

MUCH MARCLE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held in the Memorial Hall
On Wednesday 13th November 2019**

Chairman	M Barber-Starkey	
Councillors	J Baldwin F Powell T Weston	A Hope E Weston
Also Present	D Baldwin B Durkin 3 members of the public	Clerk to the Council Ward Member

87. Apologies for absence – Apologies were received and accepted for Councillors G Baker, E Thomas and S Cotton.

88. To receive Declarations of Interest
No declarations of interest were received at this point in the meeting

89. Public Participation
A member of the Much Marcle Garden Club addressed Councillors on the proposed Much Marcle section of a new Garden Bed at St Michaels Hospice for consideration on the next agenda.

Councillor B Durkin presented his October 2019 report with the main points being: Herefordshire Council is required to complete a full review of all polling districts, polling places and polling stations every five years, Domestic Abuse Strategy for Herefordshire with a one-page strategy and awareness raiser currently in development, Herefordshire Council warns of the harmful effects of illegal tobacco that are counterfeit or have been smuggled or bootlegged into the UK, Hereford crematorium part in a national metal recycling scheme since 2011 has allowed it to donate over £80,000 to local charities, Herefordshire Council adoption of the Travellers' Sites Development Plan and the launch of Herefordshire's Children and Young People's Plan.

90. Minutes
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 9th October 2019 were approved as a correct record of that meeting and signed by the Chairman.

91. Village Shop
Councillor Barber Starkey presented a report of the working party meeting held to discuss the Community Village Shop Project. He ran through the sequence of the project so far as follows:

1. Initial investigation into rumours shop was for sale.

Parish councillor visited and evaluated the situation — closure due 30th June.

Information provided. Turnover of £330,000 declining every year. Gross margin 18%.

Income from Post office, retainer £20,000. 69,000 Approx to pay overheads and staff.

We have since advised that under those trading conditions the next year a loss would be expected. Family members where averaging £1.50/hr in wages.

Parish council called a Parish meeting to ask the community's opinion and establish the Community wishes.

2. Parish council investigation continued.

- a, Legal situation the Parish Council are not able to be involved with a business venture.
- b, Discussions and site visits took place with other community shops to understand the requirements of a community shop.
- c. Advice sought as to the future of continuing with a post office.
- d. Experience from other community operators gave an invaluable view to the requirements of a community shop.
- e. Public works Loan. Parish council could arrange a loan through the Public Works Loan Board (286 households)

Basic figures.

600,000 10 Year payback

- £66,992/year repayment
- £688,400 total replacement
- £234 average household per year
- £2,340/ Average household over 10 years

600,000 20 years payback

- £38,541/year repayment.
- £770,820 total repayment.
- £135/ Average household per year
- £2,704/ Average household total per household

3. Parish meeting.

Supported by Hereford Council and Ward Councillor Barry Durkin.
Presentation outlining the benefits and pitfalls of a community shop.
Plunkitt Foundation data. 400 commercial shops close each year.
22 community shops open per year. 94% Success rate.
177 Typical number of members involved, 7 Directors, 30 Volunteers, 4 Average members of staff
Meeting concluded that a that a survey would take place to evaluate the interest of a community shop.
The Parish Council confirmed it could not operate a business but would fully support any future community activity where possible.

4. New shop: Public Works Loan

Example 100,000 loan 10 years.
£11,000/year
£40/ household per year
£400
200,000 10-year return
22,852/year
£80/ Average household
£800/ Average household for 10 years.

5. Results of the survey indicated a desire for a shop of some kind. A community meeting took place to move the project forward.

Councillor Barber Starkey invited the member of the Community Shop Committee to report on the latest situation. A public meeting called, establish a growing interest in the development of a Community shop and a number of residents put their names forward as volunteers.

RESOLUTION: Support, where possible, the Community Shop Project

92. Smart Water

Councillors considered the West Mercia Police Smart Water Scheme as presented at the last meeting. With the need of an 80% take up for the Smart Water kits from the Parishioners to qualify for the scheme and the costs involved, Councillors discussed ways of ascertain the number of households wishing to take part. It was proposed that the chairs of key groups and organisations within the Parish be invited to a meeting to ascertain interest and request their help with broadcasting the scheme.

RESOLUTION: That a meeting with local groups and organisations be arranged to discuss the Smart Water Scheme.

93. Parish Litter Pick

The Chairman reported that there were 10 attendees for the Parish Litter Pick and was again a success. A vote of thanks was given to the Volunteers. It was proposed that the next Parish Litter pick be held in March 2020.

RESOLUTION: That the next Parish Litter Pick be held in March 2020

94. Website Audience Review

Councillor Barber-Starkey presented a report on the Audience Overview of the Parish Council Website. The analysis showed that the website that for the month of October 2019 had 68.6% new users and 31.4% returning users, equating to 74 users with 59 new users. A promising result on the use of the Parish Council website.

95. Planning

Planning Decisions

Permission Granted: 192288 Meadow Cottage, HR8 2NL

96. Highways

96.1 Footpaths and Rights of Way.

The Footpath officer presented his November report with the main points being: Work carried out by cutting back undergrowth by Cockyard Farm, clearing steps on MM15 the Dingle, Cutting back undergrowth on MM16 in Rushall. New fingerpost and marker for stile on MM23 in Kynaston and footplate and markers on MM18 near Hall End Farm. Sent request to Balfour Beatty for six marker posts

96.2 Highways Group

The clerk reported that she had received no response from the enquiry to the Community Commission Model and had enlisted the aid of Councillor Barry Durkin.

97. Financial Items

97.1 Budget & Precept 2020/2021

Councillors considered the recommendation put forward by the Finance Working Group for the Budget and Precept 2020/21.

RESOLUTION: That the Council accept the recommendation of the Finance Working Group for the budget with the result of setting the precept for 2020/2021 at £ 8830.00

97.2 Financial Report

Councillors considered the summary of receipts and payment as of the 31st October 2019 showing a bank balance of £ 7517.80

RESOLUTION: That the summary of receipts and payments be approved

97.3 Invoices for Payment

Councillors considered the payment of the invoices for:

Staff Salaries October £185.11

RESOLUTION: That the payment of the invoices as above be approved.

98. Correspondence

Councillors reviewed the list of correspondence received.

Locality Report, Road Closures

RESOLUTION: That the list of correspondence be noted

99. Matters to be raised for the next meeting

St Michaels Hospice Much Marcle Garden

Smart Water

Community Commission Model

100. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting, is currently scheduled for the 11th December 2019

Meeting closed at 9.08pm.

Signed _____

Date _____

Chairman