

Marlon Parish Council
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at
7.30 Monday 14 February 2023 at the School.

1. Attendance;
 - a. John Rylands (Chair) (JR), Sue Webborn (SW), Barrie Nolan (BN), David McGowan (DM), Lucy Nixon (LN), Cllr Lesley Smetham (LS).
 - b. Apologies for absence from Sue Platt (SP) were accepted.
 - c. Andrew Simpson (Clerk) (AS)
2. Minutes;
 - a. It was noted that item 9(d) amount should say £8000; AS has corrected version.
3. Matters Arising;
 - a. Councillors need to find a set of members for the May elections.
 - i. Election papers will be sent out by AS following his briefing on 3 March.
 - b. Voter ID; Agreed to let LN have the voter list and the email list to compare and try and fill in gaps.
 - i. AS will distribute the posters for ID registration.
 - c. The Village meeting for 14th March was discussed;
 - i. Broadly informal.
 - ii. Talk by Paul Nixon re green utilities.
 - iii. Invite parish to suggest topics for discussion (AS).
4. Footpaths; no updates.
5. PCSO Report;
 - a. Confirmed that PCSO Julia Short and Gary Charnock were due to step down in March. Agreed to send a thank you note and card (JR).
 - b. Agreed to email the Police Commissioner to ask about replacements.
6. Planning;
 - a. Marlon Golf Club;
 - i. 21/6443M Golf Club extension; still not agreed.
 - ii. 21/4440M Driving range; no further reports of stray golf balls.
 - iii. 21/5331M 2 x new houses; approved but a discussion about JBO response took place.
 - b. 21/6404M Messuage Farm; still no decision.
 - c. Barlows enforcement notice; LS reported that this may have been raised at Siddington PC but she will ask for a progress report.
 - d. Cherry Barrow Farm tipping; LS is still waiting for a response from Enforcement.
 - e. 22/4221M Cherry barrow Farm stables; No decision.
 - f. 22/4146M Brookside Cottage barn; no decision.
 - g. Oak Lane Cottage tree removal; JR will confirm to complainant (R Kellet) that the matter was investigated and a satisfactory reply provided.
7. Environmental Plan;
 - a. Postpone further planting until Autumn.

- b. John Percival would like to purchase for up to £20, or have donated, further fruit trees. DM reminded J Percival that permission was required if planting on CE land.
 - c. Up to 200 hawthorn whips have been planted round the village.
 - d. Trees continue to be planted on the plot established near the sewage works.
- 8. School Liaison;
 - a. JR will have a discussion with retired Governor (P Webborn) about future contact with Governors.
 - b. Parking is still a major issue and residents have complained to the School and the Parish Council about inconsiderate parking. BN agreed that many drivers were not showing much consideration and the issue was extending up Oak Lane and beyond. PCSO have been informed but no response. The parish will continue to press for more of the school grounds to be opened for parking/drop off.
 - c. BN asked if the council could contribute to replacing the stumps on Oak Lane where they have been knocked over. May need permission from CE (Andy Simpson) before proceeding. BN/JR to contact Andy Simpson (CE).
- 9. Village maintenance;
 - a. Thanks to BN/DM for the new Christmas lights; we may need to buy extra lights as the tree grows. Payment for the lights in December was approved.
 - b. Oak Lane/Oak View Hedge; P was going to contact CE about cutting back. BN confirmed it was getting too long. Needs to be cut before the end of the month. SP to follow up.
 - c. Village Green; The application to MIA for a grant has been declined. Tarmac (contact name Ben White) has indicated support in principal via their Community Action Fund for this project but it needs to come to the 'top of the pile' before it can be considered.
 - d. Wild Flowers; JR will ask Cheshire Wildlife for more appropriate seeds. BN confirmed these need to be properly sown and in good time.
 - e. Planters; one has now been irretrievably damaged but not replaced. BN will check and replant the rest in the spring.
 - f. Litter Pick LN will advise the Village Meeting of the next event.
 - g. Litter Pick Signs; John Percival will advise where best to position them; may need the purchase of some pegs to attach them.
 - h. Dog Mess; is becoming a problem- it was suggested that parish may spend some money on signs reminding dog owners to clear up. AS to email School re water butts being used as litter bin for dog mess, primarily.
- 10. Village Matters;
 - a. JR will check the telephone numbers and contact points raised by Flo Bullock to post on the website.
 - b. Coffee Morning at Davenport Arms was successful but need to promote again on a monthly basis; continue as a Free event.
- 11. Highways;
 - a. BN has reported the pothole on Oak lane.
 - b. BN asked for the road sweeper to continue beyond Oak Lane. Partially done up School lane but not to the main road (may have been full).
 - c. No update on limited speed cameras.
- 12. Website; No issues to report.
- 13. Finance;
 - a. Planting expenses up to £180 was approved for John Percival.

- b. Cheques approved for Arien Signs (litter), B Nolan (Xmas tree lights) and Clerk wages.
- c. Accounts were sent out prior to meeting.
- d. AS reported on issues raised by PKF following a challenge to the AGAR submission; He reported that due to an oversight the submission had a historical error due to a brought forward figure which resulted in a gain for the council of £17. PKF also raised a number of other issues including the carried forward surplus, which is now more than 2x precept income, and also the need for the AGAR form to be completed by the internal auditor. JR confirmed he would like to explore the cost of PKF again doing the internal audit and review.
- e. The Audit required us to maintain an assets register, albeit with a minimum value of £1 on assets not considered to have a significant value; the insurance register should suffice.

14. Clerk appointment;

- a. AS sent out CV's for two applicants; he explained the background to both. JR/SW will act as an interview panel.

15. Next Meetings;

- a. Tuesday 14th March 2023 (Village Meeting).
- b. Tuesday 16th May 2023 (AGM and new Parish Council).
- c. Tuesday 18th July 2023.
- d. Tuesday 19th September 2023.
- e. Tuesday 5th December 2023.