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MUCH MARCLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on,
Wednesday, 10th September 2025
7.30pm in Much Marcle Memorial Hall

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

In attendance: B Durkin – Ward Member

Public: 2

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllrs S Cotton and E Thomas. The Clerk had also sent apologies due to ill health, it was agreed that Cllr A Hope would minute the meeting.

2. To receive any declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation from Councillors on agenda items.

There was none.

3. Open Session:

- a. The Ward Councillor presented his September Ward Report to members highlighting emergency accommodation. He informed members that there is funding available for nature and biodiversity projects. HCC are looking for land as there are an additional 27260 houses required. He added that there will be increased dialogue between Highways and parish councils with regards to which roads are to be worked on. *The Chair asked when the road through the village is likely to be resurfaced?* Ward Member Durkin recommended contacting the Locality Steward. **Action:** Clerk to contact the Locality Steward. A new provider will take over from Balfour Beatty in June 2026, will be informed who later this year. There will be more interactive reporting as part of the new arrangements and current information online to see when items resolved.

A question was raised regarding the condition of the gullies. Ward Member Durkin suggested that blocked gullies should be reported with their location marked so that they can be logged for the Global Map.

- b. To receive representations from the public:

There was none.

4. Minutes:

- a. To agree and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on the 1st July 2025. Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on the 1st July 2025. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record. They will be signed on receipt of a hard copy to be provided by the Clerk.

5. Hills Ford Rally:

- a. Members NOTED the decision of Hills Ford to cancel the rally following delays at Herefordshire Council. Ward Member Durkin informed members that Hills Ford representatives did not answer the questions asked or respond when asked re the environment. If they had responded to the requirements then it would have gone ahead. *A member commented that there has been criticism that HCC did not handle the matter well and listened too much to social media.* Ward Member Durkin responded that social media was not a factor. A statement has been issued by Herefordshire County Council and discussions regarding the process being held, he added that the Council would consider the Rally again if an application received with the ratio of 4:1 in favour from the feedback comments received. **It was RESOLVED:** the HCC statement to be put on the website.

6. Much Marcle Parish Council Policies and Procedures:

- a. Risk Schedule. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the Risk Schedule.
- b. Financial Controls and Internal Risk. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the Financial Controls and Internal Risk.

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7. Assets:

- a. Members NOTED the meeting arranged for the 25th September with the Headteacher of Much Marcle Primary School to discuss Bartons Field. Cllrs Barber-Starkey and Baldwin will be attending.
- b. Members NOTED the Tree Survey completed in July with no actions required.
- c. Members NOTED that the bus shelter is now complete with thanks given to Cllr E Thomas.
- d. Members considered HALC advice to complete the PC wish list and forward to HCC planning department.
It was RESOLVED: to complete the list during the October finance meeting.

8. Biodiversity:

- a. Members considered the comments received from a resident with regards to Dark Skies and the levels of lighting at Westons and Glebe Orchard. Members commented that lighting is required at Glebe Orchard for security. A member suggested that the parish council write to Weston's to inform them of parishioner comments re dark skies. **It was RESOLVED:** clerk to write to Weston's to ask if dark skies lighting can be implemented. **It was RESOLVED:** to consider dark sky implications when considering planning applications, possible conditions of planning.

9. Finance

- a. Members NOTED the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Balance for July and August 2025.
- b. **It was RESOLVED:** to move £100 to the Defibrillator Earmarked reserve following all the budget being required for the recent purchase of batteries and pads.
- c. Members NOTED the total Earmarked Reserves of £18638 incl the Awards for All and Le Barroux Grants.
- d. Members NOTED the insurance cover taken out with Zurich via Community Insurance under a 3year LTA expiring August 2028 at a cost of £307.03 pa.
- e. Members NOTED the agreed NJC annual inflationary increase in salary of 59p per hour. **It was RESOLVED:** To approve and backdate to April 2025.
- f. **It was RESOLVED:** To approve the following invoices for payment:
 - Clerk Expenses – Microsoft Licence July and August £20.60net/£24.72 gross
- g. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the following regular payments made between meetings:
 - Clerk Salary July and August to incl. PAYE As per contract
 - Unity Bank Fee July/August £12.00
- h. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the following payments made between meetings:
 - Defib World Batteries and Pads £257.99net/£308.59 gross
 - Community First Insurance £307.03
- i. Members NOTED the income received:
 - Bank Interest March 25 £228.13
 - Bank Interest June 25 £204.53
- j. Members NOTED the virements made between Unity Accounts:
 - Instant Access to Current 01.07.25 £4000
 - Instant Access to Current 25.07.25 £1000

10. Planning

- a. Members commented on the Planning Application for Determination by Herefordshire Council:
 - 252312 Whinfields, Monks Meadow. Proposed single storey rear conservatory extension. SUPPORT
- b. Members NOTED the Planning Responses Submitted between Meetings under Devolved Powers:
 - 252125 Land at 4 Monks Meadow. PIP for the erection of 1 self-build dwelling and detached garage. Object as Conservation Area, adjacent to historic Monks Walk and insufficient information.
 - 252294 The Bounds. Retrospective application for construction of a new lay-by/turning area. No comment. Members observed that the work had already been completed and is an improvement.
- d. Members NOTED planning decisions made by Herefordshire Council:
 - 251746 Walwyn Court Pole Barn. Approved with Conditions.
 - 251491 Manaakitanga Hillend Barn, Rushall. If prior approval required for proposed change in agricultural building to 4 bedroom dwelling. Withdrawn.

11. Much Marcle Memorial Hall

- a. Cllr Baldwin reported that outgoings currently exceed income. The defibrillator at the Memorial Hall was recently used and highlighted that the defib at the Hall needs replacing shortly. Would the parish council be able to contribute towards a replacement? **It was RESOLVED:** parish council to support and send a grant application to the Memorial Hall management team. **It was RESOLVED:** the parish council to consider locations for the installation of a further defib in the village.

12. Flooding:

- a. Members NOTED the application sent for the Local Drainage Fund. The application had been circulated amongst members and all agreed that it was well put together. Ward Member Durkin informed that there are two people managing flooding at HCC. **It was RESOLVED:** to send a copy of the application to Ward Member Durkin to follow up.
- b. Cllr Baldwin reported on the meeting held between the Chair, himself, HCC and local residents to discuss Marcle Ridge, Piccadilly Bridge and flood areas between Rushall and Kynaston. The water issues have worsened following the recent entrance alteration on Marcle Ridge Road. The resident has agreed to a meeting with the Chair and Jason Himsworth from the HCC drainage team.
- c. The Chair confirmed that the Flooding Working Group had compiled the report for the Drainage Fund and it has been submitted.

13. Highways/Footpaths:

- a. Cllr Baldwin reported that the ground had been too hard to dig over the summer. The team will address from the Jubilee Tree to the A449 shortly with the others to follow. Twenty self-closing gates have been purchased and they are being stored pending installation.
- b. To consider any other matters raised by the Footpath Group – there was none.
- c. Highways Working Group – Cllr Powell informed members that he has visited and logged potholes at Lyne Down and Jink Robin following a letter from a resident. Picadilly Bridge needs addressing and to report the problems to Ward Member Durkin. A member informed the meeting that Jason Himsworth (Drainage) will put a camera through to inspect Picadilly Bridge and also at Kynaston if possible. The Community Speedwatch Group provided their latest statistics and asked for more volunteers to come forward. Please see Appendix 1.

14. Correspondence:

- Members NOTED the response from Neil James from Balfour Beatty that unable to attend evening meetings, happy to meet councillors during working hours. Ward Member Durkin added that this response was understandable as they don't get paid out of hours.

15. To consider items for the next meeting – no discussion.

Draft Budget and Precept.

16. Members NOTED the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 12th November 7.30pm in Much Marcle Memorial Hall. Cllr Powell provided his apologies for this meeting.

Signed.....*M Barber-Starkey*..... Date.....12.11.2025.....

Chair

Meeting Closed at 8.35pm

Appendix 1 – Speed Check Results

MONTH	SESSIONS	RECORDED	UNIDENTIFIED	TOTAL
FEBRUARY	2	6	0	6
MARCH	6	41	0	41
APRIL	7	47	6	41
MAY	6	33	11	22
JUNE	5	17	0	17
JULY	8	40	5	40
AUGUST	5	19	5	14
SEPTEMBER	1	7	1	6