



**MINUTES OF THE FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>  
APRIL 2024 AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN COMMENCING AT  
7.30PM**

**143/24 PRESENT**

Cllrs Adam, Besant, Boswell, Newton, Rabot, Robertson, Tippen and Turner. The Deputy Clerk, Borough Councillor Russell and one member of the public were also in attendance.

**144/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Gibson and Summersgill along with the Clerk gave their apologies.  
Cllr Stevens not in attendance.

In the absence of the Clerk the Deputy Clerk took the minutes.

**145/24 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION**

**Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

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.

**146/24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 had previously been circulated and were agreed and signed as a true record.

**147/24 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Borough Cllr Russell would report at External Reports but the member of the public did not wish to speak on any item.

The meeting was adjourned for the following items:

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Member of the public did not want to raise any issue.

*Cllr Adam arrived at 19.34.*

**EXTERNAL REPORTS**

**County Councillor Report**

Not in attendance.

**Borough Councillors Report**

Borough Councillor Claudine Russell updated the meeting regarding the changes to rubbish collections.

**Community Warden Report**

The Community Warden had provided a very interesting and comprehensive report for Cllrs prior to the meeting. It was agreed that this should be forwarded to County Cllr Parfitt-Reid.

The meeting was reconvened to discuss item 148/24 onwards.

**148/24 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk had presented the report prior to the meeting which provided information on staff leave; no response had been received from Southern Water; further to previous

correspondence a key had been provided to Golding Homes for the storage and all confidential files had been removed from The Allens; Confirmation received from Marden Scouts that MPC could use the Scout HQ for play scheme this year (further details will be made available to the Amenities Committee); continue to chase Golding Homes regarding CCTV; Internal Auditor had visited on 20<sup>th</sup> March and the end of year closure was due to take place shortly. The Internal Auditor had agreed to undertake the audit for 2024/25 remotely. A list of Sub-Group/Working Group meetings was provided and dates for these would be arranged following the elections.

## **149/24 PARISH MATTERS**

### **Reports from MBC and KCC**

No reports had been received. Both Borough and County Cllrs had provided reports for the APM held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

### **Police Update/Report from Police Forum**

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

Cllr Rabot reported that the figures are down about 20% for Marden. There have been reports of anti social behaviour of electric bikes frequenting the area and residents should report to 101 or the live chat on Kent Police website.

### **Communication**

#### Newsletter

Next newsletter was due to be published late June 2024.

### **Marden Flooding**

Despite the amount of rain, Cllr Tippen reported no flooding issues.

### **Cemetery**

#### Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates

There were no certificates to sign.

### **Allotments**

No decision had received on the recent planning application.

### **Local Council Award Scheme – Quality Gold Level**

The Clerk had circulated the final document to be submitted for reaccreditation. Cllrs confirmed, by resolution, that all documentation and information was in place for all three levels of the award scheme. The application would be submitted to NALC on the Clerk's return.

### **Terms of Reference**

Cllr Tippen suggested the possible change of wording to the Terms of Reference for Council and Committees Decision Making regarding the years of service for Chairman of Parish Council or Committee in paragraph (3) to read “shall be restricted to three years...” “unless the Council unanimously agrees otherwise”. Cllrs voted 5 to 3 in favour of making the change to the wording. Cllr Boswell recommended a change of wording with regard to the amount of Cllrs on the Environmental Group. It was suggested that a minimum of 3 Cllrs and a maximum of 6 which was agreed by all in attendance.

## **150/24 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Amenities Committee**

Cllrs noted the draft Minutes of Amenities Committee meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (no meeting was held in March). The next meeting will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024. Site Meetings will be held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Planning Committee**

Cllrs noted the Minutes of Planning Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March and draft Minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> March.

These had previously circulated and available on the Parish Council website. The next meeting will be on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

### **Finance Committee**

There was no Finance Committee meeting held in February. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be 30<sup>th</sup> April to accept end of year accounts.

### **Conferences/Meetings/Webinars attended**

14<sup>th</sup> March – Community Forum. Cllr Tippen had attended and updated Cllrs.  
 15<sup>th</sup> March – Events Sub-Group: Notes had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting.  
 16<sup>th</sup> March- Village Litter pick.  
 19<sup>th</sup> March – SLCC AGM: The Clerk had attended the AGM but there was nothing significant to report.  
 19<sup>th</sup> March – Carbon Literacy Training. Cllr Rabot will circulate notes.  
 20<sup>th</sup> March – Internal Audit: The Internal Auditor had visited the office and undertook the audit up to 29<sup>th</sup> February. The Clerk would prepare the end of year accounts and submit for the final audit to be undertaken.  
 25<sup>th</sup> March – Nominations for Elections open (closing date 5<sup>th</sup> April at 4.00pm) - noted  
 26<sup>th</sup> March – Marden Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Turner reported they reviewed the comments from MBC and the Plan does not need to be taken to full referendum but might need to take to examination. There should not be anything too controversial in the amendments but it might require amended definitions.  
 26<sup>th</sup> March – Carbon Literacy Training (continuation of workshop held on 19<sup>th</sup> March).  
 28<sup>th</sup> March – Memorial Hall AGM and Committee meeting: Cllrs Newton and Tippen attended and reported to the meeting: Cllr Newton, as representative of Marden Theatre Group, was elected Chairman. A report would be given to the Amenities Committee.  
 28<sup>th</sup> March – PPG Meeting. Cllr Tippen had attended and updated Cllrs.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> April – APM. Cllrs recommended that format be refreshed to draw more residents next year. Cllr Tippen recommended Cllrs read the organisation reports circulated from the Annual Parish Meeting.

### **Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Events forthcoming**

18<sup>th</sup> April – Dementia Group Meeting  
 26<sup>th</sup> April – NALC Climate webinar – Cllr Boswell will be away but will receive notes.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Elections. Email had been received from MBC informing MPC that only nine people had completed nomination forms therefore the 2024 election was uncontested.  
 7<sup>th</sup> May – Annual Parish Council meeting.

## **151/24 CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence received.

## **152/24 FINANCE**

### **Bank Statements:**

#### Revenue Accounts

Nat West: £12,347.91

Unity: £9,802.95

#### Capital Account:

Santander: £72,206.33

### **Payments for Approval**

#### Electronic Payments

April salaries had been authorised prior to the meeting.

The following invoices were put before Cllrs:

Stanleys Garage – fuel and miscellaneous: £183.71

Rialtas – annual financial software support: £230.40

Business Stream – public conv. Waste water: £139.86

SLCC – Deputy Clerk Membership: £229.00

Wicksteed – Flymobile: £1,251.65

Castle Water – Public Conv. Water supply: £3.11

Cloudy IT – monthly IT support: £225.60

HMRC – April PAYE/NIC: £2,113.37

Total: £13,151.63

Payments were agreed and the invoices would be on Unity week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> April.

Cllrs Tippen and Turner would authorise and the Clerk would notify them once payments had been uploaded to Unity Bank.

**Other**

Cllr Turner requested the Clerk look back on the last six months of the Castle Water and Business Stream invoices as the figures show a lot more waste water than incoming water.

**153/24 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

**Highways**

Highways Improvement Plan

An email had been received regarding concerns over parking at Church Green which had been circulated to Cllrs. Cllrs discussed and requested assistance from Borough Councillor Claudine Russell. Cllr Tippen also suggested contacting our Kent Police representatives. Cllrs agreed to look at the yellow lines in the village that are faint and put a list to Kent Highways to include Church Green. Cllr Tippen reported that there is a meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April regarding parking on Goudhurst Road around school time.

Speed Cameras

Following an email from a resident, Cllr Summersgill had contacted Kent Police in regard to ANPR cameras. The Police may consider providing these but required traditional roadside activity (ie speed watch) within the parish prior to having a camera. The Clerk would review the list of volunteers to start the training process.

**Public Transport**

South Eastern Grants

The Clerk had contacted South Eastern regarding possible funding to assist Marden in Bloom with work at the front of the booking office. South Eastern had sent details of grants and other information. Cllrs requested more information.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.34pm.

Signed:

Cllr Kate Tippen, Chairman, Marden Parish Council

Date:

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