

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 4th October 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors M. Rushgrove, R. Bray, M. Hardwell, A. Gardner, S. Watt, C. Lewis and P. Weddell-Hall.

Also present: County Councillor S. Richardson-Brown, District Councillor B. Jones-Williams and x8 members of the public.

243.21 Apologies: Cllrs S. Cumella (Chairman) and G. Wroe (Vice-Chairman).

Democratic Period/Public Time: Matters raised were –

- A resident of Mortlake Ave reported recent acts of vandalism to vehicles. Similar vandalism was also reported at the Village Hall. Both have been reported to the Police and Parish Council cctv images are being passed to the local Policing team.
- The Secretary of the Friends of the Crown PH addressed the meeting regarding the current consultation on the site development. Concern was raised regarding the short timeframe for responses and the Clerk was asked to contact Eldnar to ask for the time to be extended. MHDC Planning also to be informed.
- The meeting noted that planned road closures had not taken place in the village, and it was queried whether they would now be at the end of October. Residents of St Peter's Drive are concerned about diverted traffic and have requested a weight limit be applied for HGVs. It was noted that this would be a WCC Highways decision.
- The flashing lights outside the primary school are not working – the school has been informed by Cllr Lewis already as they are responsible for the operation of the lights.
- The applicant of planning application 21/01540/HP attended the meeting to respond to any questions.

244.21 Declarations of Interests: None.

245.21 Minutes of the meetings held 6th September 2021: The minutes were proposed by Cllr Watt as a true record, seconded Cllr Rushgrove. All agreed. No matters arising.

246.21 County & District Councillor Reports: Reports to be uploaded to the website.

246.21.01 Cllr Richardson Brown reported on county matters. The request for a new footway along Church Lane has been logged with WCC but land would need to be acquired in order for this to happen as the lane is too narrow. It may be a better option to speak with landowners. The request for a weight limit along St Peter's Drive was noted and would be passed to Highways. A request was also noted to drop the kerb at the corner of Mortlake Drive and Vernon Close as this was omitted from the previous WCC programme. Clerk asked to email a request directly. An alternative approach would be to fund via the Divisional Fund, although this is limited, or via s.106 funding when available.

246.21.02 Cllr Jones-Williams updated the meeting regarding the SWDPR timetable (now to be adopted in Oct 2023). MHDC Infrastructure Development Plan remains outstanding together with some other associated work. Cllr Jones-Williams has asked for a review of emergency services provision in rural areas, especially rural policing and fire service provision, which is awaiting a response. The MHDC Residents Survey is open for responses until 31st October, and everyone is asked to take part. The Clerk was asked to place a link on the PC website and Facebook asap. Results will be published on the MHDC website.

Signed.....

Date

247.21 Financial & Governance Matters:

247.21.01 Payments were approved as per the schedule. Proposed Cllr Hardwell, seconded Cllr Watt. All agreed.

247.21.02 Batteries for the vas machine – the Clerk was asked to progress the purchase of these asap and circulate costs when known. The current batteries are no longer manufactured.

247.21.03 Signage at The Hopyard – Cllr Watt will circulate costs asap.

247.21.04 Councillor training to be offered to new Councillors when available – Clerk to progress.

248.21 Recreation Field:

248.21.01 Working Group updates – the meeting is scheduled for 4th November. Clerk to confirm attendees with Cllr Watt.

248.21.02 Defibrillator – costs are circa. £1000 – 1200 – Clerk to progress purchase. It was agreed that community training would be offered online via You Tube video initially, although a future training session would be offered if needed. The exact defib. location is to be confirmed by Cllrs Rushgrove, Gardner and Watt together with P. Owen and A. Lewington of the Village Hall Committee.

249.21 Burial Ground: Quotes for new fencing around the consecrated ground were discussed and it was agreed that as costs were quite high, the area should continue to be monitored to see whether there is a real need to separate the consecrated area from those walking their dogs through the meadow. Cllr Bray was thanked for doing the mowing recently.

250.21 Village Maintenance Plan: Cllr Hardwell reported recent activities to the meeting and an updated taskforce plan was circulated. There are now 12 members of the taskforce, and a WhatsApp group has been set up. Cllrs Hardwell and Watt are the PC representatives on the taskforce group. Publicity for activities is via social media and the Villager and has been well received so far. There have been 6 activities completed so far including work at the children’s play area and weigh bridge. An abandoned vehicle has been removed and a successful litter picking event held on 2nd October. Thanks to central Stores for litter picking refreshments. Next litter picking event planned for March 2022. Outstanding tasks on the maintenance plan were discussed and next steps agreed.

250.21.01 Village Planters – a quote had been received from R. Wilks and it was agreed to replant x8 existing planters plus new compost and watering. Total cost £768.00. proposed Cllr Hardwell, seconded Cllr Lewis. All agreed. Clerk to place the order.

250.21.02 Village Bus Shelter – a quote for refurbishment had been received from R. Wilks at a cost of £950.00. It was proposed by Cllr Hardwell, seconded Cllr Gardner to place the order. All agreed. Clerk to progress.

250.21.03 St Peter’s Drive litter bin at the bus stop – it was proposed by Cllr Gardner, seconded Cllr Watt to purchase a new litter bin at a cost of approx. £250.00 and to ask R. Wilks to install it. All agreed. Clerk to place an order.

250.21.04 ‘Red Dog Waste’ Bins – the Clerk confirmed the current position with MHDC and bin emptying. Red bins are normally maintained by private contractors on housing developments. MHDC would need to approve any new bin locations in advance. Clerk to send Cllrs Hardwell and Gardner the contact for MHDC.

251.21 Strategic Planning Matters: SWDPR has been delayed, with adoption now likely in October 2023. The meeting noted that it might be sensible to review the Neighbourhood Development Plan in line with this. Cllr Cumella to lead on this – to be confirmed. The Planning Peer review by MHDC was noted.

252.21 Planning Matters:

252.21.01 Applications received / considered –

21/01540/HP – Fairview, Berrow Green, Martley WR6 6PL – proposed rear extension to existing detached annex at Fairview to form supported living accommodation together with assoc. new detached double garage within the curtilage of the site. No objection.

21/01541/LB – Flat 3, The Old Chantry, Martley WR6 6QA – replacement timber windows to match existing. No objection.

Signed.....

Date

252.21.02 Notifications received –

21/01386/LB – The Smithy, Martley WR6 6QA - Listed Building Consent granted for repairs to the timber frame at rear of property and replacement of brick infill panels with lime rendered lightweight panels.

21/00304/HP – Foechan, Hillside, Martley WR6 6QN – notification of planning appeal for erection of detached garage and creation of new driveway.

252.21.03 The Crown at Martley – the revised submission notification from Agent for applicants was noted. The meeting noted that the Crown is currently registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) until Aug 2023. It was agreed that the PC should not respond to this consultation due to potential pre-determination and should wait until a formal consultation is received from MHDC to the planning application. The Clerk was asked to contact Eldnar to request more time for resident responses to be made to the current consultation. Also, to see whether Planning Enforcement could assist in getting the area tidied up in the interim. There was also a query re a change of ownership of the site which the Clerk was asked to raise with MHDC reference the ACV.

253.21 Highways Matters:

253.21.01 Lengthsman – the Village Taskforce is working with R. Wilks to address outstanding tasks and future tasks. Key work areas are to be identified and an annual plan produced in line with the budget. Also, to look at a strimming and mowing contract going forward (not part of the L'man scheme). The wall opposite The Smithy needs weeds removed at the base, where the pavement joins the wall.

253.21.02 Multi-agency Meeting review – Cllr Weddell-Hall reported on the meeting held with the Police and Safer Roads Partnership together with agreed actions/responses to concerns raised. The Clerk was asked to arrange a future meeting with the P&CC as they had been unable to attend.

253.21.03 Highways Working Group formation – District Cllr Jones-Williams is keen to form this group with the PC in order to try and address concerns in Martley regarding road safety. A working document needs to be produced so that it can be presented to future meeting with WCC Highways, Police, SRP etc. It was noted that Leigh & Bransford PC have produced a document and that this has been circulated to the PC for information. Evidence and data gathering with other agencies is very important as part of this process. It was suggested that Cllr Cumella might be best placed to work on this document with Cllr Jones-Williams – to be confirmed.

253.21.04 Community Speed Watch – the Clerk confirmed that contact had been made with the new County Officer and it was agreed to place an advert in the Villager / Facebook to ask for volunteers.

253.21.05 Road closures – as circulated.

254.21 Correspondence Received: None.

255.21 Councillor Reports & Items for Future Agendas: Cllr Lewis suggested the PC have a WhatsApp group but there was concern about it not being fully inclusive for all Councillors and it was noted that business should be discussed and agreed at Council meetings. Cllr Watt raised concern regarding the state of the road surface in Jury Lane – Clerk to report to WCC and Cllr Wat to supply an image to the Clerk.

256.21 Date of next meeting: Monday 1st November 2021 at Martley Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed 21.35

M. Alexander

Clerk

Signed.....

Date