

24/23-24

Much Marcle Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
Wednesday 8th November 2023
7.30pm Much Marcle Memorial Hall

Present: Cllrs M. Barber-Starkey (in the Chair); J. Baldwin; D. Griffiths, A. Hope, T. Weston, E. Jefferson

In attendance: Rachel Freestone - Clerk

Public: 4

1. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs S. Cotton; F. Powell and E. Thomas.

2. To receive any declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation:

There were none.

3. Open Session:

a. Report from the Ward Councillor:

In his absence there was none.

b. Public Participation:

A member of the public commented on Agenda item 8c. The Daffodil Line Bus is seen to stop at the triangle near Hellens without an official bus stop therefore a physical bus stop may be unnecessary.

4. Minutes:

Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council Extra Meeting held on the 1st November 2023. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

5. To review the Following Policies for Much Marcle Parish Council:

a. Equality Policy – **It was RESOLVED:** to adopt the policy.

b. Press and Media policy – **It was RESOLVED:** to adopt the policy retaining the item on Purdah rules. Members considered a press and media spokesperson to represent the parish council. It was agreed to consider the spokesperson at the time of any event depending on the requirement.

c. Freedom of Information Publication Scheme – **It was RESOLVED:** to adopt the scheme.

6. Much Marcle Memorial Hall:

a. Cllr Baldwin updated members. The Big Apple event was very successful as was the Ceilidh. The Tree of Light will be held on the 15th December. Cllr Barber-Starkey added that the automatic reporting for the oil tank was now set up, with new heating system proving efficient.

7. To receive a report on the Community Shop:

A member of the public was invited to speak. MMMH committee were thanked for inviting them to talk to them. They had had positive Community Hub grant news from Herefordshire CC but Hereford CC have since abandoned the scheme. The Community Shop Shareholders have voted to continue fundraising and have £90k to date. Much Marcle Open Gardens is arranged for 19th May 2024, hoped to become an annual event to raise funds for the shop and then other local groups in future years. A planning application has been submitted, once they get consent there will be further opportunities for grants.

The public continue to question the use of the Memorial Hall for the shop. The Hall does not have the capacity and the required addition of fixed appliances for a shop mean it is not a viable option.

25/23-24

8. Highways:

- a. Members commented that the 30mph speed signs are obscured by overgrowth. **It was RESOLVED:** the Clerk to contact Balfour Beatty.
- b. Members noted that there is no update on the speed limit scheme. A member of the public had emailed raising concerns on the position of the proposed speed signs, confirmation had been received that the positions shown currently are not the final placement.
- c. Members noted that Herefordshire County Council are yet to visit the parish to review bus stop positions. Item deferred to following the visit.

9. Footpaths:

- a. Cllr Baldwin reported that a replacement Stile is awaiting installation outside Hall Court. HCC are not allowing for the two required bridges to be modified so anticipate a long wait. The National Lottery Community Fund which allocates grants up to £20k could apply to fund ourselves. **It was RESOLVED:** Clerk to meet with Cllr Baldwin to complete the application form.
- b. Cllr Jefferson reported that a member of public had complained that the dog poo bin is not in good condition, not emptied as frequently as should and smells. Supposedly emptied every 2 weeks. **It was RESOLVED:** Cllr Barber-Starkey to check whether emptied during the regular refuse collection and if not the Clerk to contact HCC/ Balfour Beatty.

10. Planning:

- a. Cllr Barber-Starkey reported that the S106 is the wish list for community money spend should some become available. **It was RESOLVED:** the clerk to ask residents via the Mercury. Defer to the next meeting and members to also consider items.
- b. To Comment on Planning Applications for Determination by Herefordshire Council:
There were none.
- c. To Note Planning Responses Submitted between Meetings under Devolved Powers:
There were none.
- d. Members noted Planning Decisions made by Herefordshire Council:
 - 232614 Walnut Tree Cottage – Can Proceed
 - 231237 Land at Wainhouse – Approved with Conditions

11. Environment and Community:

- a. The clerk updated members that Herefordshire County Council will be sending someone out to assess the property at Old Pike Road.
- b. To receive a report on proposed improvements to the entrance way to Bartons Field.
It was RESOLVED: to defer to the next meeting.

12. Finance

- a. Members noted the Bank Reconciliation to 31st October 2023 and reserves balance available.
- b. Bank Statement to 31.10.2023 NOTED at £2142.09 (current account) and £24147.05 (savings)
- c. Risk Schedule – **It was RESOLVED:** to adopt the risk schedule.
- d. To receive an update on the Lloyds Bank Security Box and Bartons Field Lease:
Cllr Weston updated members. The documents are retained centrally with Lloyds Bank and the contents have been arranged to be sent to Lloyds, Ross-on-Wye for collection by Cllr Weston. **It was RESOLVED:** to store securely pending the next meeting as there is some ambiguity of what the security box contains.
- e. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the following invoices for payment:

• Clerk Expenses	Microsoft Licence October and November 23	£19.70 net
• Much Marcle Primary School refund (Standing order and invoice paid)		£75.00
• Much Macle Memorial Hall	19.07.23	£15.00
• Much Marcle Memorial Hall	13.09.23	£15.00
• Busses4us	Daffodil Line bus service grant	£500.00
• Newman Design	Website Management	£436.37

26/23-24

- f. **It was RESOLVED:** to ratify the following payments made between meetings:
- Clerk Salary September As per contract
 - Clerk Salary October As per contract
- g. Income received noted:
- Much Marcle Primary School Bartons Field Standing Order £75.00
 - Precept £4960
 - Vat 2019-2022 £455.58
 - Bank Interest £ 97.05
- h. The transfer of funds from current to savings account 26.10.23 Noted £3200
- i. Bank charges to 30.09.23 noted £13.30

14. Training:

- a. Cllr Barber-Starkey informed members that a record of training undertaken is to be created. **It was RESOLVED:** members to contact the clerk with training undertaken.

15. Correspondence:

Correspondence was Noted. Members have heard favourable comments and continue to support the Daffodil Line bus service.

16. To consider items for the next meeting – no discussion:

Budget and Precept
Bartons Field entrance
Contents of the Security Box
S106 wish list
Trees, to receive an update on work completed.

- 17. Next Meeting:** It was NOTED that the next meeting of Much Marcle Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th January 2024 in Much Marcle Memorial Hall.

- 18.** The Chairman motioned for a confidential item to be added to the Agenda. Members agreed. 4 members of the public left the meeting.

Confidential Matter Discussed

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed: *M Barber-Starkey*..... Dated.....*10.01.2024*.....
Chairman