

Marston Sicca Parish Council

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Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held Long Marston Village Hall May 20th, 2024, 7.30pm

Members Present: Cllr. Ian Johnsey (Chair), Cllr. Bill Tempest, Cllr. Noel Davis, Cllr. Steve Barker, Cllr. Colin Parrott, Cllr. Cliff Brown

Clerk: Debbie Woodliffe

District Councillor, Stuart Keighley

Also present: Three members of the public present

1.Election of Chairman

Cllr. Ian Johnsey was proposed and seconded by Cllr. Parrott and Cllr. Tempest and unanimously agreed by full council. There was no other nomination.

2.Election of Vice Chair

Members unanimously voted in favour of Cllr. Whittaker to be Vic Chair.

3.Apologies

No report received and no apologies for absence from Cllr. Pemberton

4. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Parrott and Cllr Barker declared a non- pecuniary interest in Marston Meadow

5. Public Open Session

5.1 Member of the public asked about Meon Vale Community Centre and whether there would be a concessionary booking rate for local residents including youth groups. Cllr. Barker who sits on the Asset Management Committee confirmed these points needed to be finalised. On the same subject, a further resident asked about free time for the Residents Association to hold meetings in the community centre, it was confirmed the AMC would allocate an amount of free time to the RA.

5.2 A member of the public enquired about the traffic management relating to rail live and what this actually meant in practice. Cllr. Keighley noted his meetings with the organisers but for residents to be prepared for more traffic.

5.3 A member of Meon Vale residents association confirmed the intention of creating their own Meon Vale Parish Council, and the process had started.

6. Minutes of the previous meeting

Members considered Minutes of the meeting held on April 15th, 2024 to be an accurate account. Minutes were subsequently approved and signed.

7. District and County Councillor Reports

7.1 Cllr. Keighley advised members of meetings he has had with Rail Live event organisers, reaffirming the need to have a more organised traffic management, parking solution for the event of 19th and 20th June

7.2 The CCTV planning application for Meon Vale is now with SDC, though this is considered a planning application, and is more of a formality.

7.3 A resident of LM had contacted Cllr. Keighley about the noise from cars driving over a manhole cover. It was suggested the Clerk to mention how to the Parish Council with issues such as this in the newsletter. Clerk to action

7.4 Members were advised of a property SDC has purchased in Evesham Road to support the Fred Winter Centre and its project for temporary accommodation.

8. Governance

8.1 Standing Orders were reviewed and confirmed as still relevant. Clerk/RFO confirmed new NALC model Financial Regulations had been received. The Clerk/RFO would study the new regulations and circulate to council members to adopt.

8.2 Council members also confirmed they have signed up to the Stratford upon Avon's Code of Conduct.

8.3 Members considered and agreed to maintain subscriptions to WALC, SLCC and CPRE

8.4 Members reviewed the asset register noting the new notice boards had been added.

8.5 Parish Council policies were considered to remain relevant.

8.6 It was confirmed the parish council continues to qualify for General Power of Competence.

9. Civility and Respect Pledge

Council members agreed this was an important topic and wanted to understand the training involved prior to signing up to the pledge. Clerk to advise.

10. Staffing Committee

Members felt having a staffing committee at this time.

11. Clerks report on any outstanding matters

11.1 Hall Reynolds Solicitors having taken the file from Robert Lunn and Lowth are making progress with the transfer of assets. They have sent a summary to Ladders (acting for St Modwen) with some final questions. Ladders have acknowledged.

11.2 The site visit to Meon Vale from Macemain and Amstad took place and the quotation to erect the bus shelter should be with us the parish council shortly. Members had initially agreed a capped spend of £10k.

11.3 Members felt an appraisal of the newsletter was needed. The clerk noted the costs were higher than previously budgeted due to no income being received from advertising. Members felt there should be a review of costs for hard copies and fresh consideration of circulation. Clerk to action prior to next meeting.

12. Marston Meadow

12.1 The Chair said he would approach a contractor to help erect the entrance gate.

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12.2 Cllr. Barker showed members examples of gravel to be used on the footpath (400 metres), with estimated costs to be approximately £15k plus the cost of the contractor. Final costs to be organised for discussion at the next PC meeting.

12.3 Cllr. Barker show members examples of a 3-sided wooden pavilion type structure to act as a shelter for the site. The costs to erect (including footings, and base) in oak with a cedar roof were estimated to be around £20k. Cllr. Barker to provide more information before the next meeting to help full council make an informed decision.

13. Finance

13.1 Members received bank reconciliation and payments that required approval. Items were approved. (see Appendix A)

13.2 Members were presented with Annual Internal Audit Report

13.3 Members received and agreed Annual Governance Statement which was duly signed.

13.4 Members received and agreed Annual Accounting Statements for 2023/24 which were signed.

13.5 Members agreed to notify exercise of public rights.

NB. For points 13.2-13.4 see Appendix B

14. Climate Change & Biodiversity

Members were advised of the preparations taking place to host the second Big Green Day event in September. Further details will be provided asap.

15. Three Year Strategic Plan

Members have agreed to develop a 3-year strategic plan and will be investigating the key priorities and how this can be mapped and measured. Clerk to provide more information to help the process.

16. Planning Matters

16.1 24/00592/FUL, The Willows, Welford Road, Long Marston - Conversion of half the existing garage into an annex

Decision: No objection

16.2 24/01015/FUL, Rail Innovation Centre, Station Road - Application for provision of new track plus renovation/realignment and electrification of (part) internal railway loop including erection of associated infrastructure comprising electrification pylons (72), electrification wires, electricity substation, operational control building, signalling equipment and associated works (including demolition of single rail shed).

Decision Support on the following grounds:

Marston Sicca PC considers the Rail Innovation Centre as an invaluable local and national asset to test and trial new technologies prior to their introduction to the wider operational rail network. It will greatly assist the UK government to end the operation of diesel trains by 2040 and assist them reaching their target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

It accords with the Core Strategy/NPPF and has been specifically included in the SDC Site Allocation Plan.

16.3 FOR INFORMATION

22/00114/OUT, All Things Wild, Wilmcote.

The application has an extension time for determination until 1st June due to contentious discussions between WCC Highways and ATW consultants not being shared with the Case Officer or included on the Planning Portal.

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17. Correspondence & Councillor Comments

17.1 Cllr. Barker provided council members with a report which included status on Marston Meadow, the AMC and the new location for the VAS unit.

17.2 Cllr. Parrott confirmed the village hall was now receiving regular bookings and plans for the fete were being organised this year by the Masons Arms.

17.3 Members agreed, the years of work put into the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan by the NP committee, warranted a celebration to thank the organisers. Clerk to organise.

17.4 The clerk had received details relating to vandalism to the Pavilion Roof. Members agreed to organise repairs asap due to the hole that would allow rain to enter the plant room.

17.5 It was confirmed Cllr. Johnsey will work alongside Cllr. Parrott regarding the Coopers Foundation.

18. Next meeting date

17th June 2024 Long Marston Village Hall

Meeting Closed 21.48