Bickenhill & Marston Green
PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 5 October 2022 at 19:30
The Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green

Present:
Cllr Clive Hill – Chairman
Cllr Mike Kay
Cllr Mark Noblet
Cllr Sue Rogers
Cllr Kim Wallace
Cllr Carole Pearce
Cllr Claire Kelly

Clerk: Julie Brennan

Public: 8

4367. Chair's welcome
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4368. The Public

4368.1 A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for arranging for the replacement post box to be fitted on the corner of Land Lane and Elmdon Road. Cllr Clive Hill confirmed that Cllr Bob Sleigh had dealt with the matter and thanked him for his hard work in getting the new post box installed.

4368.2 A member of the public let the Parish Council know that mice were becoming a problem on the amenity land allotments as were the squirrels. The Clerk noted that previous advice had been that nothing could be done with regard to the squirrels. Cllr Hill asked the Clerk to contact the pest control company to seek advice in relation to the mice problem.
Action item: *Clerk to contact the pest control company to seek advice in relation to the mice problem at the amenity land allotments.*

4368.3 A member of the public raised the issue of flooding on Brook Croft noting that although the Parish Council couldn't do anything about it, it continued to be an issue for residents.

4369. Apologies

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Jon Horton, Cllr Wayne Hadley, Cllr Karen Dunn and Cllr Trevor Wills.

4370. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None

4371. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 September 2022

The Chairman asked those members present at the 7 September 2022 meeting if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record.
Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet ***Seconded: Cllr Carole Pearce***
All in favour
It was resolved *that the minutes were a true and accurate record.*

4372. Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting – 7 September 2022

4303.3 – Advertising Parish Council meetings via Facebook – The Chairman confirmed that the current meeting had been publicised on Facebook.

4303.4 – Traffic Calming – The Chairman confirmed that the proposal had come from SMBC who were canvassing opinion on the introduction of a 20mph speed limit through parts of Marston Green. The Clerk was asked to forward the information from SMBC to Cllr Mike Kay.
Action item: *Clerk to forward the information from SMBC to Cllr Mike Kay.*
4307 – Playground Gate - The Clerk confirmed that the new playground gate had been installed and that the slow close was working which would ensure fingers could not get trapped.
4348 – Pedestrian crossing at Blackfirs Lane/Progress Way - Cllr Hill advised that a query had been raised with SMBC and a response was awaited.
4353 – work to trees on the 3Ms land – the Clerk confirmed that the works had been scheduled and that Dovetail had been instructed on behalf of the Parish Council.
4357 – kissing gate installation at the Recreation Ground – the Clerk confirmed that the £600 cost she had quoted had risen significantly once checked with the supplier and that the initial budget was not sufficient. An increased budget of £1,500 was proposed and approved.
Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay ***Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers***
All in favour
It was resolved *to approve a budget of £1,500 for the installation of a kissing gate at the Recreation Ground.*
4359 – possible extension and refurbishment of the Pavilion – it was noted that an item had been included at point 12 of the agenda to discuss this matter.

4373. Matters arising from the Recreation Committee meeting – 26 September 2022

1725 – to approve the request for a polytunnel at the Elmdon Lane allotment site – Cllr Hill explained that the request had been for a 5.7 metre long polytunnel but this was felt to be too long and the recommendation was to approve a 3metre long tunnel instead. It was also agreed to review the allotment tenancy agreement at the next Recreation Committee meeting.
Action item: *Clerk to include an item on the agenda for the next Recreation Committee meeting for the allotment tenancy agreement to be reviewed.*
Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay ***Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet***
All in favour
It was resolved *to approve a 3 metre polytunnel.*

1726 – St Leonard's Christmas Fair banner to be displayed on the Pleck -the recommendation from the Recreation Committee was to approve the request for the banner to be displayed for one week from 12 November 2022.
Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay ***Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers***
All in favour
It was resolved *that the St Leonard's Church Christmas Fair banner should be displayed for one week from 12 November 2022.*

1728 – Remembrance Day Parade/Service – Cllr Hill let the members know that volunteers were still needed for the barriers and that a parade controller was still being sought. Cllr Kim Wallace agreed to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the Marston Green Remembrance Day service and it was noted that Cllr Mike Kay would be laying the wreath at the Bickenhill service.

4374. Matters arising from the Planning Committee meeting 26 September 2022
The observations made in relation to application number PL/2022/01102/MINFHO to develop Church Garth in Bickenhill were noted.

4375. Matters arising from the Finance & General Purpose Committee meeting – 26 September 2022

852.1 – to approve the spend of £5,650 to replace the paths at both allotment sites – the recommendation was to approve the Flowers quote which it was noted should be in the sum of £6,600 plus VAT.
Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay ***Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet***

All in favour
It was resolved *to approve the spend of £6,600 plus VAT on the replacement paths at both allotment sites.*

852.2 – to approve the spend of £2,000 to replace the signage at the Recreation Ground – the recommendation was to approve the budget which would allow for all signs and fixing posts to be procured.
Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay ***Seconded: Cllr Kim Wallace***
All in favour
It was resolved *to approve the spend of £2,000 on the replacement signage for the Recreation Ground.*

860 – to approve the renewal of the AdvantEDGE suite of modules– the recommendation was to approve the renewal of the AdvantEDGE suite of modules for a five year period at a cost of £983.40 per year.
Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay ***Seconded: Cllr Carole Pearce***
All in favour
It was resolved *to approve the renewal of the AdvantEDGE suite of modules at £983.40 per year.*

861 – to approve the donation of £500 to Lily's Tea Parlour – the recommendation was to approve a donation of £500 to Lily's Tea Parlour to support the food bank.
Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay ***Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet***
All in favour
It was resolved *to approve the donation of £500 to Lily's Tea Parlour for the food bank.*

862 – to approve a donation of £200 to Marston Green Gardening Club – the recommendation was to approve a donation of £200 to the Garden Club.
Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay ***Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers***
All in favour
It was resolved *that a donation of £200 be made to Marston Green Gardening Club.*

864 – CIL application process – Cllr Mike Kay outlined the proposal to close applications for grants from the CIL monies and use the remaining funds on Parish Council projects. Cllr Sue Rogers reminded the members that there were two outstanding applications that still needed to be processed.
Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet ***Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers***
All in favour
It was resolved *that the two existing applications to the CIL monies would be processed but no further applications from members of the public would be considered at this time.*

4376. Approval of the Finance Approval List

The proposal to authorise the payments detailed on the expenditure report was approved.
Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay ***Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet***
All in favour
It was resolved *to approve the expenditure payments detailed in the report.*

4377. Update on external audit and to approve an amendment to the Section 2 – Accounting Statements for 2021/2022

The Clerk advised that the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn, had identified an error in the accounting statements for 2021/2022 whereby the precept and grant funds had both been included in the figure in box 2. They had requested that the figures be corrected and signed by the Clerk and Chairman and resubmitted. A copy of the correspondence and amended accounting statement had been included in the pack. The figures were:

	Submitted	**Amended**
Box 2 – Precept	£148,913	£147,461
Box 3 – Total other receipts	£63,297	£64,749

It was also noted that the external auditor had been unable to complete their work by the 30 September deadline and that a final report was awaited which would be reported to the next Parish Council meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay ***Seconded: Cllr Carole Pearce***

All in favour

It was resolved *that the amendment was noted and that a final external audit report was awaited.*

4378. To agree the members of the Pavilion Refurbishment Working Group

The members of the working group were agreed as Cllr Sue Rogers, Cllr Mike Kay, Cllr Jon Horton and Cllr Clive Hill. It was agreed that, at the necessary time, additional members would be invited to attend including members of the public and representatives from the Cricket Club.

Action item: *Clerk to set up an initial meeting in the next two weeks.*

4379. To update on the situation in relation to the village hall in Bickenhill

Cllr Mike Kay confirmed that he and Cllr Jon Horton continued to try to secure funding to allow them to move forward with the potential new village hall for Bickenhill. He agreed to keep the Parish Council updated following an upcoming meeting.

4380. To update on the installation of broadband in Bickenhill village

Cllr Mike Kay stated that there had been no movement on the installation of broadband for Bickenhill village since his last update although Hampton in Arden Parish Council had confirmed that they did not have any CIL funding available to contribute to the potential £35k needed to allow the project to move forward. Cllr Kay confirmed that news was awaited on a potential alternative scheme that the villagers may be able to utilise and the requirement to pay the £35k was also being investigated.

4381. To consider applying for a 'cycling toast rack'

The members discussed the opportunity to apply for one of the cycling toast racks that had become available from the West Midlands Combined Authority but felt that it would be better to wait until a decision had been made on the redevelopment of the Pavilion.

4382. To approve spend on Remembrance Day service/parade

The Clerk noted that costs had increased significantly this year on many aspects of the Remembrance Day service/parade including the PA system, wreaths and first aid cover. Cllr Mike Kay confirmed that the budget for this year was £850 and suggested this was increased to £1,500.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay ***Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers***

All in favour

It was resolved *that the budget for Remembrance Day service/parade be increased to £1,500.*

4383. To approve spend on Carols Around the Tree event on 7 December 2022

Cllr Clive Hill suggested that, rather than making a donation towards the event which had been organised by the Churches, the Parish Council should investigate whether it could help with the organisation and potentially provide refreshments in the Garden of Memory itself.

Action item: *Clerk to contact the Churches to ask if they would like the Parish Council to assist in organising this year's Carols Around the Tree event and for refreshments to be provided in the Garden of Memory.*

4384. To consider a request from the Scouts to supply trees for planting at Millennium Wood along with protective sleeves and posts as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative

The Clerk advised that a request had been received from the Scouts for the Parish Council to pay for 105 trees for planting in Millennium Wood. An issue had arisen with their application

for free trees which meant that they would no longer be able to plant the trees as planned.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay ***Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet***

All in favour

It was resolved *that the Parish Council would purchase 105 trees, sleeves and posts at a cost of £465 which the Scouts would plant in Millennium Wood.*

4385. External Committee Reports

Parish Hall Trustees – Cllr Claire Kelly advised that she was currently looking into the Parish Hall lease which was due to expire. She was also working with CAVA to identify funding opportunities.

Marston Green Village Charitable Trust – Cllr Clive Hill confirmed that an update was awaited on the funds that had been invested which would determine if there were sufficient monies available to allow applications to be invited.

Airport matters - there was nothing to update on at this time.

HS2/M42 J6 update - Cllr Mike Kay advised that the expected closure of the M42 did not take place at the weekend because of a failed safety test. It was anticipated that another attempt to move the bridges into place would be made soon.

4386. Correspondence

The correspondence was noted

4387. The Parish Council meeting closed at 20:59

4388. Date of the next meeting: 2 November 2022 19:30

Venue: The Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green