

Marton Parish Council

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Report of the Annual Village Meeting held on Monday 20th March 2017
7pm at the Village School, School Lane, Marton

Minutes

Present: Mr J Rylands (Chair), Mrs C Clowes (Clerk), Mr D McGowan (DM), (JR), Mrs S Webborn (SW), Mrs L Nixon (LN), Mr B Nolan (BN), Mr D Schwendener (DS), Mr Mike Hodgkinson (MH), Cllr Lesley Smetham, PC Gary, PCSO Julia Short, Mr Rob Marks (on behalf of Marton Primary School), Mr Adam Machin (on behalf of Cheshire Wildlife Trust) and 39 parish residents.

1. Welcome:

John Rylands (Chairman) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Thanks were expressed to the Clerk (who will be leaving later in the year), Parish Councillors and Ward Councillor Lesley Smetham for all their hard work and in particular to those members involved with the School Lane planning application and the Neighbourhood Plan.

The sad passing of two residents of the village in the last 12 months was noted, Adam Cowell and Marion Fernyhough.

A round up of progress and events during the year along with the Parish Council budget and precept was given.

PCSO Short also gave brief update of Road Safety in Marton and the high priority it has been given after the findings of recent research that was carried out. A number of residents voiced their concerns that more should be done to improve road safety and improve parking, particularly around the school. The school advised that they have done all they are able to with their budget in order to improve parking in and around their grounds. It was noted that the gate on Oak Lane that gives children safer access to the school grounds is always shut and that the Parish Council would look into this. The idea was also voiced of purchasing a Speed Indicator Device (SID) for Marton and perhaps this could be done by the community raising half the money needed and Cheshire East Council matching the funds raised? There was also an appeal for more volunteers for the Community Speed Watch Programme in order to get it off the ground.

2. Update on School Lane planning applications:

David McGowan (Parish Councillor) gave a brief overview of the last 12 months on planning applications no's: 15/2274M and 15/5637M for the erection of 27 new dwellings on land off School Lane. He advised that 15/2274M has now been called in by the Secretary of State to make a decision on it and the Parish Council have now made 10 submissions regarding it. The second application no: 15/5637M is virtually identical to 15/2274M and would only come into play if 15/2274M is refused.

3. Marton Neighbourhood Plan – progress report:

Dick Schwendener (Parish Councillor) gave the background of the history of Marton's Neighbourhood Plan over the last 20 months and was pleased to advise that after a referendum took place where 93% voted in favour of the plan, Marton does now have its own Neighbourhood Plan. This is now a legal document and so it is hoped carries considerable weight in the planning process. However this is a grey area with recent lack of consistency between different local authorities about how much influence a Neighbourhood Plan has on the planning process and it is not known how the Secretary of State will view it as they make their decision on Planning Application 15/2274M. It is hoped though that having the Neighbourhood Plan puts Marton in a better position than it was before it had it.

Cllr Lesley Smetham advised that Marton had been cited by Cheshire East Council as being an example of a very well put together plan.

4. School Projects:

Mr Peter Webborn (Marton Primary School Governor) thanked Marton Parish Council and in particular Mr Barrie Nolan for all his hard work in producing and maintaining the planters around the school which are often commented on by children and parents. He also advised of a new group that has recently started doing woodbased activities called the Splinter Group. Mr Rob Marks (Teacher and Governor at Marton Primary School) advised that this group was looking at the potential of the grounds around the school for creating outdoor spaces to give

the opportunity for outdoor learning. This group will be meeting to clear areas of ground and woodland around the school and making them safe. The meetings will be held on:

- 1st April 2017 1.30pm-4.30pm
- 12th April 2017 4-7pm
- 3rd May 2017 6-9pm

All are welcome to help and should meet on the school field. Please bring your own equipment such as gloves, sheers etc.

5. Events Programme:

- Litter Pick – 7th May 2017, 2-3pm. Mrs Lucy Nixon invited residents to come along and help meeting on the Folly. Equipment will be provided by Cheshire East Council.
- Village Walk – this took place on Boxing Day 2016 and was a great success. It is now intended to make this an annual event. Revd Ian Arch is also arranging a village boundary walk for the 14th May 2017.
- Marton Rose Queen Ball – Friday 26th May 2017 – it is hoped that the money raised by this event will be split between the church and buying a defibrillator for Marton.
- Community use of School Hall – it is hoped to increase the number of community activities that take place making use of the school building. Suggestions so far include a home brew competition - to be arranged and Carpet Bowls which will take place on Friday 7th April at 7pm in the hall. Residents were asked to write down any other ideas that they had for consideration.

Break for refreshments

6. Marton Wakes:

This will take place on 22nd July and a flyer regarding it was distributed to all at the meeting. Lucy Nixon advised that although it is doing well the cost of putting on the event is rising each year and therefore the organising group would be very grateful for donations of prizes, for sponsorship and people to help run stalls, steward, set up and take down for the event etc. Anyone who can help should contact Simon Wayne.

7. Village Maintenance:

Mr Barrie Nolan gave an update on the 2016 Community Pride Competition and the Little Gem award that had been received. He advised that there are now water butts that have been provided by the school with watering cans and if anyone is passing they are encouraged to water the school planters.

One resident offered the possible donation of plants – Barrie will liaise with them to action this.

Mr Mike Hodgkinson gave an update on the work that has been carried out around Marton to repair and improve the signage. Residents at the meeting were encouraged to write down details of any signs that they are aware need cleaning or repairing.

The issue of flooding on School Lane and Oak Lane was raised and John Rylands advised that the matter is in hand and at present there is nothing more that MPC can do.

A resident advised that there is a sign on the village green needs fixing.

8. Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Village Environmental Plan:

Mr Adam Machin gave an informative talk on the work of the Cheshire Wildlife Trust and ways in which they can get involved in community and vice versa to help both the Community and Wildlife and what this could mean for Marton. There is training available on a range of skills, some of which is free, and details can be found by going to:

Mr John Percival, a local resident and tree warden for Marton, advised of the work that he does maintaining hedges, tree pruning and planting around Marton. He also thanked Rex Broughton for all the work he had done as his predecessor.

He advised that he has had the idea of developing a Village Environmental Plan. At the moment conversations are in the early stages but it is his hope that he will be able to come back to the 2018 annual village meeting with a detailed plan of how this can be implemented with the intention of developing a hedgerow network which would be beneficial to the environment both aesthetically and in reducing pollution. It is also hoped to encourage residents to make their gardens more wildlife friendly to produce a more diverse wildlife population in the area.

John Rylands thanked Mr Machin and Mr Percival for all their work.

The meeting closed at 9pm with the Chairman thanking the guest speakers, the ladies for providing refreshments and everyone for attending.