

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th February 2025, 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
Cllr. Lesley Smetham – Ward Councillor
Elizabeth Worrall – Clerk

PART 1 - PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no public and press present. John Purcival, who oversees Marton's Environmental Plan, had been invited to attend and provide an update to the Parish Council by Cllr. Rylands.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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

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

4. To consider the Council's assets, specifically the Spinney and the pond, and consider the ongoing leasing of these

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to approve the spend of £175.00 to complete some maintenance on the trees at the Spinney. Cllr. Rylands noted that, having reviewed the lease, the Council is liable for the maintenance of the trees. The Parish Council noted that they had completed a visual assessment of the pond and had taken advice from CHALC. CHALC had confirmed that, providing the pond has suitable signage, that the Parish Council would not face any liability. The Parish Council all felt that the signage was suitable.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 4th February 2025

Signed

Dated

5. To receive an update on footpaths

Cllr. Rylands shared that he had visited the landowner who owns the land adjacent to the permissive path, on the boundary with Eaton. Due to construction, a drain has been damaged, and the landowner is working to remedy this.

6. To receive an update on planning applications

a) Marton Meadows Golf Club

i) [21/6443](#) - Extension Including landfill

ii) [20/4440M](#) - Driving Range

iii) [24/2357M](#) – car park

Cllr. McGowan shared a complaint that had been received by a member of the public. The first complaint related to noise, with works starting as early as 6am. The second complaint related to mud – Cllr. Rylands noted that he had seen the mud but believed that this was cleaned less than 48 hours later. Other Councillors felt that mud was causing an issue. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will draft a letter to the Golf Club, highlighting the issues and will then send to Cllrs. Rylands and McGowan for their review. This will include reference to Planning Conditions clause 21 relating to the height of the stockpiles and clause 14 giving the restrictions on the hours of working. Councillors had noted one stray golf ball from the driving range. This will continue to be monitored.

The car park extension has now been approved.

b) Barlows

Cllr. McGowan confirmed that there was still no update on this matter. Cllr. Smetham will pick this up. The Clerk circulated the e-mails to Cllr. Smetham, for her records.

c) Cherry Barrow Farm - tipped soil and debris

There was no update.

d) Sandpit Farm – demolition of buildings [24/3592M](#)

This is still awaiting a decision from planning.

e) Marton Church

There was no update.

f) Old School House 24/4301/HOUS

This has now been approved and can be removed from the agenda ahead.

7. To receive an update on Marton Primary School

Cllr. Rylands is trying to get a hold of a key and the code for the school. This discussion is still ongoing. There have been complaints relating to parking during school drop-offs and pick-ups; this has been reported to the Council's Police

contact.

8. To receive an update on Village Maintenance Projects

a) Marton Environmental Plan

John Purcival was in attendance and confirmed the history of Marton's Environmental Plan. The aim was to improve the village, carbon storage and improvement of the tree stock and hedge coverage within the village (as some were being lost to age and decay). The improvements to Chapel Brook are still in process; John Purcival is attempting to arrange a meeting with the Environment Agency to discuss the restocking of the brook with new trout. John is keen to make further improvements to the meadow and the wildflowers within the village. Meadows need to be managed, mowed (and the mowings timed) and the Village should be aware that there may be times that the area looks scruffy. John has noted new species being introduced to the village, but he wants the village to be willing for this to continue.

This year so far 300 hedge plants and 50 trees have been planted.

Conversations are ongoing with the Environment Agency. John bears the budget in mind – all the trees have been free of charge (repurposed from properties in the village or from the tree nursery).

Cllr. McGowan asked if the Council would be best off applying for grants to support the Environmental Plan. John confirmed that these may not be suitable, but he would be happy to review any potential grants that the Council thought suitable. Cllr. McGowan also asked regarding the potential asbestos issues in the land adjacent to the brook. John will discuss this with the Environmental Agency. John Purcival offered to speak at the upcoming Village Meeting and provide an update to the Village.

b) Planters

Councillors noted how well the wallflowers had taken. The Council will plant these at the same time again next year. Cllr. Cheetham has completed some maintenance and has tightened the planters and installed a metal strip to secure these ahead of summer planting. Thanks were extended to Cllr. Cheetham and Nolan for their work on this.

c) Oak Lane / Oak View Hedges

The hedges have now been cut. The Council extend thanks to Sue Platt for her long-term efforts in pursuing this. This is now on the Council's radar for annual maintenance so should be maintained ahead.

Cllr. Nolan confirmed that the trees on Oak Lane will be cut down to a more suitable height later this spring.

d) Village Green

Councillors discussed the Village Green and the proposed re-landscaping of this. All Councillors will consider grant applications that could be made to support this. Cllr. Rylands attended the TARMAC liaison meeting – grants from TARMAC may be possible but needs to go through their corporate approval.

e) Wildflowers

Cllr. Rylands has spoken to the contactor multiple times regarding this. The area was re-seeded in the autumn. The grass cuttings will be dispersed during cutting but this will be reviewed following the work being completed. Cllr. Rylands asked all Councillors to consider how many working parties may be needed during spring/summer 2025 to maintain this area.

Cllr. Cheetham raised his concerns regarding Cheshire East's mistake from last year in cutting the wildflower section of the green down and asked whether a Councillor or village representative should be on site to review this. Cllr. Rylands confirmed that Highways have been made aware of this and just made an honest mistake.

f) Litter pick

The Clerk will liaise with Cllr. Rylands to schedule a programme of dates; this will be discussed at the Village meeting.

g) Litter signs

Cllr. Cheetham noted that one sign had blown away, potentially during the high winds earlier in January. A replacement was passed to Cllr. Cheetham and this will be installed shortly.

h) Dog mess

There was no new update. This will be discussed at the Village Meeting.

9. To receive an update on Village Matters

a) Coffee Mornings / Davenport Arms

The Coffee Mornings have been well attended and have been enjoyed by residents. Villagers are now making cakes, which are being enjoyed by attendees. Councillors noted the plans to possibly host a BBQ in summer; this will be discussed at the Village Meeting.

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

Cllr. Goodwin has been in contact with Highways regarding the Ward Budget. He is awaiting feedback from Highways on what will be possible with the allocated funds, and an update will be provided shortly.

Cllr. Goodwin has also noted several safety matters within the Village. Cllr. Smetham recommended that Cllr. Goodwin escalates the safety issues to the Head of Highways. Councillors will report the issue with the chevrons via FixMyStreet to try and get this started.

Councillors noted that some yellow "road maintenance" signs had been installed, detailing work to take place on the 18 January. This work appears to have now been cancelled.

Councillors noted that there has been a damaged pipe, caused by Cheshire East. This is leading to some small flooding near Yew Tree Cottage – the Council

and United Utilities are both aware of this matter.

11. To receive an update on the Parish Council website

The website domain martonvillage.co.uk is up for renewal. This was used by the Parish Council throughout Covid to provide details of Covid services. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Nixon would report back on the cost at the next meeting.

12. To confirm arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting

It was confirmed that there are four speakers. These will be John Rylands (annual update and introduction to speakers), John Purcival (Marton Environmental Plan), Melusine Velde (Cheshire Wildlife Trust) and Eddie (wildlife and bees).

All speakers will be asked to speak for 15 minutes and then questions will be had over tea and coffee. The Clerk, Cllr. Rylands and Cllr. Nolan will liaise with the speakers.

Cllr. Rylands will contact the Clerk to arrange suitable advertising for this, via the Village e-mail.

13. To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT = £5,691.94 as of 13th December 2024

PAYMENTS MADE

£43.00	Barrie Nolan Expenses
£21.10	John Rylands Expenses
£60.00	D M Payroll Services
£20.00	Accidental overpayment to D M Payroll Services
£214.18	Clerk Salary (October – December)
£142.98	HMRC (October – December)
£59.97	John Rylands Expenses (receipt missing – bank screenshot available)
£39.90	John Rylands Expenses
£197.62	John Purcival – hedges

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

N/A

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

£17.25	Coffee Morning Davenport Arms 26th Jan (re-imbure John Rylands)
£175.00	Capesthorpe Estate (for Spinney tree cutting)
£70.00	Hedge stakes budget price (re-imbure John Purvical)

[Bank Reconciliation](#) to be reviewed and signed by the Chair

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments and to sign the bank reconciliation.

14. To receive updates from any members attending external meetings

Cllr. Rylands attended the TARMAC Liaison Meeting. The quarry is still planning to move north in the next 5 – 10 years. There is no planning application in place. Cllr. Rylands will continue to attend these meetings and noted that it is important that individuals who live near to the quarry are kept updated throughout the process.

Cllr. Rylands had also attended the Parish Liaison Meeting. He gave feedback to the Parish Council that, while the group is useful for discussing ideas, Parish Councils will need to act by themselves, if they wish to act.

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

The 9.99% budget increase has been refused by National Government without a referendum; Council services are still stretched, across the board.

The Local Plan (Planning) is in the process of being reviewed - Cllr. Smetham expects a flurry of Planning Applications over the next few weeks. The Planning team are stretched so applications are taking longer to approve. Cheshire East are reviewing their “grey belt” sites and deciding whether any of these sites are suitable for development. Cllr. Smetham is concerned that these changes are opening the county to speculative development and advised the Parish Council to review the neighbourhood plan, when prompted to by CHALC. The Council noted that there had been no information circulated yet.

The Biodiversity and Local Diversity strategy are changing. Biodiversity Net Gain for new developments must now rest at 10% and this will be updated in the Local Plan.

Devolution was discussed – Cheshire East are working more collaboratively with Cheshire West and Warrington Councils.

16. To consider the Council’s plans, if any, to commemorate VE Day 80

The Clerk will recirculate the proposed events for VE Day 80 for Councillors to review.

17. Any other business

There were no other matters.

18. To note the date of the next meeting 11th March 2025 (7pm start)

11th March – Village Meeting (Annual Parish Meeting)

13th May – Annual Parish Council Meeting

15th July – Parish Council Meeting

23rd September – Parish Council Meeting

2nd December – Parish Council Meeting

Action Points

- The Clerk will draft a letter to Marton Meadows, detailing the complaints received, allowing them the opportunity to remedy these issues.
- All Councillors to consider suitable grant applications to fund the proposed Village Green improvements.
- Cllr. Cheetham to replace the missing litter sign.
- Councillors to report the need for chevrons within the Village via the FixMyStreet website.
- Cllr. Nolan, Cllr. Rylands and Clerk to liaise with the speakers, ahead of the Village Meeting.
- Cllr. Nixon to review the website costs and report back at the next meeting.
- Clerk to circulate the VE Day 80 events, for Councillors to review.