



## **MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016 AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

- 124/16 **PRESENT:** Cllrs Boswell, Childs, Mannington, Newton, Reed, Robertson and Tippen. Borough Councillor Steve McLoughlin, Yasmin Gordine (MBC Parish Liaison Officer) and one member of the public were also in attendance. Cllr Adam arrived at 8.25pm.
- 125/16 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Cllrs Brown and Turner gave their apologies prior to meeting. The Clerk, through illness, was also not present – Cllr Tippen therefore took the minutes of the meeting.
- 126/16 (a) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations of interest  
 (b) **COUNCILLORS REGISTER OF INTEREST:** There were no amendments to the registers of interest  
 (c) **GRANTING OF DISPENSATION:** There were no requests for granting of dispensation
- 127/16 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**  
 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.
- 128/16 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING:** Member of the public did not wish to speak on any item on the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned for the following items:

### **EXTERNAL REPORTS**

Police: Crime figures were not available. However the Clerk forwarded these to Cllrs following the meeting and included 4 crimes since the last meeting – 2 criminal damage, 1 theft and 1 theft from motor vehicle. PCSO Nicola Morris had received numerous reports of young males riding off road vehicles around the village, young persons throwing wet mud balls at vehicles etc and the CCTV had been looked at outside Church Green shops. Persons had been identified regarding all of these reports, spoken to and where necessary visits had been made to parents; appointments had been made for joint visits with Golding Homes to various addresses; Surgery held at Marden Station, South Eastern railway enforcement also attended due to reports of cannabis being smoked at train station and recent damage/nuisance; following up with reports of cold callers; has heard that several lampposts have been hit along Stanley Road but no formal reports have been made.

Community Warden not in attendance.

Yasmin Gordine in attendance from MBC in her new role as Parish Liaison Officer and spoke to the meeting regarding the following: Parish Charter – many Councils felt neglected with this and would try to obtain further information; Position of Parish Liaison Officer was for one year with the aim to bridge the gap between MBC and Parish Councils and to encourage and maintain relationships between existing officers – Parish Councils were asked to contact specific officers however if not known to contact Yasmin. 3 priority areas have been identified: economic development – building a database of all businesses in MBC – Cllr Reed asked if MBC was aware of the two business forums in Marden; Planning, development, environmental and protection – Yasmin is interested in affordable housing, new

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development and environmental protection; Leisure and culture – there are grants available for equipment and Yasmin will send the Clerk information. Yasmin will also investigate the current situation regarding The Cockpit play area and email the Clerk. Another part of Yasmin's role is working with gypsies and travellers and will have some involvement with Stilebridge. Borough Councillor Steve McLoughlin in attendance but no update from MBC County Councillor not in attendance

The meeting was reconvened for the rest of the agenda.

**129/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (for information only)**

Update from Full Council To Do List – previously circulated to Cllrs for information.  
MBC – response regarding the parking restrictions in Marden High Street in that several changes need to be made to the order and then this has to be re-advertised. It is anticipated that the new restrictions will commence Feb/March.

**130/16 PARISH MATTERS**

- (a) Co-option of Parish Councillor - no applications have been received to date – it was therefore agreed to continue to advertise.
- (b) Local Needs Housing - see Committee Reports below
- (c) Business Forums – no updates received from either Business Forum.
- (d) Police Forum – next meeting scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> February at Maidstone Police Station. It is hoped that Cllr Turner will be able to attend.
- (e) Communication
  - (i) Newsletter next newsletter due to go to print 12<sup>th</sup> February. Quotes had been requested for separate A4 flyers and once these were received would be forwarded to the Village Club.
  - (ii) Website: continually being updated. The Clerk had set up a Facebook page and details of this would be advertised in the next newsletter. A policy would also be drawn up covering social media, website and emails.
- (f) Cemetery – Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates – there are no certificates to sign.
- (g) Napoleon Drive Transfer – The papers delivered to Solicitors who were awaiting transfer confirmation from Taylor Wimpey.
- (h) Marden Neighbourhood Plan – the draft had been forwarded to Richard Wells for editing.
- (i) CCTV – response from Parish Council's solicitor stating that he had read through the documentation and would be sending his advice over shortly.
- (j) Public Conveniences – new paperwork for the lease has been received and circulated.

**131/16 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- (a) **Amenities Committee** – There was no Amenities meeting held in December. Marden at Christmas was held on 12<sup>th</sup> December and was another successful event.
- (b) **Planning Committee** – Minutes of Planning Meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> December and 5<sup>th</sup> January had been previously circulated.  
MBC Planning Committee meeting to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> January – Land adjacent to Highfield House, Maidstone Road was on the agenda and Cllrs agreed that an urgent update should be sent to MBC in support of this application. Cllr Mannington agreed to draft the wording and circulate to Cllrs for agreement for forwarding to MBC prior to the meeting.
- (c) **Other Conferences/Meetings attended:**  
Updates to be given at meeting if relevant  
KALC Area Committee – 23<sup>rd</sup> November – minutes received  
MBC Energy workshop – 10<sup>th</sup> December  
Litter pick event – 11<sup>th</sup> December. Cllr Boswell and the Clerk attended. It was suggested that contact be made with Bethany School regarding the annual litter pick.  
Marden At Christmas – 12<sup>th</sup> December

(d) **Conferences/Meetings for the coming months**

18<sup>th</sup> January – Marden in Bloom meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> February – SLCC Regional Roadshow

10<sup>th</sup> February – Kent Design – Designing our Highways. Cllr Adam had shown an interest but it was seemingly less likely he could attend.

16<sup>th</sup> March – Kent Design – Introduction to Building for Life 12 – Cllr Turner to attend.

132/16 **CORRESPONDENCE**

## (a) Consultations:

All have been circulated to Cllrs prior to meeting.

(i) MBC – Maidstone Town Centre PSPO consultation – ends 25<sup>th</sup> January. Cllrs wish to comment that if this proves to be successful in the town centre would MBC look to pilot in the Rural Services Centres.

(ii) Highways England – Proposed Permanent M20 Lorry Area – consultation ends 25<sup>th</sup> January. Cllrs noted the content but did not wish to make any comment.

(iii) NALC Government Reviews – Community Infrastructure Levy (closing date 15<sup>th</sup> January) and Local Council Tax Support Scheme (closing date 12<sup>th</sup> January) – Cllrs noted content.

(iv) Kent Fire & Rescue – Safety and Wellbeing Plan 2016-18 consultation – ends 16<sup>th</sup> January – Cllrs noted content.

(v) Tunbridge Wells Borough Council – Statement of Community Involvement – consultation ends 15<sup>th</sup> January. Cllrs noted the content and the Clerk would keep on file with Neighbourhood Plan documentation.

(vi) DCLG – Provisional Local Government Finance settlement reference principles – Cllrs noted content.

(vii) DCLG – NPPF consultation on proposed changes (closing date 25<sup>th</sup> January). The Clerk to be asked to add to Planning agenda for next week's meeting.

## (b) Environment Agency:

(i) River Beult CIG & workshop 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Stilebridge Pub. It is hoped that Kate Kershaw would be able to attend.

(ii) River Medway Flood Storage Areas – Project Update previously circulated to Cllrs and Neighbourhood Plan Group

## (c) KALC – Parish News previously circulated

## (d) Marden Parish Church Magazine for information

(e) Lord Lieutenant of Kent – Civic Service 15<sup>th</sup> March to be held at All Saints Church, Maidstone. The Chairman and Clerk would attend.133/16 **FINANCE**(a) Balances as at 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2015

**Post Office £17,642.22: Santander Account £37,739.48**

**Nat West Account: £124,872.00**

## (b) Payments for Approval (list available at meeting)

## (c) Finance Committee Meeting/Extraordinary Full Council Meeting to be called to finalise budget and precept.

Finance Meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm (following Planning Committee meeting)

Extraordinary Full Council Meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> January - to be held prior to Amenities meeting

(d) MBC – Council Tax and Precept information - Tax base information received from MBC which will be made available to Finance Committee at their meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January(e) NEST – Employee pensions – Clerk continuing to update system ready for start date of 1<sup>st</sup> March.134/16 **HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT**a) **Highways**

Highways Issues – Traffic Calming and other highways issues

No 28 Bus – Further emails from KCC had been received and a new contract had been

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entered into for the interim however it was noted that "special service" was now shown on the bus rather than "28" indicating a public service. Cllr Adam will investigate and let the Clerk know if further action is required.

### **Other Highways Issues**

Responses from Kent Highways including information regarding junction of Green Lane/Hunton Road; and correspondence from residents concerning Pattenden Lane and A229:

Clerk was asked to forward response regarding Green Lane/Hunton Road

A229 – Email received from resident living along Staplehurst Road relating to recent accidents on the A229. The Clerk would forward to County Councillor Stockell and Marden Parish Council would support any investigations into causes of accidents and any remedial measures which need to be taken.

Clapper Farm Lane – further emails received which were noted by Cllrs

Pattenden Lane flooding – No action has been taken regarding the recent flooding under the railway bridge and it is understood that residents have been informed that KCC would not be taking any further action due to lack of funding. The Clerk was asked to continually log this on Kent Highways website and to follow up and lobby County Councillor Stockell. Chainhurst Speeding and Zebra Crossing in the village – The Clerk was asked to follow up with County Councillor Stockell.

Other:

Blocked gully at bottom of Church Hill – this had been reported but not resolved. The Clerk was asked to follow up with Kent Highways.

Footway at South Road had been resurfaced.

Highwood Green – Heasman Close had been misspelt.

(b)

### **Public Transport**

Marden Station

Improve Rail and Bus Services and Facilities:

There has been reported a lot of overcrowded trains due to short trains being used. The Clerk was asked to contact Mike Gibson and ask for an update.

London Bridge works will result in timetable changes in August – Cllr Boswell was asked to mention this in the May newsletter.

The Clerk was asked to report the following:

Gulleys still blocked in Station Approach Road

Traffic sign still bent

Lining in station car park needs remarking

Graffiti on downline platform and on a cabinet

KCC road sign still in station car park

Follow up on meeting with Community Support Manager of Network Rail

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Member of the public raised concerns over the parking at Marden Station:

Not easy to get a season ticket and some who had were finding it difficult to find parking spaces at the station; Goudhurst residents realise that Marden residents do not like parking outside their houses and some vandalism has occurred; Cllr Adam advised that MPC had been discussing extending the car park with Network Rail and South Eastern and this was still in progress; It was suggested that borough councillors of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells engage together to discuss this further. Cllr McLoughlin said that Cllr Burton may be best placed to have this role. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Goudhurst Clerk.

Signed .....

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Chairman, Marden Parish Council

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