

Marston Sicca Parish Council

www.marstonsicca-pc.gov.uk

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Draft Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council meeting held Long Marston Village Hall 17th February 2025, 7.30pm

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

Clerk: Debbie Woodliffe

District Councillor: Stuart Keighley (advised he would be arriving late)

Also present: three members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr. Whittaker

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3 Public Open Session

No comments made

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Council members considered Minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2024 to be an accurate account of the meeting. Minutes were subsequently approved and signed.

5. Marston Meadow / Barley Fields Play Area

5.1 The Chair brought forward items 8.2.4 and 8.2.6 on the agenda to enable Cllr. Barker to update members on Marston Meadow Project. As Cllr Barker was unwell and District Councillor Keighley would be arriving late, members agreed.

5.2 New Trees had been planted (without cost to the PC) on Marston Meadow but new stakes were needed. It was resolved to purchase 60 stakes at a capped price of £250.

5.3 Cllr. Barker discussed and proposed further planting to achieve a micro wood (to help absorb ground water to the Marston Meadow site), Cllr. Parrott seconded the motion. Members agreed, motion carried.

5.4 It was confirmed the benches and picnic table were now sited in the pavilion.

5.5 Two supplier options were discussed regarding phase 1 of the footpath to Marston Meadow. It was resolved to use brief2build as they were more competitive and had a local connection. Their initial price was based on up- front payment of £18,500 but to mitigate risk, it was resolved to respond to the supplier stating the parish council is not willing to pay all costs up front but would be willing to pay an initial sum prior to work with the remaining balance to be settled after satisfactory conclusion.

5.6 Members felt the £7k cost to tackle the repairs to Barley Fields play area ground surface was poor value for money, as it provided no long- term solution. Various options were debated with Cllr.

Barker proposing that he undertake the immediate repairs, the proposal was seconded by Cllr. Johnsey. All members agreed with the proposal at a cap price of £300. Motion carried.

6. District & County Councillor Report

6.1 No report or communication received from C. Councillor Daren Pemberton

6.2 As the Dist. Councillor Stuart Keighley was expected later in the meeting, the Chair read points from his report. This included an update on Devolution and Local Government Review and South Warwickshire Local Plan. It was also confirmed this years Rail Live event will take place 18th-19th June. The PC will be advised of proposed traffic management.

7. Chairmans Comments

The Chairman has been keen to get regular police updates on local crime and crime prevention initiatives. A brief report had been received from PC Sid Hammond which was read out to council members.

8. Clerks report on outstanding matters

8.1. Asset Transfer. St Modwen advised the agreement from Londis re contribution towards central amenities had been received. We are waiting on response back from Preim re costings.

8.2 The request to have the notice platform renovated and repurposed has been favourably received by WCC. The suggestion to add historic photos of the old Long Marston Station, the railway and hikers map was accepted, but a teams meeting was requested. Date to be confirmed.

8.3 To upgrade the PC website, changes have been taking place to make the site easier to navigate and to be more informative. Changes are ongoing but also quotations are being received from other providers to check service options vs. cost.

8.4 The Clerk reminded members of the previous decision to use the Meon Vale village hall meeting room as a Parish Council community surgery. This would be an opportunity for members of the public to raise any questions or queries and receive information on local matters. It was resolved to run the surgeries on a Friday (bi-weekly) from 9.30am to 11.30am. Clerk to publicise the details

8.5 Suggest lease terms for use of the Pavilion is with the PC solicitors.

8.6 The asset register will be changed to incorporate the Meon Vale assets once transferred. The register will be updated along with a pictorial list to be added to the website.

9. Asset Management Committee

9.1. 1Members resolved to have reserved funds earmarked for asset maintenance will be managed by the AMC. The total budget to be delegated to the committee would be capped at £35k and would be in accordance with decisions made by full council.

9.1.2 The proposal of having a MV village hall used as a potential PC surgery was resolved under point 8.4

9.1.3 A date has yet to be confirmed between the AMC and Meon Vale Village Hall Committee. Cllr. Brown to confirm

9.1.4 Biffa to confirm price for bi-weekly refuse collection from MV Village Hall. Clerk to chase.

9.1.5 Clerk confirmed all financial transactions via Hallmaster was working well with full transparency.

10. Strategic Planning

10.1 Meon Vale Woodland – Parish council members debated the communications received regarding the long- term management of the woodland. The previously debated question of

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whether the PC should have the woodland and wetlands transferred to the PC, again raised the point about funding. The PC had declined taking on the responsibility of the Woodland, Greenway and Wetlands due to potential high costs of maintaining each without any funds being available with the transfer. Clerk to check St Modwen's legal obligation towards the woodland.

10.2 and 10.3 deferred to next PC meeting

11. Finance

11.1 Members received the February bank reconciliation, noting bank balance/list of reserves and list of payments requiring approval (attached). Members approved payments and Chair signed.

11.2 Clerk/RFO suggested the annual insurance premium may rise by £800 to reflect buildings insurance. The fee cannot be confirmed until the assets have been transferred.

11.3 With greater transparency on the Hallmaster financial transactions, the Clerk/RFO will routinely provide monthly trading figures for Meon Vale Village Hall.

12. Planning Matters

12.1 24/03108/PIP, Kings Lodge, Long Marston. PIP for 6 dwellings. PIP refused by SDC

12.2 24/03282/FUL, Residual Land Parcels 4B (31 dwellings), 4D (24 dwellings).

Decision: Object as conditions 27&28 for outline application 14/01186/OUT had not been met.

12.3 22/01677/OUT 3 Hectares of land for business use and 221 dwellings next to Waitrose, Shipston Road. Application withdrawn by the developer.

12.4 Cllr. Tempest also read a report pertaining to Stantec strategic outline business case for reinstating the Stratford/Honeybourne railway link

13. Councillor Reports

13.1 Cllr. Whittaker has been helping to manage the next Green Day event as part of the Parish Council Climate Change initiative. The event will be held on April 12th at MV Village Hall with this year's theme being 'Sustainable Living'.

13.2 Cllr. Parrott mentioned the cost for remedial work to LM Village Hall was estimated to be £30k. The village hall committee will be corresponding with the PC regarding a potential grant towards the costs.

13.3 Cllr. Barker had already submitted his report on Marston Meadow earlier in the meeting.

14. Correspondence

Clerk confirmed an email had been received from Neil Hempstead SDC, in response to the question about CIL funds from Shackleton Village. There had apparently been an agreement to waive CIL funding as Cala would be responsible for greenway link, allotment pitches, play areas etc., also, a contribution requested for the Relief Road. The clerk had queried the waiver as these assets often fall to the PC for ongoing maintenance.

15 Meeting Dates

7.30pm March 17th Long Marston Village Hall

Meeting closed 9.43pm

Debbie Woodliffe
Clerk/RFO