



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH
DECEMBER 2023 AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN COMMENCING AT
7.30PM**

092/23 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam, Besant, Boswell, Gibson, Newton, Rabot, Robertson, Summersgill, Tippen and Turner were present. The Clerk and one member of the public were also in attendance.

093/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Stevens.

094/23 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.

095/23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th November 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.

096/23 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

Member of the public did not wish to raise anything on any item on the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned for the following items:

PUBLIC FORUM

Member of the public did not wish to raise any issues.

EXTERNAL REPORTS

County Councillor Report

Borough Councillors Report

Community Warden Report

No reports received.

The meeting was reconvened to discuss item 097/23 onwards.

097/23 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on Windsor Meadow/Parsonage footpath with quotes currently being obtained, the response from Kent Police in regard to question raised at last meeting and office closure over Christmas and New Year.

098/23 PARISH MATTERS

Reports from MBC and KCC

No reports were received.

A meeting was planned with County Cllr Parfitt-Reid on Friday 15th December.

Police Update/Report from Police Forum

Crime Figures

These can be found at: [Marden and Yalding | Your area | Kent Police | Kent Police](#)

The Clerk was asked to query the statistics on the website as only 12 crimes had been reported in the whole of Kent during October.

MBC & Parishes Cluster 6B Action Plan

The Clerk had received an email from a resident regarding parking in Pattenden Lane which was listed on this Action Plan along with other issues in Marden (details of this will be sent to both County and Borough Cllrs).

It is understood that a new Police Constable was being allocated to Marden and a meeting would be arranged once in place.

Communication

Newsletter

Next newsletter due to go to print the end of February. Cllr Boswell is currently drafting and any information should be sent to Cllr Boswell if wished to be included.

The community and organisation contact list would be viewed by the Admin Assistant and updated to be placed in the Summer edition of the newsletters.

Marden Flooding

Following today's torrential rain the Maynards/Cockpit drain overflowed again. Cllr Tippen had reported to Southern Water to clear.

Draft Kent Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024-2034 consultation closing 30th January 2024 – Cllrs agreed to defer until the 2nd January Planning Committee meeting.

Cemetery

Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates

There was one Exclusive Right of Burial signed.

Allotments

There were no further updates received.

Biodiversity Policy

Legal requirement of the Environment Act 2021 for Councils to have a Biodiversity policy in place. Draft policy proposed by Environmental Sub-Group and had been agreed by Amenities and Planning Committees.

Cllr Boswell suggested one further amendment regarding biodiversity planning conditions which was agreed by Cllrs. Following this the policy was adopted and would be uploaded to the website.

Marden at Christmas

A verbal report was given in regard to Marden at Christmas event which was held on 2nd December. A meeting of the Village Events Sub-Group would be arranged in February.

Marden Changing Rooms

Draft proposals had been received from architect. Cllrs viewed the new plans and the architect had been asked to obtain some indicative quotes. Cllrs were in agreement with the plans and noted that planning permission would be required.

It was proposed that a public consultation would be held in March 2024 and the Clerk was asked to contact the Vestry Hall bookings to see what dates were available. On the same day the changing rooms would be open for any resident to view.

MBC Prosperity Fund

Cllr Tippen attended a webinar on phase II of the MBC Prosperity Fund where grants were available for upgrading community facilities and improving sustainability. The closing date is 22nd January and Cllr Tippen would look at the application to see what was involved and whether MPC could apply for the changing rooms project.

Use of Marden Playing Fields

A request had been received from Marden Russet Runners to use Marden Playing Fields on 2nd June 2024 for a 10k running event and the Clerk had provided a report to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

Cllrs agreed for the use of the playing field with half a day fee and for use of electricity from the changing rooms for the PA system. Use of the changing room toilets was refused but the public conveniences could be used or the organiser to arrange to have portaloos on the field for the duration of the event.

Cllrs also agreed for the parking of a maximum of 50 cars to be made available at Southons Field, dependent on weather, again a fee would be applied.

Children's Centre

A KCC report had been received on the closure of Marden Children's Centre. Cllrs Tippen and Summersgill are due to meet with County Cllr Parfitt-Reid on Friday 15th December.

Asset of Community Value

Cllrs, at a recent Planning Committee meeting, proposed to submit an application for the West End Tavern to be considered by MBC as an Asset of Community Value. Cllrs agreed submission to MBC.

099/23 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Amenities Committee

Draft Minutes of Amenities Committee meeting held 28th November 2023 had been previously circulated and available on the Parish Council website – please note there will be no Amenities Committee meeting in December.

Planning Committee

Draft Minutes of Planning Committee meetings held on 21st November and 5th December had been previously circulated and available on the Parish Council website – next meeting 19th December.

Finance Committee

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

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars attended

21st November – Environmental Sub-Group meeting

27th November – KALC Area Committee meeting: Cllrs Summersgill and Tippen attended, and Cllr Tippen gave a verbal report.

29th November – Highways Seminar – Cllr Summersgill attended and gave a verbal report to the meeting. Slides had been circulated to Cllrs.

30th November – MBC Planning Training: webinar cancelled.

4th December – KALC Parish Liaison Meeting: Cllr Tippen attended and reported to the meeting.

4th December – Carbon Literacy Training – Cllr Boswell attended and had undertaken an accreditation. A full report would be provided to the Environmental Sub-Group's next meeting.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Events forthcoming

15th December – meeting with County Cllr

8th January – site visit for Marden Conservation Area

30th January – public consultation for Marden Conservation Area

100/23 CORRESPONDENCE

Parish Church Magazine – December edition - noted

101/23 FINANCE

Bank Statements:

Revenue

Nat West: £34,900.34

Unity: £49,105.51

Capital

Santander: £72,016.47

Payments for Approval

Electronic Payments

The following invoices which were due for payment were put before Cllrs:

D C Hudson & Partner – Architect fees (S106) - £1,848.00

Castle Water – changing rooms water supply - £6.96

Castle Water – public convenience water supply - £5.80

Marden Memorial Hall – office rent, refuse and cleaning x 2 - £690.30

Graham Carey – grounds maintenance - £408.00

Kent County Supplies – Photocopier rental - £108.02

Total: £3,067.08

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

102/23 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Highways

Highways Improvement Plan

No updates to report.

Consultation

Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan - Public Consultation – closing date 10th January 2024 – Cllrs agreed to defer to January Full Council meeting. Cllrs Adam and Rabot would view the consultation and circulate prior to the meeting.

Public Transport

Meeting to be arranged with South Eastern/Network Rail in the New Year.

Timetable changed on Sunday. Fare increases have been made in readiness for contactless/pay-as-you-go tickets, together with changes to the off-peak times which is causing some concerns with commuters within the Sevenoaks/London area.

The Chairman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.46pm

Signed:

Cllr Kate Tippen, Chairman, Marden Parish Council

Date: 9th January 2024

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