

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting (Annual Parish Meeting) held on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at Marton Primary School

Present: Cllr. John Rylands (Chairman), Cllr. Sue Webborn, Cllr. Phil Cheetham, Cllr. Barrie Nolan, Cllr. Alistair Goodwin, Cllr. Lucy Nixon

Elizabeth Worrall, Clerk to the Parish Council

29 members of the public

1. Welcome and Introduction

Cllr. John Rylands introduced the evening and the Parish Councillors to attendees. He thanked everyone for their attendance. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the last meeting – 11th March 2025.

Cllr. Rylands covered the work the Parish Council completes – maintenance, highways reporting and maintenance of the SIDs, planning applications and community. Cllr. Rylands also confirmed that the accounts and minutes are available on the website. Community projects for the year were highlighted – this has included monthly coffee mornings, pub evenings, a village meal at La Popote, liaison with the Church and supporting Marton Wakes. The Council has a village mailing list (and there is a separate Whatsapp group) and individuals can contact the Chair or the Clerk to be included in these.

Thanks were extended to John Percival, who completes maintenance and planting, on behalf of the Parish Council, within the village. This work has included new fruit trees, hedgerows and trees, as well as encouraging wildlife to the village ponds. John is in the process of thinking about retirement, so if anyone is interested in assisting in this area then they should contact the Clerk or the Chair.

Projects for 2026 – 20207 will include the Peak Cluster Pipeline, as the Parish Council will continue to monitor the potential impact to farms across Marton, as well as the school and village, and work on the Spinney including whether a seating area and a general upgrade would be welcomed by the village.

Upcoming events include a village working party (tidying and maintenance) on the 11th April (meeting on the village green) and a community litter pick on the 12th April. Other village events including an upcoming musical evening (18th April), the Marton Gin Festival and Marton Wakes (July) were highlighted.

Cllr. Rylands shared that David McGowan has stood down as a Councillor, with immediate effect. Thanks were extended to David for his hard work, enthusiasm and loyalty to the village. David started out in the village by challenging the foundations on the Oak View houses and challenged Macclesfield Borough Council – the plans were

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Signed

Dated

swiftly changed by the Council and David gained his first experience of the challenges of working within local Government. David has worked on many projects including liaison with Manchester Airport, securing the lease on the Spinney from Capesthorpe, campaigning for the 50mph limit on the A34 and the 30mph speed limit in the village, purchase and installation of the boundary signs, permission for the community orchard to be installed on the village green and much more. His proudest moment was working alongside other Councillors to be one of the first villages in Cheshire to adopt a Neighbourhood Plan. This helped stop un-wanted housing development within the village. David has been closely involved in planning matters and has always tried to submit succinct and fair comments, which fairly represent the views of the village.

2. Under Tidnock – Thornycroft’s Hidden History

Thanks were extended to Steven Thornycroft for coming to share more of his family’s history and the history of the house.

Anne Cheetham, from Bosley, married into the Thornycroft family, in 1815, immediately after the Battle of Waterloo. The husband died very young, leaving Anne with three small children, and the need to carry on working the 270-acre farm. Anne was a strong woman and dealt with many issues.

A group of rioters surrounded the farmers at Macclesfield market and Anne, on horseback, broke through the rioters’ line, allowing the rest of the farmers to break free. She also stopped trespassers from stealing her cranberries saying that “their baskets and rakes will be broken by the Mistress of Tidnock.”

Anne’s son, Thomas, was born in Tidnock. He loved to draw, mainly drawing animals on the kitchen table. After a brief apprenticeship at a doctor’s surgery in Macclesfield, he went to learn sculpture under the tutelage of John Francis in London. He also married John’s daughter, Mary. One of his most famous sculptures is “Boadicea and her Daughters” which is on display in London.

Thomas’ eldest son, John Thornycroft, became a shipbuilder and engineer, designing steam engines, canal boats and military vehicles, eventually opening a business and gaining a knighthood for his engineering works.

His son, also called John, was also an engineer and won two gold medals at the 1908 Olympics (for power boat racing!). He was in contention to go back to the Olympics in Helsinki 44 years later, when power boat racing returned, but he wasn’t invited. John Jr. ran the company with his sister, Blanche, after their father’s death.

Thomas’ youngest daughter, Theresa, married Alfred Sassoon, who were a Baghdadi Jewish family, associated with finance, oil and gas.

Their younger son, Hamo, was killed in the Gallipoli campaign in WW1, dying after his leg was amputated. Their elder son, Siegfried, was one of the leading poets of World War One and was very affected by the death of his brother. Siegfried became known for his acts of bravery and was nicknamed “Mad Jack” for his near suicidal actions. He was awarded the military cross in 1916. In 1917, following a period of recovery following an

accident, Sassoon began to object to the war. He famously tore the ribbon off his military cross and threw this in the sea. The medal was passed to a family member. Sassoon was treated for shellshock but was ultimately returned to the front, being injured in 1918 by friendly fire. Siegfried wrote about his experiences in the trenches, with his poems becoming widely known and famous.

A summary of the family was provided – Olympians, War Heroes and famous poets. While a lot of the family history is to do with war, this is a story of a family who continued to make the best of the situation that they found themselves in.

3. Closing Remarks

Cllr. Rylands thanked all the speakers and attendees for coming.

The meeting formally closed at 7.55pm, and refreshments were served.