

Minutes of Marston Parish Council meeting held on 12th January 2022

The meeting opened at 18:45

**Present**:

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

Clerk: Caroline Constable (CC)

Ward Cllr : Lynn Gibbon (LG)

**Apologies**:

Apologies received from Ward Cllr Norman Wright (NW)

**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 10/11/2021 were agreed and approved.

**Actions from previous meeting:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No actions | | | |
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|  | Agenda Point | Assigned to.. |
| **1** | **Parish Cllr Reports**  Cllr MP – Email from resident of Higher Marston regarding issues with dogs being let loose on Higher Marston Play area early in the morning, barking and leaving their mess and state of hedgerow at bottom of the estate (Marston Lane). Cllr’s discussed the problem with dog mess on the estate as it has gradually become worse and it seems many dog owners are just not cleaning up after their dogs. The issue with dogs being let loose has raised a number of safety concerns and so a letter will be sent to all residents who reside around the play area requesting that they do not let their dogs out unattended and that they clean up any mess. CW&C will be contacted regarding the hedgerow.  Cllr PhC – lights not working in the carpark. Clerk will contact Miles to ask him to come and check them out.  Cllr PhC – asked about green bin charge and what we were doing. Ward Cllr LG confirmed that we would have to sign up to the service. Clerk to sort out. | CC  CC  CC  CC |
| **2** | **Ward Cllr Reports**  Ward Cllr LG – talked about the state of the roads in the ward particularly the current problems at Soot Hill. Bridge at edge of industrial estate had collapsed effectively cutting off traffic from Anderton and Comberbach from getting easily into Northwich. It will be a while before it is repaired as there are many services, including electricity and broadband running underneath.  Winnington Bridge – a decision has still not been made. The Government Levelling Up fund is due out in May but nothing can be applied for until an option has been chosen. Ester McVey(MP) is pushing for funding. Decision will be made by the Environment & Highways divisions.  Resilience Plan against future flooding has still not been formalised. Cllr LG has been told a document has been drawn up but that it is for internal council use only. She is meeting with the Chief Exec to get access to the plan.  Also there will be a meeting in February with the Environment Agency to discuss dredging of the river Weaver to help with water easement.  CW&C budget will be announced 17/2. Conservatives looking at drawing up an alternative budget. All COVID measures have been funded by central government and in fact there has been a surplus of funds. Local businesses can still apply for funding upto £6000.  Also issues with homelessness in the borough. It has been found that there are over 1500 private homes currently standing empty. Looking at bringing these into the market by alerting public to availability of grants to help with modernisation.  Future of the boardwalk at Pickmere is still under discussion, awaiting an ecology report.  Chester City 1 plan currently being refreshed as consultation just completed. Looking at developing Chester into a go to city destination for tourism and feeding tourism from there into rest of borough.  Marbury Hollows – looking at getting funding for a pedestrian bridge alongside the road bridge as there is currently no footpath making it dangerous for pedestrians to access Marbury from Anderton side.  Cllr DC asked whether Ward Cllr LG should be informed about the Tour&Store planning application. Clerk advised of situation and Ward Cllr agreed that she would also object on our behalf. Clerk to email details. | CC |
| **3** | **Progress Reports**   1. Interactive Traffic Speed Sign   Highways informed us of an increase in the price from £6800 to £8508.69. Ward Cllrs have generously agreed to cover 50% of the new cost. Our original budget for this was £4700 a number of years ago and so this new cost can still be covered.   1. Cenotaph Repair   Contractor is still unobtainable. Cllr MP to contact Rev. Alec as masons are currently doing work at the church. Hopefully they will be able to help.   1. Heritage Signpost   Cllr IS has contacted the contractor but as yet had no response. Fingerpost due to be reinstalled in February. Cllr IS will chase if no response by end of month.   1. Neighbourhood Plan   CW&C advised that both Marston and Wincham will need to redesignate their neighbourhood plan areas and Wincham will need to formally pull out. Wincham due to discuss at their meeting in January. Nothing can be done until then.   1. Insurance Claim – leak   Zurich contacted via email but no response. Clerk to chase. | MP  IS  CC |
| **4** | **Finance**   1. Accounts – 3 month accounts from October 21 to December 21 were checked and signed off 2. Budget 2022-2023 - Looked at forecasts for next financial year. Even with around £20000 in the bank accounts if spending goes as forecast/agreed then we may be in arrears by the end of the financial year 2022-2023. Plans to replace chairs has now been dropped and it has been decided to prioritise the fitting of firedoors to the kitchen and the repair of the false ceiling. It is expected that there will still be sufficient funds to add at least 1 defibrillator. 3. Precept – based upon the budget it was agreed that the precept needed to be increased. Inflation rise would have added £434 to the previous precept of £12000 meaning that to provide no increase in council tax for parish council contribution a precept of £12434 could be requested. To enable the necessary work to the hall it was agreed to increase precept to £13000. This will mean an increase of 4.6% taking a band D council tax parish council payment from £55.81 to £58.35   ***Invoices received & cheques created*:**   1. Clerks Purchases and Expenses - £101.19   Including purchase of pens @ £25.16  Clerks Salary 35.83 hrs @ £15.41ph - £552.19  Total payable £653.38 Chq no. 1316   1. Itseeze website/email November 2021 & December 2021 @ £57 = £114 2. Williams Design & Print – xmas 21 newsletter £150.50 chq no. 1315 (paid in Dec) 3. Scottish Power - £23.47 taken 24/12/21 4. Extra gas – lpg gas refil £519.79 chq no. 1317 5. Cleaner – 5 weeks 14/11-12/12 £50 6. Booking Agent – 5 weeks 14/11-12/12 £50   £100 to angie chq no. 1318   1. Rent:   Mark Spruce – The Penguin Group band practice –  24/11 £25 1/12 £20 4/12 £20 6/12 £20 = £85  Also a £5 booking fee received for a booking in January   1. Donations from Coffee mornings & residents £160.41   Particular thanks go to:  Margaret & Dave from Ashwood Park for £30  Pam from Ashwood Park for £20  John Potts from Higher Marston for £20  Many Thanks to everyone who donates to the parish council, all of your donations go directly back into the community and the running of the Church Hall. |  |
| **5** | 1. Planning Application 21/04717/FUL – Tour&Store, Ollershaw Lane – retention on a permanent basis of caravan storage based upon temporary application 18/04713/FUL – it was agreed that an objection be sent based upon original objection to 18/04713/FUL. Clerk to send. 2. Email from Lynn Gibbon regarding bus service – Ward Cllr LG had already left the meeting when this was discussed. Clerk to email asking for an update. 3. Email from Andy Hamman (Highways) regarding price increase on interactive traffic sign 4. Email from CW&C regarding redesignation of Neighbourhood Plan 5. Planning Application 21/04765/LBC – Lane Ends Farm, Marston – demolition of non-listed and derelict structures and conversion of barn into 5 dwellings and conversion of farmhouse into 2 dwellings 6. Planning Application 21/04764/FUL – Lane Ends Farm, Marston – demolition of non-listed and derelict structures and conversion of barn into 5 dwellings and conversion of farmhouse into 2 dwellings   The redevelopment of the farm was discussed at length, clerk advised that what seemed an astounding 32 parking spaces had been allocated for 7 properties. Looking at the national statistics for addition of parking spaces the figure is 2.6 in rural areas for a 3 bed property so this number was not out of sync with national standards. Issues over the number of vehicles exiting the development was a cause for concern especially as the junction of Marston Lane, Dark Lane and Ollershaw Lane is already dangerous with regular incidents taking place there. Cllr IS also commented that he regularly sees larger vehicles especially buses turning left from Ollershaw Lane onto Marston Lane going over onto the wrong side of the road which is directly in front of the vehicle access to the site. This may also cause problems in the future.  It was agreed that clerk would send comments on the issue of the safety of the junction also requesting that the boundary on the corner of Dark Lane and Marston Lane be improved as visibility is poor at that junction. | CC  CC  CC |
| **6** | **Any other business**  Cllr DC asked about the upkeep of the churchyard. The community Service group have still not returned and cllr’s are concerned that elderly volunteers who regularly help keep the yard tidy may not be able to keep helping. Clerk reminded cllr’s that the upkeep is down to the church and so Cllr MP will contact Rev. Alec asking whether the community service group are likely to start up again any time soon. If not, funds may have to be found to pay for a regular gardener.  Cllr MP – also advised that a relative of a soldier buried in the church yard is interested in coming to a coffee morning and talking about the war graves. All thought this was a good idea and a date will be agreed and publicised in MM. | MP |

Confirmed date of next meeting, 09/02/22

Meeting closed at 20:20

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)