

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

The meeting opened at 18:45

**Present**:

Parish Cllrs; Marion 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) and Norman Wright (NW)

**Declarations of interest:**

Clerk advised that a planning application in correspondence related to her property.

**Dispensations:**

There were no dispensations

**Public Forum:**

Heather Peat of 18 Cross Street was present. She raised concerns over flooding in the village and wanted to know what the PC can do about it. She believes that there is insufficient drainage and that we could plant trees to absorb water. IS asked whether there was anywhere specific – Ms Peat stated that Cross Street was particularly bad and that during the summer the flood waters were almost up to her front door & she had to use sandbags as she feared a breach into her home. She believes that this was directly related to the raising of the land in Ashwood Park, stating that surface water was now running off The Laurels in Ashwood Park and into Cross Street. She is also concerned about flooding in the rest of the village and would like to know what the PC can do about it, she feels that original Victorian drainage system can not handle the amount of water anymore.

Clerk advised that she would raise it with ward cllrs.

Ms Peat was advised that she could stay for the rest of the meeting but would not be able to comment further.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the parish council meeting of 13/09/2023 were agreed and approved.

**Actions from previous meeting:**

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|  | Action | Assigned to | Actioned |
| 1 | ACV Renewal - chase | MP/AN | Clerk resubmitted the application (ref CV550742990) & had to purchase title and location plans as they hadn’t been supplied in previous application. Awaiting decision |
| 2 | Contact resident about pothole on The Avenue | MP | Had already informed resident that as it is a private road nothing can be done |
| 3 | Investigate sewerage issue in flash | AJ | See agenda item 3j |
| 4 | Add agenda item – Freedom Fibre grant | CC | √ |
| 5 | Monitor traffic issues when out and about collecting evidence | ALL | On going. AJ has 2 videos of near misses |
| 6 | Notice for MM about monitoring traffic issues | IS | Not done – add to Nov issue |
| 7 | Contact Miles re issues with electrics | CC | √ work done |
| 8 | Contact Tony Hayes – funding Marston Lads website | MP | Awaiting response – will chase |
| 9 | Coordinate checking of Higher Marston play area | ALL | On going |
| 10 | Contact resident who asked about convex mirror for Cross Street | MP | Not done – AN will speak to resident |
| 11 | Investigate disabled residents parking issues on Higher Marston | AJ | Awaiting a response from weaver vale & highways |
| 12 | Email NW with all issues – hiding speeding cameras, planning application 23/02410/FUL, temp traffic lights, grant application | CC | √ |
|  | Ideas for Ward Cllr Grant application | CC/ALL | Emails received, decision to be made, see agenda item 7 |
|  | Email Nikki/Simon Tate dates for defib training | CC | √ date set as 25/11 |
|  | Liaise with contractor/20club for work on Footpath 7 | AJ | √ |
|  | Remove MM agenda item from agenda | CC | To be done |
|  | Update google calendar with all PC meeting dates | PhC | √ |

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|  | Agenda Point | Assigned to.. |
| **1** | **Parish Cllr Reports**  MPe – informed the PC that she would be resigning as of the end of the meeting, citing personal reasons & the fact that she was still struggling with the use of technology. Clerk asked whether any help could be provided to assist her, she said not. MP accepted her resignation.  IS – stated that he too intended to resign as of the end of the year due to an increased workload, he will be present at the November meeting and edit the November MM but could not help beyond then.  AN – in response to an email from LG about the ASDA foundation she had been in touch with ASDA (Harry Buckley) about getting a grant for exercise equipment to help in the exercise classes under ‘improving lives & empowering local community’. She had also contacted Helen McNabb of Manchester Airport about funding and has applied for £1600 to pay for 10 Bariatric Chairs (date of decision 8/1/24). She will keep us informed of both applications. |  |
| **2** | **Ward Cllr Reports**  NW telephoned clerk before the meeting sending apologies and advised that there were no updates from his end. He asked that we email with any issues that come out of the PC meeting. Clerk mentioned funding and particularly funding for defibrillators, he suggested that we apply to the Salt Compensation Board for help with purchasing one, advised apply asap as next meeting scheduled for sometime in November. Clerk will contact them | CC |
| **3** | **Progress Reports**   1. Neighbourhood Plan   Meeting of 5/10 had to be rescheduled and is now to be held on 13/10   1. Defibrillators   25/11 pencilled in for training. Numbers and a time will be confirmed closer to the date   1. Triangle/Traffic Issues   Meeting with Highways still needs to be rescheduled. Evidence being collected. AJ has taken 2 videos of near misses in the recent weeks. She has also been in contact with the residents who attended the July meeting about a speed reduction on Marston Lane. They have produced a petition that they would like the PC to take on. AJ suggests contacting Great Budworth, Wincham, Antrobus & Comberbach PC’s to ask whether they will get behind a reduction in the speed limit along Marston Lane from the Greyhound Pub to the Antrobus Arms. She will email the PC’s and update us. MP stated that Great Budworth are already talking about what can be done as they too have concerns, so hopefully they will get behind it, their plans can be found in the Northwich Transport Plan 2018. A decision regarding the petition will be decided once we know the other PC’s thoughts.   1. Marston Footpath 7   AJ has now been in contact with the new Footpaths Officer who seems very helpful. Contractor needs to return and cut back the brambles   1. Higher Marston Play Area   No issues to report. Regular checks to be conducted.   1. Exercise Sessions   10 attendees on last visit. Rate has now been put up to £5 and everyone seems happy to pay this, with 10 attendees instructors rate covered (£40) with £10 going into the kitty   1. Marston Murmurs   With IS informing of his forthcoming resignation a new editor will be needed. Clerk stated that she is happy to take the role back on but will be charging for her time, she advised that one of the reasons IS took the role on was due to some cllrs being concerned about the cost implications of her time. AN suggested that the edition may have to go back to black and white to cover these extra costs. Clerk advised that she will include potential costs in the forthcoming budget   1. Hall Marketing and Management   Last month’s rent amounted to £230 as we now have 3 regular users. AJ stated that she still has concerns over management of the bookings and the payments and thinks we should be asking for payment upfront and through BACS. She stated that we had to refuse a booking because the hall had already been booked out but on the day the hall was not used and we missed out on payment. Nothing was done about the non-attendee. Clerk advised that BACS payments are offered but the user who has been using the hall for many years always pays in cash and the new users have also been paying in cash, yet they have only recently started so have read the T&C’s recently. Clerk advised that they may need to hire someone on the payroll to take on the full responsibility of the hall management, from taking bookings, to opening and locking up so that the process is fully managed alleviating any concerns of non-payment or no shows   1. Pickmere Lake   AJ had attended an open meeting between CW&C, Cheshire East, Police, Ester McVey, Pickmere PC, Aston by Budworth & Wincham PC on 5/10. John Dwyer the police commissioner chaired the meeting. Many residents were also preset but no landowners. All parties are now very concerned about what is going on at the lake even though these issues have been going on for many years. They have decided to have a Focus Group to be made up of a representative from each PC, CW&C, Cheshire East, Highways the Police and the landowners. Ester McVey offered her full support. Attitude from all was that what has been going on has to stop; people defecating in gardens, anti-social behaviour, thefts from Spar shop, rubbish being left & of course parking issues. No date for any further meeting has yet been set.   1. Sewerage Issues on the Flash   AJ has discovered that United Utilities (UU) have a permit to allow for ‘Discharge of storm sewerage via Outlet 1’ & ‘Discharge of sewerage in an emergency via Outlet 1’. AJ has provided a copy of the document with positioning of the outlet. 20Club do not believe that this information is correct. AJ is to ask UU for all records which demonstrate compliance and any complaints that they may have received under a freedom of information request. There is nothing on the permit that states limits on discharges nor who/when it is monitored. 20Club believe that sewerage is being pumped in rather than it occurring because of an emergency. AJ will also look at whether she can get the water tested.  Heather Peat left the meeting at 20:00 | AJ  CC |
| **4** | **FINANCE**   1. Clerks Purchases & Reimbursements Travel/ etc… including title deeds purchases £19.95x2 £93.62 total chq no. 1400   £19.95 title deeds chq no. 1401  Clerks Salary 28.5 hrs @ £15.41ph - £ 439.18 Chq no. 1399   1. Waterplus £16.22 to be taken 12/10/23 2. Itseeze website/email September 2023 £57 3. Williams Design & Print – October Newsletter (D010498) – £214.40 chq no.1398 4. PAT Testing £30 chq no 1396 5. Scottish Power £88.40 taken 17/9/23 6. Cleaner 17/9 – 8/10 4wks total £40   Booking 17/9 – 8/10 4wks total £40  £ 80 to Angie chq no 1402   1. Rent:   Penguin Group 17/9 £10 22/9 £20 26/9 £20 2/10 £10 9/10 £20 total £80  Mind, Body & Spirit 19/9 £20 3/10 £20 total £40  Scarlet Revolution 10/9 £30 24/9 £40 1/10 £20 8/10 £20 total £110  £ 230 in total  Coffee Morning donations £77.34, refreshments £26.22 (£51.12 being banked) |  |
| **5** | **Correspondence**   1. Letter from Scottish Power re tariff update – as of 1/11/23 new rates 217.080 per day & 39.95p per kWh – will await next bill before deciding whether to commit to another fixed rate tariff. Based upon the new standing order daily charge clerk advised that the bill will be much higher than previously which will affect hourly rental rate as costs will not be covered 2. Letter from Warrington buses – clerk had written to Warrington Buses in the summer stating that a CAT9 bus had been seen going down New Warrington Road on a number of occasions & why couldn’t they create a bus stop, they say CAT9 has never been down New Warrington Road & that we must have seen the college bus – everyone needs to keep a look out & get evidence if they see it again. They advised that CW&C are responsible for setting new bus stops/routes. Clerk has already asked ward cllrs for help in this matter, she will ask again 3. Email from Mark Clay – PAT testing 4. Email from Steve Bentley re Temporary Traffic Lights 5. Email from chalc re Group Buying Solar Scheme – clerk already looking into solar panels, this may be something to look in once Scottish Power provide information/costs 6. Email from Lynn Gibbon re defib funding 7. Application confirmation – Defib Grant funding – clerk applied for funding for a unit on Higher Marston – awaiting decision 8. Email from CW&C re Pickmere Lake meeting 9. Email from chalc re Jo Cox Civility Commission – MP filled in questionnaire but felt it was directed more towards higher level councillors 10. Email from Lynn Gibbon re Asda Foundation – AN applied for a grant for exercise equipment 11. Email from chalc re Board Member recruitment 12. Email from Police & Crime Commissioner re Annual Report 22/23 13. Email from Cheshire Community Action re Building Capital Fund – grant for solar energy could be provided under their ‘energy efficiency measures’ 14. Email from CW&C re naming of Cart Lane & extension – cart lane naming has been agreed 15. Email from electrical safety first re Electrical Safety Fund – decided not to pursue 16. Email from CW&C re Pickmere Lake Report (& report) 17. Email from chalc re strategic plan meeting 18. Email from Police & Crime Commissioner latest newsletter 19. Email from Nikki Tate re defib training – 25/11 requested – article for MM needed 20. Email from Cheshire Community Action re gardening projects – no one showed any interest when MP & AN started growing behind the Hall so will not pursue 21. Email from Scottish Power re green energy solutions – have requested a call back to talk about cost of solar panels – clerk talked to rep from Scottish Power who has sent a list of questions, cllrs happy to pursue it to find out costs 22. Email from chalc re planting in Cheshire – no real areas within the village so will not pursue 23. Email from Cheshire Community Action re free energy training – clerk has signed up to a meeting on 25/10 24. Planning Application 23/03112/CAT – 19 Cross Street – cut back trees – this is the clerk’s address – no objections 25. Title Deeds copies – The Salt Barge Inn – Freehold/Leasehold plan plus Location Plan – sent as part of ACV renewal | CC  IS |
| **6** | **Freedom Fibre Donation**  Funding was approved to buy wildflower seeds for each household or any other environmental project. £450 awarded. AN & MP have sourced packs of wildflower seeds that can be personalised, all agreed to personalise with ‘Marston Parish Council’. Clerk not sure whether funds have yet been paid. Once funds received she will purchase £350 packets. Any left over money will then be spent on another project that will benefit the environment. Options discussed included bird boxes for church yard. AN to choose a suitable wildflower selection for area. MP has the link to the supplier and will email clerk | CC  AN  MP |
| **7** | **Ward Councillor Grants**  Clerk advised that last ward cllr grant supplied £169 which purchased 3 of the hall’s chairs (stackable with arm rests). Replacing current chairs still on the agenda. A grant application has been applied to with the Manchester Airport for bariatric chairs, purchase of any other chairs will remain on hold until this has been decided. Clerk stated that a new filing cabinet was needed as current one full. All agreed to put in an application for a new filing cabinet. Clerk to submit | CC |
| **8** | **Any other business**  No further business |  |

Confirmed date of next meeting, 08/11/2023

Meeting closed at 20:50

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)