



Marden Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 pm on 17th February 2026 at
Marden Community Centre Hall.

Minutes

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Mr Richard James (Clerk)
6 x Members of the Public.

1. To receive Apologies.

To Note – *There were only apologies from the Ward Member.*

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

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

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 20.01.26.

Resolution – *The draft minutes of the 20.01.26 were adopted and duly signed by the Chair after a small correction on one of the public questions.*

4. Open Session.

(Ward Member)

The Ward Member was not presented but submitted his report, which can be found on the Parish Council Website.

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

(Members of public)

Q1. – A Resident asked if the Parish Council would support them with refusing the S & A planning application for an irrigation reservoir, which will be discussed later on the agenda for the following reasons.

- Don't believe the plans are true reflection of the scheme.
- Believes that the scheme will affect the surrounding boreholes and wells.
- Concerns about the noise of pumps.
- Concerns about additional traffic.
- Concerns about the bridleway being crossed.
- No water environmental testing or scheme has been done.

- Concerns about the depth of the reservoir, which will affect the ground water.

A1. – The Chair thanked the resident for their comments but would like to hear from the applicant about some of these concerns.

A Manager of S & A was in the public gallery and was invited to answer the concerns raised (In RED).

- Don't believe the plans are true reflection of the scheme.
The plans are correct and are a true reflection of the scheme.
- Believes that the scheme will affect the surrounding boreholes and wells.
S & A don't believe this will be the case, they already have 2 boreholes they use, so they would not want these disrupted. The irrigation reservoir will be filled by way of rainwater off the poly tunnels and from the river Lugg. S & A have a winter pumping license which allows them to pump water from the river when it is at a certain height.
- Concerns about the noise of the diesel pumps.
There will be no diesel pumps used at all the pumps are electric and silent running.
- Concerns about additional traffic.
There will be no additional traffic long term, only during the construction stage.
- Concerns about the bridleway being crossed during the building stage.
The bridleway will have to get crossed to get the machinery into the field. But this will only be for a very short time.
- No water environmental testing or scheme been done.
S & A have not been asked for this to be done by either the environmental Agency or the Herefordshire Planning department.
- Concerns about the depth of the reservoir, which will affect the ground water.
S & A don't believe this is correct as the reservoir is only going to be 1.5 meters deep at its deepest part.

S & A would also like to comment on the huge biodiversity gain this reservoir will make to the local area, encouraging new wildlife.

Q2. A resident asked if the potential for early repayment from the Herefordshire Council to the Marden Village Trust had been agreed.

A2. Herefordshire Council will not pay the funds early and the date of 14th September 2026 has been agreed in writing.

Q3. The £946k previously mentioned, does this cover the fixtures and fitting in the New Hall.

A3. No, the Marden Village Trust as part of the Transition Group will develop a definitive list of required furniture and equipment as well as looking for grant funding.

Q4. When will the new Hall be ready for use.

A4. Don't know yet as the hall is still being built, but it is hoped it will be a month after the handover date.

Q5. Is the Parish Council going to purchase the fixtures and fittings.

A5. See A3 above.

Q6. When will residents be able to become trustees of the new Marden Parish Trust.

A6. This is a question for the current Marden Village Trust / Marden Parish Trust and not the Parish Council.

Q7. A resident asked if they could have a list of all the fixtures and fittings which are going in the New Parish Hall.

A7. As this is still being worked upon by the Transition Group and has not been finalised yet it

cannot be made available.

To Note – The Council noted the questions.

5. Finance Matters.

5.1 - Account Summary – January 26

Resolution – The Council approved the Account Summary.

5.2 - Bank Accounts - 31.01.26.

5.2a - Unity Main - January 26 - £3,249.07

5.2b - Unity Saver - January 26 - £331,059.20

To Note – The Council noted the bank statements

5.3 - HUB Accounts - January 26

Resolution – The Council approved the HUB Accounts.

5.4 - VAT Reclaim - January 26 - £11,819.98

To Note – The Council noted the VAT reclaim.

6. Payments.

	Payments	Net	Vat	Total
6.1	Clerks Salary – Feb 26	As per Contract		
6.2	D C Gardening Services – SI-2406	2,100.00	420.00	2520.00
6.3	S Lewis – HUB Electric	87.24	0.00	87.24
6.4	HALC – Subscription	1,101.50	220.30	1,321.80
6.5	S J Roberts – Invoice No	39,751.99	7,950.40	47,702.39

Resolution – Council agreed to pay all the invoices.

7. Payment made under emergency policy and regular payments.

		Payment	Net	Vat	Total
7.1	D/D	BT – Broadband & Phone – Jan 25	46.69	9.34	56.03
7.2	S/O	HUB Rent - Feb 25	450.00	0.00	450.00
7.3	S/O	Community Garden - Rent - Feb 25	15.00	0.00	15.00
7.4	DD	Unity Trust - Service Charge - Feb 25	7.00	0.00	7.00
7.5	DD	PWL Repayment	22,592.86	0.00	22,592.86

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

8. Planning.

	Application No	Address	Permission sought
8.1	P260104/F	Ashgrove Farm Marden Hereford HR1 3EY	Change of use of private swimming pool building to holiday letting unit

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

	Application No	Address	Permission sought
8.2	P260027/FH	White Gate Farm Marden Hereford HR1 3EZ	First floor extension

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

	Application No	Address	Permission sought
8.3	P260109/F	Land to the West of Ashdown House Marden Herefordshire	Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 201300 (Proposed erection of 5 no. dwellings and associated works (AMENDED PLANS and ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS)) - alternative proposal drawings for plot 5 to replace the approved drawings

Resolution – The Marden Parish Council *OBJECTS* to this application and has real concerns that the summer house overlooks several properties as it is located in a raised location.

	Application No	Address	Permission sought
8.4	P260215/F	Land opposite Frankland Burmarsh Sutton St Nicholas Herefordshire HR1 3BW	Construction of two single storey dwellings.

Resolution – The Marden Parish Council *OBJECTS* to this application on the following grounds.

1. Inappropriate location in the Open Countryside and Unsustainable Growth.

Both proposed developments are located in the hamlet of Franklands Gate / Sutton Walls, outside any clearly defined settlement boundary in the Marden Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and the Core Strategy settlement hierarchy.

- The Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy directs new residential development to settlements defined as appropriate for housing growth and within settlement boundaries.
- Franklands Gate is a dispersed rural hamlet without the services, facilities or public transport required to support new housing sustainably. Residents will be overwhelmingly dependent on private vehicles for basic needs, contrary to the NPPF's objective of sustainable development (para. 8).

- Marden Parish, while identified in the Core Strategy as a settlement with scope for proportionate housing growth, was intended to accommodate this through appropriately allocated and planned sites within the village and defined settlements, not spread sporadically across the wider countryside.

Given the proximity to no local facilities and limited transport options, the cumulative impact of additional homes here would promote an unsustainable pattern of development contrary to the spatial strategy of the Core Strategy and the sustainability objectives of the NPPF 2026.

2. Conflict with the Marden Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Marden Neighbourhood Development Plan (made October 2016) forms part of the statutory Development Plan for Herefordshire and must be given weight in decision-making.

- Neither site is allocated for new residential development in the NDP.
- The plan sets out a clear framework for where and how housing growth should be accommodated, reflecting locally agreed settlement patterns and community aspirations.

Allowing speculative housing outside the defined settlements and not supported by the NDP would undermine local plan-led development and neighbourhood planning, as encouraged under the NPPF.

3. Flood Risk and Climate Adaptation Considerations.

While both sites are not formally designated within high flood zones on strategic maps, local evidence indicates that the wider Sutton Walls / Franklands Gate area suffers from surface water and groundwater flooding issues, particularly along minor lanes and lower-lying fields.

- The NPPF requires that new development should be directed away from areas at risk of flooding and that proposals should incorporate sustainable drainage and climate resilience measures.
- No robust Flood Risk Assessment (sequential test and detailed site-specific assessment) has been submitted to demonstrate that these proposals will not increase flood risk to existing homes or elsewhere. Applications should be refused until these key climate adaptation requirements are satisfactorily evidenced.

Given climate change projections and the need to avoid increasing flood risks to neighbouring properties and infrastructure, the current submissions are inadequate in this regard.

4. Highway Safety and Traffic Impacts.

The narrow rural lanes serving Franklands Gate, Sutton Walls and linking to the Berrington / Hereford roads are not designed for increased traffic volumes.

- There is no regular pedestrian infrastructure or safe passing places for existing traffic, cyclists or pedestrians.
- Additional vehicle movements from 8 new homes would materially increase traffic flows on substandard rural lanes, affecting road safety for residents, farm vehicles, walkers and cyclists.

The submitted proposals do not contain sufficient highway evidence to demonstrate that these impacts can be safely mitigated, raising concerns under NPPF paragraphs regarding safe access and transport sustainability.

5. Impact on Rural Character and Local Services

The scattered development of housing unrelated to a defined settlement boundary will erode the rural character of this part of the parish.

- The NPPF and Core Strategy both recognise the importance of protecting the intrinsic character and beauty of rural areas.
- Incremental development such as this, outside planned allocations, risks creating a more diffuse pattern of settlement with adverse visual and environmental impacts.

Concurrently, local services in Marden and surrounding villages (school, medical facilities, shops) are already stretched; neither application demonstrates how this existing service constraints would be addressed.

6. Biodiversity.

This current proposal is none compliant with both biodiversity net gain and the nitrate and phosphate levels that the development generates in the Lugg catchment.

	Application No	Address	Permission sought
8.4	P260218/F	Land opposite Frankland, Burmarsh Sutton St Nicholas Herefordshire HR1 3BW	Construction of 6 new residential dwellings

Resolution – *The Marden Parish Council OBJECTS to this application on the following grounds.*

1. Inappropriate location in the Open Countryside and Unsustainable Growth.

Both proposed developments are located in the hamlet of Franklands Gate / Sutton Walls, outside any clearly defined settlement boundary in the Marden Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and the Core Strategy settlement hierarchy.

- The Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy directs new residential development to settlements defined as appropriate for housing growth and within settlement boundaries.
- Franklands Gate is a dispersed rural hamlet without the services, facilities or public transport required to support new housing sustainably. Residents

will be overwhelmingly dependent on private vehicles for basic needs, contrary to the NPPF's objective of sustainable development (para. 8).

- Marden Parish, while identified in the Core Strategy as a settlement with scope for proportionate housing growth, was intended to accommodate this through appropriately allocated and planned sites within the village and defined settlements, not spread sporadically across the wider countryside.

Given the proximity to no local facilities and limited transport options, the cumulative impact of additional homes here would promote an unsustainable pattern of development contrary to the spatial strategy of the Core Strategy and the sustainability objectives of the NPPF 2026.

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- Neither site is allocated for new residential development in the NDP.
- The plan sets out a clear framework for where and how housing growth should be accommodated, reflecting locally agreed settlement patterns and community aspirations.

Allowing speculative housing outside the defined settlements and not supported by the NDP would undermine local plan-led development and neighbourhood planning, as encouraged under the NPPF.

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While both sites are not formally designated within high flood zones on strategic maps, local evidence indicates that the wider Sutton Walls / Franklands Gate area suffers from surface water and groundwater flooding issues, particularly along minor lanes and lower-lying fields.

- The NPPF requires that new development should be directed away from areas at risk of flooding and that proposals should incorporate sustainable drainage and climate resilience measures.
- No robust Flood Risk Assessment (sequential test and detailed site-specific assessment) has been submitted to demonstrate that these proposals will not increase flood risk to existing homes or elsewhere. Applications should be refused until these key climate adaptation requirements are satisfactorily evidenced.

Given climate change projections and the need to avoid increasing flood risks to neighbouring properties and infrastructure, the current submissions are inadequate in this regard.

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The narrow rural lanes serving Franklands Gate, Sutton Walls and linking to the Berrington / Hereford roads are not designed for increased traffic volumes.

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The submitted proposals do not contain sufficient highway evidence to demonstrate that these impacts can be safely mitigated, raising concerns under NPPF paragraphs regarding safe access and transport sustainability.

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- Incremental development such as this, outside planned allocations, risks creating a more diffuse pattern of settlement with adverse visual and environmental impacts.

Concurrently, local services in Marden and surrounding villages (school, medical facilities, shops) are already stretched; neither application demonstrates how this existing service constraints would be addressed.

6. Biodiversity.

This current proposal is none compliant with both biodiversity net gain and the nitrate and phosphate levels that the development generates in the Lugg catchment.

	<i>Application No</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Permission sought</i>
8.5	260084	Land adjacent New House Farm Marden Hereford HR1 3EW	Temporary vehicle and pedestrian entrance for a period of three years whilst adjacent residential development and access road is completed.

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

(Not Accepting Comments on this Application)

8.6 - **P260063/PA7** - Brook Farm Marden Hereford Herefordshire HR1 3ET.

Application for prior notification for proposed agricultural glasshouse to grow fruit.

To Note – *This application was noted.*

(Not Accepting Comments on this Application)

8.7 - **P252723/PA7** - Drakeley Farm Marden Herefordshire.

Prior approval for irrigation reservoir and proposed deposition excavated material.

Even though the Herefordshire Council website says they are not taking comments on this application, the Parish Council feel there needs to be comments made as this application is very emotive in the Parish.

Resolution – *The Marden Parish Council SUPPORT this application but there are concerns the scheme may affect local boreholes and wells. The Parish Council would like to see some sort of water ecological report which will give the local residents some reassurance.*

8.6 - Enforcement.

a) Farmer John's Signage.

The Ward Member informed the Clerk that the enforcement officer had visited the site and reported that the signage on the roadside comply. However, the signage on the roof seems to be too large and planning enforcement are in talks with the owner.

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

b) Small Ashes. Both a planning and Planning

The Council said this property had not fully complied with the conditions of its planning permission. The Chair showed the Council the missing visibility display, which was part of the original planning application, as this is required to make this busy road junction safer.

Resolution – *The Marden Parish Council asked the Clerk to get back in touch with the Ward Member and the planning enforcement.*

Footpath.

The owner of the property has now blocked off the PROW and there was meant to be a new bridge installed. The Clerk reported that the Ward Member has raised a concern about this footpath and a PROW inspector is due to visit the site and the owner of the footpath.

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

9. New Parish Hall.

9.1- Update.

The Chair updated the Council with the following report.

Construction work has slowed considerable due to inclement weather. This has been reflected in the last two Interim payments; both have been significantly lower than anticipated. Nevertheless, SJR remains confident that the project will be complete for handover in early July.

Physically the groundworks have been completed, the steel frame erected and the roof cladding installed along with the requested 24 solar panels. The blockwork and service entries in preparation for the base to be laid has been the focus of the first half on February. The target for the next month is to complete the base, instal the external walls, doors and windows along with 1st fix M&E.

The target remains to be complete for handover in early July. The project cost remains at £976,460 with a spend to date as at 31st January of £412,943 (42%).

The Design and Build contract remain at £746,425 with a spend of £218,217 (29%). Retention at 5% of spend is now £11,485.

Areas of cost reduction are being worked, but these still have yet to be confirmed. Examples being Tarmac Surface, service connection to site, lower sub-structure costs and reduced sub-base thickness. These potential savings will be offset by increased kitchen and solar panel

costs

Due to the slowdown in work, it looks like we will now require interim funding from April through to October 2026 at which time we will receive monies from the management lease purchase.

The Parish Hall Transition group met on 10th February. The main topics covered were:

1. Again, top of the list was the need to finalise the management lease at the earliest opportunity. This must be complete by mid-March.
2. A presentation was made on floor layouts to demonstrate different potential uses for the community rooms (individually and combined) and lobby area.
3. This led to an associated presentation on suggested colour schemes for walls, floors, doors, chairs etc.
4. A draft list of furniture and equipment, along with estimated costs was presented and discussed. This will be validated and grant funding sort where possible by the MVT/MPT
5. A questionnaire has been developed which will be distributed with N&V.
6. The proposed electrical design was agreed with a number of changes and additions highlighted.

The February Site meeting with SJR took place on 12th February with the main focus being on finalising mechanical and electrical design. Almost all of the items raised by the Transition group had already been agreed and incorporated in updated drawings. The external lighting (LUX) review remains outstanding.

To Note – This was noted by the Council.

9.2 - Newsletter No 12

The Chair updated the Council with the following.



Project Progress and Financials

- **Groundwork and Construction:** Unfortunately, slow progress has been made during January and into February due to very inclement weather. The overall project is about 3 weeks behind schedule, but it is believed that this can be made up during the spring months to follow. The last month has seen progress on the ground floor masonry drainage and slab. The eagle eyed will have noticed the 24 solar panels have been installed on the roof.
- **Council Approvals:** The planning application for the temporary entrance (required while the main site construction continues) has been submitted to Herefordshire Council for approval and should gain approval shortly. A further planning application is being developed for minor changes to the original approved application covering the site entrance and outside lighting.
- **Payments and Meetings:** The third payment was made to SJR bringing the total paid under the design and build contract to £218,217 (£229,702 less retention of £11485). The final invoice, to our Architect, covering RIBA Stage 5 to 7 has been paid, bringing the total to £35,950. All payments are quoted exclude VAT which the Parish Council claims back on a monthly basis. A fourth site meeting has been held, principally reviewing progress and a revised mechanical and electrical design following the Transition Groups review.
- **Online Systems:** A dedicated website is under construction and Facebook page will be developed when the Parish Hall build is further advanced and pictures can be shared. Both will be owned and maintained the Marden Parish Trust. The online booking and invoicing system can be viewed on the Marden-Links website now but will also be available on the Parish Hall website once complete.

Transition Group: The Parish Hall Transition Group met in February. The main focus of the meeting being to look at the interior flooring & wall finishes, lighting requirements, storage needs and a first review of furniture and equipment requirements.

Upcoming Milestones

Task	Completed By
Foundations incl. holding bolt for frame	19 Nov – complete, see picture above
Steel frame erected	19 Dec - complete
Christmas Break	
Install roof cladding	16 Jan - complete
Install wall cladding (external/internal)	28 Feb
Fix windows and doors	28 Feb
Services and connections	23 Feb
1st fix mechanical and electrical	10 Mar
Drylining and plaster to walls	10 Mar

A number of milestones above have slipped by 3 to 4 weeks due to the wet weather. The above will be updated and added to following the March site meeting. The target completion and handover date remains 3 July 2026.

Next Steps and Funding

- **Parishioner loans:** There is a short-term gap in funding while the MVT/MPT await the clawback funds from Herefordshire Council. These will be received in mid-September. To bridge this gap the Parish Council is seeking parishioner loans.

- **Car Park Materials:** The Parish Council has requested materials from Tarmac for the car park top dressing, potentially reducing costs by up to £22,000. The initial response is positive, and it is hoped that final decision will be made in the near future.
- **Additional Funding:** National Lottery grant applications have been made by the Parish Council for an entrance canopy, additional solar panels and solar lighting. The MVT will be looking for others as appropriate.
- **Legal Review:** The MPT solicitor is working on a draft management lease for review and agreement by both the Marden Parish Trust and Parish Council. It is anticipated that this will be completed by mid-March at the latest.
- **Transition Planning:** Ongoing meetings aim to ensure a seamless transition and opening of the new facility, there is much to discuss and plan.

Budget Status

Summary of costs to date. (net of VAT)

PROJECT COSTS	2025/26 Budget	Revised Budget	Actual Cost to date
RIBA stages 1 to 4 - architect fees design	116914	116914	116914
RIBA stages 5 to 7 – architect fees project management	35906	35950	35950
Design & Build Contract – S J Roberts	750000	746425	218217
Land survey fee	4870	5270	5270
Solicitors fee for land transfer and licence for S J Roberts to occupy prior to main site completion	2000	4484	4483
Negotiation with Citizen – architect fees	3130	9388	9388
Retender cost – architect fees		12100	12100
Temporary entrance required until main site finish – drawings and two planning applications		16551	16551
Citizen Housing contribution		-5930	-5930
Contingency	63640	35308	
TOTAL	976460	976460	412943

Contingency Rundown		
Approved budget contingency		63640
- Additional land survey cost prior to tender	-400	
- Re-tender costs	-12100	
- Improved final tender value	3575	
- Minor increase in RIBA stage 5 to 7 fees	-44	
- Increased solicitor fees for licence to use	-2484	
- Additional fees for Citizen liaison	-6258	
- Temporary entrance fees and 2 x planning applications (first application rejected)	-16551	
- Citizen contribution to temporary entrance	5930	
Total rundown to date		-28332
Contingency Remaining		35308

Additional notes

1. Retention on design and build contract (5%) to date £11485

2. Actual costs are those incurred to the 31st of January 2026
3. The above excludes solicitor costs associated with the development of the operational (management) lease with the Marden Parish Trust.



To Note – This will be on the Parish Council website.

10. Working Group Reports.

10.1 - Marden Links

- a) Hub activity update
- b) Repair Café Update
- c) Community Garden

Cllr K Ryan said the Marden Links committee had a short meeting in February and gave a summary.

- The HUB ticking over very nicely with was very busy in February, they will stop offering soup, and a bread roll up at the end of February.
- The Repair Café is still attracting large numbers of repairs.
- Work on the Community Garden has been quiet, but there is going to be a volunteer working party day on the 14th March 26 to get the garden ready for the spring planting. Volunteers help would be much appreciated, as many hands make light work.
- A number of people making donations have requested that a card reader be available. The working group has looked at Square to provide this facility which can be used on volunteer phones via an app. There is a charge for the facility of 1.7% of the transaction. Approval is sort to use this facility.

Cllr K Ryan said that the Marden Links would like to send out 650 questionnaires to the residents, asked about what services they would like to see within the HUB / Parish. Also

200 booklets for new residents which gave them an insight into the village life. These would be delivered by the News & Views team. Cllr K Ryan said they had received a quotation for the questionnaires of £ 175.20 and £94.00 for the booklet.

Resolution – *The Marden Parish Council approved this purchase and will cover the cost either out of Marden Link funds or Parish Council funds. Marden Parish Council approved the use of Square to take donations by card.*

10.2 - Neighbourhood Development Plan update

a) Comments on NPPF Consultation document – consultation ends 10th March

The Chair had written a paper on this document which the Council discussed.

Resolution – *The Marden Parish Council approved this document and asked the Clerk to submit it on the government website.*

10.3 - Finance & Administration Working Group – Agree date for next meeting

The Clerk said that a meeting was required before the end of year accounts were due to go review the Councils' finances for the year 2025/26.

To Note – *This was noted by the Council, and a date will be set via email.*

10.4 - Events Group – Update of events planned for 2026

The Chair said the events working group had meet and had a proposed the following events to support the opening of the Parish Hall.

- **30th August 26** – Grand Opening of the New Parish Hall at 11am for families and children followed at 7pm until 10pm Music, food and drink.
- **12th September 26** – To be determined.
- **19th September** – A Race Night.
- **26th September** – Flicks.
- **3rd October** – Quiz Night.

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

10.5 – Transport Working Group

Initial working meeting agreed – Tuesday 24th February

The Chair said this working group will be looking at a wide-ranging aspect of highway issues and concerns within the Parish from potholes, resurfacing, yellow lines, mini roundabouts, traffic flows, flooding, signage and parking.

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

11. Community.

11.1 – Bus Shelter.

The Chair said even though this would be a good idea, there was two current issues which had to be overcome, funding and land as the current location would be too small to site a normal bus shelter.

To Note – *This was noted by the Council, and the Clerk will investigate further.*

11.2 – Replacement Post Box – (soak.ambushes.exit)

The Clerk said he had sent an email to Royal Mail, but has not received any response to date, but will chase up.

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

11.3 - Replacement Defib Pads. Both adult and child

Cllr Paula Barrett said it was unacceptable for the defibrillator not to be in operational use as this was a potential lifesaving device. The Clerk said a new battery and pads have been ordered but there is not a confirmed date on delivery. Plus, our current defibrillator was going to be stopped and not supported from February 2026, and this would mean no further battery or pads.

The Clerk said the company who supplies the battery and replacement pads have a deal, where if you send in your old defib, they will supply a new one for a discounted price of £750.00 + vat and cancel the order placed.

Resolution – *The Marden Parish Council felt this should be owned and maintained by the Marden Village Trust but agreed they would purchase a new defibrillator as this was important lifesaving device and that the Marden Village Trust should look to take ownership and approve reimbursement to the Parish Council at their next meeting.*

11.4 - Potholes and general state of Parish

The Chair said this will be discussed by the Transport Working Group.

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

11.5 - Traffic Lights

The Clerk said the traffic lights were no longer there, and the issue had resolved itself.

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

12. Marden Consolidated Charities.

The Chair indicated that what was suggested at the last meeting, would not work after seeing the Consolidated Charities Constitution. Ideally the Council need to find a secretary and trustee to serve on the charity, Cllrs C Morgan, P Barrett and L Hayward all said they would become trustees and Cllrs Barrett and Hayward would do the secretary duties between them.

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

13. Lengthsman Scheme – Grant proposal for 2026/27

The Clerk said the lengthsman grant for 26/27 will be released in April 26 and an expression of interest had already been made.

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

14. Herefordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy – Parish Council response?

The Item was deferred until the March meeting due to time constraints.

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

15. Parish Summit – next meeting Tuesday 3rd March Plough Lane

The Chair said that Cllr's D Bennett and K Ryan will attend on behalf of the Council.

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

16. Action List.

The Chair reported that most of the items on the action list had now been completed other than some of those assigned to the Ward Member and he would update it for the next meeting.

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

17. Future Agenda Items.

- Dog mess
- HGV Signage
- Police

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

To exclude the members of the public & the press from this part of the meeting to discuss items of a confidential nature.

18. Project Funding.

Project funding was discussed, to cover the short-term shortfall between when the Parish Council receives funds for the “management lease”. The good news was that local residents have been offering loans to cover this shortfall and after one final push it was hoped that the full amount will be covered.

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

Date of next Council Meeting 17th March 2026 at 7.30pm in the Marden Community Centre.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.40pm.



Signed:
Chair of the Council
17th March 2026