

Minutes of Marston Parish Council meeting held on 11th September 2019

The meeting opened at 18.52

**Present**:

Parish Cllrs; Chairman M Potts (MP), Phil Carter (PhC), Amanda Nixon (AN), Dave Collier (DC) and Chris Anthwal (CA)

Ward Cllrs; Lynn Gibbon (LG), Norman Wright (NW) and Phil Marshall (PM)

Clerk; Caroline Constable (CC)

**Apologies**:

Apologies were received from Parish Cllrs; Warren Davies (WD) and Iain Stead (IS)

Apologies were accepted

**Declarations of interest:**

No declarations of interest

**Dispensations:**

There were no dispensations

**Public Forum:**

There were four members of the public present; Lynn McGahern, Sylvia Reagan, Jackie Rathbone and Tom Pearce.

Resident, Tom Pearce wished to complain about the state of the road along Hall Drive created particularly due to the large number of farm vehicles using the road. The road is unadopted and Mr Pearce believes that CW&C have funds to repair such roads. Mr Pearce also raised issues with the current state of the bus stop on Marston Lane opposite Hall Drive which is currently overgrown with vegetation. Clerk advised that this had been reported earlier in the year and the pc believed that the vegetation had been cut back. Mr Pearce also raised issues with the state of the hedgerow and steps down from Fernlea Road to Mere Road; the hedges are currently overgrown making access difficult and the steps are in poor repair. Cllr MP advised that this issue had already been reported to CW&C who advised that the maintenance of the hedges was the responsibility of Weaver Vale Housing Association who own the properties on either side of the footpath. Weaver Vale had then stated that it was the responsibility of the tenants to keep the hedges trimmed back. Mr Pearce stated ‘how were 80 odd year olds expected to cut them back’. Mr Pearce stated that ‘it was ridiculous that the council would allow a public footpath to become blocked’.

Ward Cllrs advised that they would look into these matters and report back.

Mr Pearce left the meeting.

Lynn McGahern, Sylvia Reagan and Jackie Rathbone were present to ask questions of Ward Cllrs regarding the planning application for Northwich Metals and the Tour&Store facility. A meeting had been arranged between ward cllrs, parish cllrs, representatives from The Avenue, Enforcement and Planning for 19/9/19. Ward cllrs were advised that those residents present were unable to attend this meeting but that another resident of The Avenue may be able to attend. Clerk advised that no parish cllrs were available for this date. The date would now need to be rearranged. Ward cllrs advised that they believed the application would go to the planning committee in October and therefore presenting a case to planning and enforcement needed to be a priority. The meeting would need to determine what issues would be classed as relating to planning as enforcement surrounding the bigger issues with the whole area were separate to the current Northwich Metals planning application for the Tour&Store. It was also stated that the planning officer had already intimated that the application would be recommended for approval. Residents stated that much of the traffic using The Avenue was not going to the Tour&Store facility but to the scrapyard even though there was a traffic management plan in place stating that all traffic was to use Cart Lane. Ward cllr LG stated that the land owners were ‘playing fast and loose with planning’ continually applying for retrospective planning and that enforcement had not been adequate or timely. Ward cllr PM asked the residents which would they prefer; ‘traffic to go down The Avenue or Cart Lane?’ The residents stated that of course they didn’t want traffic down The Avenue but nor did they want any further issues to be created by having all of the traffic down Cart Lane. There are already issues with vehicles turning right into Cart Lane from the bridge and any further traffic would only make matters worse. Issues over the maintenance of both Cart Lane and The Avenue was also raised as neither are maintained. It was asked ‘how could such industrial developments take place in the village’? Ward Cllr NW stated that if the planning application for the original scrapyard was to be made today it would be refused. At the time that the area was developed as a scrapyard there was no conservation area nor had the Lion Salt Works been awarded heritage status. Ward Cllr NW also advised that whilst he could speak at the planning committee meeting he would not be entitled to vote due to his involvement in all of the discussions.

A new date for the meeting between residents of The Avenue, the Parish Council, Ward cllrs, enforcement and planning would now be scheduled for 26/9/19 at 10am.

Lynn McGahern, Sylvia Reagan and Jackie Rathbone left the meeting.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the parish council meeting of 7/08/19 were agreed and approved.

**Actions from previous meeting:**

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Action | Assigned to | Actioned | | Cash Monies/Send Cheques | CC | √ | | Investigate importing pc emails into gmail | CC | Carry forward | | Write notice for MM re Keep fit in hall & contact PT | WD | Carry forward | | Purchase Bulbs | CC | Carry forward | | Ask Vicar about the Church Hall Key | WD | Carry forward | | Provide further info about SLCC membership | CC | Carry forward | | Inform all cllr’s about need to email update of any actions if planning on being absent from PC meeting | CC | √ | | Email coffee morning schedule to PCSO | PC | √ | |

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|  | Agenda Point | Assigned to.. |
| **1** | **Progress Reports**   1. Ceiling/Roof in Hall   Cllr WD not present – carry forward   1. Lobbying of Canal & River Trust re allotments   No update on this matter   1. Printer Cupboard   Cllr WD not present – carry forward   1. Alteration of Noticeboard for LSW   Still in progress; dependant upon item 1.c   1. Central Heating   Awaiting quote from Gassure. Cllr WD not present – carry forward   1. Neighbourhood Plan   Cllr CA advised that whilst 2 members of Wincham PC were keen to move forward nothing else had been arranged. Clerk to email Wincham PC to request that they discuss at their next meeting   1. Forgebrook Bridge   Cllr MP updated Ward cllrs on current position. She advised that the easiest option would be to have what was a permissive path established as a public right of way but that when she approached CW&C they advised that they would not do the work but that the pc could. The pc does not have the funds to do so. Ward cllr LG believed that some money had been put aside for the repair/replacement of a bridge in plans for the Urban Village. Cllrs believed that this could not be the same bridge due to it’s distance from the location of the proposed Urban Village. Ward cllrs LG/NW/PM to look into these funds and also push CW&C about the establishment of a public right of way. | CC  LG/NW/PM |
|  | It was decided to move the Ward Cllrs Reports ahead of the rest of business |  |
| **5** | **Ward Cllr Reports**  Ward Cllr LG advised that a number of consultations had been sent out, namely:   * Waste Contract - The current waste contract with Kia had ended and would now be managed by CW&C. There is to be a consultation on what the public want – yet to be distributed * Health - The latest consultation on Health within the borough has just completed. Disappointingly only 100 residents responded * CCG’s – CW&C and Cheshire East are to merge to enable economies of scale * Winnington Bridge – money has been awarded to allow the council to put a business case forward to Transport for The North for funding for the erection of a new bridge. Ward cllrs have been against a new bridge from the start and Ward Cllr LG is to ask whether costings for the other options have been done.   Ward cllr NW advised that some funding could be made available but would need to be applied for asap and spent before the end of the year.  Ward cllrs left the meeting | LG |
| **2** | **Finance**  ***To discuss Clerk’s salary***  Clerk put forward a proposal for salary and requested a salary of £15 per hour based upon previous clerk’s salary and current workload. Clerk left the room to allow cllrs to discuss. Clerks proposal accepted.  ***To note changes to financial regulations***  New financial regulations have come into effect and need to be applied to the pc’s financial standing order. The most noticeable being that accounts should now be presented at a pc meeting every quarter, checked and signed off. Clerk to make necessary changes, distribute and then have the document signed off at the next pc meeting.  ***Invoices received & cheques created*:**   1. Clerks Purchases and Expenses - £ 132.67   Chq no. 1209  Including paper clips @ £1.95  Norton renewal £89.99  Chq no. 1210 – professional hosting with 34sp £95.40  ***Rent received*** *(via Cllr CA):*   1. Kevin – Band £153 (6/8 – 10/9) 2. Mike Grogan - £25.50 (9/8)   ***Invoices received from Cleaner***  6 weeks (4/8 – 8/9) £60  ***Invoices received from Bookings agent***  6 weeks (4/8 – 8/9) £60  Cheque for £120 created for Cllr Anthwal chq no 1211 | CC |
| **3** | **Correspondence**   1. Email from CW&C - Local Council (Town & Parish) Elections Recharges - Marston Parish Council - Clerk advised that this had been raised at a previous meeting and Ward cllr LG had expressed surprise that we were being charged she was to look into. As Ward cllr had already left Clerk is to email to ascertain position. 2. Email from CW&C - Enforcement Policy Consultation – new consultation to ascertain whether parish council wish to take control of some areas of enforcement such as fines for dog fouling. Cllrs agreed to fill in at next pc meeting 3. Planning Application 19/02819/FUL - Land At Ollershaw Lane Marston Northwich - Erection of a cattle shed – clerk advised that deadline for comments/objections was 12/9/19. Cllrs requested that clerk make an objection on the following grounds:  * Impact on visual amenity within a conservation area * Pc believe that no livestock kept on the land | CC  CC |
| **4** | **Parish Cllr Reports**  Cllr CA raised question of Otter fencing around ponds/land off Ollershaw lane. Clerk received an email from Cllr WD forwarding an email from a resident saying that a planning application had been made to put further fencing up along Ollershaw Lane itself. Clerk unable to find application and advised that nothing can be done until one is sent through.  Cllr MP asked to reorder agenda items so that Ward Cllr’s do not need to stay for pc business. It was agreed to move parish cllr reports and ward cllr reports to items one and two on the agenda. Clerk to action for next meeting | CC |

Confirmed date of next meeting, 09/10/19

Meeting closed at 20:30

Abbreviations: pc (parish council), cllr (councilor), cllrs’ (councillors’), cllr’s (councillor’s), CW&C (Cheshire West and Chester), MM (Marston Murmurs)