

Marton Parish Council
Clerk: Andrew Simpson
Email: marton.clerk@gmail.com

Parish Meeting 9th December 2019

1. In Attendance:

Councillors: John Rylands Chair(JR), Susan Webborn, Lucy Nixon (LN), Alison Hall (AH), David McGowan (DM), Barrie Nolan (BN), Dick Schwendener (DS).

Apologies: Lesley Smetham (LS)

Clerk: Andrew Simpson (AS),

Visitors: (Part meeting), PCSO Julia Short, Gillian Key (Ramblers Assoc), Nick Brearley (Ramblers Assoc), Alan Catherall (Ramblers Assoc).

2. Opening Remarks:

- a. The Chair (JR) welcomed representatives of the Ramblers Assoc who gave a small presentation. They explained that there were some 1270 registered paths in East Cheshire and 100% of these were reported on. The Ramblers worked closely with CE byeways department, whom they rated as a good dept. They confirmed that the current Marton Footpaths flyer is up to date and accurate, but that when a reprint is required there may be opportunities to upgrade the print quality. If we have any issues to raise about footpaths, then Gillian Kay would be an appropriate contact (gillian.kay@care4free.net). The EC Ramblers web can be found at www.ramblerseastcheshire.org.uk.
- b. The Cherry Barrow Farm path, about which a complaint had been received, is now improved and will probably improve further once the weather changes.
- c. It was agreed that the Ramblers Association would approach the owner of Davenport Lane Farm about the obstruction across the footpath on his land.
- d. LN circulated an early map (1954) showing two 'lost ways' which the RA would follow up.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 29 September were approved subject to an amendment re Village Green.

4. PCSO:

- a. JS reported that there were no incidents reported in Marton in November.
- b. AH reported that a calf carcass had been seen just in the Gawsorth boundary of School Lane (Marton Lane). This could have been a bait for poachers to capture (and kill) wild animals. JS confirmed that the local Police take such reports very seriously, and have a specialist division who deal with them.
- c. The accident (evidence debris on the green) on the Village Green had not been reported although technically, if it involved damage to property, should have been. JS did note.
- d. JS confirmed that the process of applying a speed limit North of the village to 40mph then 30mph had been approved by all departments and was now in the hands of CE Highways. JS will send us details of how to contact Robin Johnson at CE to push this process.

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- e. A report (complaint) about speeding had been received from Karen Hussey; we can write to our local MP (when elected) and to Head of Highways to encourage action on the speed limit, but JS confirmed that a visible presence with a speed gun has an immediate deterrent effect which does last for some weeks.
5. Planning Matters:
- a. Costs; an application for costs has been made, and a response received from the developer with challenges. DM and DS will now follow up. JR thanked them for their ongoing efforts.
 - b. There are no significant amends to the Marton Meadows site although some minor changes have been noted.
 - c. Barlows site (Caravan storage) position was unclear and AS and DM follow follow up with further enquiries.
 - d. Mention was made of the lights on the Davenport Arms, which are very bright, but not a planning issue.
6. Neighbourhood Plan Update;
- a. A grant would be required to proceed further with this but at present the maximum grant available will not cover the quote from e*SCAPE to prepare the information, which is seen as largely repeating what had already been provided, with updates, and as being extremely expensive.
 - b. JR will pursue an update an quotation on the Cheshire Wildlife.
7. Environmental Plan;
- a. John Percival will put a report together about improving environmental planting in the village.
 - b. Paul Nixon has offered to put a broad presentation together to show how to reduce the overall emissions and reduce costs from all forms within the village, a letter was circulated. He has offered to make this presentation at the Village meeting, which was generally agreed. (See village meeting item later).
 - c. JR letter to school about parked cars/running engines was accepted (see Schools liaison later).
8. School Liaison;
- a. School Parking: A meeting had taken place (today) between Simon Wallace from Cheshire East Highways, and DM, DS. Lesley Smetham and later, Julia Short were also in attendance. It was accepted that the situation was quite unsatisfactory and CE have been asked to write a Risk Assessment; they have also noted some other issues associated with parked cars.
 - b. Engines Running; JR will forward the response he has prepared.
 - c. JR confirmed he was now part of the reading group who attend school regularly, and was therefore getting to know the school better. He has issued an invitation to all villagers to attend a Mulled Wine and Mince pie meeting already circulated).
9. Village Maintenance;
- a. The notice board (in light oak) is due w/c 20th January 202; it will require mounting on the existing post.
 - b. Village Green; there was a discussion about possible updates to any plans including changes to the existing planting and landscaping and a wild flower meadow. We would need instruction on how to establish a wildflower meadow, and a grant may

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be available, and then liaise with Andy Simpson at CE about mowing schedules. JR, AH and BN will meet and discuss further with John Percival, to report back on 8th Feb meeting.

10. Highways;
 - a. There are no updates on the progress of the by-pass.
 - b. The damaged road sign has been reported ref number 3379360.
 - c. The overgrown side walk has been reported ref 3379362.
 - d. It was noted that there is a lot of mud across the path beside the Davenport Arms (North wall).
11. Parish Website;
 - a. Problems with the security certificate have been resolved; JR thanked LN for her continued work.
 - b. LN will now refer visitors to the CE site for declaration of interest information, which had been out of date.
12. Finance;
 - a. The accounts as circulated were accepted.
 - b. The precept application was formally agreed at £3500 by a unanimous vote. Clerk (AS) will now apply for funds.
 - c. Cheques were signed, details given.
 - d. It was confirmed that we believe we can recover VAT without being registered, AS to pursue when a vat amount is reclaimable.
13. Chairman;
 - a. An invitation for free tickets to some concerts is available through Manchester Airport. AS will circulate the email.
 - b. The Village Ramble is confirmed for 27th December, meet at the Church.
14. Correspondence received;
 - a. A letter has been received about a new bill in parliament allowing local authorities to generate and distribute electricity back to the grid from their own installation. LN asked if we were prepared to support this bill. Councillors asked for more details.
 - b. A letter was sent about the footpath at Cherry Barrow, discussed above.
 - c. Sharron Hussey had written about speeding vehicles (see above).
15. Village Meeting 23rd March 2020;
 - a. The suggested speakers were;
 - i. Ramblers Association about the work they do.
 - ii. ANSA about how and what you can recycle via the 'Grey Bin'.
 - iii. Paul Nixon about how to reduce your household emissions and reduce costs.
 - iv. John Percival, a wildlife update.
 - b. It was agreed that if all four agreed, they should have a strict time limit.
 - c. JR will contact ANSA and Ramblers to invite them.
16. Dates for next Meetings:
 - a. 3rd February
 - b. 23rd March (Village Meeting)
 - c. 11th May
 - d. ?? July

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- e. 7th September
- f. 7th December
- g. The July meeting to be confirmed, others accepted. SW please contact the School to check availability.

Meeting closed at 21:45