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MUCH MARCLE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 10th January 2024
7.30pm Much Marcle Memorial Hall

Present: Cllrs M Barber-Starkey (in the Chair), J. Baldwin, S. Cotton, E. Jefferson, F. Powell, E. Thomas, T Weston.

In attendance: Ward Member - Barry Durkin
Clerk – Rachel Freestone

Public: 10

1. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs D. Griffiths and A. Hope

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

There were none.

3. Open Session:

a. Report from the Ward Councillor:

Members welcomed Cllr. Durkin to the meeting and noted that a Ward Report would be available at the end of the month.

b. Public Participation:

Members noted comments made by two members of the public regarding Agenda item 9a 233688.

A member of the public raised a concern that the parish council are in breach of the requirements of Agenda item 10a, Biodiversity duty. Members noted the comments.

4. Minutes:

Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th November 2023: **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Much Marcle Memorial Hall:

- a. Cllr Baldwin informed members that the management group continue to be happy with the new heating system, reporting substantial cost savings. They thanked the parish council for their support and in particular Cllr Barber-Starkey.

6. To receive an update on the Community Shop and consider any actions:

Members were informed that the planning application is still in progress. The consultation period finished at the end of November with 44 responses in support which favoured the community hub; the environmental benefits; the site; access and design. The public responses are relevant for future grant applications.

Three issues highlighted; Severn Trent Water want a drainage plan and have concerns over the public sewer but are happy to assist in a solution. The Environmental Health Officer found that there was a pond on site which must have been filled. It is declared as unknown filled ground. They have requested a contamination risk assessment. The Historic Buildings officer filed a negative report against the design and its architectural merit. Ward Cllr. Durkin was thanked as he had helped by meeting with Environmental Health. A solution had been found by raising the pitch of the roof.

The parish council were thanked for their support.

7. Highways:

- a. Ward Cllr. Durkin informed members that he had queried the delay in the installation of the speed limit changes. It was confirmed that they had been approved but no response at that point to why they are held up. Members noted that a resident had queried where the 30 mile signs on Kempley road would be

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- b. positioned with a response received from ADL Highways that they had not yet been finalised. **It was RESOLVED:** the Clerk to request that the parish council be involved in the consultation on their position. Cllr Powell informed members that potholes continue to be logged. Members noted the deteriorating condition of the village road. Ward Cllr Durkin confirmed that the 'Fix My Street' reporting system should be used to register the condition as well as potholes as this goes straight to Balfour Beatty. **It was RESOLVED:** the Clerk to request an on-site visit with Neil James of Balfour Beatty for members to discuss.
- c. Comments noted in Agenda item 7a.
- d. Members noted the correspondence received from the Hills Ford Stages Rally. **It was RESOLVED:** to defer until further information is received from them.

8. Footpaths:

- a. Due to the inclement weather there was no report.
- b. Cllr Baldwin confirmed that the Awards for All application had been submitted and are awaiting a decision which could take some time. **It was RESOLVED:** to defer pending the decision.
- c. The Clerk informed members that Balfour Beatty are no longer responsible for supplying dog poo bins. The bins are being emptied but may not be big enough. A member reported that the bin is in poor condition. **It was RESOLVED:** the Clerk to look at options and costs and report to the next meeting.

9. Planning:

- a. To Comment on Planning Applications for Determination by Herefordshire Council:
 - 233649 Barn to North West of the Old Lodge, Kempley. Proposed variation of a condition 2 planning permission 230906 (Proposed conversion of barn to one dwelling and assoc. works **It was RESOLVED:** to SUPPORT the application.
 - 233688 Land at Upper House, Lyne Down. Change of use of agricultural land to use for holiday huts. 4 nos. shepherd huts and creation of car parking area. **It was RESOLVED:** to SUPPORT the application with considerations to be made on the access and visibility onto the road.
- b. Members Noted the Planning Responses Submitted between Meetings under Devolved Powers:
 - 230691 Dobbins Pitch, Dymock Rd. – SUPPORT
 - 233445 Kyeluce, Much Marcle – SUPPORT
 - 233010 Land at Walwyn Court. Proposed community shop – SUPPORT
 - 233345 Hellens, Large oak – SUPPORT
- c. Members Noted the Planning Decisions made by Herefordshire Council:
 - 233345 Hellens Large Oak - Can Proceed
 - 232553 Walwyn Court – Approved with Conditions
 - 232941 The Bounds – Approved with Conditions
- d. The Clerk reported that no members of the public had responded to the wish list request in the Mercury. **It was RESOLVED:** the Environment and Community working group to meet and report at the next meeting.

10. Environment and Community:

- a. Members considered the parish council's biodiversity obligations and commented on the potential future benefits of working alongside other groups in the village. **It was RESOLVED:** to form a working group to include Cllrs Barber-Starkey, J. Baldwin, S. Cotton and E. Jefferson to address policy and actions ahead of the next meeting. The website to be updated with a page for Biodiversity.
- b. The Clerk confirmed that the Housing Association had visited the property and found there to be no breach.
- c. Cllr Cotton shared two proposals received from Say it with Wood, with a visit to their business proposed to look at designs. Costs are estimated between £4500 - £5000 to include 6 metre rails on either side and fitting with three months required to completion. **It was RESOLVED:** to visit to choose a design. Two further like-for-like quotes would then be required.

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A member raised the concern that the hedge is in poor condition and would need addressing at the same time.

11. Finance

- a. Members noted the Bank Reconciliation and Finance Report to 31.12.23.
- b. The Bank Statement to 31.12.2023 noted as £646.33 and £23706.95. Total £24353.28.
- c. Members considered the Budget and Precept for 2024/25. Members noted that following the finance working group preliminary budget the invoice from Herefordshire County Council had been received for election expenses which was lower than expected. The additional reserve allocated to election expenses would not be required. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the budget for 2024/25 with the amendment of £600 for election expenses be reallocated to projects and community. The precept for 2024/25 was approved at £10850.
- d. Cllr T. Weston confirmed that the security box had contained copies of wills from Homme House relative to the gift of the Bartons. The deeds of the Bartons show the allotment behind Much Marcle Primary School as belonging to the parish council. **It was RESOLVED:** the Clerk to retain the deeds in a fireproof box. Cllr E. Jefferson to check that registered properly.
- e. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the following invoices for payment:

• Much Marcle Memorial Hall 08.11.23	£15.00
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- f. **It was RESOLVED:** to ratify the following payments made between meetings:

• Clerk Salary November	As per contract
• HMRC	£33.80
• PATA – additional payroll cost	£10.00
• Herefordshire County Council Election	£176.53
- g. Members noted income received:

• Bank Interest	£ 159.90
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- h. Members noted transfer of funds from savings to current account 30/11/23 £ 600.00
- i. Members noted the transfer of funds to savings from current account 31/07/23 £20850.00
- j. Members noted bank charges to 31.12.23 £ 18.00

14. Training:

- a. Cllr Jefferson confirmed that both he and Cllr Griffiths had attended the HALC planning training. They had been given a lot of paperwork with a number of useful suggestions.

15. Correspondence:

Members noted the correspondence received.

16. **It was RESOLVED:** the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on the 10th April at 7.30pm and the Parish Council Annual Meeting on the 8th May. The 2024/25 Parish Council ordinary meeting dates deferred to the next meeting.

17. To consider items for the next meeting:

Biodiversity,
Barton Gates,
Annual Parish Meeting.

18. **Next Meeting:** It was NOTED that the next meeting of Much Marcle Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on 13th March 2024 in Much Marcle Memorial Hall.

Signed..... Date.....

Chairman

Meeting closed at 9pm.