

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 5 April 2023 at 19:30
The Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green**

Present:

Cllr Clive Hill – Chairman
Cllr Leigh Trevis
Cllr Mark Noblet
Cllr Mike Kay
Cllr Paul Powell
Cllr Sue Rogers
Cllr Trevor Wills
Cllr Jon Horton

Clerk: Julie Brennan

Public: 6

Cllr Trevor Wills handed a letter to the Chairman prior to the start of the meeting and left.

4502. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4503. The Public

4479.1 A member of the public raised the issue of the ongoing roadworks in Bickenhill and the problems with the current road configuration were discussed. The poor condition of St Peters Lane was also noted as was the inconvenience to villagers caused by the works and the many road closures planned ahead of the completion of the works. It was agreed that Cllr Mike Kay would draft a letter to Paul Tovey of SMBC advising him of the issues discussed and sharing the suggested changes which could make the current set up safer.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved that Cllr Kay draft a letter to be sent to Paul Tovey of SMBC regarding the current issues with the roadworks in Bickenhill and proposed changes to make the road safer.

4479.2 A member of the public asked if signs could be installed to stop parking in the area of the footbridge at the bottom of Church Lane. Cllr Jon Horton confirmed that the planning approval included the requirement for an enforcement plan which had not yet been agreed. Cllr Horton and Cllr Mike Kay agreed to contact Steve Van De Park of Skanska to ascertain what was planned and move the matter forward. Residents were asked to let the Councillors know of any further issues with parking in the area.

Action item: Cllr Jon Horton and Cllr Mike Kay to contact Steve Van De Park of Skanska to progress the matter of the enforcement plan for parking in the area of the footbridge at the bottom of Church Lane.

4504. Apologies

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Kim Wallace, Cllr Wayne Hadley, Cllr Carole Pearce and Cllr Claire Kelly.

4505. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None

4506. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1 March 2023

The Chairman asked those members present at the 1 February 2023 meeting if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Leigh Trevis

All in favour

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

4507. Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting – 1 March 2023

4412.1 – Gullies - the Clerk confirmed that she had not yet been able to obtain a plan but continued to try to access the software and would share any information obtained with the member of the public.

4412.2 – Drain cover on Bickenhill Road - the Clerk confirmed that works had been completed by SMBC.

4462/4449 -Complaint regarding the handling of the boundary issue – the Clerk confirmed that the boundary report from the solicitor was still awaited.

4465/937 – First Aid training for staff – the Clerk confirmed that the first aid training had been completed and all staff members had passed.

4472 – Elections 2023 – the deadline to submit papers and the option to co-opt after the election if necessary was noted.

4484 – Pavilion Working Group/Five Year Plan Working Group – it was agreed that a pre-meeting should be arranged for the newly merged group ahead of the meeting with the architect in order to agree priorities for the works to the Pavilion.

Action item: Clerk to set up a meeting a week before the meeting with the architect.

4497 – Signage at the Recreation Ground – the Clerk confirmed that the stickers had been obtained free of charge and had been fitted by the Groundsmen.

4508. Minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting – 15 March 2023

4508.1 Minute no.1793/1646 – Proposed lease with Panther for the 3Ms field – It was noted that Cllr Mike Kay and Cllr Jon Horton had been invited to attend the May Recreation Committee meeting to discuss options regarding the lease.

4508.2 Minute no. 1793/1649 – Purchase of land next to the Burial Ground – The Chairman confirmed that he and the Clerk had met with the landowner via Teams and that it looked likely that a section of land might become available. An update was awaited from the landowner.

4508.3 Minute no. 1784 – To approve the wording of the Licence for the use of the Recreation Ground – Members reviewed the wording of the Licence and it was approved for use going forward.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Jon Horton

All in favour

It was resolved that the Licence was approved.

4508.4 Minute no. 1796 – To approve the request from the Sunflower Craft Fair for a banner to be displayed on the Pleck on various dates throughout the year – Members discussed the request but agreed that the displaying of banners on the Pleck should be limited to local groups only.

Proposed: Cllr Jon Horton

Seconded: Cllr Leigh Trevis

All in favour

It was resolved to decline the request from the Sunflower Craft Fair and limit the display of banners on the Pleck to local groups only.

4508.5 Minute no. 1797 – To consider a request from St Leonard’s Church for a banner to be displayed on the Pleck from Sunday 14 May 2023 for 7 days – in line with the decision above, the request was approved.

Proposed: Cllr Paul Powell

Seconded: Cllr Mike Kay

All in favour

It was resolved that St Leonard’s Church could display a banner on the Pleck for 7 days from 14 May 2023.

4509. Minutes of the Finance & General Purpose Committee meeting – 27 March 2023

Minute no. 965.1 – Cllr Kay noted the recommendation from the Committee to approve a spend of £3,565 to install ANPR and CCTV on the car park of the Recreation Ground.

Proposed: Cllr Paul Powell

Seconded: Cllr Leigh Trevis

All in favour

It was resolved that ANPR and CCTV cameras should be installed at the Recreation Ground at a cost of £3,565.

Minute no. 973 – Cllr Kay asked for approval for a budget of £2,750 for the Coronation Event at the Parish Hall.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved that a budget of £2,750 was approved for the Coronation event at the Parish Hall on 6 May 2023.

Minute no. 975 – Cllr Kay noted the recommendation to approve the repair to a Christmas Tree Light at a cost of £150 plus carriage of £35.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Jon Horton

All in favour

It was resolved that the repair to the Christmas Tree light at a cost of £150 plus £35 carriage was approved.

Minute no. 976 – Cllr Kay let members know that a number of issues had arisen in relation to the new vehicle for the groundsmen. It was noted that single cab vehicles were not as popular as double cabs and lead times of around 12 months were not uncommon. The options were discussed and approval given to purchase a new Ford Ranger vehicle with an increased budget of £30,000 (ex VAT).

Proposed: Cllr Sue Rogers

Seconded: Cllr Leigh Trevis

All in favour

It was resolved to approve the purchase of a new Ford Ranger pickup truck with a budget of £30,000 (ex VAT).

Minute no. 977 – Cllr Kay recommended approval of the Tudor order in the sum of £733.09 which included grass seed, fertiliser and items of PPE.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved that the Tudor order in the sum of £733.09 was approved.

4510. Minutes of the Planning Committee 28 March 2023

Cllr Jon Horton outlined the request from Hampton in Arden Parish Council for an email to be sent to Saqib Bhatti MBE MP asking him to lobby for the removal of retrospective planning permission. The draft email was considered and approved.

Proposed: Cllr Jon Horton

Seconded: Cllr Paul Powell

All in favour

It was resolved that the email supporting the request from Hampton in Arden for the removal of retrospective planning permission be sent to Saqib Bhatti MBE MP.

Action item: Clerk to send the email to Saqib Bhatti MBE MP as drafted.

Minute no. 5.3 – Bearswood, Bickenhill Lane, Marston Green - Cllr Horton highlighted the planning refusal relating to the retrospective application for the erection of a front wall. Cllr Horton confirmed that SMBC had been contacted in order to ascertain the enforcement process now that the application had been refused.

4511. Update from the Coronation Committee with proposals for events to be held to mark the Coronation of King Charles III

Cllr Leigh Trevis advised that plans were moving ahead and orders being placed for the event.

4512. To approve the Finance Approval List and list of urgent payments made

The proposal to authorise the payments detailed on the expenditure report was approved. The note on urgent payments made was also approved. The Clerk was asked to investigate options for the alarm calls with a view to saving money on the BT phone bill.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay
All in favour

Seconded: Cllr Jon Horton

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

Action item: Clerk to investigate options for the alarm calls with a view to saving money on the BT phone bill.

4513. To update on the situation in relation to the Village Hall in Bickenhill

Cllr Jon Horton confirmed that meetings were taking place and figures had been suggested for the refurbishment of the hall but the amount needed to be meaningful and to allow for the provision of a proper community based hall. The matter was ongoing.

4514. To update on the installation of Broadband in Bickenhill village

Cllr Mike Kay advised that Openreach would carry out the works to install broadband but a date was awaited.

4515. To consider the response from Gavin Tristram regarding Broadband in the Parish

The Councillors discussed the email from Gavin Tristram but felt that it did not help or offer a way forward. Cllr Paul Powell agreed to speak to Martin Jones and to ask him to attend to provide an update on the current situation. The Clerk was asked to set up a call with Gavin Tristram.

Action item: Cllr Paul Powell to ask Martin Jones to attend a meeting to discuss the current Broadband issues.

Action item: Clerk to set up a call with Gavin Tristram.

4516. To review and approve the Standing Orders

It was noted that the Standing Orders were unchanged from the previous year and the Councillors reviewed and approved them.

Proposed: Cllr Jon Horton
All in favour

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

It was resolved that the Standing Orders were approved.

4517. To review and approve the Financial Regulations including the proposed change to the authority to spend

Cllr Mike Kay asked for approval of the Financial Regulations which were the same as the previous year save for the increase in expenditure in paragraph 4.1 which was amended as follows:

- The Council for all items over £7,500;
- A duly delegated committee of the Council for items over £2,000 but less than £7,500; or
- The Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman of the Council or Chairman of the appropriate committee for any items below £2,000.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Jon Horton

All in favour

It was resolved that the Financial Regulations were approved as amended.

4518. To approve a request from the Baseball Club to carry out works on the 3Ms field

The Councillors discussed the work as outlined in the email from the Baseball Club and gave their approval but on the agreement that any excess soil should be removed from site and not left mounded on the outfield.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved that the works requested by the Baseball Club were approved on the agreement that any excess soil must be removed from site and not mounded on the outfield.

4519. External Committee Reports

Parish Hall Trustees – Cllr Hill noted that the invoice clerk had left but there was nothing else to update on at this time.

Marston Green Village Charitable Trust – Cllr Clive Hill advised that the trustees were due to meet and that it was hoped to make some awards in the next twelve months.

Airport matters – Cllr Jon Horton noted that the airport had some concerns regarding the number of flights over the summer period and that work had been undertaken in regard to security.

HS2/M42 J6 update – There was no update at this meeting.

4520. Correspondence

The correspondence was noted.

4521. The Parish Council meeting closed at 21:40

4522. Date of the next meeting: 10 May 2023

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