



Marsham Parish Council

email: marsham_pc@outlook.com

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 13th MAY 2024 AT 7PM IN MARSHAM PARISH CHURCH

PRESENT

Mr C Hensby – Chairman
Mrs P Baker
Mr P Gladden

Mr C Rouse – Vice Chair
Mr D Grapes
Abhu Dair - BDC

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on the 15^h May 2023 were **agreed** by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

3. TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman reported on the activities of the Parish Council over the last year. Noting the successful renovations of the many signs around the village including the restoration and enhancement of the main village sign which was the work of Joanna Spaul a local artist who not only repaired and treated the wood but also brought new colour to the sign – including the Black Peewit! The Parish Council were kindly donated some aluminium to create new flashing for the sign to also add years to its life. Grass cutting has gone well this year in the village and we continue to see progress with the street light project which is due to be completed in 2025. The Allotments also continue to be well maintained with six plots in use with no waiting list.

4. TO RECEIVE THE CLERKS REPORT

The last 12 months has had the significant change in Councillors welcoming new faces. There has been a great emphasis on forward planning for finances and this will continue, particularly as a result of Forecasts showing that the Council is in great need to reduce costs over the next few years. The largest impact will be that of the reduction in streetlight electricity since these monthly costs have more the doubled in the last year due to national rises. The ongoing Streetlight upgrade will see that these costs will be reduced significantly once complete at the end of 2025.

The Council has three members currently on the Mandate which proves effective most months for signing. The struggles with mandate changes over the last twelve months was acknowledged by Barclays with a compensation payment of £150 received by the Parish Council as a gesture of goodwill. The Council has chosen to use some of this fund as a donation to Boudicca Breast Cancer Charity based at the NNUH following the sad loss of our much-loved previous Councillor Vallerie Allen late 2023.

The Councils interest into installing water at the Allotment continues with the Clerk hoping to secure grant funding for this project during 2024. Having postponed development works for play equipment at George Edwards until further funding becomes available.

5. TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS

a) VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

New Members are bringing lots of energy to the committee, the management is going well with lots of new hirers as well as valued long term hires remaining. New fee structure at the hall has now been adopted and looks to ensure the longevity of covering costs for the hall. Big achievement of the year was obtaining the Deeds back from the Bank following the branch closure and the added bonus of works now taking place for the translation of the deeds. Projects this year include a new defibrillator to be installed on Allison Street with training taking place later in the summer.

b) MARSHAM HEATH TRUSTEES

The Council were updated on the details of the Heath – 190 Acres of Heathland to the North of the Village. The Trustees are keen for everyone to use it. The National Wildlife Trust does the management of the land and have made incredible strides in turning it back to its original state 400+ years ago gaining National Recognition for its conservation work. The Marsham Heath Trustees are hosting a table with the NWT on Earth day this summer on the 13th July. The Trustees purpose is to protect the conversation efforts against Governmental plans. The Norfolk Orienteering Club have enjoyed the use of the Heath and have provided a donation for the upkeep. Vandalism still an issue, particularly when animals are left on it. As Animals do good for the land the NWT are keen to encourage suitable management. Success has been seen in the reduction of cars driving on the land.

6. POLICE REPORT

No report received.

7. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SECTION

There were no questions asked not covered elsewhere.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:25pm and carried on to the main Parish Council Meeting.