



Marden Parish Council

Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 pm on
3rd December 2024 at Marden Community Centre Hall.

Minutes

Present:

Cllr David Bennett (Chair), Cllr Kate Ryan, Cllr Chris Morgan, Cllr Rod Lees Cllr Paula Barrett, Cllr Richard Paske, Cllr Michael Blake & Cllr Lesley Hayward.

In Attendance:

Richard James (Clerk)
Cllr Peter Hamblin (Ward Member – Sutton Walls)
Cllr Bruce Baker (Ward Member – Hampton)
39 x Members of the Public.
4 x Moreton on Lugg Parish Councillors.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming out on a chilly evening.

1. To receive Apologies.

To Note – Apologies

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. Planning

	Application No	Address	Permission sought
3.1	242946	Staddlestones Sutton Lakes Sutton St Nicholas Herefordshire HR1 3NS	Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed conversion of an existing agricultural Dutch barn to a dwelling and building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion.

Resolution – Marden Parish Council agreed to make the following general comments.

- Concern about mud getting on the Highway
- Mud blocking the drains and gullies
- Increasing the risk of flooding due to run off
- Narrow access road.
- Dangerous access onto highway.
- Development outside the Marden NDP.
- Not in keeping with the near by listed building.
- Design not in keeping with neighbouring property.

4. Moreton Bridge Closure.

To receive an update from the Cllr Peter Hamblin - Ward Member who read out a statement from the Herefordshire Council.

We appreciate the impact of the closure of the Moreton on Lugg Bridge on the community. The damage to the bridge has been assessed by our structures team; the downstream parapet has pulled away and it will be necessary to take it down, check for further unseen damage to the bridge and then rebuild. There is not sufficient width to place temporary restraint barriers and safely re-open the road, hence why the closure remains in place.

We are progressing all the necessary aspects to undertake the work including specialist scaffolding design and approval, ecological assessments (which are needed to work above the River Lugg), securing the specialist contractor to complete the works, and securing consent from the conservation team at Herefordshire Council to work on the Grade II listed structure. Recognising the impact of the closure we are seeking to expedite these works as soon as possible, but we are not currently in a position to confirm the date the road will reopen

The length of the closure

Once works commence we anticipate this to be 4 weeks, but it remains dependent on what we find when we take down the parapet. If there is more extensive damage, then this could extend the period. We will not know until we take down the parapet.

The expected timetable of works including surveys required

Ecology habitat regulations screening assessment (HRSA) has been sent to the county ecologist by the BBLP ecologist. Once HRA assessment reviewed by the county ecologist, if deemed it needs an appropriate assessment (AA) this will then be carried out by the BBLP ecologist and then the AA submitted to Natural England for approval. If not the HRSA will need to be submitted to Natural England. These applications can take 30 days to approve by Natural England, we will look to fast track this as much as possible.

The scaffold design for the scaffold to span the river is underway, approx. 1 week for this to be completed then this has to be submitted for temporary works approval given the scale of the scaffold which will take another week. This period could extend if the review identifies design changes are required.

A Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) will need to be sent to the EA once the scaffold designs have come back. The approval process for the FRAP is 8 weeks.

The other works mobilisation activities will be undertaken concurrently with the above.

We will endeavour to expedite and better these timescales but are not able to be definitive on this at this stage.

Any actions we will take to recover costs from the driver of the vehicle / their insurer.

We have details of the driver and their vehicle and the BBLP legal team will pursue a green claim to recover the costs. The principle of green claims is that BBLP on behalf of the Council undertake the repairs, incur the cost and then make the claim back to the third party for costs incurred.

To Note – This was noted.

To receive representations from the members of public, answer in red if able to answer from Ward Member Cllr Peter Hamblin.

- a) Is the bridge safe for cars. - **NO**
- b) Why is the repair taking so long.

- c) How many surveys have been carried out. – **Don't know but will find out.**
- d) The bridge was closed over 6 weeks ago, what has been happening. – **Will find out.**
- e) What happens if they find something in one of the surveys. – **Work could take longer.**
- f) How detail will the Eco survey have to be. – **Don't know but can find out.**
- g) Worcestershire County Council started the repair a bridge the following day after an accident and this was a list bridge also.
- h) Why did Belfour Beatty first say bridge would be fixed by the 29th November and then change it to March 2025. – **Don't know but will find out.**
- i) Children school bus now takes an extra hour to get to school.
- j) Why are other bridges repaired sooner. – **This is not the cast Moreton bridge is a priority.**
- k) Do Herefordshire Council realise that the bridge closure is a major inconvenience.
- l) Does the Herefordshire Council know driver are mover the road barriers and driving over the bridge – **Yes, I had been informed this has now stopped.**
- m) Can the Herefordshire Council have better signage stating where the highway is currently closed. – **I will look into getting this sorted.**
- n) Can unmovable barriers be not put on the bridge to stop cars. – **Yes**
- o) Any new barriers have to allow the farmer to get to his land. – **Will make sure this happens.**
- p) Are there barriers on the bridge – **Yes.**
- q) Will future flooding cause more damage to the bridge. – **Possibly**
- r) Concerns over future flooding holding up work on the bridge and then Laystone bridge will flood and then 2 of the 3 bridges will be closed.
- s) Why are not emergency powers being used to repair the bridge sooner.
- t) Why can a bailey bridge not be used as a temporary measure.
- u) Businesses are losing revenue whilst the bridge is closed.
- v) Can businesses be claim for lost revenue. – **Cannot answer that it's a legal question.**
- w) Likewise, families are struggling financially with extra fuel costs can they claim. – **Again, cannot answer that it's a legal question.**
- x)

To Note – *This was noted.*

To agree next steps.

- a) To get as many parishioners as possible to write to the CEO of Herefordshire Council.
- b) For the 4 Parish Councils to come together and make sure action is done.
- c) A Need for better communication between Herefordshire Council and the Parish Councils and parishioners.
- d) Insist Herefordshire Council Officers attend Parish Council meetings to give regular updates.
- e) Could a temporary speed limit be put on Haywood Lane and Laystone Bridge.

To Note – *This was noted.*

Action after bridges have been repaired.

- a) Revisit the CCTV installation
- b) Reduction of the speed limit either side of the bridges.
- c) Steel bollards to protect the bridges.
- d) Speed bumps either side of the bridges.
- e) Better signage leading up to the bridges.

To Note – *This was noted.*

Summary of questions for the Ward Member to ask Herefordshire Council.

- a) Timeline – including what has been done and what has to be done.*
- b) Better Communication between Herefordshire Council and the Parish Councils.*
- c) Herefordshire Council Officers to attend Parish Council meetings and update.*
- d) Check about Emergency Powers to do repair work.*
- e) Can businesses be reimbursed financially.*

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

*Date of next Council Meeting **21st January 2025** at 7.30pm in the Marden Community Centre.*

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.20pm.



Signed:
Chair of the Council

Date: 21st January 2025