

Much Marcle Parish Council Meeting
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 24th January 2023,
7.30pm in Much Marcle Memorial Hall

Present: Councillors: E.Thomas (Chairman); J. Baldwin; A. Hope; M. Barber-Starkey; S. Cotton; F. Powell; E. Jefferson and T. Weston.

In attendance: Emma Thomas – HALC Clerk Cover
Laura Michael – Buses4us
Rachel Freestone – New clerk candidate

Public: 4

1. **Apologies for absence**
Apologies were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr. E. Weston
2. **To consider appointing a HALC (CiLCA Qualified) Clerk for the meeting**
It was RESOLVED to appoint the HALC clerk for the meeting.
3. **To receive Declarations of Interest**
Cllrs: A. Hope (item 10.1); J. Baldwin (item 12.3) and M. Barber-Starkey DECLARED DPI's against the items listed in brackets.
4. **Public Participation**
None raised and Ward Cllr Barry Durkin was not present to give a report.
5. **Minutes**
To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16th November 2022, as a correct record
The minutes were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair.

It was RESOLVED to take item 12.5 next on the agenda.

Two parishioners left the meeting

12.5 To consider a request for financial support for a new bus route from Clare Short of Buses4us

Laura Michael said a few words about the proposed route. It was RESOLVED to defer this item until the March meeting to allow the figure requested to be discussed at the February meeting, when the budget and precept figure will be set.

Laura Michael left the meeting

6. **Defibrillator Rushall and Kynaston**
To receive an update on the installation of a defibrillator at the Rushall Club and consider a request for CPR training to be given free of charge to those volunteers who sign up.
It was REPORTED that the defibrillator has now been installed. Cllr Julian Baldwin was thanked for his efforts with this. It was AGREED that the Parish Council support the organising and promotion of a CPR training event. It was RESOLVED that Cllr Julian Baldwin would arrange the time, date and venue for this to happen.

- 7. Platinum Jubilee**
To consider the allocation of the surplus funds received for the Queens Diamond Jubilee.
It was NOTED that it had been previously agreed to spend any leftover funds (approx.. £2800) on improvements to the entrance way to The Barton Playing Fields. It was RESOLVED that the Environmental Working Group should put together proposals for these improvements for approval at a full Council meeting later in the year.
- 8. Much Marcle Memorial Hall**
To receive a report on Much Marcle Memorial Hall from the Parish Council representative and consider any actions.
It was REPORTED that a Burns Night event is taking place on the 25th January 2023 – tickets are still available. It was NOTED that there are continuing issues at the hall due to a congested carpark when the Post Office van is on site and parents are using the carpark to drop off and collect children from the school. The hall is looking at ways to manage this.
- 9. To receive an update on the Community Shop and consider any actions**
No-one present
- 10. To consider works to trees in a conservation area for determination by Herefordshire Council**
10.1 230127 - The Plech, Much Marcle, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2LY
T1 - Beech situated at end of woodland, carefully fell in sections. Reason – leaning heavily, risk of collapse; outgrown situation.
It was NOTED that this application has already been approved. (There was therefore no need for Cllr Hope to leave the room)
- 11. Highways/Footpaths**
11.1 To receive a report from the Footpath group and consider any actions.
The PFO sent his apologies – he has been unwell. There was no report. It was NOTED that the closed footpath by the cricket pitch is due to a missing slat on the bridge.

Cllr M. Barber-Starkey left the meeting
- 11.2 To consider, and respond to, the request from Walwyn Court for a Public Footpath Diversion Order**
It was RESOLVED to support this diversion for the following reasons:
 - It will improve security and safety issues for the landowner
 - The new route is a much more pleasant and obvious route for users to take.
Cllr M. Barber-Starkey re-joined the meeting
- 11.3 To receive a report from the Highways group (Cllr F Powell) and consider any actions.**
It was REPORTED that highway issues continue to be logged. Four further issues were RAISED for logging with Balfour Beatty by Cllr F. Powell.
 - A loose manhole cover by Jink Robin
 - Flooding on the Piccadilly Bridge
 - Deteriorating highway surface by **Shandoss**
 - Significant ice on the highway by Graham Baker Motors.
- 11.4 To consider a response to the 3 Shires Stages (16th-17th September 2023) consultation.**
It was RESOLVED to support the event.

- 11.5 To consider a response to the consultation on the traffic regulation order scheme to introduce a new 40mph speed limit on the a449 through Much Marcle, and a new 30mph speed limit on the c1249 (the Old Lodge to Much Marcle).**

It was RESOLVED to support the scheme. Ward Cllr Barry Durkin was thanked for his efforts in moving this forward.

12. Finance

- 12.1 To consider the draft budget and precept 2023-24**

It was RESOLVED to defer this item and hold an extra-ordinary meeting to discuss further. The date will be arranged by email. It was RESOLVED that a Finance Working Group should be set up to draw up a draft budget and precept figure in time for this meeting. It was RESOLVED that members of the group would be Cllrs: E. Jefferson; M. Barber-Startkey and A. Hope alongside the clerk.

- 12.2 To note the Bank Statement to 30.11.2022**

NOTED at £21,921.59.

- 12.3 To approve the list of invoices for payment including but not limited to:**

Much Marcle Memorial Hall.	£27.00
Microsoft Office 365 £11.28 per month x4	£45.12
Julian Baldwin – Defibrillator payment	£1183.20 (previously approved)
HALC – Clerk Cover 24 th January 2023	£280.52
HALC – 2023-24 subscription	£646.74

The Microsoft Office payment of £45.12 was deferred so that further details could be sought. The remaining above invoices were APPROVED for payment by cheque.

It was NOTED that a donation of £100 to help with the costs of the defibrillator had been received from Mr. Jim Edwards. Mr. Edwards was thanked for his generosity.

- 12.4 To consider funding of the Village Website**

It was RESOLVED that Cllr M. Barber-Starkey would find out further details for presentation at a future meeting.

- 12.5 To consider a request for financial support for a new bus route from Clare Short of Buses4us**

Item moved to before item 6.

13. To consider the Old Pike Bus Shelter

It was REPORTED that Cllr E. Thomas is willing to repair the shelter free of charge. He was thanked for his generous offer.

14. To consider the yellow car boot sign in the village

It was AGREED that the sign should not remain in situ during the winter months when there is no boot fair taking place. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should write to the owner of the boot fair and request it is removed. Cllr F. Powell AGREED to find out contact details.

15. Correspondence

None

16. Matters to be raised for next meeting (no discussion)

None

17. Date of next meeting

It was NOTED that the next meeting is currently scheduled for the 6th March 2023 – 7.30pm

A resolution was passed to exclude the press and public from the following confidential item

18. To consider the appointment of the new clerk

It was REPORTED that interviews had taken place. It was RESOLVED to support the recommendation from the interview panel to appoint Mrs. Rachel Freestone to the position of Clerk and RFO from the 1st February 2023. The initial salary will be SCP21 for 5 hours a week. Both the hours and scale point will be reviewed at the 6 month review meeting that takes place alongside HALC. Both Mrs Freestone and the Chair signed the contract.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm

ET Thomas

7th March 2023

Signed: _____ Dated: _____