

Minutes of Marston Parish Council meeting held on 11th October 2023

The meeting opened at 18:55

Due to absence of Chair Cllr MP, Clerk requested nominations for stand-in chair. Cllr DC nominated Cllr PhC & Cllr IS seconded.

**Present**:

Parish Cllrs; Phil Carter (PhC), Angela Johnson (AJ), Ian Stanley (IS), Dave Collier (DC) and Margaret Peake (MPe)

Ward Cllr: Norman Wright (NW)

Clerk: Caroline Constable (CC)

**Apologies**:

Apologies received from Parish Cllrs Marion Potts (MP) and Amanda Nixon (AN) and Ward Cllrs Lynn Gibbon (LG) and Phil Marshall (PM)

**Declarations of interest:**

There were no declarations of interest

**Dispensations:**

There were no dispensations

**Public Forum:**

There were no public present

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the parish council meeting of 12/07/2023 were agreed and approved.

**Actions from previous meeting:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Action | Assigned to | Actioned |
| 1 | Contact CW&C re acv renewal | CC | No update as yet, MP/AN to chase |
| 2 | Article for MM about Library Service | IS | √ |
| 3 | Email Simon/Nikki Tate re defib training | CC | New date to be arranged for 3rd week in Oct. Clerk to email |
| 4 | Chase CW&C re Marston Footpath 7 contact | AJ | See agenda item 3d |
| 5 | Contact Weaver Vale re hedges | CC | √ they have now been cut back |
| 6 | NP meeting minutes | CC | √ |
| 7 | Register interest with BHF re defib funding | IS | √ |
| 8 | Create questions for MP surgery | CC | √ See agenda item 3e for update |
| 9 | Create article for MM about library service | IS | √ |
| 10 | Contact library service – possible stop Higher Marston | DC | Not yet. IS has a contact email for the library service, he will pass onto DC & DC will email |
| 11 | Distribute Hall marketing flyers | AJ | Some have been distributed into supermarkets/music venues. Will keep adding as & when |
| 12 | Garden judging | ALL | √ |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Agenda Point | Assigned to.. |
| **1** | **Parish Cllr Reports**  MP sent email with issues.  Community buildings network event 25th October. Is anyone attending as I might if appropriate. – no one else wants to go!  Sylvia and her Pothole on private road – nothing we can do about this as it is a private road, MP to contact resident  Convex mirror sighted opposite Cross St to improve visibility. No response from highways – lady in last house has cut back her hedge so no longer a big issue plus as it would have to be cited on a private road very unlikely road owner would agree to it, MP to contact resident  Fernlea Rd houses. No 3 no action, No 9 is being tidied up  Higher Marston Playground, should we do monthly inspections? Everyone said yes that would be a good idea just needs coordinating  Marston Lads website. Everyone agreed that we would take on cost (as long as it isn’t much more that the £50), will include in budget. MP to contact Tony Hayes  How to access council services poster too small to read in MM, suggest it be full page. Noone else said they had an issue with this so they want it kept as is.  Supply of poo bags in the store cupboard courtesy of Columb, dog warden.  Conflicting information re sewage in flashes. Is it pumped or overflowing? if overflow may be permitted. AJ to look into. Clerk will pass this onto resident.  Amanda and I have found wildflower seed packs on line in personalised bags for 99p each. affordable with grant from Freedom Fibre. Not everyone was happy with this and AJ & IS stated it wasn’t discussed fully at last meeting just mentioned in ‘any other business’. Clerk suggested that we discuss at next meeting when everyone is present and look at wording of use of grant, if it states for wildflower packets then we have to do it otherwise use of grant can be discussed. Clerk to add to October Agenda  AJ – noticed that speed monitoring on Marston Lane was done in the middle of the afternoon when there is normally very little traffic. AJ would like to have a meeting with highways to discuss; speeding, speed limit reduction on Marston Lane, weight restriction for Ollershaw Lane. To show issues evidence is needed to she asked whether everyone would take photo’s/videos when they see issues. AJ will also speak to the residents who attended the July meeting to discuss their suggestion of a petition. Clerk asked IS whether a notice could be placed in Murmurs asking residents to do the same. Traffic Issues will be added as an agenda item for next issue.  PhC – all electrical appliances have been PAT tested, socket next to last radiator on RHS (towards main door) has burnt out and ceiling light nearest to kitchen door not working. Clerk to contact Miles  AJ – has heard that a disabled resident on Higher Marston has been having problems parking, she will investigate | MP  MP  ALL  MP  CC/AJ  CC  ALL  IS  CC  CC  AJ |
| **2** | **Ward Cllr Reports**  NW – has been receiving lots of complaints about speeding so happy to attend any meetings we have with highways to discuss possible remedies. Clerk advised that biggest issue is that there are no speed cameras to capture all of the speeding. The new interactive traffic sign on Ollershaw Lane picks up lots of drivers speeding upto the bend and another issue is that they then speed upto the traffic lights to get through on green. Clerk asked why speeding cameras cannot be hidden as temporary speed ‘traps’ are not effective and everyone who speeds slows down for the speed cameras. Clerk to email NW about looking into this.  NW also stated that he is concerned that pot holes are still only being patched and any other holes nearby that are not included in the job sheet are ignored. Clerk advised that Ward Cllr PM was having a drive around with head of Highways and was to point this issue out, what has happened since then?  Development at the Greyhounds pub has now had permission granted; flats & 2 bungalows.  Has heard that the new development on New Warrington Road is struggling to sell  Soot Hill on target to finish by end of Dec 23  Ward Cllr Grants still available – apart from still wanting new chairs & the defibrillators no one else had any ideas for grant, clerk to email any application after garnering ideas from cllrs. AJ reminded everyone that Julie Ledger had offered £1000 towards the cost of a defibrillator.  Clerk pointed out that there were temporary traffic lights on junction of Cross Street/The Avenue and Ollershaw Lane causing problems, the PC had not been informed about these. There have been other instances of temporary traffic lights that the PC has not been informed about. Why is this? NW will look into but advises that we also contact Jamie Barron. Clerk to add to email list of issues and email Jamie Barron.  NW asked whether there were any planning applications of concern. Clerk advised that there had been only 1, 23/02410/FUL, conversion of agricultural store to workshop with bathroom and kitchen on Ollershaw Lane. PC had objected on grounds that previous application for a residential building had been refused and that a ‘workshop’ with a bathroom and kitchen suggested other use. NW to look into. Clerk to email with other issues list | CC  CC  CC  CC |
| **3** | **Progress Reports**   1. Neighbourhood Plan   Meeting on 7/9/23 was only attended by CC, IS and AJ. However lots achieved and next meeting scheduled for 5/10. Notice to be placed in MM   1. Defibrillators   Donation of £100 received from Harris Gas, thank you letter sent. Look at getting grant from Ward Cllrs to put towards remaining units. Training still to be arranged with Nikki/Simon Tate. Clerk to ask for 2 dates in third/fourth week of October so that date can be advertised in MM   1. Triangle   Meeting still needs to be rescheduled. Clerk suggests waiting for evidence for other traffic issues before asking for a meeting were everything can be dealt with   1. Marston Footpath 7   Money has now been allocated to cut back vegetation and resurface the pathway at the entrance to the path (Marston side). Contractor concerned that there are not enough funds to do both jobs adequately. AJ has spoken to 20club and they state that as they will need to be able to take a tractor up the pathway a firm surface is needed and they are happy to get involved. AJ to liaise with contractor and 20club   1. MP surgery   Representatives from the PC attended but felt very negatively about the meeting. PC had a number of issues to raise: Highways funding, Speeding, Footpaths, Dangerous Junctions, and Weight Limit on bridge. However Ester McVey kept bringing the conversation back to immigration and the PC representatives felt that she had an agenda and only wanted to discuss certain things, primarily immigration. The surgery was however very well attended by residents, both from Marston and some from Wincham. Whilst the PC representatives didn’t feel that they achieved anything from this meeting they would welcome a revisit in the future. Clerk advised that no feedback had been received from Ester McVey’s office.   1. Higher Marston Play Area   Still having issues but hopefully with monthly checks we can keep on top of any issues   1. Exercise Sessions   Session not that well attended last visit but that may be because people on holiday. Kitty now has £43 in so we can weather any shortfalls for now. Will revisit   1. Marston Murmurs   Full colour issue still being well received with comments from residents, no longer needed in progress reports   1. Hall Marketing and Management   AJ feels that we need to discuss handling of money and use of hall further. She has discovered that rental payments are just posted through Angie’s door, she wants to know how we know that people are paying for their usage because no one knows when keys are picked up or returned. What happens if renters say money posted and Angie says it wasn’t? Clerk advised that there have been a couple of times when money has been short, she contacted Angie and on one occasion it was the renters who hadn’t given enough (they then sent the amount owing) and the other occasion was Angie’s fault and Angie rectified. AJ also noted that there was supposed to be a rental on Monday evening but when she passed no one was at the hall. How does Angie know whether anyone turns up? She also feels that expecting renters to download booking form/T&C’s from website then fill in and return to clerk/Angie is too complicated. Clerk advised that forms can be left at the hall if needed. AJ suggests that everyone pay up front straight into the bank account. Clerk suggested having a proper conversation next meeting when all cllrs present.  Clerk also advised that PhC had alerted her to the fact that the PC meeting had been double booked with the Penguin Group. Having contacted Angie it was rectified but PhC stated that not all PC meetings are put in google calendar. PhC to add all scheduled PC meetings to google calendar | IS  CC  AJ  CC  PhC |
| **4** | **FINANCE**   1. **External Audit Report** – no issues except PAYE – clerk has now registered for PAYE, it will mean doing a payroll each month and submitting to HMRC 2. **Bank Reconciliation Sign off** – MPe checked and signed off 3. **Invoices received & cheques created:** 4. Clerks Purchases & Reimbursements including Norton renewal, pens & paper Travel/ etc… £200.93 total chq no. 1392   Clerks Salary 31.67 hrs @ £15.41ph - £487.97 Chq no. 1395   1. Itseeze website/email July 2023 £57, August 2023 £57 2. Williams Design & Print – September Newsletter (D010445) – £ 214.40 chq no.1393 3. Waterplus £6.47 taken on 6/8/23 £6.68 taken on 6/9/23 4. Donation £100 rec’d from Harris Gas towards Defib 5. PKF Littlejohn – external audit £252 chq.no.1391 6. Scottish Power £88.40 to be taken 17/9/23 7. Cleaner 16/7 – 10/9 9wks total £90   Booking 16/7 – 10/9 9wks total £90  £ 180 to Angie chq no 1394   1. Rent:   Penguin Group 14/8 £20 16/8 £20 17/8 £30 18/8 £25 20/8 £20 23/8 £20 4/9 £20 total £155  Mind, Body & Spirit 11/7 £20 25/7 £20 8/8 £20 22/8 £20 5/9 £20 total £100  Scarlet Revolution 16/7 £20 23/7 £20 30/7 £20 4/8 £20 27/8 £20 total £100  Shelley Dance classes 21/8 £17.50 24/8 £17.50 25/8 £5 booking fee £2.50 total £42.50  £397.50 in total  £20 also received from Ester McVey for MP surgery 25/7  £417.50 being banked  Coffee Morning donations £176.83, refreshments £39.12 |  |
| **5** | **Correspondence**   1. Letter from Tesco re lorries using Ollershaw Lane 2. Letter from Aldi re lorries using Ollershaw Lane 3. Letter from MS Society – car park rent donation 4. Email from Scottish Power re end of fixed price tariff – clerk advised that standing charge currently .3353p per day, fixed rates £1.4181 per day, a significant increase. Clerk advised not to fix but wait to see whether planned reduction in October to cap has any effect, all in agreement 5. Email from CW&C re recharge fee May Election – all agreed to pay in 2 instalments, invoice not yet received 6. Email from Lynn Gibbon re Tree planting 7. Planning Application 23/02410/FUL – Land at Ollershaw Lane, Replacement of Agricultural building – objection sent as per emails as comment date 2/9 8. Email from CW&C highways re temp closure Fernlea Road 9. Email from CW&C highways re temp closure Cross Street 10. Email from Mark Clay re PAT testing 11. Email from PCSO Wiggins – July Report 12. Email from Antrobus PC re PCSO attendance at meetings 13. Email from CW&C highways re temp closure Earles Lane 14. Email from Chalc re Cheshire west crowd funding 15. Email from Cheshire Community Action re Martyns Law 16. Email from Cheshire Community Action re Terrorism Draft Bill 17. Email from Cheshire Community Action re Network News 18. Email from Cheshire Community Action re Grants Launch 19. Email from CW&C highways re temp closure Dark Lane 20. Email from 20Club re sewerage problem in flashes 21. Email(s) re Pickmere lake 22. Email from CW&C re invite to Pickmere lake meeting 23. Email from Tony Hayes re Marston Lads website 24. Email from Lynn Gibbon re Pickmere lake   21/22/24 AJ attended the meeting which was primarily about safety concerns. CW&C, Cheshire East, Fire Service and Police in attendance and all were positive about making the area safer. AJ asked about speed boats and swimmers safety also stating that jetties were in a state of disrepair and there was rubbish everywhere (she also advised that land owners can be fined if they do not ensure rubbish is cleared away). She also stated that one of the main issues is with the field on Earles Lane as the farmer will not fence it in. Attendees also stated that police attendance was inadequate and that on the previous weekend fire service and ambulance had to attend the lake. AJ also stated that Pickmere residents are considering using parking permits but that this may just push the problems elsewhere |  |
| **6** | **Any other business**  No further business |  |

Confirmed date of next meeting, 11/10/2023

Meeting closed at 20:47

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)