

<b>MINUTES</b>	<b>Clerk: Mrs Rachel Freestone</b>	
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>a</b></p> <p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>6</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Minutes of the Much Marcle Parish Council Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in the Westons Conference Room, Much Marcle at 7.30pm</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>3/23</b></p> <p><b>Present:</b> Councillors: E Thomas (chairman); J Baldwin; S Cotton; A Hope, E Jefferson; F Powell; T Weston</p> <p><b>In attendance:</b> Barry Durkin     Ward Member Jim Edwards     Footpaths Officer Laura Michaels   Buses4Us Rachel Freestone Clerk</p> <p><b>Public: 3</b></p> <p><b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr M Barber-Starkey</p> <p><b>To receive any Declarations of Interest and to consider written requests for dispensation</b> No declarations of interest or requests for dispensation were received</p> <p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <p><b>Report from Ward Member Councillor Barry Durkin</b> Councillor Durkin presented his March 2023 report. It was NOTED that Cllr Durkin will be standing for re-election in May and a reminder that photo ID is required to vote. An UPDATE was provided on Herefordshire Children’s Care Services. Ms Eleanor Brazil has been appointed the Improvement Advisor until further notice, with 6 months to show improvement and address the 22-23 financial year over spend. The full report can be found on the gov.uk website. The Herefordshire County Council precept for 23-24 NOTED as having increased by 4.99%, a band D property increase of £86 per annum. The police precept has increased by 5.94% and the Fire Service by 5.59%. It was REPORTED that The Cabinet Commission for Restoring the Wye has made a number of recommendations to include regulatory and monitoring practices for farming practices as agriculture contributes more than 70% of the phosphate pollution found in the Wye. Herefordshire County Council have published their Transport Strategy for Hereford City with a push towards a greener city with walking and cycling paths and electric buses. Greening over car parks. It was NOTED that if Families are facing financial hardship the emergency welfare support page offers support including to those who do not receive other government support.</p> <p><b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and the Extra Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023. <b>IT WAS RESOLVED:</b> to approve the minutes as a true record of the meetings. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.</p> <p><b>Report on the Parish Council Vacancy:</b> The Clerk REPORTED that Elliot Weston had been disqualified due to non attendance over a period of 6 months. Hereford County Council had sent a notice of a vacancy to be put on the website and in the noticeboards for a period of 2 weeks ending midnight March 29th. If the position is filled, the Councillor would only be in position until the May 4<sup>th</sup> elections and would have to stand again. The Council are able to co-opt after the two week notice period but would only be in position for the remaining month. There would be no additional election costs if more than one person were to be interested due to the time to the main Election. <b>IT WAS RESOLVED</b> to thank Elliot Weston for all his help over the last few years and wish him well for the future.</p> <p><b>New Bus Route by Buses4us</b></p>	<p>Page</p> <p>1 of 3</p> <p>6</p>

	<p>Cllr Thomas confirmed that the Councillors had received the recent Buses4Us update. Laura Michaels informed the Council that the bus service would commence on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 with further details to follow. Cllr Jefferson REPORTED that £500 had been allocated in the budget for the scheme, 5% of the precept, a reasonable figure taking into consideration that the service would not pass through the entire Parish. It was NOTED that the Parish Council fully support the bus service and offered to add timetables and any other promotional information regarding the service to their website. <b>IT WAS RESOLVED</b> to allocate £500 to Buses4Us in support of the new bus service.</p> <p>7.55pm Laura Michaels left the meeting.</p>	
7	<p><b>Defibrillator Rushall and Kynaston</b> Cllr Baldwin REPORTED that the CPR training would be taking place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March in the Rushall Club, HR8 2PE at 7pm. A local firefighter would be leading to the training. All welcome. Cllr Baldwin was thanked for all his work.</p>	
8	<p><b>Parish Litter Pick</b> The Litter Pick was arranged for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April for Much Marcle and Rushall commencing at 10am. It was AGREED to keep the Community Day following the Coronation, May 8<sup>th</sup> in the diary if further work is required. <b>IT WAS RESOLVED</b> for Cllr Hope to contact the Mercury to advertise the litter pick and Cllr Durkin to contact Balfour Beatty on the Councils behalf to request a further dozen high vis jackets and litter pickers.</p>	
9	<p><b>Much Marcle Memorial Hall</b> Cllr Baldwin REPORTED that the Memorial Hall is financially sound. It was NOTED that an event for the Coronation is to be held at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May and a request had been made for a grant from the Parish Council towards any costs. <b>IT WAS RESOLVED</b> to provide a £250 grant towards any costs.</p>	
10	<p><b>The Community Shop</b> Mrs Liz Lutzeier provided the council with an update. To date over £90k has been received in form of shares and donations with 250 shareholders registered. A grant from the Herefordshire Community Fund for £2500 had been received but with a caveat to be used as shareholder funds. Shareholder funds are not to be used until planning permission granted. An appeal had been made to raise further cash funds with planning permission and surveys to cost in the region of £32k. They are attending Hellens monthly produce market to advertise and ask for financial support. Mr Peter Lutzeier added that National Lottery Funding had recommended approaching them for a grant towards planning permission costs in the first instance and then a further grant request once planning permission received. Cllr Durkin added that Mr Dave Tristram the Funding Advisor for the City Council may be able to help advise them.</p> <p>8.10pm 3 members of the public left the meeting</p>	
11	<p><b>Highways/Footpaths</b> <b>11.1 Footpaths and Rights of Way</b> The Footpath officer REPORTED that three footbridges are still closed after an extended period due to their dangerous condition which has the effect of closing local paths. <b>It was RESOLVED</b> for the Clerk to contact Traffic Management at Herefordshire CC to report the problem.</p> <p><b>11.2 Highways</b> Cllr Powell REPORTED that Balfour Beatty had been patching the roads but had reported a further 10 to them subsequently. It was NOTED that progress has been slow. It was NOTED that the railings to a field close to the Walwyn Pub are damaged. <b>It was RESOLVED</b> for the Clerk to contact Balfour Beatty. It was REPORTED that a lorry continues to park opposite the cricket pitch which is damaging the verge and creating a gully at the edge of the highway. <b>It was RESOLVED</b> for Cllr Thomas to speak to the owner of the vehicle.</p> <p>8.25pm Councillor Durkin left the meeting.</p>	<p>2 of 3</p> <p>7</p>
12	<p><b>Appointment of a Data Protection Officer for ICO registration</b></p>	

<p><b>13</b></p>	<p>The Clerk REPORTED that the Data Protection Office post is the Clerks responsibility. It was NOTED that the cost of ICO registration reduced by £5 if pay by annual Direct Debit. <b>It was RESOLVED</b> to appoint the Clerk as the DPO and to set up an annual Direct Debit with current £35 annual registration fee.</p> <p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>13.1 To consider bank signatories and update of Lloyds bank account</b>          The Clerk REPORTED that research had been made into the HALC recommended Unity Bank and the simplicity of their online banking system. Annual cost currently of £72. No annual charge to Lloyds and forms printed to change signatories if required. <b>It was RESOLVED</b> to defer a move to Unity Bank after the May Elections and to address the storage of the Deeds held in the security box at Lloyds Hereford.</p> <p><b>13.2 Internal Auditor</b>  <b>It was RESOLVED</b> to hire the internal auditor through HALC at a cost of £220 plus vat.</p> <p><b>13.3 Microsoft Licence</b>          The Clerk REPORTED that this had been set up in her name and the previous Clerks details removed as of the February 2023 invoice. The previous Clerk had been contacted to advise.</p> <p><b>13.4 Bank Statement to 31.01.23</b>          NOTED at £20580.26</p> <p><b>13.5 To approve the list of invoices for payment including but not limited to:</b>          Clerk Salary February 2023          PAYE Clerk Salary £65.00          Clerk Expenses (Microsoft Licence) £11.28          The invoices were APPROVED for payment by cheque.          ICO membership £35.00 (minute 12)</p> <p><b>13.6 To note income received</b>          The Clerk NOTED that no income had been received. It was REPORTED that VAT had not been claimed for the financial year 21/22 and potentially the previous years. Up to 4 years can be claimed. <b>It was RESOLVED</b> to defer this to the next meeting for the Clerk to report in more detail.</p>	
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b>          The monthly Ward and HALC reports and the most recent locality update were NOTED.</p>	
<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>To agree dates for the Annual Parish Meeting, Annual General Meeting and 23/24 Parish Council Meetings.</b></p>	
<p><b>16</b></p>	<p>Annual Parish Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall          Annual General Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall          It was AGREED to defer the Parish Council Meeting Dates until after the election.</p>	
<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>Matters to be raised for the next meeting</b>          None</p>	
<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>Date of next Meeting</b>          It was NOTED that the next meeting is currently scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> April and is the Annual Parish Meeting.</p>	
<p><b>17</b></p>	<p>Meeting Closed at 8.55pm</p>	
<p><b>17</b></p>	<p>Signed.....<i>Mike Barber-Starkey</i> Dated 10.05.23          Chairman</p>	<p>3 of 3  8</p>