



## Marden Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 pm on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at  
Marden Community Centre.

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# Minutes

### Present:

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

### In Attendance:

Mr Richard James (Clerk)  
2 x Member of the Public.

#### 1. To receive Apologies.

*To Note – Apologies were received from 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 17.06.25.

**Resolution** – *The draft minutes of the 17.06.25 were approved and adopted and duly signed by the Chair.*

#### 4. Open Session.

*(Ward Member)*

*The Ward member was not present but did send in a written report which can be accessed on the Parish Council website.*

**To Note** – *This was noted by the Council, however there were comments on how political the reports are and lacked the information on what the Ward Member had been doing for Marden in particular.*

*(Members of Public)*

Q1. Has the Letter of Intent been sent to the developer.

A1. Yes

Q2. Have you paid the £30k which was agreed.

A2. No, they will require payment in 2 stages once the specified work has been completed.

Q3. What was the £2600.00 to W Architecture for.

A3. Biodiversity net gain for the planning permission.

Q4. Have all the legal papers now been sorted out and signed.

A4. No, the other side solicitor is holding matters up.

Q7. You are paying W Architecture tonight £14,379.99 what is this for.

A7. This is for professional fees RIBA stage 5 to 7, this is the first of three already agreed payments towards fees.

Q8. Why are the Marden Links minutes not on the website.

A8. The meeting was only fairly recently held, and the meeting notes will be put on the website in the next few days.

Q9. Why are the Parsh Meeting Minutes not been released yet.

A9. The Chair and the Clerk will consider this.

Q10. What level of finish will be in the new Parish Hall, fridges, cupboards etc

A10. An amount has been allocated for finishings, and these will be chosen closer to the installation date.

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

The Clerk and outgoing footpath officer are going to meet a potential new footpaths officer tomorrow, Wednesday.

**To Note** – This was noted by the Council.

## 6. Finance Matters.

6.1 - Summary – June 25

**Resolution** – The Council approved and adopted the summary of accounts.

6.2 - HUB Accounts – June 25

**To Note** – Council noted the HUB accounts, however £400 cash in hand was banked in early July.

6.3 - Bank Accounts – 30.06.25.

6.3a - Unity Main – June - £1,195.53

6.3b - Unity Reserve – June - £102,490.87

**To Note** – Council noted the Bank Statements.

6.4 - Parish Hall Cost & Budget.

6.5 - Project Cost & Cash Flow

The Chair went through the new hall cash flow and budget and did say there would be a requirement for some form of bridging loan to cover a period of around six months while the Council awaits the purchase of the management lease by the Marden Parish Trust.

**Resolution** – The Council approved for the Clerk to start looking for possible bridging loans.

6.6 - Potential S106 Gain

The Chair presented a S106 wish list for future development within the Parish. There were two items added both were cycle ways (1) Sutton to Lugg Bridge (2) Morton to Lyde. If any Councillors had anything extra, they wanted added to contact the clerk.

**To Note** – This was noted, and the Clerk was asked to forward this to S106 department.

#### 6.7 - Clerk's Delegated Powers.

"To grant the Clerk the power, to pay bills up to the sum of £1000 in consultation with the Chair or Vice chair and with regards to the New Parish Hall build to pay bills within budget in consultation with the Chair or Vice chair"

**Resolution** – Council noted that the Council would not be meeting until mid-September and agreed that the Clerk should have the authority to make general payments up to £1000.00 and payments in regard to the New Parish Hall project within budget. Both these payments will be in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair and must be authorised by two Councillors.

#### 7. Payments.

	Payments	Net	Vat	Total
7.1	Clerks Salary – July 25	As per Contract		
7.2	Clerks	115.20	0.00	115.20
7.3	D C Gardening Services – SI-2234	762.50	152.50	915.00
7.4	W Architecture – 1600-250	11,983.33	2,396.66	14,379.99
7.5	Signworx	252.00	0.00	252.00

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

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

		Payment	Net	Vat	Total
8.1	D/D	BT – Broadband & Phone – June 25	46.32	9.26	55.58
8.2	S/O	HUB Rent – July 25	450.00	0.00	450.00
8.3	S/O	Community Garden – Rent – July 25	15.00	0.00	15.00
8.4	DD	Unity Trust – service charge	6.00	0.00	6.00
8.5	BACS	S Lewis – June Electric	28.58	0.00	28.58

**Resolution** – Council agreed all the payments made under emergency policy and regular payments.

#### 9. Planning.

	<b>Application No</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Permission sought</b>
<b>9.1</b>	<b>251820</b>	Marden Primary School Marden Herefordshire HR1 3EW	Provision of mobile classroom for use by Marden Pre-School.

**Resolution** – The Marden Parish Council SUPPORTS this application.

**To Note** - The Clerk was asked to ensure that the MRGT are made aware of this application

	<b>Application No</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Permission sought</b>
<b>9.2</b>	<b>251728</b>	15 Little Paradise Marden Hereford HR1 3DR	Proposed additional storey above existing kitchen and garage to form a new master and secondary bedroom.

**Resolution** – The Marden Parish Council makes the following COMMENTS on this application.

- Over development of the site.
- Possible overlooking into neighbouring properties.
- The loss of a current affordable home into a large expensive home, which the Parish already has many.

## **10. New Parish Hall.**

### 10.1- Update

The Chair was pleased to announce that the Public Works Loan Board had approved the £500k loan of the building of the new Parish Hall. The other sides solicitors seem to be holding up the land transfer and lease. Our solicitor and architect are chasing on an almost daily basis.

### 10.2– Newsletter No 5.

The Chair reported that the latest edition of the New Parish Hall Newsletter was out and about and will be posted upon the Parish Council website.

**To Note** – Council noted this and acknowledged this publication was proving very informative.

## **11. Working Group Reports.**

### 11.1 - Marden Links

#### a) Hub activity update

Cllr Ryan reported that they have gone through all of the questionnaires replies and a majority don't want the activities to change. There were requests for a youth project and while we should support this suggestion any youth project would be very difficult to administer at this moment in time.

#### b) Repair Café Update

Cllr Ryan reported that Repair Café is a monster, it has grown to its maximum with repairs backing up. This month the repair café received its highest donation amount of £123.00.

The Repair Café would be become a member of the Association of Repair Cafes in Herefordshire (The Arches) at an annual cost of £10 which will be paid for from donations.

#### c) Community Garden

Cllr Ryan reported that the community garden is ticking over nicely, on many occasions there are residents sat in there. The Community Garden Team are going to be holding a Late Summer BBQ on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 1pm till 4pm the whole of the Parish is welcome.

### 11.2 - Neighbourhood Development Plan Review Working Group

The Herefordshire Council has gone out for a call for potential development sites.

It was proposed that a plan be developed on how and when the current NDP would be updated taking account of the fact that the Government as signalled that there will be no further financial support.

**Resolution** – Council agreed for this to come back to Council in September.

### 11.3 - Finance & Administration Working Group

The next meeting is on the 1<sup>st</sup> September where the 26/27 budget will be drafted.

**To Note** – *This was noted by Council.*

## 12. NDP.

Resolution Calling on the Government to Provide Dedicated Funding for Neighbourhood Plans  
The Marden Parish Council acknowledges that:

- a) Neighbourhood planning empowers local communities to shape the development and growth of their areas through the creation of Neighbourhood Plans.
- b) The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans requires significant time, expertise, and financial resources, often placing a burden on parish and town councils.
- c) Neighbourhood Plans contribute to more democratic, locally informed planning decisions and support the delivery of sustainable development aligned with community needs and aspirations.

**Resolution** – *The Council agreed the following.*

1. *Call upon His Majesty's Government to provide increased and sustained funding to support the development, review, and implementation of Neighbourhood Plans.*
2. *Request that the Government ensures funding is accessible to all communities, to promote inclusivity and fairness in the planning process.*
3. *Write to Ellie Chowns MP and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities, and Local Government to communicate this resolution and advocate for enhanced support for neighbourhood planning.*

## 13. Community.

### 13.1 - Unsuitable for large Vehicles Road Sign Urdimarsh Road

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Herefordshire Council's highways department about the installation of Unsuitable for large Vehicles Road Signs at Urdimarsh Road but was still awaiting a response. The Clerk has updated the Ward Member and asked if could support and move things forward

**To Note** – *This was noted by the Council and await a reply from the Herefordshire Council.*

### 13.2 - 20mph Limit

The Clerk reported that some other Parish Council were looking to petition Herefordshire Council on 20mph speed limits. Some want complete 20mph limits other just in dangerous areas, like outside schools. Was this something Marden wanted to consider, there was debate on the pros and cons for a 20mph limit, taking in to account the backlash when it was enforced in Wales. Councillors mentioned that there were statistics that showed death rates at a lower speed were reduced.

**Resolution** – *The Council agreed that there should be a 20mph speed limit to protect the school, between the Farmer Johns Shop and the International Store. The Clerk to contact the Ward member and Herefordshire Council direct.*

### 13.3 - S & A meeting

The chair said these meeting are worthwhile, and it was already showing promise. He explained a couple of the key reasons for the meeting.

- Broad aim was for S&A to provide updates and business news, past and upcoming with a focus on anything that may affect the local surroundings and give the group an opportunity to understand and shape changes and disseminate information to

others. S&A are keen to positively engage with the village and get a continual dialogue going.

- The changes within S&A over the past few years and introduction of a vision and set of values for S&A within a five-year strategy were explained to the group.

Lastly the Chair did say that if there were any immediate issues, you can ring and explained to Jim White (07772540155) and Peter Holder (07772112550) at the time they arise as we are often able to fix quickly or explain.

The next meeting will be held on the **11<sup>th</sup> September 2025**.

**To Note** – *This was noted and welcomed by the Parish Council who were pleased to see the benefits of these meetings were already working on the ground.*

#### 13.4- Update on HC presentation to Parish Council on Children's Services

The Clerk said he had spoken with the Ward member and supplied the Ward Member with a paper Cllr C Morgan had written in addition to a list of questions the Parish Council were looking at being answered.

**Resolution** – *The Council agreed for the Clerk to contact the Ward Member to ask for an update and to see if Children Services officers could attend the next Parish Council meeting to answer questions.*

#### 14 Beyond the Precept: Exploring alternative income sources.

The Chair reported that there was a NALC run team course looking at alternative income sources other than the precept.

**Resolution** – *The Council agreed for the Clerk to attend this teams meeting, and if the Clerk was unavailable then a Councillor with step in.*

#### 15 Action List.

The action list was discussed, and if any Councillors wished for anything to be added, then to contact the Chair.

**To Note** – *This was noted*

#### 16 Future Agenda Items or Clerk action under delegated authority.

- Hall Booking System for the HUB
- Transport Working Group.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.20pm.



Signed:  
Chair of the Council  
16<sup>th</sup> September 2025