

Marton Parish Council

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Brief report of the Annual Village Meeting held on Monday 10th March 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village School, School Lane, Marton

Minutes

Present: Mr J Rylands (Chair), Mrs C Clowes (Clerk), Mr D McGowan (DM), (JR), Mrs W Basnett (WB), Mr AG Darbyshire (AD), Mrs L Nixon (LN), Mr B Nolan (BN), Mr D Schwendener (DS), Cllr David Brown, Rev Ian Arch and Mr John Heselwood plus 37 parish residents.

1. John Rylands welcomed everyone to the meeting. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Lucy Nixon for all the hard work she has put into setting up the Parish Council Website and to Mr John Percival and his sons for all the planting and maintenance work that they carry out in the village of Marton. The sad passing of a number of parish residents within the last 12 months was noted. A brief recap was given on the village meeting which took place to discuss the Capesthorne Development Proposals. It was noted that a lot of successful maintenance and refurbishment work of village roads had taken place during the year and the process of Marton receiving fibre optic broadband was ongoing but slow to progress.

2. Cllr David Brown from Cheshire East Council gave a presentation on Planning, the Cheshire East Local Plan and what the next steps for Marton are. Cllr Brown advised that the plan had now been passed by the council and would be released for public viewing on 14th March. Within the plan sites have been allocated to meet the requirement to build 23,000 new homes within Cheshire East in the next 15-20 years. 2,000 of these homes will be built in rural areas but sites have already been identified to cover around 1,100 of these therefore it is now necessary to identify possible sites for the remaining 900-1,100. Therefore there will be a further public consultation during which Cllr Lesley Smetham will be visiting Marton Parish Council to gather local opinions about new housing development and possible sites for this to take place (SLAA). Cllr Brown advised that the wishes of the village would where possible be taken into account in this allocation process and that he is of the opinion that it is preferable to develop on brown field sites and incorporate farm building conversions.

John Rylands advised that although Marton does not have a village plan in place, the views of the majority of the villagers gathered in a recent consultation have been incorporated into a document outlining Marton's views on future development. Anyone present who was not aware of or involved in the consultation process is welcome to ask members of the Parish Council about it. Cllr Brown was thanked for his clear and informative presentation.

3. Rev Ian Arch gave an interesting presentation on the history of St James Church, Marton and other timber framed churches in the world as a backdrop to planned renovation work and opportunities to get involved and raise funds. The first planned fundraising events are to take place in May in a Marquee on Marton Meadows Golf Course. These include:

- * Saturday 17th May, 6.45pm – Pea, Pie and Chip Supper - Tickets £12.50
- * Sunday 25th May, 12 noon – Parish Luncheon – Tickets £15.00
- * Monday 26th May, 12 noon – Family Fun and Games Afternoon including Afternoon Tea.

4. Mr John Heselwood, Rural Policy Manager for Cheshire Community Action (CCA) gave an informative presentation on the challenges that face rural areas today and what CCA can and are doing to help. The talk ended with the presentation of a Little Gem award for the Marton Kitchen Café awarded by the CCA Best Kept Village Competition.

5. The meeting closed with the Chairman thanking the guest speakers, the ladies for providing refreshments and everyone for attending.