



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH JULY 2022 AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

035/22 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam, Besant, Gibson, Newton, Robertson and Stevens (in the chair) were in attendance. The Clerk and Borough Cllr Russell were also present.

036/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Barker, Boswell, Burton, Tippen and Turner had given their apologies. Apologies were also received from County Cllr Parfitt-Reid, PCSO Nicola Morris and Community Warden Mira Martin.

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman Cllrs proposed that Cllr Stevens take the chair for this Council meeting.

037/22 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declaration of Interest

Cllrs Gibson and Stevens declared an interest in item 041/22 Allotments as residents of Highwood Green and would leave the meeting when this item was discussed.

Changes to Register of Interest

There were no changes to registers of interest

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for granting of dispensation

038/22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th June 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record.

039/22 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

No members of the public were in attendance

The meeting was adjourned for the following items:

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were in attendance

EXTERNAL REPORTS

County Councillor Report

Not in attendance – a written report had been received which would be read out at item 041/22

Borough Councillors Report

Cllr Russell was in attendance and reported to Cllrs on updates from MBC.

Maidstone Museum: MBC is focusing on a new gallery dedicated to archaeology.

Design and Sustainability DPD: MBC is working on this document and asks that if anyone is aware of new build estates that have good examples of designs/sustainability to let Cllr Russell know.

Maidstone Task Force: located in Marden and Yalding for the foreseeable future. PCSO Morris is good source of communicating with them along with contacting Cllr Russell.

Reed Court Farm: This will not now be going to July MBC Planning Committee as MBC have requested further information.

Maidstone Community Cohesion Event: Being held in the town centre on Saturday 16th July. It's a free event for all the family.

19.41 Cllr Claudine Russell left the meeting

Police Report

Not in attendance – crime figures would be read out at item 041/22

Community Warden Report

Not in attendance but had provided a written report. The Community Warden has been visiting clubs and groups, carrying out welfare visits and working with the Maidstone Task Force.

The meeting was reconvened to discuss item 040/22 onwards.

040/22 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had submitted her report to Cllrs prior to the meeting which contained details of staff leave and sickness, update on play scheme for this year and 2023 together with an update on the works to be undertaken on new MPC storage area.

041/22 PARISH MATTERS

Reports from MBC and KCC

County Cllr Parfitt-Reid had provided a written report in her absence outlining information regarding primary school admissions for September 2022 which had been circulated to Cllrs. She reported that she is keeping parents up to date as and when she receives new information.

Police Update/Report from Police Forum

Crime Figures

The following crimes had been reported since the May meeting: 3 criminal damages and 1 theft of a motor vehicle

Other reports of cannabis warnings issued with stop searches by Maidstone Task Force; several arsons reported with offenders identified and being dealt with – working alongside Kent Fire and Rescue Service and British Transport Police; a lot of incidents/crimes at Cascade Close including criminal damage and assaults – part of an ongoing investigation with Medway Housing and MBC Community Protection Team; a black Range Rover with cloned plates has been seized which had been involved with several burglaries and cable thefts in the area resulting in 2 people now arrested; vehicles seized with no insurance or licences; joint operations in the area with the Maidstone Task Force and Maidstone Waste Crime Team with lots of proactive stops.

Maidstone Task Force

Maidstone Task Force have requested that this is an ongoing item on the agenda and will attend meetings whenever possible. Cllrs agreed to this being an agenda item each month.

Other Police Issues

No other issues raised

Communication

Newsletter

The Summer edition of the newsletter had received back from printers and was currently being delivered to all properties

Marden Flooding

Nothing currently to report on flooding issues.

Cemetery

Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates

Three certificates were signed by Cllrs

Allotments

The Clerk had received an email from Redrow continuing to request that Marden PC take on the car parking spaces, this time with a suggested commuted sum.

20.01 Cllrs Gibson and Stevens left the meeting

Cllr Besant felt that to take this forward Cllrs to consider this offer. However, Cllr Adam proposed that the principle of the commuted sum was the best suggestion but it should be made to the Management Company to manage the parking as the S106 agreement did not state it was parking for the allotments but for visitor parking. Cllrs in attendance agreed with this course of action.

It was resolved that the Clerk respond to say that Marden PC remain of the same opinion that it would not take over the parking spaces but would recommend that the commuted sum and agreement be offered to HML Management Company

Changing Rooms/Football Club

The Clerk has received an email from Marden Minors Football Club outlining concerns over having men's teams available for the forthcoming season.

Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to contact MMFC for a further update and put before Amenities for further discussion in regard to the field usage and changing facilities.

Housing Needs Survey

A Housing Needs Survey had circulated to all residents by Action with Communities in Rural Kent – for information

Marden PC Terms of Reference and Policies

Climate, Sustainability and Biodiversity Terms of Reference and Policy had been drafted at the recent meeting of the Sub-Group. These were still being reviewed and would be put before the next Amenities Committee for agreement.

Summer Play Scheme

Costings

The Clerk had heard from Leigh Academy regarding the fee for the hire of the school premises for this year's Summer Play Scheme. This was a lot more than first envisaged and the Clerk had written to the Principal of Marden Primary Academy to see if he could offer support on getting this costing reduced.

042/22 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Amenities Committee

Draft Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 28th June 2022 had been previously circulated and were available on the Parish Council website.

Planning Committee

Draft Minutes of Planning Committee meetings held on 21st June and 5th July 2022 had been previously circulated and were available on the Parish Council website.

Finance Committee

No Finance Committee meeting held in June

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars attended

Village Events Sub-Group – 17th June: Notes of this meeting had been circulated to Cllrs

HR Sub-Committee Meeting – 17th June: Minutes of this meeting had been circulated to Cllrs

Meet the Clerks – 23rd June: The Deputy Clerk and Admin Assistant had attended this session. Although no members of the public were in attendance they were able to speak directly with Maidstone Task Force and the Community Warden. Members of the Task Force were liaising with Redrow to assist MPC with the allotments and cutting down of the tree at Marden Playing Fields. The flytipping at Highwood Green had been reported.

Primary Academy One Stop Shop coffee morning – 29th June: Cllrs Boswell and Tippen attended and although it was good for Marden PC to be represented was more beneficial for other agencies and parents.

NALC Neighbourhood Planning Webinar – 29th June: Cllr Turner attended but was not present to provide a report

Climate, Sustainability and Biodiversity Sub-Group – 5th July: Notes of the meeting had been circulated to Cllrs.

Marden Children's Centre Link Lunch – 6th July: Marden PC was unable to be represented but it was hoped that a Cllr or Clerk would be able to attend the next one.

Community Forum – 7th July: All Cllrs present at this forum were not in attendance to provide a report.

Kent Community Foundation Funding Event – 11th July: The Clerk had attended this event at Lenham. Although Kent Community Foundation are able to grants up to £4k-£5k it was unclear as to whether a Parish Council would be able to apply due to the criteria set.

However, Marden Parish Council would be able to sign post groups and individuals to Kent Community Foundation for their own funding/advice.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Events forthcoming

Communications Sub-Group – 18th July

Summer Play Scheme 25th July to 5th August

SLCC Branch Meeting (Environment and Biodiversity) – 28th July

SLCC Branch Meeting (Kent Archives) – 19th September

043/22 CORRESPONDENCE

Marden Parish Church Magazine – July edition

Not on the agenda:

The Clerk

Clerks and Councils Direct

Several articles in the above publications were brought to the attention of Cllrs particularly in regard to training.

044/22 FINANCE

Bank Statements:

Revenue Accounts

Nat West: £83,548.53

Unity: £81,115.82

Capital Account

Santander: £71,597.64

Other Financial Issues

Wetpour Quote for Napoleon Drive play area

This item had been deferred from Amenities for Cllrs to discuss. However, it was unclear as to what work was proposed. Therefore, Cllrs requested for further information regarding planned work in regard to removal of the tree root and whether two separate companies need to be involved.

Payments for Approval

Electronic Payments

The following invoices were put before Cllrs for approval.

K-Works Blacksmithing – 50% payment for fingerpost refurbishment - £2,425.00

Marden Memorial Hall – office rent, hall hire, refuse and cleaning - £430.85

Graham Carey – grounds maintenance - £718.00

Stanleys Garage – Fuel and miscellaneous - £20.10

Parent – Play Scheme refund - £18.00

Castle Water – Toilet water supply - £17.90

Alison Hooker – Travel/cooling units for office - £125.18

Total: £3,755.03

Invoices approved and Cllrs Newton and Stevens would authorise on Unity

045/22 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Highways

Highways Improvement Plan

The Clerk was requested to circulate the Highway Improvement Plan for suggested updates/ amendments. Cllrs would then review the document to look at the priority status.

Fingerpost Signs

The Clerk had been informed that work to remove the fingers and roundels from the cast iron signposts will commence on Monday 18th July.

The Admin Assistant was due to investigate contractors to paint the signposts in situ but due to the Clerk's leave it was unclear how far this had proceeded. The Clerk will liaise with the Admin Assistant and report back to Cllrs by the end of the week.

Other Highways Issues**Kent Highways: Schemes, Planning & Delivery Team restructure**

The Clerk had received notification from Kent Highways of changes to the structure of the department. This had been circulated to Cllrs for information.

Public Transport

The Clerk has contacted South Eastern again for a meeting and was still waiting for confirmation of dates/times.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.47pm

Date: 9th August 2022

Signed:

Cllr Kate Tippen, Chairman
Marden Parish Council
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