

Marton Parish Council
Clerk: Andrew Simpson
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Meeting of the Parish Council held at
7.30 Tuesday 15th December 2020 via Zoom.

1. In Attendance:

Councillors: John Rylands (Chair)(JR), Sue Webborn (SW), Lucy Nixon (LN), Dick Schwendener (DS), David McGowan (DM), Barrie Nolan (BN).

Others: Suzy Platt (SP), Cllr Lesley Smetham (Part)(LS), PCSO Julia Short (Part)(JS), David Worth (DW), Andrew Simpson (Clerk)(AS).

2. Welcome to new member; Councillors welcomed the attendance of SP who was proposed by SW and seconded by JR to be co-opted on to the council until the next elections, a vote was taken and unanimously agreed.

- a. SP went on to suggest that as a new member she would be willing to involve herself in a project to consider creating a welcome pack for new residents which could include information from the web site and other offers from local businesses.

Action: JR and SP will progress this proposal.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 20th October were approved subject to a small spelling correction in item 8 (*Action: AS confirms actioned*)

4. Footpaths;

- a. DW reported that the footpath north on the A34 whilst in some areas had been sprayed was still in quite poor condition. *Action: JR agreed to contact Andy Simpson of CE to try and rectify defects, now agreed would probably not take place until Spring 2021.*

- b. SP and JR will discuss an action plan to improve highways paths and signs. *Action: JR and SP to discuss*

5. PCSO Report;

- a. PCSO Julia Short led a discussion on speeding in the county, which is a problem in a number of areas, and has encouraged the Council to co-operate with other neighbour councils to get CE Highways dept to improve both speed control measures and road markings to try and encourage safer driving. It was noted that the A34 in the stretch between Alderley Edge and Congleton had experienced a number of fatal accidents in the recent past few months. *Action: Cllr LS will try and co-ordinate responses from local Councils affected.*

- b. PCSO JS has paperwork relating to a Police proposal to reduce the speed limit gradually (from 50 to 40) on the northern outskirts of Marton on the A34 for South bound traffic. *Action: JS and JR to liaise to try and expedite this proposal.*

- c. PCSO JS discussed security around Oak Lane and Oak View following a recent break in and attempted thefts and encouraged all the residents to be vigilant and ensure good security practices at all times. BN was encouraged to canvas views from his neighbours to determine if any specific action could be taken by the council. *Action: BN to report back on neighbours thoughts at next meeting.*

- d. PCSO JS reminded the council that there was a match funded grant of up to £500 available to improve security measures but application would need to be submitted

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by w/c 21/12/2020. A wide angle mirror at the junction of School Lane/Oak Lane was discussed later as a possible project. *Action: JR to check with DW for cost etc.*

6. Planning;
 - a. Marlon Meadows Golf Club. A discussion took place regarding the more recent applications and also a letter from the manager, Chad Parker to the Chair of the council. Members of the council were anxious that they should not be seen as 'objectors' to all developments at the Golf Club, it could only operate within the provisions of the planning laws, which take in to account views of neighbours as well as other practical issues. It was unfortunate that the most recent application was in two parts, one of which the council approved of, the other that they had reservations about but because both parts were included in a single application they were forced to refuse the application as a whole.
 - i. Resident raised query about parking and acoustic fencing; DM met Chad Parker and subsequently raised matter with planning officer who will respond in the new year.
 - b. Cherry Tree Cottage; to note that this has been approved.
 - c. Brick Yard Farm; to note that no decision has yet been reported.
 - d. Cherry Barrow Farm; to note that the recent application for an extra garage on land not designated in the original application was refused.
 - e. Barlows Agri; AS to try and locate the response by CE on the query about Caravan Storage, and to note the recent flyer about a farm shop on site. *Action: AS to track email thread.*
7. Neighbourhood Plan;
 - a. The final draft of the plan has now been published for consultation, which will close on 6th January 2021. The plan is then submitted to an examiner chosen by the Council from an approved list for final agreement.
 - b. JR thanked the team responsible for this project most warmly.
8. Environmental Plan;
 - a. There was no update but John Percival was considering what other tree species might be appropriate.
9. Marlon School Liaison;
 - a. An article had appeared in the Congleton Chronicle about the problems of school parking. The article suggested that the School had not responded to a request for comment but the Chair of Governors confirmed that no such request had been recorded from the paper, nor did the School have prior knowledge of the article.
 - b. DM confirmed that he had received a response from the HSE confirming that they had no powers to intervene on traffic issues on the public highway.
 - c. It was suggested that access at the busy time might be better managed by the school, including reminding drivers to park courteously with special regard to traffic wishing to emerge on to School Lane from Oak Lane or properties on School Lane, and to switch off engines when parked up.
 - d. A mirror (see item 5.c) might improve sight lines round Oak Lane/School Lane.
 - e. Councillors continue to press for the school to find some alternative solutions to ease parking, including the possibility of extending the car parking within the school grounds if funds were available, however it has been noted that rather than

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encourage more cars on to the site the school are actively policing access to minimise the risk to pupils from traffic movements on the site.

- f. Councillors recognised that the problem of parking was restricted to pick up and drop off times during school terms, so was limited, and that the School, whilst not as pro-active on this issue as some might wish, were not ignoring the issue.
 - g. JR reported that the School were pleased at the success of the new Nursery and Infant facilities, which have had a successful take up.
10. Village Maintenance;
- a. JR reported that the area which has been rotovated has also been seeded with a wild flower mix, currently at no cost to the Village.
 - b. JR is continuing to find some funding for the project, and if granted would allow some compensation for those who have already contributed.
 - c. DM put forward a proposal for some new Village Signs on the entrance to the village on the A34, fabricated locally, together with new or repaired signs at the boundaries on side roads. He estimated that a budget of around £1800 would achieve a good result. *Action: DM to forward updated cost estimates when available.*
 - d. CE (Andy Simpson) will need to be consulted before any signs can be erected on the verges. *Action: JR to contact Andy Simpson (CE).*
11. Website: Nothing to report.
12. Finance;
- a. Subject to some minor adjustments Councillors accepted by unanimous vote the Budget proposal for year 2021/22 as submitted.
 - b. Councillors agreed to the request for a precept application of £3500 for the year 2021/22, unchanged from the last three years. *Action : AS to submit Precept request (sent via email 17/12/20).*
 - c. Councillors agreed a payment to DS of £6.99, and it was noted that the Christmas Lights were now very old and would probably need replacing for the next season or sooner if they failed this winter.
13. AOB;
- a. A socially distanced Carol Service was to be held this weekend and villagers will be sent details via the village email group. *Action: JR to send wording for email to AS.*
 - b. There has been no correspondence not otherwise discussed.
14. Dates of Next Meeting;
- a. Were approved provisionally as:
 - i. 8th February 2021
 - ii. 22nd March 2021(Village Meeting)
 - iii. 17th May 2021
 - iv. 26th July 2021
 - v. 27th September 2021
 - vi. 13th December 2021
 - b. It was noted that there was no strong expectation that the Village Meeting scheduled for 22nd March would go ahead except perhaps as a virtual meeting via zoom.

Meeting closed at 21:20