

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting**  
**Wednesday, 1 May 2024 at 19:30**  
**The Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green**

**Present:**

CLlr Mike Kay (Chairman)  
CLlr Mark Noblet  
CLlr Clive Hill  
CLlr Paul Powell  
CLlr Carole Pearce  
CLlr Claire Kelly  
CLlr Leigh Trevis  
CLlr Philip Clover

Clerk: Julie Brennan

Public: 4

**C 24 - 096 Chairman's welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**C 24 - 097 The Public**

A member of the public asked when the Catherine de Barnes Lane was due to reopen. CLlr Mike Kay confirmed that this was likely to be in October 2024 and advised of the planned closure of Clock Island.

A member of the public asked if the Parish Council knew why the gas works being carried out in Marston Green were being done in such a haphazard way, moving from one area to another for no apparent reason. No one on the Council was able to explain the reason why the work had been undertaken in the order it had been done.

**C 24 - 098 Apologies**

Apologies had been received and accepted from CLlr Wayne Hadley.

**C 24 - 099 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations**

None.

**C 24 - 0100 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 April 2024**

The Chairman asked those members present at the 10 April 2024 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 - 0101 Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 April 2024:**

- a) C 24 – 076 – Damage to the metal fencing on the A452 -The Clerk confirmed that she had raised a ticket with SMBC who had agreed to attend to inspect the problem of the damage to the fence.

**C 24 - 0102 Recreation Committee**

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2024 were noted.

- b) The budget/expenditure report to 30 April 2024 was noted.
- c) Cllr Clive Hill provided an overview of the meeting and highlighted the recommendation to enter into a 10-year lease of the 3Ms field with Panther. The Clerk was asked to contact Panther and request a compromise of breaks clauses every 4 years rather than the 3 years suggested and if that was agreed, the Council would accept responsibility for the Japanese knotweed.

**Resolved:** that, subject to agreement of break clauses every 4 years rather than 3 years, the lease with Panther was approved.

#### **C 24 - 0103 Finance & General Purpose Committee**

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2024 were noted.
- b) The budget/expenditure report to 30 April 2004 was noted.
- c) Members noted the increase in reinstatement figures for the Pavilion (£855,000 plus VAT including fees and clearance) and Groundsman's House (£370,000 including the garages). The Clerk was asked to notify Zurich Insurance and update the values on the Asset List.

**Action item:** Clerk to update valuations with Zurich and on the Asset List.

- d) Members noted that the Council's current copy of Arnold Baker on Local Council Administration was the 8<sup>th</sup> edition and approved the purchase of the latest, 13<sup>th</sup> edition.

**Resolved:** that a copy of the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of Arnold Baker on Local Council Administration should be purchased at a cost of £142.40.

- e) Members discussed the quote of £4,808 plus VAT for the storage, erection and repair of the Christmas lights which was approved.

**Resolved:** that SMBC's fee of £4,808 plus VAT for the storage, erection and repair of the Christmas lights was approved.

- f) The email from Zurich recommending that liability be admitted in relation to the damage caused by a falling tree on the 3Ms field was discussed. The Clerk was asked to confirm that the Parish Council accepted the advice to admit liability.

**Resolved:** that the Parish Council would accept liability in relation to the damage caused to a resident's property by the falling tree on the 3Ms field.

**Action item:** Clerk to notify Zurich that the Parish Council agreed with their advice to admit liability in relation to the damage caused to the resident's property by a falling tree on the 3Ms field.

#### **C 24 - 0104 Planning Committee**

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2024 were noted.
- b) Members discussed the request for comments on a premises licence for a pub in Barston which was outside of the Parish. It was noted that the application to install a telecommunications mast on Elmdon Road had been refused but it was likely that this would be resubmitted.

#### **C 24 - 0105 Events Committee**

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2024 were noted.
- b) The budget/expenditure report to 30 April 2004 was noted.
- c) D-Day 80th Anniversary 6 June 2024 – Cllr Paul Powell provided an update on the event and repeated his request for help from Councillors on the day. Cllr Powell confirmed that the banner had been ordered and would be installed on The Pleck as soon as possible. He noted that the beacon had been ordered and would be tested once delivered. Cllr Powell confirmed that the Committee continued to meet regularly to finalise things ahead of the 6 June event.
- d) Community Day event - 14 September 2024 – Cllr Paul Powell confirmed that planning for this

event was in the early stages but would gather momentum once the D-Day event had taken place.

#### **C 24 - 0106 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 and approved.

**Resolved:** *that the expenditure payments and list of urgent payments made detailed in the reports were approved.*

#### **C24 - 0107 External Committee Reports**

- a) **Parish Hall Trustees** – Cllr Clive Hill confirmed that Cllr Paul Powell continued to support the Trustees and was currently sorting out the bar. It was noted that a repair was required to a leaky roof which was highlighted following the recent heavy rain and that Margaret was now working part time as manager/steward.
- b) **Marston Green Village Charitable Trust** – Cllr Clive Hill advised that the trustees had now sorted out the issues with banking and they hoped to be able to distribute funds soon. He confirmed that guidelines would be published to ensure the public knew how to make an application.
- c) **Airport matters** – Cllr Mike Kay let Members know that the next meeting would take place on 13 June 2024 and asked Councillors to let him know if they had any questions that they would like to be raised. It was noted that little work had been done on the Airport owned properties in Bickenhill and this might need to be followed up.
- d) **HS2 updates** – Cllr Mark Noblet also asked Members to let him know if they had any questions for HS2. He reminded Members that Andy de Bell had offered to attend a Parish Council meeting and it was agreed that he should be invited to the June or July meeting.

**Action item:** *Clerk to contact Andy de Bell to request that he attends either the June or July Parish Council meeting.*

- e) **M42 J6 updates** Cllr Mike Kay confirmed that issues continued with poor signage, lorries getting stuck and people travelling in the wrong direction.
- f) **Village Hall, Bickenhill** – Cllr Mike Kay advised that Saqib Bhatti MBE MP continued to help and correspondence had been exchanged. Although an offer of £10k had been put forward, a request had been made that the problems in the village (including flooding and roads) should be looked at as a whole rather than just focusing on the issue with the Hall.

#### **C 24 - 0108 Date of the next meeting: 5 June 2024 at 19:30**

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

The meeting closed at 20:35