police, Maidstone Borough Council and the Housing Associations with the Housing Associations and Police sending out letters to persons causing problems.

As reported to the members of the public Marden Parish Council met with the Maidstone Community Safety Unit on 6th December and the Clerk was asked to arrange a Saturday morning surgery for Police and other agencies to be in attendance for the public to raise concerns.

Communication

Newsletter

An article on anti-social behaviour within the parish would be included in the next edition.

Social Media & Website

Cllrs Brown and Turner raised concern over viewing Council minutes and agendas. They would liaise direct with the Clerk regarding this.

Cemetery

Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates

One copy certificate to be signed.

Update regarding Flooding/Water issues

The Environment Agency were continuing to support homeowners who have raised concerns over their property flood resilience measures. Phases 1b and 2 were due to be actioned in January 2019.

Operation London Bridge

Papers had been received regarding this and circulated to Cllrs. It was proposed that a joint working group be set up with the Parish Council, Marden Parish Church and History Group to put together a policy/procedure. Cllr Robertson and the Clerk would liaise with these two stakeholders and arrange a meeting.

100/18 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Amenities Committee

Minutes of Amenities Meeting held on 27th November had been previously circulated and were available on the Parish Council website. Cllr Robertson, as Chairman of Amenities, briefed Cllrs on what had been discussed.

The contract for the toilet cleaning had been terminated as of 24th December. The Clerk had written to four companies asking for quotes however these would not be discussed until the next Full Council meeting in January therefore the toilets would need to be closed from 24th December until further notice.

Marden at Christmas, held on 8th December, had been another successful event and thanks were given to all who had helped put this together.

Site meetings at Marden Cemetery, Southons Field, Toilets and Playing Field were due to be held on 14th December from 9am.

Planning Committee

Minutes of Planning Meetings held on 20th November and 4th December had been previously circulated and were available on the Parish Council website. Cllr Mannington, as Chairman of Planning, had no items to report regarding planning applications but informed Cllrs that a further Neighbourhood Plan workshop had taken place. The final draft for Regulation 16 had been put together and a meeting with the typesetter was due to take place on 12th December.

MBC Planning Meeting:

It had been confirmed that the planning application for Marden Primary School's creation of a Mini Pitch was due to go before Maidstone Borough Council Planning Committee on 13th December 2018

Cllrs discussed the Council's response from the meeting on 19th June 2018 and whether a Cllr could attend the meeting. Cllr Mannington was able to represent the Council and a draft response would be circulated based on the recommendations given at the Planning Committee meeting. The Clerk would contact MBC confirming the Council's representative.

Borough Councillor McLoughlin had been lobbied and would be attending to speak on behalf of residents.

Finance Committee

Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on 20th November had been previously circulated and were available on the Parish Council website.

HR Sub-Committee

Minutes of the HR Meeting held on 16th November had been previously circulated and were available on the Parish Council website.

Other Conferences/Meetings attended

Kent Highways Meeting (location of SIDS) – 22nd November: Notes previously circulated to Cllrs

MBC S106/Open Space Meeting – 23rd November: Notes previously circulated to Cllrs
Marden Memorial Hall Management Committee – 26th November 2018 update given to Amenities committee Cllrs: CCTV was due to be installed shortly with the Fire Alarm system (part of the Risk Assessment and Parish Council grant) was to be installed during February half term. Cllr Turner had some concerns regarding health and safety of the hall and would forward these to the Clerk.

KALC Area Meeting – 26th November 2018: Cllrs Mannington and Tippen had attended and draft minutes circulated to Cllrs.

Marden Neighbourhood Plan Meeting – 28th November 2018: update given at item 100/18(b) above.

SLCC Network meeting – 6th December 2018: The Clerk attended but nothing to report.

Police Meeting – 6th December 2018: Discussed at Public Forum.

Marden at Christmas 7th and 8th December: Discussed at 100/18(a) above.

ICCM Exclusive Right of Burial Training – 11th December – Vinters Park Crematorium: The Clerk attended and felt that it was a useful training session. A report would be provided to Cllrs shortly and discussed in more detail with the Cemetery Sub-Committee in the New Year.

Conferences/Meetings for the coming months

KALC Chairman Training – 13th December - East Mallong

Borough Cllr meeting – 18th December – Parish Office

HR Sub Committee - 17th December

101/18 CORRESPONDENCE

Clerks & Councils Direct

For information

The Clerk

For information

Marden Parish Church Magazine

For information

Public Sector Mapping Agreement (PSMA) newsletter

For information

Aerial Photography for Great Britain (APGB) registration

The Clerk had registered but no more has been done yet. This would be looked into in more detail shortly.

102/18 FINANCE

Bank Statements

As at:

22nd October: Santander (Capital Account): £33,341.84

30th November: NS&I (Capital Account): £18,083.28

3rd December: Nat West Reserve Account (Reserve Account): £24,304.30

Nat West Current Account (Reserve Account): £0.00

11th December: Unity Bank (Reserve Account): £52,176.62

The Clerk reported that a cheque had been received from NS&I which would be banked into Santander – the NS&I account was now closed as at 1st December.

Payments for Approval

Cheque Payments

Graham Carey – Hedge cutting at Napoleon Drive £80.00

Total: £80.00

Invoice was agreed and cheque signed

Electronic Payments

Alison Hooker – Travel, Christmas supplies £101.67

Ecocleen – Public Conv. cleaning £597.79

Marden Memorial Hall – Office Rent and Youth Club Hire £444.00

Citizens Advice – Outreach Session £50.00

HMRC – PAYE/NIC £1,341.53

Employee – Additional Hours £373.64

Ian Jones – Locking Southons Field/Toilets £200.00

Invoices agreed and Cllrs Boswell and Newton would authorise payments.

Payment of Caretaker's additional hours

Cllrs to agreed payment.

Citizens Advice request for donation

As Marden Parish Council already make a donation they declined giving a further grant.

Finance Meeting – 22nd January 2019

As several Cllrs would be away when this meeting was due to be held it was proposed that this meeting be an Extraordinary Full Council Meeting to discuss the budget and precept.

This was agreed.

The Clerk reported that the Tax Base information had been received from MBC and this would be circulated to Cllrs.

103/18 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Highways

Bollards – Maidstone Road/High Street junction

It had been reported that HGVs are mounting the kerb, hitting the planter and also concerning residents walking on the footpath outside 1 High Street. Kent Highways had been contacted regarding a site meeting/possible bollards.

Public Right of Way KM283

Published Order (came into force on 27/11/18): For information

Other Highways issues

The Chairman reported on any other highways issues being raised by residents since the last meeting including speeding in Howland Road and Church Farm corner in Maidstone Road. Cllr Adam reported that the wooden bollards on the inside bend in Napoleon Drive are being repeatedly knocked down and are not firmly in the ground. The Clerk would report these and request that small reflectors are fitted so the bollards can be seen at night.

Cllr Harvey reported that the drain by farm shop was collapsing – The Clerk would report to Highways.

Public Transport

South Eastern – proposals on timetable changes for May 2019

This had been circulated to Cllrs and the Clerk was asked to respond requesting that the 17:39 from Charing Cross not stopping at Marden be reinstated.

Meetings

The Clerk would request that this is a joint meeting with South Eastern, Network Rail and British Transport Police.

Other

Cllr Adam was thanked for completing the South Eastern survey.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.02pm

Date: 8th January 2019

Signed:

Cllr Kate Tippen

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Full Council Meeting – 11th December 2018

Comments from Members of the Public regarding Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB):

What is happening regarding ASB and CCTV at the railway station as informed not good resolution and needs updating;

People using the trains feel intimidated.

Massive increase in vandalism and ASB – Where is BTP as problems are also in Staplehurst and Paddock Wood;

Youths travelling on the train between villages and not paying for tickets;

Families link in from outside (ie families members living in Marden but others in surrounding villages); Cars being driven around by youths but are not insured (PCSO aware) and no licences;

Feel that culprits are getting away with everything;

Grateful that the parks have been updated but nothing for the youths, other than the youth shelter;

Not always the Marden youths causing problems but some coming from Yalding etc making residents feel very intimidated.

Assault at station although BTP and Kent Police were telephoned no contact was made until several days later.

Fear building up in the village – especially amongst dog walkers and concerned about going out on their own as feel that nothing is being done.

Need prevention rather than cure.

Ringling 101 takes ages to get through. Concerned over the elderly using this system. Could there be more Police presence during the evenings?

Could a portacabin be reinstated at the playing field, like previously, for youth facilities?

Parents could offer to help.

MPC response:

Station:

Incidents dealt with BTP / elsewhere in the village is Kent Police.

MPC relationship is with PCSO and Maidstone Community Support Unit. No relationship with BTP but Kent Police liaise direct with them.

The lighting at Station Approach will be reported.

South Eastern have rail enforcement officers (some are PCSO) which travel on the trains and will issue penalty orders if people found travelling without tickets.

Village:

ASB came to MPC's attention in the Summer when issues were raised from the Memorial Hall.

A meeting was held with PCSO and representatives from Golding Homes and MHS together with youth workers earlier this year.

The Chairman gave an explanation on actions already being taken and tenants not meeting their tenancy agreement were submitted letters/orders from the Housing Associations – could ultimately mean eviction.

Changes to the 101 call centre has improved and now also able to report on line.

Two further discussions with youth leaders and the Police had taken place although at that time the youth club were concerned about passing names over however this is no longer the case and names are being exchanged.

Police are now starting to take stronger action although it is a "slow boil".

Last week a meeting was attended by MPC with Maidstone Community Safety Unit (consisting of representatives from Kent Police, Youth Club, Maidstone Borough Council, Housing Associations) who are responsible for youth / crime. A case conference was held prior to this meeting where MPC were not involved. A strategy had been put together with those known culprits. Community Protection Warnings were being given out and families will be evicted if not meeting tenancy agreement. Marden is definitely not forgotten and is

very much on their radar. Action is being taken with the individuals who have been identified as the main perpetrators.

Cllr Adam reported that last week he attended a "Meet the Manager" session with South Eastern and had requested a meeting at Marden which will be a route to BTP – The Clerk will arrange this asap - CCTV will be high on the agenda along with the BTP issue. Meeting should be attended by Network Rail. Try to get BTP to also attend.

MPC to write to Helen Grant and residents were also encouraged to do the same.

Rural Sgt responsible for this area wants to help

Any anti-social behaviour etc must be reported to 101 and encourage everyone who has been a victim to report it.

Urged to contact KCC Eric Hotson in any ideas for youth facilities.

ACTION

The Chairman suggested to the members of the public whether Kent Police/BTP could hold a surgery on a Saturday morning – this was felt to be a way forward. The Clerk would arrange and ask other stakeholders to be present if possible.