

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 4 October 2023 at 19:30
The Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green**

Present:

Cllr Clive Hill – Chairman
Cllr Mark Noblet
Cllr Mike Kay
Cllr Sue Rogers
Cllr Paul Powell
Cllr Claire Kelly

Clerk: Julie Brennan

Public: 9

4635. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4636. The Public

A number of residents expressed concerns regarding parking in general in Marston Green and in particular in relation to problems with taxi drivers parking on yellow lines near to the train station and behaving in an antisocial way. Residents questioned why the traffic warden was not seen more often in the area and asked if yellow lines could be installed in more areas. Issues with cars left parked outside homes whilst the owners went on holiday and the noise when they returned to collect the car were raised. Cllr Clive Hill confirmed that if the vehicles were taxed and insured, then they were not acting illegally by parking in the area. He confirmed that he had liaised with Cllr Bob Sleight and had been advised that a Geofence that had led to Uber taxi drivers parking in the village had been moved and it was anticipated that this would resolve the problem in the area near to the train station. It was agreed to monitor the situation to see if the removal of the Geofence improved the situation.

A resident raised the issue of "bleed kits" being installed in Marston Green. The resident was asked to contact Cllr Leigh Trevis who was looking into this on behalf of the Parish Council.

4637. Apologies

Apologies had been received and accepted from, Cllr Leigh Trevis and Cllr Carole Pearce. Cllr Wayne Hadley was noted as absent.

4638. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None.

4639. To elect a Vice Chairman following the resignation of Cllr Jon Horton

Cllr Clive Hill invited nominations for the position of Vice Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers

All in favour

It was resolved that Cllr Claire Kelly be made Vice Chairman

4640. Minutes: to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 September 2023

The Chairman asked those members present at the 6 September 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 Mark Noblet

All in favour

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

4641. Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting – 6 September 2023

4583/4524.1 – 20mph speed limit – The Clerk confirmed that a reply had been received and circulated to the Councillors.

4583/4561.1 – Purchase of the horse field next to the Burial Ground – The Chairman confirmed that a response had been received from the landowner and this would be discussed at the next Recreation Committee meeting.

4611 – Post box in Bickenhill village – Cllr Mike Kay confirmed that the post box was still covered and that residents had to travel to Sheldon or Knowle to post a letter. The Clerk was asked to contact Royal Mail to ascertain why the post box was covered and when it would be available again.

Action item: Clerk to contact Royal Mail to ascertain why the post box in Bickenhill village is covered and when it will be available again.

4642. Recreation Committee

4642.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2023 were noted.

4642.2 **To approve the recommendation in relation to a memorial bench request**

The recommendation not to approve the request for a memorial bench was ratified as the site requested was not in an area identified as suitable by the Parish Council and there was insufficient space. An alternative site, BA1, was suggested, next to ashes plot 1.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Paul Powell

All in favour

It was resolved that the request for a memorial bench was rejected and the Clerk was asked to offer an alternative location, BA1, next to ashes plot 1.

4642.3 **To approve the amended Burial Ground Regulations**

Members reviewed the amended burial ground regulations and discussed item 5.11 relating to the ban on windmills. The amended regulations were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Paul Powell

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved that the amended Burial Ground Regulations were approved.

4642.4 **To approve two requests for polytunnels on the Elmdon Lane allotment site**

The recommendation to approve the requests for polytunnels was ratified.

Proposed: Cllr Claire Kelly

Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers

All in favour

It was resolved that the requests for two polytunnels on the Elmdon Lane allotment site were approved.

4643. Finance & General Purpose Committee

4643.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2023 were noted

4643.2 **To approve the recommendation to purchase three benches**

Members approved the recommendation to purchase three benches at a cost of £299 each. Benches to be installed at the Pleck, on the 3Ms land and at Millennium Wood.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Paul Powell

All in favour

It was resolved that three benches should be purchased at a cost of £299 each.

4643.3 **To approve the recommendation for Dualcom monitoring of the Pavilion alarm system**

Members noted that due to the phasing out of PSTN, it was necessary to change to Dualcom

monitoring of the alarm system.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Paul Powell

All in favour

It was resolved that Dualcom monitoring should be installed at a cost of £345.

4643.4 **To approve the quote of £550 plus VAT to add lockable boxes to the key switches on the Pavilion.**

Members discussed the need for the boxes and, given the recent break in, approved the quote.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Claire Kelly

All in favour

It was resolved that the quote of £550 plus VAT to install lockable boxes on the key switches on the Pavilion was approved.

4643.5 **Donation to Marston Green & District Horticultural Society**

Members reviewed the request and approved a donation in the sum of £200.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Paul Powell

All in favour

It was resolved that a donation of £200 to the Marston Green & District Horticultural Society was approved.

4643.6 **Vexatious Complaints Policy**

Members reviewed and approved the policy.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved that the Vexatious Complaints Policy was approved

4644. To appoint a new Chairman to the Planning Committee

Cllr Clive Hill explained that, as Cllr Jon Horton had resigned, it was necessary to appoint a new Chairman to the Planning Committee. Cllr Paul Powell agreed to take over, initially until March 2024

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Clive Hill

All in favour

It was resolved that Cllr Paul Powell was appointed as the new Chairman of the Planning Committee.

4645. Notes from the Planning Committee

4645.1 Note number 2.4 – members discussed the premises licence review and the conditions imposed by SMBC.

4646. To approve 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.

4647. To note the external audit report from Moore

Members reviewed the external audit report from Moore which was noted.

4648. To note the resignation of Cllr Jon Horton and to plan the recruitment for the three vacant councillor roles

Members agreed that the three vacancies should be advertised and Cllr Clive Hill and Cllr Sue Rogers agreed to make up the interview panel. Cllr Mike Kay asked for a copy of the advert to share with two residents who had shown an interest in joining the Council.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers

All in favour

It was resolved that the three vacant councillor roles should be advertised and Cllr Clive Hill and Cllr Sue Rogers should make up the interview panel. Clerk to send a copy of the advert to Cllr Mike Kay.

4649. To appoint a Councillor to the Parish Hall Trustees

Cllr Clive Hill asked if any member was interested in becoming a Trustee for the Parish Hall as Cllr Claire Kelly had stepped down. Cllr Paul Powell agreed to join the Parish Hall Trustees. It was noted that Cllr Mark Noblet would remain as a Trustee for the next six months but due to work commitments, may not be available for Trustee meetings.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers

All in favour

It was resolved that Cllr Paul Powell would join the Parish Hall Trustees on behalf of the Council.

4650. To appoint a Councillor to the Airport Consultative Committee

Cllr Clive Hill asked if any member was interested in becoming the Council's representative on the Airport Consultative Committee now that Cllr Jon Horton had resigned. Cllr Mike Kay agreed to become the Council's representative.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved that Cllr Mike Kay would become the Council's representative on the Airport Consultative Committee.

4651. To approve a budget for the refreshments for the Carols Around the Tree event on 5 December 2023

Members approved a budget of £25 for this event.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Claire Kelly

All in favour

It was resolved that a budget of £25 was approved to supply refreshments for the Carols Around the Tree event on 5 December 2023.

4652. To approve a request from St Leonard's Church for a banner to be displayed on the Pleck advertising their Christmas Craft and Gift Fair from 12 November for 7 days

The request to place a banner on the Pleck from 12 November for 7 days was approved.

Proposed: Cllr Paul Powell

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved that the request from St Leonard's Church to place a banner on the Pleck from 12 November 2023 for 7 days was approved.

4653. To agree a response to an email received from a resident regarding damage caused to his vehicle by a pothole on Coleshill Heath Road

Members discussed the request to contact SMBC regarding the damage caused to the resident's vehicle and agreed that the Clerk should contact them to request that they respond to the resident as quickly as possible.

Proposed: Cllr Paul Powell

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved that the Clerk should contact SMBC to request that they respond to the resident regarding the damage caused to his vehicle by a pothole.

4654. To agree a response to an email from a resident regarding planning condition violations at 58 Station Road, Marston Green

Cllr Clive Hill closed the meeting to allow a member of the public to raise concerns regarding the planning violations, fly-tipping and potential for noise issues. The response from SMBC was

noted including the options for the developer to apply for retrospective planning permission or change the size to within that stated in the planning permission. Cllr Clive Hill reopened the meeting and members agreed that the Clerk should contact SMBC Enforcement team on behalf of the Council to encourage them to take action to enforce the planning conditions.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Mike Kay

All in favour

It was resolved that the Clerk should contact the Enforcement Team at SMBC to request that they take action to enforce the planning conditions relating to the development of 58 Station Road.

4655. To agree a date for the meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner

Members considered options and agreed that a meeting should take place on 10 November 2023 at 6pm in the Parish Hall. It was also agreed that the Public should be invited to attend. Cllr Clive Hill asked all Councillors to attend if possible.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Claire Kelly

All in favour

It was resolved that the meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner should take place on 10 November 2023 at 6pm in the Parish Hall and that the public should be invited to attend.

4656. To agree a donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Members agreed a donation in the sum of £100.00.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Pual Powell

All in favour

It was resolved to make a donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in the sum of £100.

4657. Correspondence

4657.1 The correspondence was noted and Cllr Clive Hill thanked the staff and Councillors for their work on the Community Day.

4658. External Committee Reports

Parish Hall Trustees – Cllr Clive Hill noted a change in trustees but otherwise there were no further updates to share.

Marston Green Village Charitable Trust – Cllr Clive Hill confirmed that the next meeting would take place on 17 October 2023 but there were no updates to share at this meeting.

Airport matters – There were no updates to share at this meeting.

HS2/M42 J6 update – Cllr Mark Noblet confirmed that the next meeting would take place on 20/11/2023. Cllr Clive Hill let members know that at the meeting to discuss the Interchange Station, it had been confirmed that the number of car parking spaces had been reduced and Cllr Mike Kay had queried the provision of charging stations.

Village Hall, Bickenhill – Cllr Kay confirmed that a meeting had taken place and further details were awaited.

Broadband in Bickenhill – There were no updates to share at this meeting.

4659. The Parish Council meeting closed at 21:22

4660. Date of the next meeting: 1 November 2023 - Venue: The Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green