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MUCH MARCLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday, 13th March 2024

7.30pm Much Marcle Memorial Hall

Present: Cllrs Barber- Starkey in the Chair, A Hope, F Powell, S Cotton, E Jefferson, T Weston, J Baldwin, E Thomas, D Griffiths

In attendance: Rachel Freestone - Clerk

Public: 5

1. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies received and accepted from Ward Councillor Durkin. Footpaths Officer Jim Edwards had also sent his apologies and these were accepted.

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 reported a broken stile opposite the new kissing gate. He requested that the condition of the culvert at the lower boundary of the B4024 be reported, bollards have been positioned by the area but it is dangerous. Additionally, comment was made regarding the amount of litter strewn alongside the A449 towards Ross on Wye. **It was RESOLVED:** the Clerk to contact Ward Cllr Durkin and Balfour Beatty.

The member of the public commented on agenda item 12a with a recommendation to members to cross reference current NDP objectives and policies with the Biodiversity Policy.

7.35pm one member of public left meeting.

4. Minutes:

Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th January 2024: **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

5. To receive a brief report from Hills Ford Stages previously known as 3 Shires Stages:

Mr Kim Butcher, Keith Richings and Kevin Smith were thanked by the Chair for attending the meeting. They confirmed the event is scheduled for the 14th/15th September 2024. The Event Service Area is to be based in Much Marcle Showground. The Memorial Hall has been booked as their command centre. The plan is to have a start in Ledbury again with a ceremony. A member questioned when the route would be provided to local residents? The planning and communication procedure was explained. The program of consultation with residents and local businesses commences at the beginning of the year with 'Meet Us' sessions held. If a resident has not received a meet up letter then they are not on the route. However, the route is still fluid, hoping to be confirmed in the next six weeks. A letter drop planned for early April will have maps of the provisional route of the stage where that person resides. A Resident Liaison Officer is recruited for each stage. They confirmed that the Parish Council are able to apply for a donation towards a chosen charity. At a District level they support the 60 mile tree corridor project. There were no further questions.

7.47pm 3 members of the public left.

6. To receive a report from Richard Davis regarding the Much Marcle Twinning Association and funds held following it being wound up:

Mr Davis explained that Much Marcle continues to be twinned with Le Barroux in France, not far from Avignon even though the Association has dissolved. Mr Davis provided a brief history of the Association to 2019. The Association on dissolution had remaining funds of approx.£3200. Mr Davis emphasised that every attempt should be made to use the funds for their original purpose, namely supporting local children to travel to Le Barroux, but if not possible then wider use of funding children's travel to France would have to be considered at the discretion of the Parish Council. It was agreed that the funds would be ring-fenced for this purpose. Mr Davis added that although not wanting to be involved in the grant procedure he would be able to provide contacts in Le Barroux to rebuild links. **It was RESOLVED:** members approved the receipt of the donation to be earmarked for grants for local children to travel to France. The clerk to contact Mr Davis with bank details.

8.02pm one member of the public left.

7. Much Marcle Memorial Hall:

- a. To receive a report on Much Marcle Memorial Hall from the Parish Council representative:
Cllr Baldwin reported that they are working through a 5 year schedule of maintenance work with windows needing replacing in the next year.
- b. To consider the Herefordshire CC Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure scheme (LEVI):
The Clerk confirmed that the MMMH committee had been sent all the relevant paperwork. Members agreed that any decision on the LEVI was for the MMMH committee.

8. To receive an update on the Community Shop:

In their absence a brief report was read by the Clerk. *All the final issues we reported last time (Historic Buildings Officer, Severn Trent Water, unknown filled land) have largely been resolved. A full report will be provided at the Annual Parish Meeting.*

A member added that an 'Open Gardens' event in Much Marcle is scheduled for May 19th to raise funds.

9. Highways:

- a. To receive a report from the Highways Group:
Cllr Powell reported that there is a pot-hole in the road on the County border on the way to Dymock, believed to be in Gloucestershire. Members confirmed that it is in Herefordshire. **It was RESOLVED:** the Clerk to contact Neil James, Balfour Beatty Locality Steward. A member commented that the 30mph signs reported previously have been replaced.
- b. To receive an update on the speed limit scheme:
Cllr Barber-Starkey confirmed that it had been pushed back to the end of April.

10. Footpaths:

- a. To receive an update regarding the success of the Awards for All application:
The Chair thanked the Footpath Officers Jim Edwards and Dave Beckett and Cllr Baldwin for their hard work. He confirmed that £14852 had been awarded and received from Awards for All for the footpaths project. Cllr Baldwin reported to members; quotes and costs for 2 x 7 metre footbridges had been obtained. There are two options, to buy pre-fab for £6k, or to produce 2 using local manufacturers to a higher standard for a like for like cost (drawings/specifications had been provided to members previously). A meeting is scheduled in the next week with HCC to discuss and gain their permission. **It was RESOLVED:** Local manufacturers and higher quality materials preferred option to take to HCC.
Cllr Baldwin added that the balance of the grant is to be allocated to installing self-closing gates where there are currently stiles to make footpaths more accessible. Intention is to open up a number of circular walks from the village. The footbridges will be placed where two paths converge MM16/MM15 and on MM23.
A member commented that landowner permission is required for the gates and those with livestock may prefer an alternative option. Cllr Baldwin confirmed that kissing gates would be an alternative option in those circumstances. He added that they will be presenting the project at the Annual Parish Meeting as

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volunteers are needed. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve commencing the footbridges between meetings per the plans agreed and within budget.

- b. To receive a report on any other matters arising regarding footpaths:
There was none.
- c. To receive an update on the Dog Poo Bin located near the Walwyn Pub:
The Clerk provided two options to be considered. **It was RESOLVED:** for members to investigate the required size and fittings needed and approve the payment of up to £200 between meetings for the agreed replacement.

11. Planning:

- a. To Comment on Planning Applications for Determination by Herefordshire Council:
There were none.
- b. Members noted the Planning Responses Submitted between Meetings under Devolved Powers:
 - 240292 Hill House, Much Marcle. Single storey extension and new sewage treatment plant – SUPPORT.
 - 240350 The Upper Courtyard, Gamage Farm, Much Marcle. Proposed replacement of all windows and doors – SUPPORT.
 - 240227 Phillips House, Much Marcle. Dismantle to ground level Sycamore Tree No COMMENT
- c. Members noted the Planning Decisions made by Herefordshire Council:
 - 233445 Kyeluce, Much Marcle. Proposed replacement roof. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS.
 - 233649 Barn to North West of The Old Lodge, Kempsey. Variation of condition. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS.

12. Environment and Community:

- a. Biodiversity Policy. **It was RESOLVED:** To adopt the policy with the addition of reference to objectives MM09, MM10 and policy NE2 of the NDP.
- b. Parish Council Biodiversity Action Plan. **It was RESOLVED:** To adopt the Action Plan.
- c. To receive a report on options for the proposed gate and fencing to Bartons Field: Cllr Cotton informed members that a site visit to ‘Say It With Wood’ had been made with the Midlands Gate being the preferred option at a cost of £4654.26 Net. ‘Say It With Wood’ are able to start work straight away with the aim to fit in the summer holidays. The Clerk added that a Risk Assessment would be required with members adding that Health and Safety requirements will need to be met. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the quote by ‘Say It with Wood’ for the installation of Midlands Gates. Cllr Cotton to inform them.
A member added that the work scheduled on trees at Bartons is still outstanding due to the inclement weather, hopefully to be completed in the school Easter holidays.

13. Finance

- a. Members noted the Bank Reconciliation to 29.02.24.
- b. Members noted the Bank Statement balances to 29.02.24.
- c. Members noted the Earmarked Reserves statement balances March 2024.
- d. Members noted the credit balance held at HMRC for PAYE as £38.15 as of the letter dated 2nd January.
- e. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the following invoices for payment:

- Much Marcle Memorial Hall 13.03.24 £15.00
- HALC Annual Subscription 1st April 24 – 31st March 25 £564.70 Net

The Clerk requested an amendment, Clerk expenses marked on the agenda to be ratified require payment.

It was RESOLVED: to approve the payment of expenses:

- Clerks Expenses printer cartridge and Microsoft licence Jan/Feb/March £51.64 Net

- f. **It was RESOLVED:** to ratify the following payments made between meetings:

- Clerk Salary December, January and February As per contract
- HMRC January (paid prior to receipt of letter of credit) £3.40
- MMMH Hall Hire 10.03.24 £15.00

- g. Members noted income received:

- Awards For All Grant – Footpath Regeneration Project £14852.00

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- h. Members noted virement of funds from instant access to current account 02.01.24 £ 700.00
- i. Members noted the virement of funds to instant access from current account 06.02.24 £14852.00
- j. Members considered the grant application received from Wye Play circulated previously. Although attendance postcodes had been provided it was still unclear how many children attend from the parish. **It was RESOLVED:** The Clerk to invite the applicant to the next meeting in May to further discuss.

14. Events:

- a. To consider the D-Day 80th Anniversary on Thursday 6th June:
Cllr Weston confirmed that the Parish Council have a Beacon which can be used. A member asked if the Memorial Hall had any events planned, this was unknown. The Clerk commented that the 6th June is also National Fish and Chip Day. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the lighting of the beacon. To defer to the next meeting to consider the best location for the beacon. Cllr Weston to contact the Walwyn Arms with regards to providing fish and chips on the 6th June.
- b. To consider the Litter Pick being held on Saturday April 6th in Much Marcle and Rushall, the Risk Assessment for the event: The event has been advertised in the Mercury. Cllr Thomas confirmed that the parish council have sufficient equipment. Cllr Weston to update and provide the risk assessment. **It was RESOLVED:** the Clerk to inform Balfour Beatty of the waste collection point.
- c. To consider the Masterclass Event held by District Councillor Barry Durkin and the Parish Council regarding grant applications on 4th April, 7pm-9pm in the Memorial Hall:
Cllr Barber-Starkey confirmed that 14 people are due to attend currently with Philip Price, Infrastructure and Transport member at HCC due to attend. The Parish Council have been asked to provide refreshments. **It was RESOLVED:** a budget of £50 approved to purchase soft and some alcoholic drinks. Cllr Thomas to purchase the refreshments and supply glassware.
- d. To consider the Annual Parish Meeting and agree actions with regards to refreshments: **It was RESOLVED:** to provide refreshments following the meeting to a budget of £50.

15. Training:

- a. To note councillor responses to training record:
The Clerk reported that she had attended a Teams Session informing of HCC Local Plan. Had been informative of HCC priorities but disappointing in the lack of detail.

16. Correspondence:

Members noted the email received from the residents at The Noggin, Marcle Ridge. Members noted the emails from Neighbourhood Matters with regards to the regular meet sessions, they are a positive initiative.

17. To agree a schedule of dates for the 2024/25 Parish Council ordinary meetings.

It was RESOLVED: the Clerk to forward dates to members for approval at the Annual Meeting in May.

18. To consider items for the next meeting:

D-Day event
Schedule of Meeting Dates
Footbridges

19. Next Meeting: It was Noted that the next meeting of Much Marcle Parish Council will be the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 10th April and the Parish Council Annual Meeting on Wednesday 8th May, both at 7.30pm in Much Marcle Memorial Hall.

Signed...*Mike Barber-Starkey* Dated.....8th May 2024.....
Chairman

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.