

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
Wednesday, 10 January 2024 at 19:30
The Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green**

Present:

CLlr Clive Hill (Chairman)
CLlr Sue Rogers
CLlr Carole Pearce
CLlr Claire Kelly
CLlr Mike Kay
CLlr Mark Noblet

Clerk: Julie Brennan
Public: 4

C 24 - 001 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

C 24 - 002 The Public

A member of the public asked when the clock on the Garden of Memory would be repaired. CLlr Clive Hill confirmed that a date for the repair was awaited.

C 24 - 003 Apologies

Apologies had been received and accepted from CLlr Claire Kelly, CLlr Paul Powell and CLlr Leigh Trevis. CLlr Wayne Hadley was noted as absent.

C 24 - 004 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 December 2023

The Chairman asked those members present at the 6 December 2023 meeting if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record.

Resolved: that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

C 24 - 005 Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 December 2023:

- a) 4696/4636 - Bleed Kits – the Clerk confirmed that the result of a funding application was awaited.
- b) 4696/4643.4 – Lockboxes – the Clerk confirmed that the lockboxes had been fitted.
- c) 4696/4677.2 – Option on land next to the Burial Ground – The Clerk confirmed that a response had not yet been received from the landowner.
- d) 4698.5 – Recording of resolutions – CLlr Sue Rogers queried if abstentions would still be recorded and the Clerk confirmed that they would.
- e) 4705 – Audley Primary School using Millennium Wood for Forest Schools – Members enquired if the school would be providing photographs for use on the Council's website. The Clerk confirmed that photographs were awaited and that these would be uploaded to the Facebook page on receipt.

C 24 - 006 Recreation Committee

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2023 were noted.
- b) Members discussed the cutting of the Vicars Field and Amenity Land and agreed to review this once the costs had been confirmed following the tender process. The Clerk was asked to include an item on

the next Recreation Committee agenda for further discussion.

Resolved: that the amended Grounds Maintenance Contract documentation was approved and the Clerk should advertise the tender on Contract Finder.

- c) The application to place a memorial bench on row N at the Burial Ground was considered.

Resolved: that the application to place a memorial bench on row N at the Burial Ground was approved.

- d) Members considered the draft letter to the Baseball Club and agreed a number of amendments.

Resolved: that the amended letter to the Baseball Club regarding the installation of a container on the 3Ms land was approved.

C 24 - 007 Finance & General Purpose Committee

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2023 were noted.

- b) The draft meeting calendar was discussed.

Resolved: that the meeting calendar for 2024/25 was approved.

- c) The request for the Deputy Clerk and Cllr Mike Kay to have view only access to the Parish Council bank accounts was discussed.

Resolved: that the Deputy Clerk and Cllr Mike Kay should be given view only access to the Parish Council bank accounts.

- d) Members discussed whether or not to create a record of Councillor attendance at meetings and accepted the recommendation not to do so.

Resolved: that a record of Councillor attendance would not be created.

- e) The quote from SMBC to carry out the work to update the management plan for Millennium Wood was discussed.

Resolved: to approve the quote of £2,425.72 from SMBC to revise/update the management plan for Millennium Wood

- f) Members discussed the budget information and suggested options for the precept rate for 2024/2025. An increase of 12.5% was agreed which provided for a precept of £199,204, an increase of £8.90 per band D property.

Resolved: to request an increase in precept of 12.5% from SMBC

C 24 - 008 Planning Committee

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2023 were noted.

- b) Members discussed the email received from a resident regarding solar panels on the airport bund and asked the Clerk to respond using the comments from minute 4.1.

Resolved: that the Clerk should respond to the resident to confirm that the installation of solar panels has been carried out under permitted development and therefore the Parish Council can take no action but will monitor for further dialogue.

C 24 - 009 Pavilion Working Group

- a) The update from the meeting held on 4 December 2023 was noted.

- b) Members reviewed the terms for the lease of the bar and lounge and noted that they were still to be approved by the Cricket Club.

Resolved: that the terms for the lease of the bar and lounge were approved.

C 24 - 010 To approve the Finance Approval List & list of urgent payments made

The payments detailed on the expenditure report and list of urgent payments made were considered.

Resolved: that the expenditure payments detailed in the reports were approved.

R24 - 011 External Committee Reports

- a) **Parish Hall Trustees** – Cllr Clive Hill advised that there were no updates at this time.
- b) **Marston Green Village Charitable Trust** – Cllr Clive Hill confirmed that an update would be provided to the next meeting as the trustees were due to meet week commencing 15 January 2024.
- c) **Airport matters** – Cllr Mike Kay outlined the make up of the Airport Consultative Committee which was chaired by Colin Flack. Cllr Kay advised that Nick Barton, Chief Executive, had reported that numbers were up by 13% on the previous year and that 30 airlines currently operated from the airport with an additional 2 airlines likely to join. Mr Barton had noted that growth was currently being held back by a shortage of new aircraft. Cllr Kay advised that a new security system was expected to go live in Summer 2024. A recent Virgin Atlantic flight using sustainable aviation fuel (which is 70% cleaner than existing fuel) was being seen as a milestone. The Airport were reviewing its multistorey car parks following the fire at Luton airport. The reduction of car parking from 7.5k to 4.5k spaces at HS2 was noted. Cllr Kay also advised that a consultation would be undertaken with a view to making slots multipurpose and therefore more efficient. Cllr Kay asked members to let him know if they had any questions ahead of the next meeting which would take place on 7 March 2024.
- d) **HS2/M42 J6 updates** – Cllr Mark Noblet advised that the next HS2 meeting would take place at the end of March 2024. Cllr Mike Kay confirmed that the reopening of Shadow Brook Lane had been postponed to 27 January 2024 and advised that the Clock Interchange Island was due to close temporarily very soon.
- e) **Village Hall, Bickenhill** – Cllr Mike Kay advised that a letter was being sent to Andy Street and Saqib Bhatti MBE MP in an attempt to move matters forward as discussions with Highways had stalled.
- f) **Broadband in Bickenhill** – Cllr Mike Kay confirmed that the overground installation had commenced and St Peter's Lane had already been wired up. Planning permission was needed for the installation of two telegraph poles and this would cause delays.

C 24 - 012 Correspondence - None

C 24 - 013 Date of the next meeting: 7 February 2024 at 19:30

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

C 24 - 014 Confidential Matters

Resolved: To close the meeting to members of the public via the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, to allow for discussion of confidential matters, publicity of which would be prejudicial to the public interest.

C 24 - 015 Staffing Committee

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2023 were noted.
- b) Members discussed the recommendation in relation to the Groundsmen's pay point.
Resolved: that the Groundsmen's pay point be increased from point 12 to point 16 with effect from 1 April 2024.
- c) Members discussed the recommendation for the Deputy Clerk's pay point to remain at point 18.
Resolved: that the Deputy Clerk's pay point would remain at point 18.
- d) Members discussed the recommendation in relation to the Clerk's pay point.
Resolved: that the Clerk's pay point be increased from point 29 to point 34 with effect from 1 April 2024.

The meeting closed at 21:06