

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 11 January 2023 at 19:30
The Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green**

Present:

Cllr Clive Hill – Chairman
Cllr Mike Kay
Cllr Jon Horton
Cllr Trevor Wills
Cllr Sue Rogers
Cllr Kim Wallace
Cllr Carole Pearce

Clerk: Julie Brennan

Public: 3

4433. Chair's welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4434. The Public

4412.1 A member of the public stated that there was a notice on the Community Notice Board regarding the closure of the ticket office at the train station. Cllr Clive Hill confirmed that Cllr Bob Sleigh had let him know that the ticket office would remain open. It was noted that there were now only two trains per hour running from the station.

4412.2 A member of the public confirmed that the buzzards continued to be seen around the Millennium Wood.

4435. Apologies

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Claire Kelly, Cllr Wayne Hadley and Cllr Mark Noblet.

4436. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None

4437. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 December 2022

The Chairman asked those members present at the 7 December 2022 meeting if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record. Agenda item 4427 - Cllr Trevor Wills asked for clarification in relation to the paragraph regarding broadband speeds in Paris in the letter that had been sent to Saqib Bhatti MBE MP and pointed out that his meeting with the MP was a one to one meeting rather than a public meeting. The Clerk amended the minutes which were then approved as amended.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Kim Wallace

All in favour

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

4438. Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting – 7 December 2022

4391/4368.3 – Flooding - The Chair confirmed that a Teams meeting had been set

up for 30 January 2023 with Dean Ward of SMBC to discuss the problems with flooding in Marston Green.

4399 – Pavilion Working Group – the Chair confirmed that the next meeting was due to take place on 17 January 2023.

4428 -Payment of £500 to the St Peter’s, Bickenhill Foodbank – the Clerk confirmed that she had made the payment from the Parish Council’s bank account as it had not been possible to access the bank account for the Bickenhill Relief in Need Charity which it transpired was a savings account only. It was intended that the £500 would be reimbursed to the Parish Council account once access had been obtained to the charity account.

4439. Minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting – 14 December 2022

4439.1 Cllr Clive Hill confirmed, as per the minutes, that the meeting had been inquorate and had therefore not taken place. Cllr Hill let the members know that Cllr Mark Noblet had stood down from this Committee.

4440. Minutes of the Planning Committee 13 December 2022

Cllr Trevor Wills noted the approval of the planning application for the erection of a multistorey car park on land to the west of A452 (PL/2022/01467/MAJFOT). The members discussed the car park, the wider issues of the Arden Cross development and the need to monitor plans in light of potential issues with infrastructure. It was agreed that a meeting should be sought with the Arden Cross developers to further discuss the issues raised.

Action item: Clerk to seek a meeting with representatives from the Arden Cross development.

4441. Notes from the Planning Committee – comments submitted by email

The Planning Committee notes were reviewed and no queries raised.

4442. Matters arising from the Finance & General Purpose Committee meeting – 19 December 2022

Cllr Mike Kay noted the costs of the two year, fixed rate gas and electricity supply with EDF and advised that the approval of the precept for 2023-2024 was included as an item on the agenda.

4443. To approve the Finance Approval List

The proposal to authorise the payments detailed on the expenditure report was approved. Cllr Kim Wallace queried the payment to Flowers for additional works at the allotments which the Clerk confirmed related to work to turn and level the soil on the vacant Amenity Land plots to make them ready for new allotment holders. The note on urgent payments made was also approved.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers

All in favour

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

4444. To approve the precept for 2023/2024

Cllr Mike Kay provided an overview of the papers circulated to members outlining the recommendation for a 15% increase in the precept. He confirmed that it would take time to achieve a balanced budget and noted the increase in salaries and the cost of utilities. It was also noted that some items would be funded from reserves and had not therefore been included in the calculations for the precept.

Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace

Seconded: Cllr Jon Horton

All in favour

It was resolved to approve an increase of 15% in the precept for 2023/2024

4445. To agree the interview panel for the co-option of new Parish Councillors and consider dates for interview

Cllr Clive Hill noted that two applications had been received for the vacant positions and asked for three councillors to undertake the interviews. It was agreed that Cllr Trevor Wills, Cllr Jon Horton and Cllr Clive Hill would form the panel and the Clerk was asked to arrange a suitable date/time for the interviews to take place. Cllr Carole Pearce also offered to be on the panel if needed.

4446. To update on the situation in relation to the village Hall in Bickenhill

Cllr Mike Kay stated that matters should start to move forward shortly and noted that a useful meeting had taken place with Cllr Bob Sleigh.

4447. To update on the installation of broadband in Bickenhill village

Cllr Jon Horton informed members that the area (not the Parish) had been put out to tender for fibre broadband and that it was hoped that a company would bid to carry out the installation. If fibre broadband was installed, this would mean that it was no longer necessary for villagers to await the launch of a new scheme and to apply for vouchers to cover the cost. The issues with broadband in Marston Green were discussed and it was noted that previously the area had not been eligible for the voucher scheme but, as and when new schemes were announced, the situation could change and this would be monitored.

4448. To discuss options to mark the coronation of King Charles III

The date of the Coronation of King Charles III was confirmed as Saturday, 6 May 2023. The Councillors discussed options to mark the event including providing grants, holding an event or partnering with other organisations to support their events. It was agreed to form a committee to discuss options and make recommendations to the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr Trevor Wills offered to be on the committee and it was noted that Cllr Claire Kelly had also asked to be part of the committee.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Jon Horton

All in favour

It was resolved to form a committee to make recommendations on how to mark the coronation of King Charles III

4449. To agree the hearing of a complaint made relating to the handling of the boundary issue and work to tree 1578 at the Recreation Ground

The existing complaint policy was discussed but a suggestion was made that two councillors should meet with the complainant to discuss the issues raised and make investigations before feeding back their thoughts. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the complainant to ascertain if the proposed way forward was acceptable and, if so, arrange a meeting with Cllr Trevor Wills and Cllr Jon Horton.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers

All in favour

It was resolved that a meeting with Cllr Jon Horton and Cllr Trevor Wills be proposed with the complainant.

4450. To agree to update the bank mandate

It was noted that the bank mandate would need to be updated to remove Cllr Karen Dunn following her resignation and that a new signatory would need to be added. Cllr Sue Rogers agreed to be a signatory.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Kim Wallace

All in favour

It was resolved that Cllr Karen Dunn's details be removed from the bank mandate and Cllr Sue Rogers be added.

4451. To seek and approve a volunteer for a SAM working group being set up to review the reforms to national planning policy

Cllr Sue Rogers and Cllr Trevor Wills volunteered to be part of the SAM working group looking at reforms to national planning policy.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Mike Kay

All in favour

It was resolved that Cllr Sue Rogers and Cllr Trevor Wills would be part of the SAM working group looking at reforms to national planning policy.

4452. External Committee Reports

Parish Hall Trustees – there was nothing to update on at this time.

Marston Green Village Charitable Trust – Cllr Clive Hill advised that the trustees were due to meet shortly.

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

HS2/M42 J6 update – there was nothing to update on at this time.

4453. Correspondence

4453.1 Request from St Leonard's regarding the Coomber speaker – The Clerk confirmed that the speaker was not used by the Parish Council but it was loaned to the Church each year for the Carols Around the Tree event. Cllr Kim Wallace suggested that the speaker should be given to St Leonard's and this was approved.

Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace

Seconded: Cllr Carole Pearce

All in favour

It was resolved that the Coomber speaker be given to St Leonard's Church.

4453.2 The Journal (ICCM) – the Journal was noted.

4454. The Parish Council meeting closed at 21:10

4455. Date of the next meeting: 1 February 2023

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