



MINUTES AGREED AT MEETING HELD ON 13TH OCTOBER 2020 BUT NOT SIGNED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL ON 22ND SEPTEMBER 2020 HELD VIRTUALLY AT 7.30PM

294/20 PRESENT:

Cllrs Adam, Barker (*late*), Boswell, Jones, Newton, Robertson, Stevens, Tippen (in the chair) and Turner were present. The Clerk, Deputy Clerk and one member of the public were also in attendance.

295/20 APOLOGIES:

Cllrs Brown and Mannington gave their apologies.

In the absence of the Chairman Cllr Tippen took the chair.

296/20 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 8th September 2020 were agreed but would be signed at the next meeting when the Full Council convenes in person.

297/20 CLLR INFORMATION

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 301/20 (Southons Field) as an owner of a property adjacent to the open space

Cllr Jones declared an interest in Clerk's report (Rookery Court) and item 301/20 (Playing Field) as an owner of a property adjacent to the open space

Cllr Stevens declared an interest in item 301/20 (Allotments) as resident of Highwood Green

Cllr Tippen wished it noted that she was at a PPG meeting when item 302/20 (Marden Medical Centre application) was discussed – she did not take part in any discussion.

Register of Interest

There were no requests for dispensation on any item on this agenda

Requests for Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation

298/20 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

Member of the public did not wish to speak on any item but did request to record the meeting. This was agreed by Cllrs.

The meeting was adjourned for the following item

299/20 PUBLIC FORUM

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

The meeting was reconvened to discuss items 300/20 onwards.

300/20 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had submitted her report to Cllrs prior to the meeting. It contained details on the update of the website accessibility and statement (to be discussed later in the meeting), return to office working (to be discussed later in the meeting) and other issues raised by residents

which had been dealt with over the past two weeks. The Clerk had also been contacted by the new manager of Rookery Court asking for confirmation of ownership of the wooden gates on Rookery Path. A plan had been forwarded by Cllr Jones and this would be sent to the new manager. Cllr Jones asked why the gates were locked if they were in the ownership of HML Management Group. The Clerk responded that this was an agreement with the developer but paperwork would be retrieved once access to The Allens was permitted.

301/20 AMENITIES

Update on any open space issues (Southons Field, Playing Field or Cemetery)

All updates discussed below

Allotments

Email had been received from Redrow asking that Marden Parish Council reconsider taking on the car parking spaces. No further information had been forthcoming to provide additional details and therefore due to Standing Order 7a (Previous Resolutions) Cllrs would not reconsider their decision.

Southons Field

There had been reports from residents regarding anti-social behaviour on the field once it had been locked. The Clerk had spoken to the PCSO who would visit the area when she was on late shifts

Playing Field

Residents had reported to the clerk that a couple of the litter bins had been pushed over but had been reinstated. The Clerk would speak with the caretaker to see if they can be anchored into the ground.

Dog Control Order Signage

MBC had updated the Dog Control PSPOs for play areas and offered signage at £25 per sign. Cllrs agreed to go ahead and the Clerk would ascertain the exact areas to be covered. MBC would be asked to make "Children's Play Area" clearer (ie bold). The Clerk was asked to ensure that MBC would be erecting signage at The Cockpit Play Area.

Legionella Quotes

Quotes had been circulated to Cllrs by Deputy Clerk and it was agreed to accept the quotation for training but seek 2 additional quotes for the remedial works and the control scheme.

CoVid-19 signage/banners

Cllr Tippen proposed that the Council purchase 6 printed banners with "Hands/Face/Space" slogan plus graphics and include "rule of 6" for playing field and Southons Field. Cllrs agreed and the Deputy Clerk was asked to provide artwork for agreement.

302/20 PLANNING

Planning applications with Marden Parish

20/503890/FULL – Marden Medical Centre, Church Green

Proposed siting of a cabin within car park to provide additional space for existing doctors surgery and associated works

On balance, despite concerns about loss of a parking space, Cllrs recommended approval

20.14 Cllr Barker arrived at the meeting

Planning applications outside Marden Parish

20/503935/FULL – White Hart, Claygate, Marden

Demolition of the existing former public house and erection of 4 dwelling houses, including associated landscaping and biodiversity enhancements

Although not a Statutory Consultee Cllrs wished to view this application as the location is close to the boundary of Marden parish and the public house was an amenity used by many Marden residents before its closure. Cllrs wished it asked that MBC can satisfy themselves whether the conclusions and robustness of the Feasibility and Viability Statement that has now been provided is sufficient to override the previous grounds for refusal under Policies SP17, SP20 and DM17 of application 18/506509

MBC Planning Decisions:

Whitehurst, Dairy Lane – Granted
 The Old Forge, Barrel Arch Close – Refused
 2 Lime Close – Granted
 The Clovers, Goudhurst Road – Granted

MBC Local Plan Update:MBC Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Meeting 22nd September 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th September have not yet been published but on listening to the YouTube recording it is proposed to move to Regulation 18(b) to December for a period of 3 weeks and Regulation 19 in June 2021. This is due to be ratified at the SPI meeting this evening.

There was also a huge concern on the impact of the Government's White Paper on Planning. MBC are currently working to the existing housing numbers but this is increased in the White Paper.

MPC was unsure when the specific details of the Local Plan will be discussed. It is hoped that dates will be published following the SPI meeting this evening.

Evidence has been published on the Local Plan and Call for Sites information. Several Cllrs had managed to read through the papers and, as previously discussed, a meeting would be arranged next week for discuss these. The Clerk would send out an agenda with this being the only item. Cllrs were urged to read the final draft on Garden Communities before next week's meeting.

Other Planning Issues to reportLicensing

Marden Cricket and Hockey Club - Variation Application for proposed licensed activities and proposed hours of opening.

Marden Parish Council is not a statutory consultee on licensing applications

The application is proposed for change of times of opening times of the club and showing of films.

Section M of the application form states there are no close neighbours. However, there are several properties nearby including Bumpers Hall Oast, Bluebell Barn and along the Maidstone Road near the entrance to the Sports Club and account should be taken of any representations made by neighbours.

As there is no significant change of timings for licensed activities and the application is for films to be shown Councillors concluded that the item should be noted.

303/20 UPDATE ON ANY MEETINGS HELD / DUE TO BE HELD

11th September – KALC White Paper webinar- Cllr Tippen attended this Webinar. This was in combination with CPRE. It was felt that majority of information available is being circulated already.

11th September – Meeting with County Councillor Eric Hotson. The notes of this meeting had been circulated to Cllrs. Church Farm corner was raised following correspondence from resident and a Stage 4 Road Safety Audit was discussed and although County Cllr Hotson was in favour he wasn't sure about funding it. However, following the meeting with the resident County Cllr Hotson promised to meet again on site along with the Highways Engineer for the area. Marden's Highways Improvement Plan was discussed and Member Grant contributions were raised regarding two priorities on the HIP. Concerns about Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders were raised and the Clerk to send information regarding these along with the pilot scheme for flooding/road closures being extended to Marden. Other issues raised including Marden having no youth club and the library and children's centre remaining closed. The Clerk was asked to contact County Cllr Hotson on all these items.

14th September – Meeting with Sutcliffe Play re additional Southons Field play equipment – Several Cllrs and the Deputy Clerk met regarding quotes for new play equipment. No quote had been received at the time of this meeting. One further quote had been obtained (Playdale)

15th September – KALC Effective Comms Training – The Deputy Clerk gave a brief report of this training session but full details would be discussed at the Communications Sub-Committee on Friday 25th September.

22nd October – Meeting with Borough Councillors

304/20 FINANCE

Invoices for Payment

Electronic Payments

SLCC – Virtual National Conference - £30.00

Paul Waring – Mowing of Southons Field (August) £90.60

Castle Water – Changing Rooms water supply £25.42

Kent County Council – photocopier rental £113.74

Pitney Bowes – Franking Machine Rental £15.54

HMRC – PAYE/NIC £1,281.72

Castle Water – Cemetery water supply £67.64

Total £1,619.66

Invoices were agreed and Cllrs Newton and Turner would authorise the payments on Unity.

305/20 HIGHWAYS

No highways issues were reported

306/20 OTHER URGENT PARISH MATTERS:

For Decision

Recording of Meetings

Cllrs agreed to amend the Filming and Recording of Meetings to include virtual meeting recording by viewers on request.

Website Accessibility Statement

The draft had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting and Cllrs agreed for this to be adopted and uploaded to the website. Thanks were expressed to the Clerk for ensuring that the website is as accessible as it can be.

Village – Christmas lighting and Member Grant

Several Cllrs met with a lighting company to discuss new Christmas lighting in the village. It was proposed that the Christmas Sub-Committee meet to put a proposal and suggested budget forward to the next Council meeting on 13th October following receipt of the three quotes.

Cllr Hotson has offered a grant of £2,000 towards the lighting.

Fingerpost Report

Cllr Turner apologised but has not had chance to provide a report but it would be forthcoming shortly.

Return to Office Working

One quote had been received for work to be undertaken at the parish office to ensure it was CoVid-19 secure. Although the current guidelines state that anyone able to work from home should Cllrs proposed that two more quotes be obtained. Cllr Turner agreed to review the quotes to ensure that they meet Fire Regulations. Cllr Newton had suggested a proposal to the Clerk regarding access to the broadband for computers.

For Discussion / Information

MBC Parish Newsletter

Previously circulated to Cllrs for information- Noted. Cllr Adam asked that the MBC Parish Charter be added to the next agenda to see how the previous approach to sharing information aligns with the new style newsletter.

I PROPOSE THAT PURSUANT TO PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960, THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING BECAUSE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED:

21.00 – Member of the public left the meeting

307/20 ENFORCEMENT

Agreement of Previous Confidential Meeting

Minutes would be agreed and signed as the first available face to face meeting.

New/Reported Alleged Enforcement

Two new items of alleged breach were raised.

MBC Update on Enforcement

No updates had been received from MBC.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.38pm

Signed

Date

Cllr Lesley Mannington

Chairman, Marden Parish Council

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The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on 29th September 2020