Bickenhill & Marston Green
PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday, 13 May 2026 at 19:30
The Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green

Present:

Cllr Mike Kay – Chairman
Cllr Carole Pearce
Cllr Claire Kelly
Cllr Clive Hill
Cllr Dave Fenlon
Cllr Leigh Trevis
Cllr Mark Noblet
Cllr Paul Powell
Cllr Philip Clover

Also present: Julie Brennan, Clerk and two members of the public.

C26 -075. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed those present.

The Public

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for the public question time to enable residents to discuss any issues and identify matters of concern relating to the agenda, this does not form part of the formal meeting.

C26 -076. Apologies

None.

C26 -077. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr Leigh Trevis reminded Members that he was the Treasurer of Marston Green Cricket Club.

C26 -078. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting 8 April 2026

The Chairman asked those members present at the 8 April 2026 Parish Council 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.

C26 -079. Actions updates

C26 – 045a – the response from SMBC regarding the traffic on Station Road was noted.

C26 – 067e – the Clerk advised that the Edge IT Complete IT support package did not include cyber security training for Councillors.

C26 -080. Recreation Committee

a) The minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2026 were noted.

b) The budget/expenditure report was noted.

c) The proposed wording for the signs to be installed at the Millennium Wood was discussed.

Resolved: that the wording for signs to be installed at the Millennium Wood was approved.

C26 -081. Finance & General Purpose Committee

a) The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2026 were noted.

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b) The budget/expenditure report was noted.

c) Members noted that the Clerk had completed 5 years' service in April and approved the award of a £50 voucher in line with the Long Service Award policy.

Resolved: that the Clerk should be issued with a voucher in the sum of £50 to mark her 5 years' service.

d) (i) Members discussed the current financial position and the best way to achieve a reserve of £70,000 in the Redwood 95 Day account. It was agreed that deposits should be made when sufficient balances were available from the main Treasury account and the F&GP Committee were given delegated authority to decide on the dates and amounts to be transferred to achieve the full reserve amount.

Resolved: that the F&GP Committee were given delegated authority to transfer funds between the Treasury account and Redwood 95 Day account in order to achieve a reserve of £70,000.

(ii) Members agreed that the Treasury account should be maintained with a balance of approximately £25,000.

Resolved: that the Clerk should maintain a balance of approximately £25,000 in the Unity Trust Treasury Account.

(iii) Members agreed that monies held in the Unity Trust Treasury account above £25,000 should be transferred to the Unity Trust General account to be held until they were needed.

Resolved: that the Clerk should transfer monies in excess of £25,000 in the Unity Trust Treasury Account to the Unity Trust General account to hold until it is needed.

e) Website – the website accessibility report was noted. The Clerk was asked to investigate problems sending emails to Councillors via the Councillors & Representatives page.

Members considered the suggested Facebook campaign plan to officially launch the new bmg-pc.gov.uk website which was approved.

Action: Clerk to investigate the problem sending emails to Councillors from the Councillors & Representative page of the new website.

Resolved: that the Facebook campaign plan to officially launch the new website was approved.

f) Knights Solicitors invoice – Members discussed the outstanding invoice from Knights in the sum of £3,256.60 and resolved that an offer of £2,250 plus VAT and disbursements should be made in settlement of the bill.

Resolved: that the Clerk is authorised to increase the Council's offer to settle Knight's invoice up to a maximum of £2,250 plus VAT and disbursements.

C26 -082. Planning Committee

a) The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2026 were noted. Cllr Mark Noblet provided an overview of planning application number PL/2026/0528/CLOPUD which related to 211 Elmdon Lane and the comments submitted to SMBC were noted.

b) The budget/expenditure report was noted.

C26 -083. Events Working Group

a) Cllr Paul Powell provided an update on plans for the 18 July 2026 Family Fun Day event and confirmed that Traffix had kindly agreed to provide three volunteers to manage the car park at no cost to the Council. A query arose regarding the DJ and the Clerk was asked to confirm if he will be attending this year's event. The list of payments for approval was considered and all payments approved for processing.

Action: Clerk to confirm that the DJ will be attending this year's event.

Resolved: that the payments detailed in the approval list were approved for processing.

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C26 -084. To resolve to approve the expenditure transactions and list of urgent payments made

Members considered the payments detailed in the expenditure report and list of urgent payments.

Resolved: All expenditure transactions and urgent payments approved.

C26 -085. Greenhouse

The request to install a greenhouse on the Amenity Land allotments was considered and approved subject to ensuring that it was installed securely given the proximity to the airport runway and trainline and confirmation that liability sits with the plot holder and not the Parish Council.

Resolved: that the greenhouse was approved subject to the usual caveats and also subject to ensuring that it is installed securely and the plot holder is aware that all liabilities remain with her and not the Parish Council.

C26 -086. Barston Aircraft Noise Action Group (BANAC)

Members reviewed the invitation to meet with members of BANAC and agreed that Cllr Mike Kay should meet with the Group.

Resolved: that Cllr Mike Kay should attend a meeting with BANAC

C26 -087. Bar/Lounge lease payment

The request from Marston Green Cricket Club for a reduction to the first payment due under the new lease was considered however Members agreed that no reduction would be offered.

Resolved: That no reduction would be offered in relation to the first payment due under the new lease for the bar/lounge.

C26 -088. The Role of Parish/Town Councils in Neighbourhood Governance Reviews

Members reviewed the information provided by WALC regarding neighbourhood governance. The motion and draft letter addressed to Saqib Bhatti MBE MP seeking his help by lobbying on behalf of Parish/Town Councils during the development of regulations under the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill (EDCE Bill) were approved.

Resolved: that the motion was approved and the draft letter addressed to Saqib Bhatti MBE MP should be sent seeking his help in relation to the EDCE bill.

C26 -089. Birmingham Baseball Club

Cllr Mike Kay let Members know that a complaint had been made by Birmingham Baseball Club following an incident arising from a delivery of soil to the 3Ms field which the Staffing Committee would investigate in line with procedure.

The Clerk then provided an overview of the incident following which it was agreed that the behaviour and attitude directed at the Clerk was unacceptable. It was agreed that a letter should be drafted to send to the Baseball Club advising them that the Council would not tolerate abusive behaviour towards staff and making them aware of the consequences.

Resolved: that a letter should be drafted to send to the Baseball Club making them aware that abusive behaviour towards staff would not be tolerated. The letter should be circulated to Members for approval before being sent and should be signed by the Chairman.

C26 -090. Unauthorised access to Amenity Land

Members noted that the Council's padlock had been broken off gate 1 on the Amenity Land in order for a contractor to gain access to the rear garden of a property on Elmdon Lane. The chain-link fencing had also been cut off and discarded to provide access through to the resident's garden. A letter had been sent to the resident advising her of the unauthorised access and she had now made contact to request permission to access her garden to allow works to be completed. It was noted that the Council's lease did not permit it to provide access to anyone over the Amenity Land and therefore it was not possible to agree to the request. It was also noted that the Council would incur costs to replace the padlock (a Masterlock) and install new

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chain-link fencing. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes to undertake the repairs and to write to the resident letting her know that the Council would seek recompense for the costs incurred in repairing the damage done by the contractor on her behalf.

Action: Clerk to obtain a quote to replace the padlock and install new chain-link fencing to replace the section that was cut out.

Action: Clerk to write to the resident informing her that access is not possible and letting her know that the Council would seek recompense for the costs incurred in repairing the damage done by the contractor on her behalf.

C26 -091. Amenity Land Lease

The Chairman reminded Members that the new lease for the Amenity Land was now being agreed directly with Birmingham Airport following issues with the Council's solicitor. Member viewed the draft lease which was approved to be signed by any two Councillors and witnessed by the Clerk.

Resolved: that the lease for the Amenity Land was approved and should be signed by any two Councillors and witnessed by the Clerk.

C26 -092. Christmas Lights 2026

The fee proposal from SMBC for storage, repair and installation of Christmas lights for 2026 was considered.

Resolved: that the quote of £4,014 to store, repair and install the Christmas lights in 2026 was approved.

C26 -093. Change of Borough Councillors

Members discussed the suggestion to mark the service of former SMBC Cllr Bob Sleigh who had not stood for re-election on 7 May 2026. The many years of service, commitment and support to the local community was noted and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr Sleigh thanking him and wishing him well in the future. It was also agreed that letters should be sent to former Councillors Gail Sleigh and Alison Rolf who had also decided not to stand for re-election.

Action: Clerk to send letters to former councillors Bob Sleigh, Gail Sleigh and Alison Rolf thanking them for their service to the Parish.

C26 -094. 25 Years of Millennium Wood – 7 May 2026

The 25-year anniversary of the burial of the time capsule in the Millennium Wood was noted. It was suggested that photographs may be available from Solihull News and the Clerk was asked to check the archive. No future milestones/anniversaries were noted.

Action: Clerk to check the archive for any photographs/records relating to the burial of the time capsule and to contact Solihull News to see if they have any records of the event.

C26 -095. External Committee Reports

a) **Parish Hall Trustees:** Cllr Clive Hill confirmed that bookings remained strong and the monthly food and drink night continues to be popular.

b) **Marston Green Village Charitable Trust:** Cllr Clive Hill advised that it was hoped that banking matters had now been addressed and applications should open up shortly.

c) **M42 J6 update:** Cllr Philip Clover let Members know that:

- Works continue on the A45 with both lane and overnight closures taking place.
- Chevrons have been installed on the slip road off the A4545 to Bickenhill Village which it is hoped might slow and direct traffic around the island.
- The final meeting with Skanska was expected to take place in the coming week.

C26 -096. Date and time of next meeting: 10 June 2026 19:30

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

The meeting closed at 21:06.

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