

MUCH MARCLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Much Marcle Memorial Hall at 7.00pm on Wednesday 4th May 2022

Present: **Councillors**
M Barber-Starkey J Baldwin
S Cotton A Hope
F Powell E Weston
T Weston

Also Present D Baldwin Clerk to the Council
16 members of the public

1. Apologies -: Apologies were received and accepted for Councillors G Baker and E Thomas

2. Chairman's Report

Councillor Mike Barber-Starkey presented his report on the activities of the Parish Council during the year 2021-22 with the main points being:

Welcome to the Parishioners and the representatives of the local organisations.

The Parish Council have been involved with the application for the Climate Change Grant scheme for the Much Marcle Memorial Hall. This was to improve the energy efficiency of the Hall with an upgrade to the heating system to reduce emissions. The bid was successful and £15,000 was awarded in December 2022. With a new Biofuel boiler and back up to the solar panels, work is due to be completed by July 2022

The arrangements for the Queens Jubilee Celebrations, ably led by Councillor E Thomas are progressing well with the planned event for the 4th June on the Bartons Playing Field and the Memorial Hall to be a free event for all parishioners. Councillor Tim Weston will be lighting the beacon on the Thursday evening at 9.15, and on Sunday there will be a Jubilee service at St Bartholomew's. The Parish Council have planted an Oak tree with a plaque on the Bartons to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee

The biannual Parish Tidy has continued to grow and has become a well-attended Community event, achieving not just litter picking, but clearing of vegetation around signs and debris from roadside drains. The Chairman expressed his thanks to all the volunteers involved and said it was a wonderful example of the Community joining together.

A vote of thanks to Councillor Barry Durkin for all his efforts in representing the Parish as the Old Gore Ward Member.

3. West Mercia Police

No representative from West Mercia Police attended.

4. Much Marcle C of E School

The new Headmistress of Much Marcle C of E School introduced herself to the meeting. Laura Davies is not new to the school as she has been the Deputy Head for the last 12 years.

5. St Bartholomew's Church

The representative of St Bartholomew's presented a report on the activities of the church.

The Yew Tree in the Churchyard has been chosen as the only tree in Herefordshire to be part of the 70 trees dedicated to the Queens Green Canopy to commemorate the Queens Jubilee.

Improvements to the Wiring, Heating and the Sound System are needed, and the running costs are more than the income received, a loss of £6000 last year.

The graveyard is running out of room and will become a closed graveyard, alternative ground is being sought.

The church is part of the 7 churches that make up the Cider group and a new vicarage is needed for the Vicar Val Tait.

6. Much Marcle Memorial Hall

Covered by the Chairmans report. Councillor J Baldwin also reported that the Hall would be offering refreshments for the Jubilee event on the 4th June 2022.

7. Community Shop

The representative of the Community Shop gave a report on the current position of the Much Marcle Community Shop project.

Achievements so far:

Preplanning advice from Herefordshire Council has been sought for the location of the new shop.

The artwork for a logo has been designed, the website is just about to be launched, a Co Op bank account has been opened, and the next public meeting will be on 26th May 2022, where a share option will be launched to help raise the level of funds needed to apply for grant aid.

8. Much Marcle Gardening Club

The representative of the Gardening Club addressed the meeting with an outline of how the Gardening club works. The club is open to everyone, and new members are welcome. Meetings are once a month on the 2nd Thursday. These are a very sociable meetings with talks and garden visits over the summer months. Guests are also very welcome.

9. Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 2022-2023

The Clerk presented the budget for 2022-2023 as agreed at the meeting on the 12th January 2022, showing a Parish Council precept of £9075 to cover Parish costs.

10. Questions from the Public

A local resident asked why a bio-fuel boiler had been chosen instead of an air source heat pump for the heating in the Memorial Hall. The Chairman responded, being his area of expertise, in that air source heat pump would not be effective or efficient for the large area and poorly insulated of the hall and a biofuel would be the more cost effective and run in conjunction with the solar panels.

Meeting closed 8.10pm

Signed _____
Chairman

Date _____

