

Marston Sicca Parish Council

www.marstonsicca-pc.gov.uk

Email: clerk@marstonsicca-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council meeting held Long Marston Village Hall 16th September, 2024, 7.30pm

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

Clerk: Debbie Woodliffe

District Councillor: Stuart Keighley

1. Apologies

None

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3 Public Open Session

3.1 A member of the Meon Vale Residents Association advised members the RA were having their AGM on September 20th.

3.2 Despite the sending of the agenda for web posting, it was not visible on the site. Clerk to check

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Members considered Minutes of the meeting held 19th August 2024 to be an accurate account of the meeting. Minutes were subsequently approved and signed.

5. District & County Councillor Report

5.1 District Cllr. Stuart Keighley had sent a Parish & Partners Briefing email to all members in advance of the meeting (copy attached).

5.2 Cllr. Keighley advised members of a meeting being organised within Shackleton Village to include all key stakeholders. Date to be confirmed, but likely to be in November.

5.3 C. Councillor Daren Pemberton not present and no report received.

6. Chairmans Comments

The Chairman referred to point 8 on the agenda and the work the PC have already undertaken to mitigate speeding through the village, but the rules relating to VAS units and any further options are governed by WCC.

7. Clerks Report on any outstanding or ongoing matters

7.1. Members were advised that a trustee has been appointed treasurer to manage the financial aspect of the Pavilion. To expedite full transfer of responsibilities from the PC to the charity, the Clerk and treasurer have met to conclude on the following:

(i) Payroll, the treasurer has details of the payroll company and will organise TUPE for paid staff.

(ii) Utility transfer from Scottish Power to Octopus is being organised under the charity name.

(iii) Zettle and daily financial transactions are being switched from the PC to the charity. This is effective from October 1st due to delays with Barclays Bank.

(iv) Payroll for October for Pavilion staff will be actioned by the charity. The PC however, resolved to pay the temporary staff cover until end September.

(v) All other aspects to the pavilion including suppliers related direct debits are being transferred to the charity.

(vi) The full transfer will be effective from October 1st. The pavilion manager had secured temporary paid cover pending the replacement of kitchen staff. Clerk asked if the council would be prepared to extend payment for the temporary staff to end September. It was resolved to agree to extend payment as requested.

7.2 The manufacturer of the bus shelter for Meon Vale has confirmed it is ready, but we are waiting on St Modwen to confirm installation. Plans for the shelter have been sent and WCC have been conducted. Clerk to push.

8. Speed Mitigation

8.1 Despite the efforts to mitigate speeding, some members of the public assumed any further options were being thwarted due to funding. The Parish Council decided to broaden the remit of the public engagement meeting scheduled for September 28th to include speeding.

8.2 Cllr. Barker discussed the data retrieved from the VAS unit and how the build out had some positive impact on reducing speed. More data will be available at the scheduled public meeting.

8.3 Members of the public are naturally interested in all aspects of speeding and the Parish Council were pleased to hear enough volunteers have been recruited to form a speed group.

9. Meon Vale Asset Transfer

9.1 Current Status with St Modwen – the Clerk has written to all key stakeholders to secure a date for the asset transfer and, in the meantime, to receive all relevant information relating to the transfer:

- (i) Confirmation that Londis and Leisure Centre have contractually agreed to pay 25% towards central assets.
- (ii) Confirmation of Preim costs
- (iii) Solicitors costs to date.
- (iv) Pre- transfer itemised check list

So far, no confirmation has been received, and therefore a chaser will be sent to St Modwen noting the potential consequences to further delays.

9.2 Hallmaster needs to be changed as there is limited access and no visibility on financial transactions (including deposits). Clerk speaking to Hallmaster. There also needs to be transparent processes with the RA/Village Hall Committee to organise an action plan for operational running of the village hall, this will also help to determine a budget.

9.3 Key Stakeholders pre- transfer:

- (i) St Modwen
- (ii) Hall Reynolds (Marston Sicca Solicitor) & Ladders (St Modwen Solicitor)
- (iii) Londis (central amenities contract)
- (iv) Marston Sicca Parish Council

Post Transfer – Marston Sicca Parish Council, contributors of central amenities, Preim, Village Hall Committee, Charity, and Residents Assoc.

10. Marston Meadow & Public Engagement

10.1 Members had resolved to include speeding along with Marston Meadow on the 28th of September public engagement day. Members resolved to procure a banner to advertise the event.

10.2 Members discussed further plans for the site, including initial the pathway and to secure costs for fencing.

11. Finance

11.1 Members received September bank reconciliation and list of payments requiring approval. Members approved payment.

11.2 Members received full trading figures for the Pavilion including income/expenditure summary.

11.3 Following the exit of Quinton Parish Council in the asset transfer, it was resolved that the clerk would provide a breakdown of costs incurred by the respective councils, including legal costs to date, to ensure costs were equally shared. Summary to be provided at next PC meeting.

11.4 The clerk/RFO asked if two parish council members could alternate in conducting an internal audit on PC accounts prior to end of financial year. It was resolved to undertake the task asap.

12. Correspondence

12.1 clerk confirmed a response had been received from Gill Lungley regarding assistance to form a robust 3-year strategic plan. Members resolved to consider the task but would like to know anticipated costs and create a cap. Clerk to check

12.2 Clerk/RFO informed members of cost indication from Robert Lunn & Lowth who were previous solicitors for Marston Sicca with regards to the asset transfer. The clerk had disputed the cost of £4700+VAT as this was higher than the original estimate and had no schedule of works confirming tasks concluded. Moreover, it was clear from the dates given to highlight 'costs incurred' included the reading of chasers/requests for updates from the clerk. RLL had offered some concession on the costs, but members agreed the costs were still too high. It was resolved to settle the invoice on the basis of getting the amount down to a more reasonable level. Clerk to action.

13. Planning

Cllr. Tempest provided a planning report in advance of the meeting.

Planning Application 22/01677/OUT

Hybrid application of 3 hectares of land for business uses, reduction in housing numbers from 238 down to 221. New 3-arm roundabout just south along the Shipston Road and within less than 200 metres from the Waitrose roundabout.

Decision: Object.

14. Councillor Reports

Continuing discussions on 3-year plan, the clerk confirmed Gill Lungley would be willing to offer support in getting the process started. Members resolved to first determine costs and to propose a cap. Clerk to check.

15. Meeting dates

Next meeting to be 21st October in Long Marston Village Hall and November meeting to be at Meon Vale Village Hall.