

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 1 September 2021 at 19:30
The Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green**

Present:

Clr Jon Horton – Chair (for items 4099 to 4100)
Clr Clive Hill – Chair (for items 4101 onwards)
Clr Mike Kay
Clr Mark Noblet
Clr Karen Dunn
Clr Kim Wallace
Clr Carole Pearce
Clr Trevor Wills
Clr Wayne Hadley

Clerk: Julie Brennan

Public: 1

4099. Parish Council in camera meeting

The in camera meeting was cancelled as HS2 were unable to attend.

4100. Accept proposals to elect a new Chairman

Clr Jon Horton let the members know that he had completed the 6 month term as Chair that he had agreed to and that, due to work and family commitments, he now proposed to stand down. Following talks with other councillors, Clr Horton suggested that going forward, the Parish Council could appoint a new Chair on a rolling 6 month basis which would allow more councillors the opportunity to take on the roll and gain experience. The members were all in agreement. Clr Horton proposed that Clr Clive Hill should become the new Chair and this was seconded by Clr Wayne Hadley.

Proposed: Cllr Jon Horton

Seconded: Cllr Wayne Hadley

All in favour

A Resolution is carried Cllr Clive Hill is appointed as Chairman.

4101. Declaration of Acceptance into Office - Chairman

Clr Clive Hill signed the Declaration into Office and the Clerk counter signed.

4102. Accept Proposals to Elect a new Vice-Chairman

Clr Clive Hill confirmed that Clr Wayne Hadley wished to stand down as Vice Chair due to family and work commitments and invited nominations for the role. Clr Hill proposed Clr Jon Horton and Clr Kim Wallace seconded the proposal.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Kim Wallace

All in favour

A Resolution is carried Cllr Jon Horton is appointed as Vice Chairman.

4103. Declaration of Acceptance into Office – Vice Chairman

Clr Jon Horton signed the Declaration into Office and the Clerk counter signed.

4104. HS2 update to the Public

This item was cancelled as HS2 were unable to attend the meeting.

4105. The Public

No queries were raised.

4106. Apologies

Cllr Hill confirmed that apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Sue Rogers.

4107. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None.

4108. Resignation of Cllr John Fox

Cllr Hill formally noted that Cllr John Fox had resigned from the Parish Council.

4109. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 July 2021

The Chairman asked members if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace

Seconded: Cllr Carole Pearce

All in favour – Cllr Clive Hill, Cllr Sue Rogers, Cllr Trevor Wills

It was resolved that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

4110. Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting 14 July 2021

4081 – 124 Elmdon Lane – Cllr Hill confirmed that an appeal had been made to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol regarding SMBC's refusal to allow the construction of a large balcony at the rear of the property. The Parish Council had objected on the basis of the neighbouring properties being overlooked and potential noise and the decision was awaited.

4111. Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 26 July 2021

The Chairman asked members if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Wayne Hadley

All in favour – Cllr Clive Hill, Cllr Mark Noblet, Cllr Karen Dunn

It was resolved that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

4112. Matters arising from the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting – 26 July 2021

There were no matters arising.

4113. Matters arising from the Recreation Committee meeting 21 July 2021

1517 – Biodiversity Project with the Infant and Junior Schools – Cllr Hadley confirmed that SMBC had confirmed that CIL monies could be used on such projects with both schools, even given the Infant school's status as an academy. He stated that he planned to meet with both headteachers and would submit a proposal to be scored on the matrix shortly.

1522 – replacement pickup truck – Cllr Hadley confirmed the matter was outstanding pending work by the Staffing Committee. The members discussed the type of vehicle required and Cllr Trevor Wills and Cllr Mark Noblet suggested that an electric vehicle should be considered. Cllr Hadley said that the technology was not quite there yet due to issues with cold weather and weight and said that a vehicle would be purchased once the staffing

committee had a clear understanding of what was needed by the Groundsmen and what was suitable.

1525 – Football season – Cllr Hill confirmed that planning permission would be required in order to extend the car park at the Recreation Ground to ease the parking problems experienced during the previous football season. It was noted that Marston Green Football Club had been using the Recreation Ground whilst their pitches were treated and that they had held friendly matches there. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft a letter to the Football Club asking them to use their own parking facilities when using the Recreation Ground for training to help with the car parking problem and also advise them that a fee would be payable for use of the pitches for friendly matches.

Action item: Clerk to draft a letter to Marston Green Football Club.

1535 - Problems following works by Wildlife Ways on Bickenhill Road – Cllr Karen Dunn confirmed that works had been undertaken by SMBC on the issues raised following the works undertaken by Wildlife Ways but noted that the verges had become overgrown with nettles and weeds which were overhanging the path.

Action item: Clerk to raise a ticket with SMBC for the verges to be cut back.

1547 – Tree Survey at all Parish Council sites – Cllr Hill asked for approval for a tree survey to be completed of all the trees located on Parish Council land. Cllr Hadley explained the process pointing out that the surveys identified any work required using a traffic light system to show what needed to be done immediately or at a later date and that the survey should be repeated every 3 to 5 years. Quotes had been obtained as follows:

Apex Environmental -	£930.00 (ex VAT)
Midland Forestry -	£948 (inc VAT)
Fairways -	£9,390 (ex VAT)

The Clerk confirmed that Midland Forestry had undertaken a small survey on behalf of the Parish Council some years previously and that a number of local Parish Councils used them for their own tree surveys. The proposal was that Midland Forestry be asked to undertake the survey on behalf of the Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace

Seconded: Cllr Trevor Wills

All in favour

It was resolved that Midland Forestry be asked to undertake the tree survey.

1571 – BMGPC website – The members discussed what information they wanted to be available on the website and agreed that photographs and email addresses should be displayed but not phone numbers. It was noted that there were items missing from the website that should be displayed and that the Recreation Committee would consider what changes were necessary.

1574 – Removal of tree stumps at the Burial Ground – The Clerk confirmed that three quotes had been obtained as shown below:

Fairways -	£366.00 plus VAT;
Flowers -	£300.00 plus VAT; and
Treefix -	£200.00 (no VAT).



The members discussed the options and it was agreed that Treefix be asked to grind the tree stumps at the Burial Ground.

Proposed: Cllr Wayne Hadley

Seconded: Cllr Jon Horton

All in favour

It was resolved that Treefix be asked to grind the tree stumps at the Burial Ground.

1575 – Combat Archery – Cllr Hill stated that the recommendation from the Recreation Committee was to decline the request from Combat Archery to use an area of the Recreation Ground for this new sport on the basis of safety. It would not be possible to ensure small children or dogs did not enter the area during play and the risk of injury was too high.

Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace

Seconded: Cllr Trevor Wills

All in favour

It was resolved that Combat Archery were advised that their request to use the Recreation Ground had been declined on the basis of safety.

Action item: Clerk to let Combat Archery know of the Parish Council's decision.

4114. Matters arising from the Planning Committee meeting – 22 July 20212

Cllr Jon Horton confirmed that two Planning Committee meetings had taken place since the last Parish Council meeting (the minutes from the 31 August meeting were not yet available). He highlighted three applications that the committee had objected to:

6 Land Lane – concerns included access gates and a wall which would impact on visibility and be an obstacle in the event of an accident:

124 Elmdon Lane – as mentioned previously, the large balcony at the rear of the property could overlook neighbours and potentially cause noise disturbance; and

64 Station Road – change of use to a food takeaway with residential space above. It was noted that permission had been granted for the change of use which was disappointing.

4115. Matters arising from the Finance Committee Meeting – 26 July 2021

Cllr Mike Kay summarised the minutes noting that the CIL monies should be advertised to the local community to encourage applications. He also noted that, following the Clerk's GDPR training, a number of issues had arisen that required action including the purchase of a fireproof safe to contain the burial ground records. He outlined the plan to change the way the budget was set and managed including setting limits for committees within which approval would not be required from the Finance Committee and the need to forecast budgets for a period of 3 to 5 years.

4116. Covid 19 Relief Monies

The Clerk let the members know that £3,132.08 of the £10,740 Covid 19 Relief money awarded by SMBC remained to be used. Previously the money had been used to support the football teams, baseball team and cricket club, all of which had been impacted by the lockdowns. The Parish Council had committed to providing the changing rooms either free or at a reduced rate for the coming season to returning football teams and, if provided free of charge, then the balance remaining would be £1,731.07. The Clerk pointed out that Marston Green Cricket Club had been forced to close the bar for 4 months so the balance could be applied to a

future invoice if the Councillors wished to do so. It was agreed that the football clubs should be offered a credit equal to the cost of using the changing rooms for the coming season and that the Councillors would consider how best to use the £1,737.07 balance and come to the next meeting with some ideas. Cllr Kim Wallace asked if the monies could be used to support the Around Again Charity who had asked for a second donation which was due to be covered under Correspondence. The donation was approved.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn

All in favour

It was resolved that the football teams returning for the coming season be offered a credit equal to the cost of the changing rooms for the coming season and a donation of £500 be made to the Around Again Charity.

4117. GDPR Training for Councillors

Peter Malley had offered to provide a GDPR training session for councillors at a cost of £120 and approval was sought for the fee.

Proposed: Cllr Jon Horton

Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn

All in favour

It was resolved that Peter Malley be asked to attend the Parish Office to provide GDPR training to the Councillors at a cost of £120.

4118. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Cllr Horton confirmed that plans for the development of a new church hall were progressing and works could start next year. In relation to the Neighbourhood Plan, he noted that WALC would pay for 2 hours of advice which would be provided by Neil Pearce of Avon Planning who would manage the process and help the Parish Council to access grant monies. A formal approach to Avon Planning was required and Cllr Horton proposed that this advice should be sought.

Proposed: Cllr Jon Horton

Seconded: Cllr Mike Kay

All in favour

It was resolved that Avon Planning be formally asked to provide the Parish Council with advice in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan.

4119. Request for approval of names for new road on development off Elmdon Road

Cllr Hill noted the request from Orion Developments for approval of their proposed names for the road being constructed as part of the development of new houses off Elmdon Road. The members discussed the options and agreed to approve the name Village Mews although they stated that they were disappointed not to have been asked to offer some suggestions.

Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace

Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn

All in favour

It was resolved that the name Village News was approved as the name of the road under construction by Orion Developments off Elmdon Road.

4120. Request for approval of Finance Approval List

The proposal to authorise the payments detailed on the expenditure report was approved.

Proposed: Cllr Wayne Hadley

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved to approve the expenditure payments detailed on the report.

4121. External Committee Reports

Parish Hall Trustees – Cllr Mark Noblet confirmed that the next meeting was due to take place on 6 September 2021 so there was nothing to report at this time.

Marston Green Village Charitable Trust – Cllr Hill noted that the next meeting would take place on 2 September so there was nothing to update on at this time.

Airport Matters – Cllr Horton confirmed that the group meet once a quarter and that it included Parish Councillors, Councillors, the CEO of the Airport, directors and senior managers. The next meeting was due to take place on 2 September at 13:30 and Cllr Horton asked anyone who would like to attend to let him know.

HS2 Update – Cllr Karen Dunn confirmed that there was nothing to update the Parish Council on at this time.

4122. Correspondence

Deborah Merry – SMBC

The Clerk let the Councillors know that Deborah Merry from SMBC has advised that each councillor would need to complete a new Pecuniary Interest Declaration form as it was no longer sufficient to state that they have an interest in land in the area and disclose it as 'home within Solihull Borough'. The Councillors discussed this and agreed to contact Deborah Merry to confirm the situation as they were unhappy to include their home address on a document that was freely available on the SMBC website.

Request to use the 3Ms field for a LGBTQ+ Softball tournament

The Clerk outlined a request received via Birmingham Baseball to use the 3Ms field for a softball tournament on 18 September 2021. The members discussed the request and approved it subject to the organiser accepting that no parking was allowed on the road, providing someone to act as a parking warden and payment of a one off pitch fee of £80 and £20 to use the toilet facilities.

Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn

Seconded: Cllr Carole Pearce

All in favour

It was resolved that the Softball tournament was approved subject to payment of the fees and the restriction on parking.

Around Again Charity

Cllr Kim Wallace had asked for approval for a second donation to the Around Again Charity at item 4116 which was approved.

Remembrance Day Parade

Cllr Hill confirmed that it was anticipated that the Remembrance Day Parade would go ahead on 14 November subject to the Covid 19 restrictions in place at the time. He confirmed that the first meeting with the Churches and Scouts was being set up and asked if any of the councillors would be willing to help out with the preparations. Cllr Karen Dunn and Cllr Mark Noblet agreed to help.

4123. The Parish Council meeting closed at 21:58.

4124. Date of next meeting 6 October 2021 at 19:30
The Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green