



MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2026 AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Marden Parish Council operates under General Power of Competence since adopted on 7th May 2024. Minute Reference 012/24.

114/26 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam, Boswell, Dobinson, Gibson, Rabot (in the chair), Summersgill, Tippen and Turner were present. The Clerk and County Cllr Black were also in attendance.

Borough Cllr Russell arrived during the meeting.

115/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Goda, Griffiths and Newton. Borough Cllr Couch also gave her apologies.

116/26 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.

117/26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllrs received, and accepted, as true records the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th January and the Minutes of the EFCM held on 27th January 2026. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

118/26 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned for the following:

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance.

EXTERNAL VERBAL REPORTS (if in attendance)

County Councillor Report:

Working with KCC/MBC repairs to Hawkenbury Bridge following accident earlier in the year.

Government is reviewing the proposals of the Local Government Review.

Budget has been announced – Council meeting on Thursday to review this – will provide an update following this.

Grant being made to Marden Theatre Group.

Offered to contribute towards fingerpost refurbishment and if other village organisations want to apply the Clerk was asked to provide Cllr Black's email address.

Cllr Tippen raised the issue of how bad the roads were in the parish especially in regard to potholes - County Cllr Black would raise this concern with the cabinet member of Kent Highways and report back.

Borough Councillors Report

Cllr Summersgill reported that since the Borough Cllr report was circulated the MBC budget had gone to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee last night and will go to Cabinet tomorrow. Following this it will be before Council for final approval.

MBC Planning Committee had met with a developer for proposals on the Marden Road, Staplehurst.

Police

Not in attendance.

The meeting was reconvened to discuss item 119/25 onwards.

119/26 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had circulated her report for January and updated the meeting on outstanding issues and projects.

120/26 PARISH MATTERS

Reports from MBC and KCC

Written reports had been circulated to Cllrs from Borough Cllrs.

Police Update/Report from Police Forum

Crime Figures

Cllr Rabot provide a report on crime figures which were sourced from the Kent Police website: 34 crimes had been reported in December which included anti-social behaviour, burglary and criminal damage across the parish.

7.47pm - Borough Cllr Russell arrived at the meeting but had nothing to raise other than what was in her report.

Other Police Matters

Update from Police Surgery held on 4th February – 4 residents attended and raised issues with the police in attendance. This is a confidential session and it was agreed that if anything needed to be brought to the attention with Parish Council this would be raised as a confidential matter at the end of the relevant meeting.

Police and Community Protection Team will be in attendance at the Village Café on Friday 13th March

Communication

Newsletter

Thanks were given to Cllr Boswell for putting the Spring edition which had now been sent to print.

Marden Flooding

The Chairman thanked Cllr Tippen for all the work she undertakes in regard to flooding around the parish.

The Clerk reported that copies of correspondence which had been sent to Southern Water had been forwarded to Katie Lam MP.

Cllr Summersgill had spoken to Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board about Plain Road flooding and the response had been be circulated.

Infrastructure Spend Plan (ISP)

No new items had been received but the document would be available at the open morning for residents to view and comment.

Changing Rooms Refurbishment

Cllr Griffiths had circulated an update to Cllrs and detailed drawings from architect were due shortly. Once received building regulations can be applied for and the tender process started. An email had been received from the architect just prior to tonight's meeting where several questions were raised. Cllr Tippen asked that this be added to the next available Planning agenda to discuss.

Public Conveniences – Solar Panels

The Clerk had chased the solicitors regarding the agreed licence but no timescale had been given. Unfortunately, we cannot proceed with any work until licence agreed. Borough Cllr Summersgill would speak to MBC officers regarding the licence.

Allotments

The Clerk had chased Redrow and received an email back on 9th February stating that the legal representative had left and all correspondence had been sent to colleagues. The Clerk had contacted MBC regarding this and they were emailing Redrow for information.

Asset Transfer Working Group

Cllrs had met earlier regarding the walk about to look at assets which may be considered to be taken over from KCC/MBC.

Cllrs were in agreement to start talks with Borough and County Cllrs to see what the plans are going forward.

Cllr Russell reported that MBC had produced a new Asset Disposal Policy which she would send to the Clerk.

Meeting with Katie Lam MP

Cllrs received the notes from meeting held with Katie Lam on 30th January 2026.

Meet the Council

Cllr Rabot and the Clerk had attended on Saturday 31st January. Several residents stopped to talk and a couple of issues were raised.

Marden Parish Council Open Morning

Cllrs received information regarding the open morning on 7th March 2026 and what was planned. Cllr Tippen and the Clerk had met last week to look at how the Regulation 14 consultation could be presented and this would be put to Planning Committee next week.

Cllrs were asked to let the Clerk know of their availability.

Chairmen's Board

Cllrs considered the Clerk's report along with quotes received for updating the Chairmen's board in the Parish Office. It was agreed to wait until after the Annual Parish Council meeting before updating.

MPC Policies

Cllrs were asked to review Council and GDPR Policies for ratification at the March Full Council meeting.

Full Council Action Log

Noted.

121/26 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Amenities Committee

Cllrs noted the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 27th January which had previously been circulated and were available on the Parish Council website.

Planning Committee

Cllrs noted the Minutes of Planning Committee meeting held on 4th February which had been previously circulated and available on the Parish Council website.

Finance Committee

Cllrs noted the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 20th January which had previously been circulated and were available on the Parish Council website.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Other attended

Community Forum – 22nd January – notes had been circulated.

Memorial Hall Trustees meeting – 26th January - reported to Amenities

KALC Area Committee meeting – 26th January – MPC's apologies were given.

Visit from Katie Lam – 30th January – discussed at item 120/26.

Meet the Council – 31st January – discussed at item 120/26

KALC AI Training – 3rd February – Deputy Clerk attended

KALC Neighbourhood Area Committees webinar – 4th February – delegate pack circulated to Cllrs

Police Surgery – 4th February – discussed at item 120/26

Carbon Literacy Training – 5th February – Cllr Dobinson attended

School Parking (Staplehurst PC) – 9th February – Clerk attended

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Events forthcoming

Village Events Sub-Group meeting – 12th February

Communications Sub-Group meeting – 12th February

Environmental Sub-Group meeting – 17th February

Resilience Cluster Meeting – 26th February

Reg 14 consultation – 2nd March to 17th April

KALC – Supporting Older People webinar – 6th March

MPC Open Morning – 7th March

122/26 CORRESPONDENCE

The following items were made available at the meeting and were noted.

Marden Parish Council Office Correspondence Log for January.

Marden Parish Church Magazine

KALC Newsletter – circulated prior to meeting

Clerk/Council publications

123/26 FINANCE

Bank Statements:

The following was reported to Cllrs:

Reserve Accounts

Nat West: £32,807.06 (£2,522.61 was due in from VAT refund)

Unity: £28,402.14

Cllrs agreed to transfer £15,000 from Nat West to Unity and a cheque was signed.

The Clerk asked if Cllrs would agree to adding to the next agenda the proposal to allow the Clerk online access to Nat West to view statements only. This was agreed.

Capital Account

CCLA: £57,614.34 (plus £264.97 interest which was currently held in Unity)

Payments for Approval

Invoices for Payment

The following invoices were submitted to the meeting for authorisation:

Alison Hooker – Miscellaneous Supplies (Budget Codes 4071, 4210, 4320 and 4076) - £1111.00

Payee – Payment made to wrong account / refund given (Budget Code 4140) £20.00

Marden Memorial Hall – office rent and refuse (Budget Codes 4070/4074) £300.00

Play Inspections – annual play inspections (Budget Code 4236) - £463.20

Castle Water – public convenience water supply (Budget Code 4327) £10.14

Castle Water – cemetery water supply (Budget Code 4302) £18.31

Castle Water – changing rooms water supply (Budget Code 4225) £7.90

Total: £930.55

Cllrs agreed invoices and Cllrs Adam and Turner would authorise on Unity.

Grant Applications

One application had been withdrawn.

Cllrs considered the grant application from SEND Help Marden and agreed to donate £150.00.

Parish Services Scheme Grant 2026/2027

Cllrs noted amount of £9,271.00 due for 2026/27 which was slightly down on the proposed budget calculations of £9,343.85.

Purchase of Office/Planning Laptop

Cllrs considered the quote put forward by Cllr Newton and the costs for upgrade to Windows 11 Pro. As this worked out above the proposed budget of £350 Cllrs agreed to increase the budget to £380 with 16GB memory. The Clerk would obtain quotes and report back via email.

Business Stream Account

Cllrs were advised on the recent invoices received from Business Stream which were higher than anticipated. The Clerk has spoken to Business Stream who stated it was a Castle Water issue. Cllr Turner took away the paperwork to review.

124/26 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Highways

Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

Following the Finance Committee meeting it was agreed to remove the village gateway in Maidstone Road off the priority list and add the additional yellow lines in Albion Road

Other Highways Issues

Notes had been circulated from the meeting held on 30th January 2026.

The National Highways and Transport Survey had been completed and submitted.

It was proposed that a dialogue would be opened with MBC regarding options for Marden car park. Cllrs agreed.

Single Yellow Lines in Goudhurst Road still need to be completed.

Speedwatch

Cllr Summersgill was looking to hold sessions over the next couple of weeks.

Public Transport

Meeting with Southeastern/Network Rail – no update received back from meeting held on 9th January.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.46pm

Cllr Adrian Rabot

Chairman

Date: 10th March 2026

Marden Parish Council, Parish Office, Goudhurst Road, Marden

01622 832305 / 07376 287981 / clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk /

www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk