

Minutes of Marston Parish Council meeting held on 12th July 2023

The meeting opened at 18:45

**Present**:

Parish Cllrs; Chair M Potts (MP), Phil Carter (PhC), Angela Johnson (AJ), Ian Stanley (IS), Dave Collier (DC), Amanda Nixon (AN) and Margaret Peake (MPe)

Clerk: Caroline Constable (CC)

**Apologies**:

Apologies received from Ward Cllrs Lynn Gibbon (LG), Norman Wright (NW) and Phil Marshall (PM)

**Declarations of interest:**

There were no declarations of interest

**Dispensations:**

There were no dispensations

**Public Forum:**

Four members of the were public present; Guy Owen & Marika Klejment of 27 Marston Lane and Aja & Ross Walke of 25 Marston Lane.

Guy stated that they had attended the pc meeting to discuss speeding and safety issues along Marston Lane. He stated that there have been at least 3 serious accidents along the immediate stretch of road outside his property in the last 6 months or so resulting in a dead dog, 2 cars being written off and damage to property (including a telegraph pole).They are concerned about the safety of their children and pets as many vehicles are not keeping to the 50 mph speeding limit. They have contacted highways who advised that in the first instance they should speak to the pc.

The pc advised that they are in regular communication with Highways about speeding and traffic issues within the village and that there had been a meeting scheduled for earlier in the month that had to be postponed. This meeting will now go ahead sometime in September. The pc pointed out that highways have stated in the past that their hands are tied as not much can be done until there are fatalities and obviously no-one wants it to come to that.

Ross asked whether any speed monitoring had been done on the road and clerk advised that ‘yes’ it had been done in the past and cllr MP stated that perhaps not since the speeding limit was reduced. Clerk advised that she will contact the PCSO to get a new survey carried out. The PC stated that they are looking at whether getting the speed limit reduced on Marston Lane is a viable option, Ross stated that he did not think that that would make any difference.

The residents also asked whether a petition would help, AJ stated that getting as many residents as possible to complain would be helpful. Clerk stated that at this point in time it would be best to get a traffic survey conducted and to contact Highways and Ward Councillors to see what their response was.

The residents were asked whether they had received their invite to the MP Surgery that Ester McVey was holding later in the month, it was suggested that it would be helpful if they could attend and ask Ester McVey to get involved.

Clerk asked the residents to send all of the information and evidence that they have to her and she will include it in her communication with highways and ward cllrs.

The residents left the meeting at 19:07

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the parish council meeting of 14/06/2023 were agreed and approved.

**Actions from previous meeting:**

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|  | | Agenda Point | | Assigned to.. | |
| **1** | | **Parish Cllr Reports**  IS - raised concerns from residents that were circulating that the Salt Barge pub was being sold. Clerk and AN advised that Community Asset registration was due to expire at the end of the year. AN supplied asset number and contact details; 18/00140/ACV [acv@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:acv@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk). Clerk will contact asking about renewal  AN - received a phone call on Sunday 2/7 from an irate resident about fly tipping on Hall Lane Higher Marston. She was out at the time and advised that she would call round on her return. When she attended the resident stated that they had seen another resident leaving the rubbish but would not give any names. AN took photo’s and reported to CW&C report number SS528441073  PhC – also reported that he had reported fly tipping at the end of June report number TR5251129  MP – advised that hedges along the steps between Fernlea Road and Mere Road were again overgrown and residents not cutting them back. She has contacted Weaver Vale who claim they do not know who is responsible, AJ advised that she had spoken with them last year about the same issue and they do know. Clerk advised that she will contact them directly  MP – advised that the church are now paying a gardener to keep the church yard tidy, he has been doing a great job and has asked whether he could put a wild flower patch in at the bottom, he has been advised to check with the church but pc have no objection to it. He is also going to remove some of the self-seeded trees and replace with some trees/shrubs more suitable.  MP – would like help with buying refreshments for the coffee mornings. AJ and DC both offered help. AJ will take it on for the rest of July and then they will organise between themselves  MP – some residents asking whether coffee mornings will continue past usual stopping point at the end of July. All were in agreement that some residents rely on it for socialising and so it will continue | | CC  CC | |
| **2** | | **Ward Cllr Reports**  No ward cllrs present and no update received | |  | |
| **3** | | **Progress Reports**   1. Neighbourhood Plan   Small piece put in MM and PhC reports that a resident on Higher Marston has expressed an interest. Minutes still to be sent and next meeting scheduled for 7/9/23   1. Defibrillators   Letters sent out asking local business for donations/sponsorship. Clerk emailed Simon/Nikki Tate for a new date for training, awaiting a definite date, will chase. IS raised question of funding from British Heart Foundation and whether our interest had been registered. Clerk advised that she had registered with another fund but not that one. IS will register our interest   1. Triangle   Planning meeting with Andy Hamman of Highways postponed again, will now be scheduled sometime in September   1. Marston Footpath 7   AJ has sent another email to the contact at CW&C but as yet no response, concerned that maintenance cannot be carried out until she has made contact as they will need a key to get past the newly installed gate. She will chase   1. MP surgery   PC compiled a list of issues as follows and clerk will send email with questions:  Highways funding  Speeding  Footpaths  Dangerous Junctions  Weight Limit on bridge   1. Higher Marston Play Area   New benches due to be installed, no one has been down to look so not sure whether they are there yet   1. Exercise Sessions   Sessions going well with 10 attendees on each of the 4 sessions that have been run so instructor’s fees of £40 are being covered. The sessions have been well received and attendees have commented on how they appreciate them. Clerk advised that whilst instructors costs are being covered any overheads (electricity, gas, water etc..) are not and that in the future it should be considered. Cllrs advised that the sessions are invaluable in combatting social and physical isolation and would like them to continue even if at a cost to the pc. Costs will be monitored and reviewed at intervals   1. Marston Murmurs   Full colour issue well received. DC commented that a new all electric library van will shortly be in use and the subject would make a good article for murmurs. All agreed that the service should be promoted. Clerk asked whether residents other than Ashwood park are using it, no one is sure. Clerk asked whether it could stop at Higher Marston, DC will investigate   1. Hall Marketing and Management   DC recently held the keys for renters as Angie away on holiday. Apart from a few teething problems it went well. AJ advised that the flyers promoting the hall are ready for distribution they just need cutting up. Clerk to loan AJ a guillotine and she will then distribute | | CC  CC  IS  AJ  CC  IS  DC  AJ | |
| **4** | | **FINANCE**  **Invoices received & cheques created:**   1. Clerks Purchases & Reimbursements including £30 for stamps   Travel/ etc… £76.72 total chq no.1448  Clerks Salary 16.83 hrs @ £15.41ph - £ 259.40 Chq no. 1449   1. Itseeze website/email June 2023 - £57 2. Williams Design & Print – June Newsletter (D010291) – £ 211.05 chq no. 1444 3. Waterplus £6.68 to be taken on 7/7/23 4. Car Park Donation – MS Society chq no. 1445 5. Cheshire Community Action – Buildings membership renewal £40 chq no.1446 6. Cheshire Community Action – pc membership renewal £20 chq no. 1447 7. Cleaner – 18/6 – 9/7 4 wks total £40 8. Booking - 18/6 – 9/7 4 wks total £40   £ 80 to Angie chq no 1450   1. Rent:   Penguin Group 14/6 £20 20/6 £20 3/7 £20 6/7 £20 total £80  Mind, Body & Spirit 13/6 £20 27/6 £20 total £40  Scarlet Revolution 17/6 £20 2/7 £30 9/7 £30 total £80  £ 200 in total  Coffee Morning donations £89.87, refreshments £18.07, clerk also took £8.92 cash for purchase of pens (£62.88 being banked)  Josh – exercise instructor £40 cash paid over past 3 weeks (taken from donations) | |  | |
| **5** | | **Correspondence**   1. Email from Cheshire Community Action – Buildings membership renewal – see payments 2. Email from Cheshire Community Action – Martyn’s Law 3. Email from Cheshire Community Action – defib funding 4. Email from CW&C Officer – installation of benches at Higher Marston play area 5. Email from resident (to Highways) – Highway Maintenance and flooding Ollershaw Lane 6. Email from chalc – Cheshire West Crowd– Crowd funding workshop 7. Email from chalc – CW&C Highways meet & greet 8. Email from chalc – Climate Change, Young People & Points of Light surveys 9. Email from Royal British Legion – lamppost poppies 10. Email from Cheshire Community Action – PC membership renewal – see payments 11. Email from Steven Bentley Highways – response to road closure signs email sent in June 12. Email from resident - Highway Maintenance and flooding Ollershaw Lane – update since last email 13. Email from Police Crime Commissioner – Commissioner’s Review 14. Email Mr Platt – car park rent donation – see payments 15. Email from Police Crime Commissioner – Contact Details Poster 16. Email from chalc – Public Space Protection Order consultation on alcohol control 17. Email from chalc – PCC meeting notes 18. Email from IS regarding MP email issues and update on Pickmere meeting 19. Email from chalc – Chief Exec appointment 20. Email from chalc – PCC meeting update 21. Email from CW&C – Chester Town Hall & Lord Mayor’s regalia talks and tours 22. Email from PCSO Wiggins – June Report | |  | |
| **6** | | **Any other business**  AN – asked when Garden Competition being judged, all agreed that it needs doing asap. AN&Clerk to cover Lower Marston & Ashwood Park Friday evening 14/7 for nominees, with AJ&PhC doing Higher Marston and IS&PM Marston Lane and Ollershaw Lane & remaining areas. Main judging will then take place later in the month  MP – need to agree date for the Macmillan Coffee morning. All agreed on Tuesday 12/9 | | ALL | |

Confirmed date of next meeting, 13/09/2023

AN gave apologies as she will not be available on 13/9, apology accepted

Meeting closed at 20:27

Abbreviations: pc (parish council), cllr (councillor), cllrs (councillors), cllrs’ (councillors’), cllr’s (councillor’s), CW&C (Cheshire West and Chester), MM (Marston Murmurs), MPC (Marston Parish Council)