

Minutes of Marston Parish Council meeting held on 8th June 2022

The meeting opened at 19:12

**Present**:

Parish Cllrs; Chair M Potts (MP), Amanda Nixon (AN), Phil Carter (PhC), Angela Johnson (AJ), Julie Ledger (JL), and Dave Collier (DC)

Clerk: Caroline Constable (CC)

**Apologies**:

Apologies received from Cllr Ian Stanley (IS) and Ward Cllr 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 11/05/2022 were agreed and approved.

**Actions from previous meeting:**

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|  | Action | Assigned to | Actioned |
| 1 | Contact Highways about Marston village signs | CC | √ see correspondence |
| 2 | Complete fingerpost heritage application | CC | √ |
| 3 | Contact Highways about putting something around fingerpost | CC | √ see correspondence |
| 4 | Complete new NP application | CC | √ |
| 5 | Apply for NP grant | CC | Awaiting on confirmation of above |
| 6 | Purchase ribbons for jubilee | CC | √ |
| 7 | Transfer NS&I funds & close account | CC | √ letter sent |
| 8 | Create risk register | CC | In process |
| 9 | Start keeping Angie’s vouchers & renter’s receipts | CC | √ |
| 10 | Start keeping a diary | CC | √ |
| 11 | Email Angie with changes hall management & set up meeting | CC | √ |
| 12 | Look into getting a defib for hall | CC | To do |
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|  | Agenda Point | Assigned to.. |
| **1** | **Parish Cllr Reports**  Cllr AN – reported rotten post on Marston sign on entering village from Warrington New Road. See response in correspondence from Steven Bentley  Cllr MP – received questions from residents about the green on Vale Road as it appears a wild meadow has been created. No one is aware of anything being done or requested. Current council strategy to add wild meadows throughout the borough but Marston was not included. There was a cost of £200 to have one created but as we did not request anything we can only assume it was done in error.  Cllr MP – Complaints from residents about rat problem on Vale Road (seen in gardens). Ward Cllr LG to get vermin control to check it out.  Cllr MP – need to prepare for Front Garden competition. Cllr AN to retrieve cup from last year’s winner. Cllr’s & clerk will inspect gardens week prior to 25/7 with final judging taking place on 25/7. Article to be placed in MM.  Cllr MP – issued thanks and congratulations on a successful jubilee afternoon tea.  Cllr AJ – suggested thank you’s sent out to Yvonne Collier, Miriam Manners and John Potts for their help. Clerk to make 3 cards. Cllr AJ to purchase some flowers (no more than £5 per bunch for the ladies). Piece for MM.  Cllr PhC – commented on the number of new telecom poles that he has seen being erected in and around Marston Lane (7 in total). | LG  AN  ALL  CC  CC  AJ |
| **2** | **Ward Cllr Reports**  Ward Cllr LG –  Complaint received from a resident about the state of Higher Marston Play Area (see correspondence). She went to take a look and was appalled. Overgrown and unsafe with broken equipment. She was also appalled at the state of many of the properties around the field, many with rubbish and open gardens. She has spoken with Streetscene who are to get onto sorting out the play area and Highways enforcement for what can be done about the state of resident’s properties and access onto the field.  HS2 update – (see correspondence for emails) Ward Cllr LG feels that CW&C have left it far too late to respond to concerns about the project. They have been producing a mitigation statement on what the impact will be on local residents whilst it is being built but also afterwards, but have yet to publish it. Deadline for comments to government is sometime in early July and CW&C have only just now arranged consultation for local councils and the public. She is concerned that residents are not fully aware of what a devastating impact it will cause in the local area. Clerk asked whether the pc should be doing more to get local residents involved, it was agreed to publish the dates for the consultations onto facebook and the website.  Village Hall Improvement Grants – (see correspondence for email) asked whether we were applying for a grant as per her email. It was agreed that Cllr AJ would look into applying for funding to repoint the church hall and perhaps complete the tarmacking of the car park.  Recycling Centre Fund – Ward Cllr LG also asked whether we were aware of the grants that could be obtained for community projects from the ‘tip fund’. The PC were not and would keep it in mind for any future need.  Clerk asked what the progress was on the Flood Resilience Plan – Ward Cllr LG advised that little had been done and that after inputting to the project and chasing the necessary people about the report she was told that it was an internal document and could not be seen. She has asked why and is still awaiting a response.  She also confirmed appointment of a new Director; Rose McArthur and new head of Highways; Jane Black.  MP boundary change – confirmed changing of Marbury ward boundary from Tatton into Northwich to ensure that MP’s have an even number of resident’s ‘under’ them (approx.. 70000). Conservatives in favour of the move.  New Homeless Strategy – Empty Homes – funding available to help owners of rundown, un-modernised homes to get funding to help with modernisation and repairs to get unused homes back into circulation. Borough currently has 4300 empty homes and with 6500 people on the home waiting list it is imperative that the situation is improved. 965 homes have benefitted from the fund in the last 5 years however number of empty homes remains static. | CC  AJ |
| **3** | **Progress Reports**   1. Cenotaph Repair   Rev. Alec forwarded on a new quote for the work (see correspondence). £1400 plus VAT. Work to repair base and corner stones. Quote accepted. Clerk to contact Rev. Alec/contractor for go ahead.   1. Heritage Signpost   Application now sent to Historic England to try and get the post protected.   1. Defibrillators   Still to do   1. Hall Hire Cost Review   Clerk analysed use of hall and costs. Cost of LPG, electricity, water, insurance and boiler service plus cleaning and booking service equated to £3274 during 2021/2022. With hall use at approx.. 313 hours (rentals, coffee mornings, pc use) this equates to £10.46 per hour, so current rental at £8.50 an hour does not cover these costs.  Cllr AJ raised concerns about the booking process of hall rental, she believes that the pc should manage the bookings and hold the keys. She offered to take on the role. Clerk explained that it would mean a cllr would need to be on hand all of the time as sometimes we have multiple hires in one day and someone would have to be available to open and close the hall and collect the rent. No-one could commit to this. Cllr’s are to go away and consider consequences of changing the current process and present ideas next month when any change to rental cost will be agreed. | CC  ALL |
| **4** | **Finance**  ***Invoices received & cheques created*:**   1. Clerks Purchases & Reimbursements - £49.61   Including ribbon £37.62, screenwipes £11.99 chq no. 1355  Travel/ etc… £43.59 chq no.1356  Clerks Salary 25.5 hrs @ £15.41ph - £392.95 Chq no. 1357   1. Firequeen - extinguishers service - £80.24 chq no.1351 2. Itseeze website/email May 2022 - £57 3. Williams Design & Print – newsletters - £201 chq no. 1352 4. Statement from Firequeen – for item (2) 5. Cleaner – 15/5 – 5/6 4 weeks £40 6. Booking Agent - 15/5 – 5/6 4 weeks £40   £ 80 to Angie chq no 1358   1. Rent:   Mike Grogan 10/5 £34  Penguin Group 9/5 £20 16/5 £20 23/5 £20 (£60)  Total £94  9. Remittance from CW&C £100 jubilee event grant  10. Coffee morning donations £25.56  11. Jubilee Celebrations: Raffle proceeds £120.68, donations £120.69, costs (including bunting, tablewear, refreshments £284.53 |  |
| **5** | **Correspondence**   1. Planning Application – 22/01778/CAT – 20 Cross Street, CW9 6ET – removal of willow tree in back garden – no objections 2. Email from mid Cheshire against hs2 – email about new Hybrid Bill presented to parliament 3. Email from Chalc – consultation of potential enforcement of moving traffic restrictions 4. Email from Lynn Gibbon – reminder of deadline for submitting comments for moving traffic consultation – no comments made as happy with current restrictions being kept on Budworth Lane and Chapel Street. Ward Cllr LG asked why pc had not put in request for restrictions within village, clerk advised that she understood the consultation was just for looking at current restrictions not for putting forward new ones. Advised that if it were possible to put forward new applications pc would request ban on HGV’s through village. Ward Cllr LG to investigate 5. Email from Lynn Gibbon – update on latest HS2 consultation 6. Email from CW&C – teams meeting for town and parish councils to comment on HS2 latest developments – clerk to put on facebook 7. Email from CW&C – special Jubilee film 8. Email from Rev. Alec – quote for cenotaph work – clerk to accept 9. Email from Lynn Gibbon – village hall improvement grants – AJ to apply 10. Email from CW&C – public engagement events for HS2 11. Email from residents– complaint about state of Higher Marston play area – see Ward Cllr Reports 12. Email from Steven Bentley – re broken post on Marston Sign on entry to village from Warrington New Road & putting protection around the fingerpost – post on list for repair. We need to send full details of what we propose before application can be considered.   Proposal: 4 pieces of log edging (1m x 21cm) to form a square around the post with gravel infill on top of weed suppressant membrane. Posts will be approx.. 6ft from pavement edge.   1. Email from resident about litter at the Mere. Resident advised that pc have tried many times to get a bin put in the layby but CW&C refuse, also advised that Cllr’s MP & Phc regularly pick up litter as do many other residents. PC have attempted to get a working party up and running to regularly patrol the area but no one volunteered. | LG  CC  CC  AJ |
| **6** | **Any other business** |  |

Confirmed date of next meeting, 13/07/2022

Meeting closed at 21:05

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)