



Marden Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 pm on 15th September 2026 at Marden Parish Hall.

Minutes

Present:

Cllr David Bennett (Chair), Cllr Kate Ryan, Cllr Richard Paske, Cllr Chris Morgan and Cllr Rod Lees.

In Attendance:

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

1. To receive Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Lesley Hayward, Cllr Mike Blake and Cllr Paula Barrett.

To Note - This was noted by the Council.

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

Cllr's D Bennett & K Ryan declared an interest in item 16.

To Note - This was noted by the Council.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 18.08.26.

Resolution - The draft minutes of the 21.07.26 were adopted and duly signed by the Chair.

4. Open Session.

Ward Member.

The Ward member was not presented but submitted his report.

To Note - This report was noted by the Council and can be found on the Parish Council website.

Public Session.

A resident asked the following questions.

Q1. In the last minutes the Asset Register had the wrong number of waste bins.

A1. The Clerk will check and amend.

Q2. How come it was the Transition group & the Finance & Administration group decided on the purchase of the signage and banners for the new Parish Hall.

A2. The Council gave permission to make purchases within budget.

Q3. When were parishioners asked if they wanted to be trustees on the New Marden Parish Trust.

A3. This is not a question for the Parish Council.

Q4. When were David Bennett & Kate Ryan made Trustees of the New Marden Parish Trust.

A4. This is a question for the Marden Parish Trust.

Q5. Why is there a difference of £4,415.00 in the project figures.

A5. This is explained in the complete breakdown of the project figures and relates to unused contingency.

Q6. What are the Solar Panel Payments referring too.

A6. It referred to the Solar Farm at Bodenham.

Q7. What is the £1540.00 payment to Paton Events for.

A7. This was a supplier at the opening event for the New Parish Hall.

Q8. When is Marden Links being transferred to the Marden Parish Trust.

A8. This has already been approved / happened.

Q9. What is happening about the new lease.

Q9. This is being discussed in the confidential session later.

Q10. Will the lease be made public.

A10. That is something that both parties will have to agree too.

Q11. Why are the resident loans not being discussed in public.

A11. This was a condition of the loan that everything would remain in the strictest confidence.

***To Note** - These questions were noted by the Council.*

5. Footpaths Officer.

The Clerk reported that there was no footpaths officer report this month but will be meeting with the footpaths officer within a week.

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

6. Finance Matters.

6.1 - Account Summary- August 26.

***Resolution** - The Council approved the Account Summary.*

6.2 - Bank Accounts- 31.08.26.

6.2a- Unity Main- August 26- £3,765.04

6.2b- Unity Saver- August 26- £84,936.07

***To Note** - The Council noted the bank statements.*

6.3- HUB Accounts- August 26.

***Resolution** - The Council approved the HUB accounts*

6.4- VAT Reclaim- August 26- £23,318.88

***To Note** - The Council noted the VAT reclaim.*

6.5- Draft Budget 27/28.

The draft budget was presented to the Council.

***Resolution** - The Council approved the draft budget, and it will be now presented to the residents in the newsletter.*

6.6 - Transfer £4,979.25 to the Marden Parish Trust related to the transfer of Marden links activities.

Resolution - Council approved for the transfer of the Marden Links funds to the Marden Parish Trust as soon as the Marden Parish Trusts bank account has been opened.

6.7- Update on Solar Panel payments

The Clerk updated the Council on the missing funds for the Solar Panel payments, it seems that the Solar Panel Company has made the payment to the Council old NatWest account, which is meant to of been closed. The Clerk reported that following some heated correspondence the Solar Company will be seeking permission to re-pay into the correct account.

To Note - This was noted by the Council.

6.8- Closed Churchyard Grant- £1150.00.

Resolution - Council Approved the payment of the closed churchyard grant upon receipt of seeing invoices showing the grant money is being spent on the closed churchyard, rather than just being put into the larger funding pot.

7. Payments.

	Payments	Net	Vat	Total
7.1	Clerks Salary - Augs 26	As per Contract		
7.2	Signworx-	262.00	0.00	262.00
7.3	SLCC - Clerk Membership	253.00	0.00	253.00
7.4	S Lewis- HUB Electric	17.24	0.00	17.24
7.5	Alpha Furniture - C17859V- Final Balance Payment	9331.13	1866.23	11,197.35

Resolution- Council agreed to pay invoices (7.1) (7.2) (7.4) & (7.5) and a 1/3 of invoice (7.3) which will be shared between the other Council the Clerk works for.

8. Payment made under emergency policy and regular payments.

		Payment	Net	Vat	Total
8.1	D/D	BT- Broadband & Phone - August 26.	54.30	10.86	65.16
8.2	S/O	HUB Rent - August 26.	450.00	0.00	450.00
8.3	S/O	Community Garden - Rent- August 26.	15.00	0.00	15.00
8.4	DD	Unity Trust- Service Charge - August 26.	7.00	0.00	7.00
8.5	BACS	S Lewis- HUB Electric- August 26	16.68	0.00	16.68
8.6	BACS	Paton Events- Hall Opening	1540.30	0.00	1540.30

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

9. Planning. (All Planning Applications and Determination are on the PC website)

	Application No	Address	Permission sought
9.1	262297 19/09/2026	Land adjacent to The Oaks Litmarsh	Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 241388 (Proposed erection of one self-build dwelling and associated works)- to allow for the

		Marden HR1 3EY	access to be relocated to shorten the length of road required and provide a private access for the dwelling
--	--	-------------------	---

Resolution - The Marden Parish Council decided to raise no comments on this application.

	<i>Application No</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Permission sought</i>
9.2	262335 22/09/2026	Oak View Sutton St Nicholas Hereford HR1 3BU	Two-storey extension and detached garage

Resolution - The Marden Parish Council SUPPORTS this application.

9.4- Planning Authority Determinations.- (See Website)

9.5- Enforcement.

a) Farmer John's Signage.

The planning enforcement has now passed this on to another officer, who will be serving a notice as a reply from the client is not received with 2 weeks.

To Note - This was noted by the Council.

b) Small Ashes. Both a planning and footpath issue.

The Clerk report that the Ward Member had informed him of the following "that it was necessary to serve notice onto the Landowner for the replacement of the stiles on footpath MR17A. This was particularly difficult, due to the relationship between the two landowners.

To Note - This was noted by the Council however the breach of planning still must be addressed, and the Clerk was instructed to chase this with the Ward Member.

9.6- Mediation on a possible Development within the Parish.

The Chair reported that the New Hall had been booked by a planning mediation company to discuss possible future development on the Volunteer Inn and Adjacent Land.

The Parish Council don't have a view on this either way, and the whole point of this engagement with residents is for their views and to ask questions. The event will be held as a drop in session in the afternoon followed by a presentation and Q&A in the evening of the 1st October 2026.

The Chair feels the Parish Council should hold a PARISH meeting for the evening session so they can hear the views of the parishioners.

Resolution - The council agreed a Parish Meeting should be held to hear the views of the parishioners.

10. New Parish Hall.

10.1- Update.

The Opening Event was a great success; huge thanks must go to all the volunteers and Councillors. S J Roberts the construction company went far beyond their brief to bring the

project in on budget and on time.

The carpark will have the final tarmac topping and the garden area planted when the community green has been completed.

Citizen Housing have been extremely helpful from day one, with the early land transfer, drainage connection and the development of the community green in exchange for allowing SJ Roberts to use the area as a site compound, saving tens of thousands of pounds on the overall project.

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

11. Working Group Reports.

11.1- Marden Links.

Marden Links have now moved to the new Hall; they have had new residents attend. They are going to open 3 days a week.

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

11.2- Neighbourhood Development Plan update.

Herefordshire Association of Local Councils advice is to encourage all parish councils to commence the initial work of reviewing their neighbourhood plans, in advance of Herefordshire Council completing their county plan in the Spring of 2028.

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

11.3- Finance & Administration Working Group.

The Finance & Administration Working Group has not met this month.

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

11.4- Transport Working group.

When the Transport Working Group meets, it needs to include the Academy as one of the main traffic concerns is the parking at the drop off and pick up times at the school.

***To Note** - This was noted by the Council, and the Clerk will try and get hold of the head of the school for comments.*

12. Community.

12.1 - Winter Newsletter.

The Council said it wanted to carry on and produce the winter newsletter as it had gone down well with the resident in the past years.

***Resolution** - The Council asked the Clerk to design a winter newsletter covering subjects like the draft budget, traffic, future election and encouraging new Councillors.*

12.2 - Drainage Grant Update.

The Clerk reported that the Herefordshire Council had award a grant of £ 3,048.64 towards the smaller drainage issues.

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

13. Action Log.

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

14. Future Agenda Items.

- The Sandbag stock.
- The condition of the Grit Bins ready for winter.
- An IT Policy.
- Revised and updated Asset Register to exclude items transferred to Marden Parish Trust
- Parish Council Website Update

Parish Council Meeting on the 20th October 2026 at 7.30pm in the Marden Parish Hall.

To exclude the members Public and Press from this part of the meeting to discuss items of a Confidential nature.

15. Employment Matters.

- *Annual Pay Increase.*
- *Pension.*

Resolution - Council approved the Annual Pay Increase at scale point 26 backdated to 1st April and a pension with the Parish Council contributing 4%.

16. Hall Agreement.

The Clerk reported that the lease was with both solicitors, having the final amendments added and will be ready to sign very soon.

To Note - This was noted by the Council.

17. Repayment of Resident Loans.

The Clerk reported that the total amount of resident loans were £ 262,000.00 and with a repayment of 5% this is an interest amount of £6,550.00 making a total repayment of £268,550.00.

Resolution - Council approved for the Clerk to make the repayments, once the Parish Council had received the funds from the Marden Village Trust.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

Signed:
Cllr David Bennett
Chair of the Council
20th October 2026