



## Marden Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.30pm  
at the Marden Community Centre.

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### Minutes

**Present:**

*Cllr David Bennett (Chair), Cllr Kate Ryan, Cllr Chris Morgan, Cllr Rod Lees, Cllr Michael Blake & Cllr Lesley Hayward.*

**In Attendance:**

Richard James (Clerk)  
Cllr Peter Hamblin (Ward Member)  
6 x Members of the Public.

**1. To receive Apologies.**

*To Note – Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Paske, Cllr Paula Barrett*

**2. To receive declarations of interest and written requests for dispensations.**

*To Note – There were no declarations of interest and written requests for dispensations.*

**3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 18.06.24.**

*Resolution – The Minutes of the 18.06.24 were adopted subject to a couple of small amendments then were duly signed by the Chair as a true record.*

**4. Open Session.**

Ward Member Report

Cllr Peter Hamblin the Ward Member presented his report, detailed below, which had been sent to councillors in advance of the meeting.

Last week was Armed Forces week and sadly many local communities no longer marked this opportunity to recognise the important contribution our military forces have and to continue to have on giving us the peace and prosperity we take so much for granted. Herefordshire has long history with the military with over 2,500 active military personnel in the County today and their 1100 children educated in our schools.

We have nearly 10,000 veterans living in the county of which half are under the age of 65. They play an important contribution to our local economy providing enterprise and employment in defence and security sectors. There is also a great need to support veterans and their families who enter into the very different world of civilian life provided by many charities and a Veterans centre in Hereford which with the recent backing of a lottery grant will be opening 5 days a week.

Good news on continued support for the NMITE University in Hereford (New Model Institute for Technology & Engineering) with a grant of 3.5 million from the Charles Wolf Charity contributing to the development of the Blackfairs campus. The university prides itself in a better weekly 9-5 approach to train students for the world of work with high academic contact time, less holiday periods and shorter courses. No lecture theatres but building the skills required through more hands-on approach to learning. I have visited them several times and firmly believe this is the model for future degree education.

I continue to monitor the progress of the priority service of the council – children`s care. It is a large task to improve the outcome, but steady improvement is being made with indications we are moving to a position of similar authorities. There are 390 children in local authority care with 195 having protection plans, and during 2023/24 early help family support was given to 938 children and their families. Of the children in care approximately 20% were 4 years and under, 5-14 years 48%, 14-16 9% and 16-18 23%. Individuals can remain within the system till 21 years and older. Nine children were adopted and 18 are awaiting adoption. Budgets are tightly monitored with reduction in high costs of out of county placements and transfer of less agency to more full-time employees being priority.

Last month saw the demolition of the old western end stand of Hereford football club making way for a new development as part of the council`s partnership with the club. It has been a quieter month with the General Election approaching, and campaigning for this taking up many peoples` time, although regular business has been unaffected.

#### Public Session

Q1. – A resident said that snails had eaten the Council paper notices on one of the Notice Boards.

A1. – The Chair said Council will laminate the notices on this board in the future.

Q2. – A resident asked for a copy of the Clerk`s report. They also said they had emailed a request for a copy.

A2. – The Clerk reported that he does not do a Clerk`s report, everything is on the agenda and if he had seen an email, he would have replied.

Q3. – A resident asked on when did the Parish Council discuss and approve the submission of the Repair Café grant submission to the Herefordshire Council.

A3. – The Chair said the information was in the March 2023 minutes.

Q4. – A resident asked what happens to the VAT reclaim.

A4. – The VAT reclaim is there to be used in the present financial year if required, but it gets put into the reserve account to incur interest.

Q5. – A resident asked why the footpaths officer report was not published.

A5. – The Clerk reported that the report was over several pages and does not really change month on month, but if any resident requires a copy they only have to ask.

Q6. – A resident asked about the bridge on PROW MR22.

A6. – The Chair said the resident needs to report their concerns directly to the Herefordshire Council via their online link.

## 5. Footpaths Officer Report & to consider actions.

The Clerk reported the footpaths officer was not present on this occasion and there was nothing specific this month for the Parish Council. The footpaths Officer is now providing a summary update in the News & Views.

**To Note** – *The Council noted the footpaths officer report.*

## 6. Finance Matters.

a) - Financial Report

**Resolution** – *The Council approved the financial report.*

b) – Bank Accounts – 30.06.24

6.2a - Unity Main - £12,257.50

6.2b - Unity Marden Links - £876.96

6.2c - Unity Reserve - £99,507.20

**To Note** – *The Council noted the financial report.*

c) - Financial Advisory Working Group

The Chair reported that the working group had met, and the Clerk is going to collate a policy and action review plan.

**To Note** – *The Council noted the Financial Advisory Working Group verbal report.*

d) - To Adopt the new NALC Financial Regulations.

**Resolution** – *Council agreed to defer this item until the next meeting as the Clerk must edit the new regulations.*

e) - Church – Old Churchyard Grant - £1150.00

The Chair reported that the Parish Council normally give St Marys Church towards the old churchyard.

**Resolution** – *Council approved the grant of £1150.00.*

f) – Close Marden Links Account

The Chair explained that the Marden Links bank account was not overly used, and the Council could not justify the quarterly charges. The recommendation was to close this account.

**Resolution** – *Council approved the closure of the Marden Links Account, and the money will be ring fenced and transferred into the reserve account.*

g) - Policies Review Plan

The Clerk reported that following the Financial Advisory Working Group meeting the clerk will come up with a policies review plan.

**To Note** – *Council noted the report and welcomed the plan.*

h) - Update on Lengthsman, PROW & Drainage Grants

The Clerk reported that the PROW grant had been sent to Herefordshire Council which had been acknowledged. The drainage grant application will be released in September.

**To Note** – The Council noted the report.

## 7. Payments.

	Payments	Net	Vat	Total
7.1	Clerks Salary – June 24	As per Contract		
7.2	D C Gardening Services - 1921	580.00	116.00	696.00
7.3	PIP Printing – 76958 – News & Views	303.31	0.00	303.31
7.4	Marden Village Trust – Hall Hire	60.00	0.00	60.00
7.5	Mr Cartwright (Mr Bamboozle) – Summer Fete	250.00	0.00	250.00

**Resolution** – Council agreed to pay all the invoices.

## 8. Payments made under emergency policy and regular payments.

		Payment	Net	Vat	Total
8.1	D/D	BT – Broadband & Phone – June 24	32.12	6.43	38.55
8.2	S/O	HUB Rent – June 24	450.00	0.00	450.00
8.3	S/O	Community Garden – Rent – June 24	15.00	0.00	15.00
8.4	D/D	O2 Mobile Phone – June 24	14.03	2.81	16.84

**To Note** – The Council noted the payments made under emergency policy were Approved and the Direct Debit and Standing Order.

## 9. Planning

	Application No	Address	Permission Sought
9.1	P241505/L	Marden Chapel Marden Herefordshire HR1 3EW	Proposed replacement of 4 existing sash windows installed into the existing box frames.

**Resolution** – The Marden Parish Council resolved to SUPPORT this application.

	Application No	Address	Permission Sought
9.2	241482	Land West of Burmarsh Cottages Burmarsh Road Sutton St Nicholas HR1 3BW	Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: change the use of a group of three agricultural buildings to a flexible use (Class B8)

**Resolution** – The Marden Parish Council resolved to **OBJECT** to this application for the following reasons:

- 1) The development is outside of the settlement boundary.

- 2) The development does not comply with any of the Core Strategy Open Countryside requirements.
- 3) Concern that any development would make the flooding issues worse in this area.
- 4) The is No proper drainage scheme.

	Application No	Address	Permission Sought
9.3	241490	Land south of Burmarsh Trading Estate Burmarsh Road Sutton St Nicholas HR1 3BT	Proposed change of use of an existing agricultural building to Use Class B8 (Storage or distribution).

**Resolution** – The Marden Parish Council resolved to **OBJECT** to this application for the following reasons:

- 1) The development is outside of the settlement boundary.
- 2) The development does not comply with any of the Core Strategy Open Countryside requirements.
- 3) Concern that any development would make the flooding issues worse in this area.
- 4) The is No proper drainage scheme.

#### 9.5 - Planning Enforcement – Update

Cllr Peter Hamblin (Ward Member) gave a short update on the planning enforcement issues. He reported that.

##### Pikestyle Farm

Had now put in a retrospective planning application.

##### Ash Grove Croft

Had now complied with most of the planning conditions, which has made a great improvement.

##### Small Ashes

Cllr Hamblin reported that there was no enforcement action presently open on this address.

The Parish Council thanked the ward member for taking on these planning issues.

The Parish Council explained to the ward member their concerned are about the following.

##### Pickstyle Barn alterations.

- a) The Cladding on the outside.
- b) The sort of roof tile which has been used.
- c) The wood burner flue going through the roof.
- d) Internal conversion to residential dwelling.

##### Small Ashes

- a) When the milking shed was turned into a dwelling the Parish Council don't believe all the

condition were adhered too.

- b) It now looks like another outbuilding is being used to house a swimming pool.

#### Ash Grove Croft

- a) Following the legal case the Parish Council would like to see all the conditions adhered too.

**To Note** – Council noted the ward members comments and welcomed him following up on the Parish Council concerns.

#### 9.6 – Alcohol Licence – Marden Stores Restaurant.

There was much discussion around this amended licence request, where the Parish Council welcome businesses within the community, but always had to be mindful of the residents. The following was mentioned.

- a) The amount of traffic which already parks dangerously along this stretch of road and any additional hours could made this matter worse.
- b) There was concern about the amount of noisy which could possibly be caused with extended hours, for patron sitting outside drinking.
- c) There was concern about possible anti-social behaviour following drinking sessions.
- d) It was mentioned that the same owner also owned the old public house in the village, and would it not be better business sense if this was re-opened.
- e) It was pointed out that it was unnecessary to have drink being consumed at breakfast time - i.e. from 8.30 am!

**Resolution** – The Parish Council agreed that a small amendment to the existing license would be acceptable, table service of alcohol extended to all inside tables and the few outside tables. General alcohol sales being totally unacceptable.

### 10. Marden Parish Hall Working Group

- a) – Update on Progress

The Chair reported that 5 tenders had now all been received spread over a wide range of prices, some from local companies and others from further afield.

**To Note** – Council noted this update.

- b) – Plan moving forward

The Chair said the plan to move forward was, that over the summer break members of the New Marden Parish Hall committee will go through the tenders and most probably move forward with 2 of the tenders. The Marden Village Trust and the Parish Council would work on the new lease agreement for the new hall. The school is looking to have additional temporary classroom to accommodate the new intake of children. It is still the aim of all concerned that September 2025 is the completion date. The Parish Council will have to get a public works loan to complete the build of the new Parish Hall but will write to every household and hold a public meeting when the time arises.

**To Note** – Council noted this update.

### 11. Working Group Reports.

11 - Marden Links

- a) Hub activity update
- b) Repair Café Update

### c) Community Garden

Cllr K Ryan reported that the HUB was still doing well and still open twice a week. A new volunteer had joined the HUB family. The HUB has received donations of £30 in June and £96 in July.

The Repair Café is very well supported and has clients attending from all over, including the neighbouring parishes. The Repair Café has 10 active volunteers and 2 more have just joined. If anyone wants to help out on the fixing side, please just turn up, you would be made most welcome.

The Community Garden is moving on at a pace, 95% of the raised beds are up and residents are already donating plants. However, if any resident or local business would like to donate plants they would be greatly received.

The Community Garden are having another big push work party on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> July at 10am, please come along and help, with your green fingers of bulging muscles. Our Community Garden is included in the "Open Gardens Event" on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024 between 12 – 4pm.

**To Note** – Council noted the report.

### 11.2 - Neighbourhood Development Plan Review Working Group

**To Note** – Council noted that there had been no meeting.

## 12. Community.

### a) – Police Survey

The Clerk report he has received a West Mercia Police Survey which ideally needs filling out, the Clerk felt that a local Councillor should fill in the survey as they live in the parish and understand the local policing needs.

**Resolution** – Council approved Cllr M Blake to fill in the survey.

### b) – Parish Council Summit – Update of meeting

Cllr D Bennett and Cllr K Ryan attended the Parish Council Summit, which they found it very informative. They covered areas like Parish Councils Charters and whether Parishes Council still wanted to take part, the simple answer was yes, as long as it was more open. Herefordshire Councils key objectives are PEOPLE – PLACES & GROWTH. Herefordshire Council wants to be more open with the Council budgets.

**To Note** – Council noted the report.

### c) – Request for a List of Councillors & Contacts in (News & Views)

The Clerk reported that he had received a request for the Parish Councillors to have their names and pictures in the local newsletter and on the Parish Council website. After some debate, the Council could not reach a defined decision.

**Resolution** – Council agreed to defer this item until the September meeting.

### d) – Hairdressers to Walkers Green Alley

**Resolution** – Council agreed for the Lengthsman to add Walkers Green Alley and to clear the weeds from the HUB carpark area that runs immediately behind the bus stop and seat which is parallel to the main road to his work schedule.

e) – Sutton Walls Update

Council had received several complaints about the impassable condition of the PROW ST1 & ST2 which goes across the land leased to Sutton Walls Conservators.

**Resolution** – Council agreed for the Clerk to register a complaint with the Herefordshire Council's PROW inspector.

**13. Future Agenda Items or Clerk action under delegated authority.**

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

A black rectangular redaction box covers the signature of the Chair of the Council.

Signed:  
Chair of the Council

Date: 17th September 2024