

Marlon Parish Council
Clerk: Elizabeth Worrall
22 Wesley Avenue, Alsager, ST7 2NG
Email: marlon.clerk@gmail.com

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at
7.30pm Tuesday 6th February 2024 at Marlon Primary School

1) Attendance:

- a) John Rylands (Chair) (JR), David McGowan (DM), Lucy Nixon (LN), Phil Cheetham (PC), Barrie Nolan (BN), Lesley Smetham (LS),
- b) Apologies received in advance from Alistair Goodwin (AG).
- c) Lizzie Worrall (Clerk) (LW)
- d) Two members of the public were in attendance.

2) Minutes of Meeting 5th December:

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

3) Matters Arising:

- a) General Power of Competence – *the Council, being eligible by having two thirds elected members, and a suitably qualified Clerk (having passed the CilCA in December 2023), resolved unanimously to adopt the General Power of Competence ahead. The Chair extended thanks to the Clerk for her hard work and the Clerk extended her thanks to DM for reviewing an assignment.*

4) Footpaths Report:

- a) Update on current state.
There were no updates on footpaths.

5) PCSO Report:

- a) To receive a written report from Cheshire Police
LW read an update from David O'Connor. One incident was noted – vandalism of trees in the Spinney by a group of youths. SW will feed back to the individual who reported these.

6) Planning Applications

- a) Marlon Meadows Golf Club
 - i) [21/6443](#) - Extension Including landfill
Nothing further to report – JR sent note to Planning Officer ahead of meeting: The Parish Council further requested that we write to log, with you, our surprise and concern that the Marlon Meadows landfill was allowed to proceed with the prior removal of tipped building waste, (including asbestos for which photographic evidence was supplied by Village residents). It will now remain for a future generation to discover the extent of any hazards.
 - ii) [20/4440M](#) - Driving Range - update
JR declared he had an interest in this matter and would not participate in discussions

on this item. DM has reviewed the planning application and confirmed to the Council that there was no floodlighting included in the planning application.

- b) Barlows
 - i) Enforcement notice issued?
Nothing further to report – JR sent note to Planning Officer ahead of meeting requesting the Marton Parish Council is informed when an agreement is reached with Barlows over the uncompleted ground works and regarding the permission for caravan storage, and a timeline for when the Planning Office expect this to be completed.
- c) Cherry Barrow Farm
 - i) tipped soil and debris - update
Nothing further to report.
 - ii) [22/4221M](#) - Construction of a new stable block - update
Still undecided. DM will review the planning application as the situation may have changed with the owner of this property and this may require further comment.
- d) Brookside Cottage [22/4146M](#)
Still undecided.
- e) Sandpit Farm [23/1363M](#)
Still undecided.
- f) Brickyard Farm [23/2596M](#)
Approved with conditions.
- g) Neighbourhood Plan
LN noted that the neighbourhood plan will come up for review in the next two years. This will be discussed by Councillors closer to the time.

7) Marton Environmental Plan:

- a) Update
JR will recirculate the two papers from John Percival. DM queried whether there was a set budget for John Percival's work and asked whether there was a long-term plan. John Percival often struggles for resources and, if the Parish Council wishes for this to grow, then they would need to consider encouraging the village to assist. This could form part of the revised neighbourhood plan.

8) Marton School Liaison:

- a) Update
*One individual has complained regarding idling cars, which has been noted to the school. Soil has been cleared off the pathway near to the school to make the area around the school more accessible and the school has completed some painting of the fence.
Several posts on the verges have been noted as broken. These have been purchased previously and may deter parking if they are replaced.*

9) Village Maintenance:

- a) Planters
The planters have recently been replanted. It was felt that there was no need to replace any planters.

- b) Oak Lane / Oak View Hedges
JR arranged for a local individual to assess the hedge. This will be logged as dangerous again by the Parish Council. LS will log this with her contact at ANSA.
- c) Village Green
There have been small updates. The grass is going to be cut – JR has liaised with an individual who will do this, but they are awaiting better weather to discuss in more detail. An update will be provided at the next meeting. JR will continue to progress the grant application.
DM and BN raised the question as to whether an additional tree could be purchased to add to the Christmas lights display. It was resolved to purchase and plant another small tree (with a budget approved of under £35).
- d) Wildflowers
No update.
- e) Litter pick
DM noted that the southbound A34 is covered in litter and that a litter pick is taking place. It was resolved to have a litter pick. LN to confirm some suitable dates and LW will circulate this to the village via e-mail.
- f) Litter signs
DM confirmed these were all installed. The item will be removed from the agenda.
- g) Dog mess
No update.

10) Village Matters:

- a) Coffee Morning and Davenport Arms
JR confirmed the January coffee morning was well attended. There is a small cost to consider for the Parish Council to subsidise drinks for individuals who are unable to cover the costs (via Chair's expenses / community engagement). Results are being seen to improve community engagement, but these are rather slow to develop. Future dates (for winter 2024 – 2025) will be reviewed to ensure that the Marton Coffee morning doesn't clash with Eaton's coffee morning.
It was resolved to continue with the Coffee Mornings in 2024 – 2025.
It was resolved that the Council will support subsidising these to approximately the sum of £250.00 a year.
- b) To discuss any arrangements for the Village Meeting
JR is trying to arrange a speaker focussing on Marton's Celtic History. AG will also be asked to speak on an update from Highways. LW reminded JR that the Chair is legally required to give an update on the last 12 months.

11) Highway and road safety matters:

- a) Update
The speed safety sign has been purchased and installed. Several trees were removed and cut back by a local contractor at the instruction of the Chair. Thanks were extended to AG for his hard work. It was resolved to pay the contractor (Hog Tree and Garden Landscape Contractors). The contractor will only accept cash; John Rylands will pay cash and a cheque will be made out to him for expenses.

12) Parish Council Website

- a) Update
JR thanked LN for her ongoing endeavours.

13) Finance

- a) Current Accounts
Accounts have been supplied by LW.
- b) Cheques for Signature
The below cheques were approved for signature and payment.
- c) Online banking discussion
It was resolved that the Council will not process cheques once online banking has been set up. It is intended that online payments will be made in the wake of approval at a meeting of MPC. For online payments between meetings, it was resolved that four individuals/a majority of parish councillors will need to approve payments (by email) before they are processed online by the Chair or, in his absence, one of the four authorised signatories.
- d) Arrangements for the internal audit
Councillors will continue to consider who may be able to complete the internal audit in May / June.

Date	Description	Chq. No.	Amount
06/02/24	CPRE Membership	808	£40.00
06/02/24	John Rylands (expenses for contractor)	809	£270.00
06/02/24	John Rylands (expenses for coffee morning)	810	£50.00

14) Chair's remarks and reports from members attending external meetings

- a) Update
JR had attended two meetings - a police consultation and a meeting regarding fibre optic.

15) Correspondence

- a) *JR shared an update on the correspondence received last time regarding some of the hedges in the Village. The individual in question has liaised with Cheshire East Council direct and will provide an update to the Parish Council when they have one.*

16) Any other matters for discussion:

- a) Update from Lesley Smetham
*LS confirmed that there is a Ward budget where she is happy to allocate £3,000 to Marton for their speed sign to be installed. It is suggested that this is installed on the corner of School Lane.
A sub-committee will be formed consisting of DM, JR, PC and AG (if interested) to discuss the siting of the sign.
There is an online reporting available via the Police to report speeding issues. The financial situation at Cheshire East is relatively dire.*

17) Proposed dates 2023/24 meetings:

- a) Tuesday 12th March 2024 (Village Meeting)

- b) Tuesday 14th May 2024 (includes AGM)
- c) Tuesday 16th July 2024
- d) Tuesday 17th September 2024
- e) Tuesday 3rd December 2024

Clerk to send electronic meeting invites. SW is unable to attend the 17th September.