

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 7.30pm at Marton Primary School

Part 1 Public and press present

Present

Cllr. John Rylands
Cllr. Lucy Nixon
Cllr. Barrie Nolan
Cllr. Phil Cheetham
Cllr. David McGowan
Cllr. Alistair Goodwin
Cllr. Sue Webborn
Elizabeth Worrall – Clerk

Apologies

Cllr. Lesley Smetham – Ward Councillor

PART 1 - PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no public and press present.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Cllr. Smetham had sent her apologies in advance of the meeting.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

Cllr. Goodwin declared his interest in one of the planning applications (Sandpit Farm).

3. To receive and resolve to approve the [minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th September 2024](#)

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes.

4. To receive an update on footpaths

The Clerk shared that the permissive footpath bordering Eaton and Marton is still suffering from intermittent flooding. Cllr. Rylands said that he is happy to speak to Cllr. Waltho (Eaton) regarding how to progress this; the Clerk will facilitate this connection.

5. To receive an update on planning applications

- a) Marton Meadows Golf Club
 - i) [21/6443](#) - Extension Including landfill
 - ii) [20/4440M](#) - Driving Range

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 3rd December 2024

Signed

Dated

iii) [24/2357M](#) – car park

Cllr. Rylands shared some information regarding developments at Marton Meadows, which he had gained in an unofficial capacity. Cllr. Smetham had been asked to arrange a meeting with the Councillor in charge of planning at Cheshire East, but no progress update had been received. When an update is received from Councillor Smetham, a meeting will be requested again. It is noted that it is now 6 months since Cllr. Smetham was asked for her help to arrange this meeting. The car park application is not decided.

b) Barlows

An update has been received from Barlows. Barlows are awaiting an update from Cheshire East Council. Cllr. Rylands has asked for Cllr. Smetham's support to help move this on. An update will be sought for the next meeting. Cllr. McGowan wished to note that this was another long-standing planning issue, with very little progress being made.

c) Cherry Barrow Farm

i) tipped soil and debris

ii) [22/4221M](#) - Construction of a new stable block

There has been no further correspondence regarding the tipped soil and debris. The construction of the new stable block has been refused.

d) Brookside Cottage [22/4146M](#)

Cllr. McGowan confirmed that the resident has been advised that she can proceed with the works and build two new dwellings. This can be removed from the minutes moving forward.

e) Sandpit Farm – demolition of buildings 24/3529M

To ratify the below comment submitted 7th November:

The application site lies within the boundaries of Marton and is classified as being in Open Countryside. As such it is subject to Cheshire East Local Plan Policy PG6 and Marton Village NP Policy HD1 which references PG6. The proposed dwellings and stables are of no greater mass and height than the barns they replace and therefore comply with Policy PG6 3 iii. The design of the buildings and associated landscaping are in keeping with the location and easily fall within the criteria described in the NP Design Policy HD2. The site is situated within the JBO Consultation Zone and therefore subject to Policy SE 14. The PC is not qualified to ascertain whether the scheme would impair the efficiency of the telescope and therefore defer to their expert opinion. JBO are inconsistent with their response to planning applications which vary from pages of complex reasons to refuse to no response at all. Some level of consistency would be helpful. In summary, unless there are objections from JBO, the PC supports this application.

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the above comments – this is now awaiting a decision from planning.

e) Marton Church

An e-mail was sent to planning on the 9th September and has been chased subsequently by Cllr. Rylands via Cllr. Smetham. An update will be provided at the meeting.

f) Old School House 24/4301/HOUS

It was **RESOLVED** to submit a comment of support for this application.

6. To receive an update on Marton Primary School

There was no update from the Primary School. Concerns had been raised regarding idling vehicles outside the school at pick up times. The Clerk will write to David O'Connor and state that the Parish Council and residents are concerned about idling vehicles at school collection and drop off times and should be discouraged. The Clerk will ask if the Police could attend periodically to help review this situation.

7. To receive an update on Village Maintenance Projects

a) Marton Environmental Plan

There was no formal report from John Purcival. However, he is working to get fish reintroduced to the brook – John Purcival has applied for a grant to help support this. There has been verbal feedback on the grant, and he is awaiting the relevant authority to confirm whether he has been successful. Cllr. McGowan asked about John Purcival's plan for 2025 – Cllr. Rylands said he hoped that this would be shared at the Village Meeting in March. Cllr. McGowan asked whether the grant awarding authority would be able to assess the brook and investigate the possible leaking of asbestos into the water. The Clerk will e-mail John Purcival asking for a report ahead of the next meeting and advise of Cllr. Cheetham's expertise regarding fish.

A programme has been put together for new planting within the village consisting mainly of hawthorn hedging plants. The price for these was £197.62. It was **RESOLVED** to approve John Purcival's purchase of these, with Cllr. Rylands to reimburse the money once the plants have been received and a receipt has been provided.

b) Planters

The broken planter is still to be assessed and repaired over the winter period. The planters will be assessed by Cllr. Cheetham and Nolan on a semi-regular basis and ad-hoc repairs completed as necessary. The Clerk was passed the Parish Council's planting licence, which will be digitised and a copy circulated to all Councillors.

c) Oak Lane / Oak View Hedges

Thanks were extended by the Parish Council to Sue Platt, for her hard work and diligence, which has now led to the Council confirming that they will complete maintenance on this.

d) Village Green

There was a working party on the 26th October. The work completed including moving a tree on the Village Green and maintenance of the planters. Thanks were extended to Cllrs. Cheetham and Nolan for their hard work.

e) Wildflowers

Following the accidental cutting of the wildflowers earlier this year (by Cheshire East), Cheshire East has now attended site to re-seed the area. Cllr. Rylands is following up with Cheshire East to ensure the top of the ground is flailed, to allow for best growth. The Clerk will e-mail Andy Simpson to note that the Council are happy to see Cheshire East Highways work in this area. Stuart Massey had also volunteered his support and will be contacted if his support is needed – the Parish Council wished to thank him for his kind offer of support.

f) Litter pick

The litter pick took place in October. Thanks were extended to Cllr. Nixon for her hard work in arranging this. The next litter pick is tentatively planned for Spring.

g) Litter signs

There was no new update.

h) Dog mess

There was no new update. Cllr. Rylands asked all Councillors to share if they felt the signs were not working.

i) The Spinney

It was agreed to proceed with the BBQ next spring and to advertise this at the Village Meeting.

j) Village Assets and Insurance

The Clerk will prepare an asset register list for the next meeting for Councillors to undertake the annual check of assets.

There was no update from Capesthorne regarding the maintenance of the trees on the Spinney. The Clerk will chase the land agent again for how best to proceed on this matter and whether Capesthorne can arrange a suitable tree survey.

The Clerk will contact CHALC to ask for advice on managing trees and the small wildlife pond from a Health and Safety point of view.

This will be revisited at the next meeting in more detail.

8. To receive an update on Village Matters

a) Coffee Mornings / Davenport Arms

The Coffee Mornings are still being well attended. Thanks were extended to La Popote and the Davenport Arms for their hosting.

9. To receive an update on Highway and road safety matters

Cllr. Rylands and Cllr. Goodwin have visited different sites within the Village to discuss how best to spend the Ward Budget.

10. To receive an update on the Parish Council website

There was no update.

11. To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT = £6,471.94 as of 15th October 2024

PAYMENTS MADE

£17.64 David McGowan Expenses
£143.40 Arien Signs
£214.00 Zurich Insurance
£142.80 HMRC
£214.18 Clerk Salary (July – September)

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

£1,750.00 Second Precept Payment
£1,006.05 VAT Refund
£7.50 Interest

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

£43.00 Barrie Nolan Expenses (Planters)
£21.10 John Rylands Expenses (October Coffee Morning)
£60.00 D M Payroll Services
£214.18 Clerk Salary (Quarter 4)
£142.80 HMRC (Quarter 4)
£59.97 John Rylands Expenses (Christmas Lights)
£35.90 John Rylands Expenses (November Coffee Morning)
£197.62 Hedging Plants (John Purcival)
£15.00 Budget figure for additional Christmas lights

Bank Reconciliation to be reviewed and signed by the Chair

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments and to process these.

12. To review and approve the budget for 2025 – 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget.

13. To review and approve the precept application for 2025 – 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a precept application of £4,000.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would ask North Rode Parish Council if they would be willing to act as the Council's internal auditor.

14. To consider an increase in the Clerk's salary to SCP 12, in line with the new NALC pay scale 2025 – 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the pay increase to fall in line with the new SCP12 pay scale as of January 1st 2025.

15. To receive updates from any members attending external meetings

There were no updates.

16. To note any other correspondence, including a report from the Cheshire East Ward Councillor (if present)

Councillor Smetham was absent.

17. Any other business

The proposed Christmas light switch on was discussed. Due to lack of interest, it was agreed to cancel this for this year. The Clerk will let the school know that this will not be going ahead.

18. To note the date of the next meeting 4th February 2025

4th February

11th March – Village Meeting (Annual Parish Meeting)

13th May – Annual Parish Council Meeting