

# Marton Parish Council

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Report of the Annual Village Meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015 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 S Webborn (SB), Mrs L Nixon (LN), Mr B Nolan (BN), Mr D Schwendener (DS), Mr T Evans, Mr D Taylor plus 21 parish residents.

### 1. **Welcome:**

John Rylands (Chairman) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Thanks were expressed to the Clerk, Parish Councillors and Ward Councillor Lesley Smetham for all their hard work. The last 12 months had been a year of steady achievement for the Parish Council, the most significant one being the introduction of the 50mph speed limit on the A34. The Parish Council is always open to suggestions from the local community. Thanks were also given to Mr Tony Darbyshire, retired Parish Councillor for his huge contribution to the Marton over the years. Those who had passed away during the year were also remembered. It was noted that this is an important time for the Parish Church as it seeks to raise money for the necessary work.

### 2. **Marton Neighbourhood Plan:**

John Rylands introduced Tom Evans from Cheshire East Council Planning Department to talk about the Neighbourhood Plan. Mr Evans advised that a neighbourhood plan is increasingly important in order for the local community to have a say in how their village develops in the future. This is particularly important in light of Cheshire East's Local Plan and allocation of Strategic Development Sites. The local community can decide what they want in the local plan and part of this is established through the local consultation process in the form of the questionnaires recently distributed to all residents of Marton. Once the plan is put together it is rigorously tested at a number of levels and at the end it is considered to have considerable weight in light of any applications for development. A Neighbourhood Plan can also bring financial benefits to the village because 25% of the levy imposed on developments goes to the local community to be used in whatever way they feel appropriate. Funding is available for the production of the plan from central government and Cheshire East Council. Lucy Nixon (Parish Councillor) gave an update on where Marton's Neighbourhood Plan is up to in the process.

### 3. **Cheshire East Local Plan:**

Tom Evans gave an update on the local plan and advised there is a new team working on addressing the shortfalls identified by the Inspector and it is hoped that the plan will be resubmitted for examination in June/July 2015 if this is acceptable to the Inspector. Tom advised that because one of the issues identified has been the need for more housing this is likely to have more of an impact on villages within Cheshire therefore it is even more important that Neighbourhood Plans are put in place in order to control and direct where any future development takes place. Without a Neighbourhood Plan villages are definitely more vulnerable to unwanted development. However the development focus of Cheshire East has always been towns and larger conurbations as opposed to small rural areas. Lucy Nixon asked the meeting if they would be in favour of working towards having a green gap designated between Marton and Congleton and this was met with a resounding yes.

### 4. **The Flora and Fauna of Marton and surrounding villages:**

David Taylor gave a very interesting talk on the local flora and fauna accompanied by some beautiful pictures.

5. **Internal Auditor:** The Parish Council agreed to continue with JDH Business Services Ltd as the internal auditor for the next 12 months.

6. **Meeting Close:** The meeting closed with the Chairman thanking the guest speakers, the ladies for providing refreshments and everyone for attending.