

**Marlon Parish Council**  
**Clerk: Elizabeth Worrall**  
**22 Wesley Avenue, Alsager, ST7 2NG**  
**Email: [marlon.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:marlon.clerk@gmail.com)**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at  
7.30pm Tuesday 16th May 2023 at Marlon Primary School

**1) Election of new Councillors:**

- a) Welcome to new Councillors  
*A welcome was extended to new Councillors Alistair Goodwin and Phil Cheetham.*
- b) Welcome to new Clerk Lizzie Worrall  
*A welcome was extended to Lizzie, the new Clerk. It is noted that she is also the Parish Clerk for Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths Parish (neighbouring parish).*
- c) Signing of Acceptance form
- d) Signing of Declaration of Interest
- e) Appointment of Chair  
*John Rylands was proposed by David McGowan, seconded by Sue Webborn, and was elected unanimously.*
- f) Reminder to all Councillors to submit expenses form including nil returns.

**2) Attendance:**

- a) John Rylands (Chair) (JR), Sue Webborn (SW), Barrie Nolan (BN), David McGowan (DM), Lucy Nixon (LN), Phil Cheetham (PC), Alistair Goodwin (AG)
- b) Lizzie Worall (Clerk) (LW) and Andrew Simpson (previous Clerk) (AS)
- c) No members of the public were in attendance.

**3) AGM:**

- a) To note and adopt final accounts for year end  
*The accounts were approved and adopted unanimously.*

**4) Minutes of Meeting 14th February 2023:**

- a) As circulated
- b) Draft has been published  
*The minutes were approved, with no amendments, unanimously.*

**5) Matters Arising:**

- a) Village Meeting outcome and discussion  
*There was a positive response from councillors. Next time, a speaker will be asked to complete a 15 minute presentation.*
- b) Noise from Bank Farm Quad Bikes  
*It was noted that there had been noise generated on several afternoons: the councillors noted that this did not appear to be an ongoing problem, but would continue to monitor.*

## 6) Footpaths Report:

- a) Update on current state.  
*There are no updates, but the item will remain on the minutes ahead.*

## 7) PCSO Report:

- a) To note a new PCSO, Chloe Shore, has now been appointed.  
*It was noted that the new PCSO is now in place. LW confirmed that Chloe had been invited to the meeting but had not responded. LW will try to make contact again, inviting her to the next meeting, and will ask for a report to be submitted ahead of each meeting, if she cannot attend. LW will let JR know if there is no response.*

## 8) Planning Applications

- a) Marton Meadows Golf Club
  - i) [21/6443](#) - Extension Including landfill  
*Status update: not decided.*
  - ii) [20/4440M](#) - Driving Range - update  
*No update but continuing to monitor if golf balls leave the boundary of the club.*
- b) Messuage Farm [21/6404M](#)  
*This has been approved.*
- c) Barlows
  - i) Enforcement notice issued?  
*DM will email Lesley Smetham for an update from Planning Enforcement.  
JR has not received a reply from David Malcolm to his February letter. He will send a further letter by recorded delivery.*
- d) Cherry Barrow Farm
  - i) tipped soil and debris - update  
*The soil will be moved in the next few months - this will need to be monitored. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.*
  - ii) [22/4221M](#) - Construction of a new stable block - update  
*Status update: not decided.*
- e) Brookside Cottage [22/4146M](#)  
*Status update: not decided.*
- f) Bank Farm New Riding School and new Arena - does this require planning permission?  
*AS confirmed that Bank Farm has a suitable licence.*
- g) Sandpit Farm [23/1363M](#)  
*To be decided. A comment was submitted on 3rd May 2023, confirming no objection.*
- h) Fencing on A34  
*It was discussed whether the fencing is located on Highways land or private land. JR to try and find out.*

## 9) Marton Environmental Plan:

- a) Re-wilding costing update  
*There are some signs of germination and the seeds seem to be taking well. DM raised a concern regarding the disposal of soil - a worker from the golf course had offered to remove some soil free of charge and BN had agreed to this. DM was concerned this could impact our relationship with the golf course, over council objections to*

*planning permission. The brambles will be removed by John P when he gets the chance to.*

- b) Fruit trees purchase - update  
*No update.*

#### **10) Marton School Liaison:**

- a) Update  
*There is currently no Governor in place for the village of Marton. JR encouraged all councillors to consider if there is anyone they know from the village who may be interested in applying.*

#### **11) Village Maintenance:**

- a) Planter damage  
*Two planters of the original twelve have been lost - one was damaged by United Utilities and one was hit by a car. The plants for the remaining planters are ordered and will be collected by JR or PC. A planting team will then be convened. Councillors were unanimous that two replacement planters should be purchased this year. PC will look to source these.*
- b) Oak Lane / Oak View Hedges  
*BN has attempted to ascertain whether Cheshire East Council has cut these hedges or not. BN has had no response. JR / BN will contact Barrie Nolan regarding the white post. JR / BN to liaise with Lesley (Ward Councillor) to try and gain a response.*
- c) Village Green  
*Reminders have been sent to the Community Fund and JR has chased. There is a chance that we may not get this funding. DM is keen to look at all funding options to ensure something meaningful is created. JR and PC will reformulate and reprice. LW will research grant application forms for local funds that may be accessed.*
- d) Wildflowers  
*Discussed under item 9a*
- e) Litter pick  
*LN arranged a litter pick in early May 2023. Thanks were extended to all who came and helped. PC asked who collects the parish council owned bin in town - LW to contact CHALC to see if they know who runs this service.*
- f) Litter signs  
*Awaiting an update from John Percival on placement. Once this has been confirmed, these will be installed. If no update from John is received, the council will choose suitable placement.*
- g) Dog mess  
*JR is sourcing signs to discourage dog fouling in the village. All councillors were asked for their idea for placement - BN and SW requested some are placed by the water butts. DM will share a contact with JR, who he has liaised with on the litter signs.*

#### **12) Village Matters:**

- a) Contact points to post on website  
*LN to update the website to include LW contact details.*

- b) Coffee Morning and Davenport Arms  
*These will now be held a minimum of 4 times a year, with none being held in August. JR will confirm dates with councillors.*

### **13) Highway and road safety matters:**

- a) Update  
*The exploration of potential speed calming measures has been temporarily suspended pending a more thorough analysis of the possible spending required for the Village Green (Item 11C).*

### **14) Parish Council Website**

- a) Update  
*JR thanked LN for her ongoing endeavours. To continue under review.*

### **15) Finance**

- a) Current Accounts  
*Accounts were supplied by AS.*
- b) Cheques for Signature  
*The below cheques were approved for signature and payment.*
- c) Other business  
*The council may seek to explore an external auditor, dependent on the outcome of the internal audit. LW will liaise with AS on this.*  
*LW will create a proposal, to be shared at the next meeting, regarding a possible transition to online banking.*

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Description</b>         | <b>Chq. No.</b> | <b>Amount</b> |
|-------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 16/05/23    | PKF Littlejohn             | 779             | £288.00       |
| 16/05/23    | A J Simpson (Wages)        | 780             | £201.60       |
| 16/05/23    | HMRC PAYE                  | 781             | £50.40        |
| 16/05/23    | John Percival (Hedges)     | 782             | £333.97       |
| 16/05/23    | A J Simpson Clerk Expenses | 783             | £34.95        |
| 16/05/23    | CHALC Subs                 | 784             | £71.41        |

### **16) Chair's remarks and reports from members attending external meetings**

- a) Update  
*An update on the status of the Parochial Church Council was provided by BN. It was noted that the Vicar, Ian, is retiring. If any councillors wish to attend the regular parish wakes, then JR and BN would be happy to discuss.*

### **17) Correspondence**

- a) No correspondence received since the previous meeting.

**18) Any other matters for discussion:**

- a) Clerk to confirm when handover is completed  
*Update to be provided at the next meeting.*
- b) Official appointment of clerk  
*JR officially proposed that LW was appointed as clerk; the decision was passed unanimously. JR will follow up on the clerk's contract with AS.*
- c) Additional roles following previous clerk departure  
*SW will collect the noticeboard key and will post relevant papers. PC will be the school keyholder, as and when this is required.*
- d) Diary invites  
*LW will share digital invites for the remaining 2023 meetings with councillors, Lesley Smetham and PCSO Chloe Shore.*

**19) Proposed dates 2023/24 meetings:**

- a) Tuesday 18th July 2023
- b) Tuesday 19th September 2023
- c) Tuesday 5th December 2023