



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup>**  
**OCTOBER 2023 AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN COMMENCING AT**  
**7.30PM**

**064/23 PRESENT**

Cllrs Adam, Besant, Boswell, Gibson, Newton, Rabot, Robertson and Tippen (in the chair) were present. The Clerk and Borough Councillor Russell were also in attendance.

**065/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Stevens, Summersgill and Turner.

**066/23 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION**

**Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Changes to Register of Interest**

There were no changes to Cllrs Register of Interest.

**Granting of Dispensation**

There were no requests for dispensation.

**067/23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.

**068/23 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING**

No members of the public were in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned for the following items:

**PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**EXTERNAL REPORTS**

**County Councillor Report**

**Borough Councillors Report**

Report received from Borough Cllr Russell and this had been circulated to Cllrs. Borough Cllr Russell gave a verbal report included update on the Local Plan Main Modifications consultation which is ongoing; a change regarding payment for replacement refuse bins has been agreed, only bins requested to be replaced, which have not been broken, will be charged for; waste crime penalties have been increased; MBC are looking to make changes to the new draft of the Parish Charter; Mote Park Café is now open and has recently been named as regional winner of “Best Public or Community Building” – the grand final is 19<sup>th</sup> January for those shortlisted. Creative Communities Grant is open for applications (closing date 30<sup>th</sup> November); the literary festival is on in Maidstone this week which is being held in a lot of the historic buildings around the town; events were being planned for Summer 2024.

**Community Warden Report**

Although not in attendance the Community Warden had sent a report to the Clerk via email outlining what actions she had been taking in the past month. This had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

The meeting was reconvened to discuss item 069/23 onwards.

#### **069/23 CLERK'S REPORT**

Report had been previously circulated to Cllrs detailing staff annual leave/flexi, confirmation that the developers/management companies have agreed for the footpath between Windsor Meadow and The Parsonage to be joined and an updated list of meeting dates.

#### **070/23 PARISH MATTERS**

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

Verbal report given by Borough Cllr Russell above. No report received from KCC.

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

Crime figures for previous months were available to view on the Kent Police website.

Crime figures report had also been received from PC Johnson for 21<sup>st</sup> August to 21<sup>st</sup>

September 2023 which numbered 13 for this period including: 4 criminal damage; 2 graffiti; 2 drugs possession; 2 theft and 3 public order offences. There had also been a report of a dangerously out of control dog.

It was also reported that there had been a few thefts of motor vehicles in Yalding.

##### **Communication**

##### Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter was currently being edited and will be sent to print on 13<sup>th</sup> October. A list for delivery has been circulated to volunteers and Cllrs.

##### **Marden Flooding**

Nothing to report.

##### **Cemetery**

##### Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates

No Exclusive Rights of Burial certificates to sign.

##### **Allotments**

The allotment timeline had been sent to Noah Ovenden at Redrow but nothing had been received.

##### **Marden Parish Council Meeting Structure**

Two co-opted Cllrs were offered the opportunity to be appointed to any Committees or Sub-Committees that currently have vacancies.

Cllr Rabot wished to be appointed to Amenities Committee and Emergency Planning Sub-Group. The Clerk to contact Cllr Summersgill to ascertain which Committees etc he wished to be appointed to.

##### **Footway linking Windsor Meadow to The Parsonage**

Confirmation had been received from the developers/management companies to proceed with the project. The Clerk was asked to contact contractors to meet on site to ascertain type of surface, and edging, that would be the best option.

##### **Marden Parish Council Maintenance Strategies**

Maintenance Strategies for Cemetery, Southons Field and Playing Field proposed by Amenities Committee for ratification by Full Council had been circulated to Cllrs. The Clerk raised a couple of amendments which were agreed. Cllrs ratified and adopted the proposals.

#### **071/23 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **Amenities Committee**

Draft Minutes of Amenities Committee meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 had been previously circulated and available on the Parish Council website – next meeting 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

##### **Planning Committee**

Draft Minutes of Planning Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September had been previously circulated and available on the Parish Council website – next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

An Extra Ordinary Full Council Meeting had been arranged prior to the next Planning Committee meeting to discuss the proposed application for Copper Lane/Albion Road.

Planning Application

23/504124/LBC - Pond Oast, Tanner Farm, Goudhurst Road, Marden

Listed building consent for installation of boiler with external flue (works completed).

Cllrs passed no comment on the retrospective application for the boiler and external flue.

The Clerk was to confirm whether a further application would be forthcoming for the relocation of velux window. In the avoidance of doubt Cllrs reserve the right to comment on the relocation issue until this has been clarified.

**Finance Committee**

There was no Finance Committee meeting held in September – next meeting 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

**Conferences/Meetings/Webinars attended:**

19<sup>th</sup> September – Marden Memorial Hall meeting - report given to Amenities Committee.

21<sup>st</sup> September – Play Scheme Meeting report given to Amenities Committee and fee recommendations to Finance Community.

21<sup>st</sup> September – Christmas meeting report given to Amenities Committee.

21<sup>st</sup> September – Community Forum: Cllr Tippen attended – Warm Hubs were discussed and the Village Club were opening for this; also raised was a project for assisting patients to access the Medical Centre via NHS app and other ways for accessing information.

25<sup>th</sup> September – KALC Area Committee – Marden Parish Council gave apologies.

2<sup>nd</sup> October – Golding Homes Charter signing – The Clerk, as Proper Officer, signed the document on behalf of Marden Parish Council along with other agencies.

3<sup>rd</sup> October – Mission Statement meeting cancelled and new date to be confirmed.

4<sup>th</sup> October – Conservation Area Meeting: Several Cllrs attended. MBC going through the process and suggestions were given from Marden PC. There will be a public consultation on the final document. The Clerk requested to contact MBC to ask for the Non-Designated Heritage Asset List for Marden and for sight of the final document prior to the consultation.

**Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Events forthcoming:**

12<sup>th</sup> October – HR Sub-Committee meeting

13<sup>th</sup> October – Site Meetings at Cemetery and Southons Field

13<sup>th</sup> October – Communications Sub-Group

13<sup>th</sup> October – Events Sub-Group

13<sup>th</sup> October – Cemetery Sub-Group meeting to discuss fees

14<sup>th</sup> October – Site Meetings at Public Toilets and Playing Field.

18<sup>th</sup> October – KCC Rail Summit

21<sup>st</sup> October – Environmental Sub-Group

24<sup>th</sup> October – Nature Prescribing Meeting

25<sup>th</sup> October – Cemetery boundary meeting

26<sup>th</sup> October – Internal Audit

10<sup>th</sup> November – Memorial Safety training – Deputy Clerk and Cllr Newton attending.

13<sup>th</sup> November – Communications Sub-Group

25<sup>th</sup> November – Emergency Planning Sub-Group

**072/23 CORRESPONDENCE**

**Marden Parish Church Magazine – October edition - noted**

**Clerks & Councils Direct**

Noted

**The Clerk**

Noted

**Kent Police – Rural Crime Survey**

Completed

**National Highways & Transport Survey (closing date February 2024)**

Each section was delegated to a Cllr to complete and would be placed on the January agenda for agreement.

**073/23 FINANCE****Bank Statements:**Revenue:

Nat West: £56,707.88

Unity: £57,996.85

Capital

Santander: £72,016.47

**Payments for Approval**Electronic Payments

The following invoices were submitted for payment:

Graham Carey – contract grounds maintenance - £426.00

Stanleys Garage – vehicle fuel - £81.98

Castle Water – Changing Rooms water - £6.96

Mazars – External Audit - £504.00

Signature Plants – horse trough plants - £49.00

P&F Cleaning – Public toilet cleaning - £695.00

Cloudy IT – IT support - £106.56

Castle Water – Public Toilets water - £8.38

Total: £1,877.88

Cllrs agreed payment and Cllrs Newton and Tippen would authorise on Unity.

For Cllrs information October salary and HMRC payments totalling £8,109.87 were authorised by Cllrs Boswell and Turner between meetings.

**074/23 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT****Highways**Highways Improvement Plan

Responses have been received regarding the informal consultation for single and double yellow lines on Albion Road/Stanley Road and Goudhurst Road. Cllr Gibson raised the question as to whether letters could also be sent to residents in Gurr Walk, Mayes Road and Gravel Pit Lane. This was agreed and the closing date for this is 20<sup>th</sup> October.

The Chairman proposed that a Sub-Group be held on 7<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the findings. Cllrs Besant, Boswell, Newton and Tippen, along with the Clerk, would be involved to provide a report to take to the November Full Council meeting.

Fingerpost Signs

Work has started on painting the signs at Howland Road/Battle Lane junction and at the Old Post Office.

The Clerk has contacted the contractor regarding Plain Road sign requesting that he arranges for the groundwork to be undertaken.

**Public Transport**

Update received from Southeastern regarding the recent publication of additional service.

The Clerk was asked to respond stating that Cllrs are very concerned about the comment in the fourth paragraph of the email that “they will be looking at service frequency in Marden, with a view to improving the spread of trains”. Cllrs felt this appears to imply that there may be stops removed on existing services and that Marden is being treated unfairly.

The Clerk was asked to review the comments raised at the meeting held in July and to ask for another meeting in the New Year.

On 4<sup>th</sup> October the Prime Minister announced that the £2 bus fare cap would be extended to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. However, Nu-Venture does not subscribe to this. Cllrs asked that pressure be put on Nu-Venture to consider being part of this scheme.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.58pm.

Signed:

Cllr Kate Tippen, Chairman, Marden Parish Council

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 / 01622 832305 / [clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)