

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

The meeting opened at 18:55

**Present**:

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

Ward Cllrs ; Norman Wright (NW)

Clerk: Caroline Constable (CC)

**Apologies**:

Apologies received from Ward Cllrs Phil Marshall (PM) and Lynn Gibbon (LG)

**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 09/11/2022 were agreed and approved.

**Actions from previous meeting:**

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|  | Action | Assigned to | Actioned |
| 1 | Article for MM about Christmas Hotpot & Carols | IS | √ |
| 2 | Article for MM re donations to remembrance service | IS | √ |
| 3 | Report Chevron Sign Higher Marston | CC | √reported to highways who said it wasn’t a problem, responded with the fact that residents obviously think it is, but no further response |
| 4 | Report hedges Higher Marston | CC | √ ss465786793 – not yet cut – check status |
| 5 | Report Marston Sign (past Chapel ST) | CC | √ fixed today |
| 6 | Report gate/hard standing Dark Lane | CC | √ emailed Sam Greene – already aware, assigned to Carole Twigg |
| 7 | Planning Application 22/03654/FUL – report comments | CC | √ |
| 8 | Planning Application 22/03704/FUL – report objection | CC | √ |
| 9 | Respond to Julia Griffiths re Neighbourhood Watch signs | CC | √ |
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|  | | Agenda Point | | Assigned to.. | |
| **1** | | **Parish Cllr Reports**  AJ – Resident has informed her that soil has been dumped on the bridleway between Ollershaw Lane (20/20 club) and Wincham. Cllr AJ is still in correspondence with the bridleways officer and will chase them about reinstated the bridleway as it has not yet been done.  AJ – Harry Potter experience road sign left on triangle and is now on the pavement. She will report to highways.  AJ – flooding on Dark Lane, will report it  MP – hedges on Higher Marston still not cut back. Clerk to report (again) | | AJ  AJ  AJ  CC | |
| **2** | | **Ward Cllr Reports**  NW – No new updates on Soot Hill and it appears that CW&C not pushing the contractors. He is aware of a petition going around that will be sent to CW&C. Clerk advised that PC has received it, it is a letter formulated by Comberbach PC asking for other PC’s to support and add their name, it is in Correspondence to discuss.  New bridge at Winnington, whilst still in the pipeline to be done may take considerably longer than anticipated.  Clerk asked about progress on the Play Area – Ward Cllr’s funding it – he will chase with Lynn Gibbon (who is currently out of action following a dog biting incident). | | NW | |
| **3** | | **Progress Reports**   1. Neighbourhood Plan   All still getting to grips with local plan. Meetings will be decided at the end of the financial year.   1. Defibrillators   Unit not yet installed as clerk was ill with COVID directly after the November PC meeting. Clerk to chase Miles for a date to install. Discussion of where to place it as last PC meeting agreed to put inside following recent thefts. Cllr JL disagreed with this decision as she felt lives would be lost if it wasn’t quickly available. It was agreed to place on side of hall along from ramp to emergency fire door exit.   1. Higher Marston Play Area   NW to chase   1. Bus Stop Higher Marston   Still under review, no further complaints. Bus stop has been cleaned up and hedgerow cut back. | |  | |
| **4** | | **Finance**   1. Bank Reconciliation Signoff   Checked by DC and signed off   1. Budget Planning   Clerk had produced a forecast of where the bank account will be at the end of the financial year. Based upon current costs, what is due to be withdrawn from the accounts and expected revenue, forecast shows that there will be approx.. £1000 left in the current account on 31/3/23, with £3000 in the reserve account. Clerk then presented the 2023-2024 budget based on current spending/revenue and approximated increases for the 2023-2024 financial year which shows that with no planned spending on anything other than essentials and with a precept of £13000 (2022-2023) the bank account may get as low as £472.  Discussion followed on current cost of living crisis, potential impact of significant increases in costs and what increasing the precept would mean to the residents.   1. Precept 2023-2024   Following on from the above discussions, clerk had produced a document showing how precept increases of 5% and 10.67% (November inflation rate) might have on resident’s council tax as well as that of leaving the precept at the 2022-2023 level. A 5% increase would increase a category D home by £2.86 per month (overall precept by £650) and a 10.67% increase by £6.17 (overall precept by £1387.10). All agreed that leaving the precept at £13000 would not cover any increases on costs or shortfalls in revenue. Clerk advised that she felt an increase of £1000 to the precept would potentially cover any increases in costs but would still not allow for any spending over the 2023-2024 period unless costs were found by fundraising. An increase of £1000 equates to 7.6%. All agreed to this increase.  Clerk to send agreed precept form to CW&C  ***Invoices received & cheques created*:**   1. Clerks Purchases & Reimbursements – stamps/envelopes £14.37   Travel/ etc… £ 94.01 total £108.38 chq no.1388  Garden waste subscription £40 chq no. 1389  Clerks Salary 29.83 hrs @ £15.41ph - £ 459.70 Chq no. 1390   1. Scottish Power £110.25 taken on 30/12/22 2. Itseeze website/email November/December 2022 - £114 3. Williams Design & Print – newsletters - £164.15 chq no. 1387 4. Williams Design & Print – newsletters – chq from November 1381 lost in post so cancelled and reissued - £164.15 – chq no. 1386 5. Extragas – lpg - £388.50 chq no. 1385 6. Cleaner – 8/11/22 – 10/12/22 & 18/12/22 – 8/1/23 4 weeks 10 wks total £100 7. Booking - 8/11/22 – 10/12/22 6 weeks & 18/12/22 – 8/1/23 4 weeks 10 wks total £100   £ 200 cash to Angie (letter signed by MP & AN giving permission for clerk to withdraw cash)   1. Rent:   Penguin Group 18/11 £20 28/11 £25 29/12 £20 2/1/23 £20 9/1/23 £20  £ 105 (£45 banked 9/1/23) in total  Coffee Morning donations £86.07  Xmas party refreshments cost £90.26. Cash to be given to AN | | CC | |
| **5** | | **Correspondence**   1. Email from Hynet – hydrogen pipeline – update 2. Email from Chalc – boundary commission update 3. Email(s) to and from CW&C Sam Greene – enforcement – regarding possible enforcement issue Dark Lane – now in the hands of Carole Twigg who will update the PC, letter sent to owner 4. Email from CW&C Highways – regarding report of sign obstruction (Higher Marston) & boundary sign Warrington New Road/Ollershaw Lane – Village sign replaced/repaired this afternoon (11/1/23) 5. Email from CW&C Highways – Earles Lane Prohibition of Waiting 6. Email from CW&V planning – appeal decision – 21/03994/FUL – Land at Ollershaw Lane (next to old Vicarage) 7. Email from CW&C Museums – defib at Lion Salt Works – Lion Salt Works cannot help with any funding but if we decide to go ahead will help with fundraising 8. Email from CW&C Democratic Services – May 2023 election recharge – costs of election discussed 9. Email from PCSO Wiggins – November Report 10. Email from CW&C Democratic Services – booking of Church Hall for May election – all booked in at current rate of £10 per hour. Cllr AJ asked why we didn’t charge more, clerk advised that form already sent and if rates for CW&C are to be increased it will need to be discussed at a future time 11. Email from Comberbach Clerk – Impact of closure of Soot Hill – call to band together to present letter to CW&C – all in agreement to add PC’s name to letter. Clerk to advise Comberbach. 12. Email from Lynn Gibbon – Village Hall funds – funding only covers 20% of any project, cllr’s discussed how remaining 80% of any future project could be found, some disagreement on whether under current economical climate trying to raise funds was appropriate. Clerk asked that all cllr’s come to the next PC meeting with details of any project that they think needs doing and they will then be discussed. 13. Email from Police Crime Commissioner – budget survey 14. Email from parish-uk-network – update database details – details that they have point to a gmail account, which we do not have, ignore 15. Email from Middlewich Folk Dance Group – request put up flyer – flyer already distributed in hall, also to be included in MM | | CC  ALL  IS | |
| **6** | | **Any other business**  No further business | |  | |

Confirmed date of next meeting, 08/02/2023

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)