



**Minutes of Martley Parish Council meeting held  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at the Memorial Hall at 7:30pm**

**Present:** Councillors S Cumella (Chairman), G. Wroe (V/Chairman), R. Bray, M Rushgrove, A. Gardner, P Weddell-Hall and M. Hardwell.

Also present: County Councillor Scott Richardson Brown, District Councillor Barbara Jones-Williams and one member of the public.

**Democratic time:** The following matters were raised –

The PC was asked for an update on the new pavilion application currently pending at MHDC. The Chairman reported that the application was currently being re-validated following delays at MHDC and a new 8-week consultation period would start shortly. Car parking plans may need to be reviewed. April football matches played at the Chantry have caused a few issues over the lack of facilities and the team may need to look elsewhere in future if home games can't be played on the rec. field. Some matches have been played at Malvern.

The broken cricket side screens are causing some local concern although the Clerk reported that nothing has been received formally.

Bad pothole coming from Wichenford towards Martley, approx. ¼ mile along Horne Lane – to be reported.

**20.23 Apologies:** Councillors S. Watt and C. Lewis.

**21.23 Declarations of interest:** Cllr Bray – planning application 21/02245/OUT appeal decision.

**22.23 Approval of minutes 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023:** Proposed Cllr Hardwell, seconded Cllr Wroe. All agreed.

**23.23 Matters Arising:**

16.23.02 – Clerk to progress with Cllr Gardner to support.

16.23.05 – Noted it is for BT kiosk housing only.

16.23.06 – Clerk to look at training options and defib maintenance via Community First Responders.

**24.23 County & District Councillor reports:** Written reports will be uploaded to the website. Cllr Richardson Brown reported that Martley had recently been included within a scheme to potentially extend the AONB area.

He has requested to see Hollins Lane footpath connection to the housing development actually shown on the map. Cllr Jones-Williams also updated on issues raised for this matter which need to be challenged. The dangerous footpath along Hollins Lane has works planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> June following reports of injuries to a resident.

Cllr Cumella raised concern about the overgrown and hidden footpath along the east end of Hollins Lane – Cllr Jones-Williams is to look on the original plans to see what should be there.

Cllr Hardwell asked the Clerk and Cllr Richardson Brown to check and see if £1k of funding had been received from WCC for the x2 Coronation benches.

Cllr Jones-Williams reminded the meeting of the new MHDC tourism grant available together with the locations of local bottle recycling banks.

Cllr Wroe asked for an explanation as to why MHDC had acted so poorly in the appeal hearing for Sandyfields, which has now been approved for development? What is stopping the same happening for the other development site in the village? MHDC has to pay costs for losing the appeal – would it not make better economic sense to pay for a professional to act on their behalf and stand more chance of winning the appeal? Going to appeal makes no sense unless MHDC is confident and competent at the hearing.

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Cllr Jones-Williams responded to say that the 5-year land supply issues are always a stumbling block at appeal hearings, together with the fact that the SWDP is now 3 years out of date. Both these are affecting current appeal decisions. MHDC has no overall controlling political party again and this may also feed into these matters. MHDC is in a vulnerable position, and it needs to be addressed urgently. Cllr Cumella also explained potential reasons for Developers to forge ahead currently before future changes in planning law.

### **25.23 Financial Matters:**

25.23.01 Payments & Receipts: The payments were circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed. Proposed Cllr Weddell-Hall, seconded Cllr Gardner. All agreed. Clerk to action.

25.23.02 External Funding Bids – Cllr Hardwell reported on funding applications including that for the Path-or-Nones bench. It was agreed that following the recent passing of J. Nicklin, a grant of £2k should be given to the Path-or-Nones to fund the bench plus some equipment maintenance. Cllr Hardwell to ask J. Pearsall to contact the Clerk to arrange.

25.23.03 New VAS – preferred option agreed as that which displays speed (not faces) with solar power. Clerk to obtain a firm quote and circulate for approval.

25.23.04 Approval of statement of the Accounting statement for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> Mar 2023 – it was agreed that the Clerk circulate the draft statements and a future meeting be held before 30th June to sign them off.

25.23.05 Defibrillator BT kiosk maintenance – Cllr Hardwell to liaise with S. Aston re works. Some materials will need to be purchased and it was agreed that the Clerk should reimburse as required.

25.23.06 Library utility bills – ongoing.

**26.23 Martley Rec Field:** Graffiti on the phone mast base station has been reported by the Clerk. The pavilion planning application was discussed in democratic public time.

**27.23 Martley Burial Ground:** CCTV is now installed. Carpentry works to the gazebo are still required. Clerk to try and find a local contractor.

**28.23 Village Improvement Plan:** Cllr Hardwell had circulated an updated action plan. A meeting had been held with R. Wilks to go through required works, including those added recently following a walkabout. The children's play area needs a couple of new bench seats plus two more at the skate park – RW to quote. The waste bin at St Peter's Drive and Hollins Lane has arrived and is to be installed. There are issues with the churchyard green waste which needs clearing – Cllrs Hardwell and Bray to liaise. RW is also to move the white gates as requested at the last meeting. The planters outside Heaton House also need to be removed – Cllr Hardwell to liaise with Cllr Rushgrove.

### **29.23 Strategic Planning Matters:**

29.23.01 Neighbourhood Development Plan review – ongoing with Cllr Cumella. Noted that D. Clarke is no longer at MHDC. The Clerk was asked to forward the NDP draft document from Cllr Cumella to Planners.

29.23.02 SWDPR – ongoing via MHDC.

29.23.03 Martley Planning Team – no further update.

### **30.23 Planning Matters:**

30.23.01 Applications to be considered and any ongoing planning matters to be discussed – none.

30.23.02 Notifications and correspondence received –

- M/22/00888/HP – Hockhams Cottage, Hockhams Lane, Martley WR6 6QR – approval for construction of an outbuilding including garaging and stores.
- 21/02245/OUT – (Cllr Bray left the room for this matter) The appeal decision APP/J1860/W/22/3306186 was discussed. The appeal is allowed for an outline application with all matters reserved (except for access) for the erection of up to 52 dwellings incl.42% affordable homes, up to 10 self-build plots and a public car park together with ancillary works at land adjacent to Sandyfields, Kingswood, Martley WR6 6PD. Cllr Cumella reported attending the appeal hearing and being disappointed and distressed at the way in which it was handled by MHDC and the resulting outcome for the village. The meeting noted that this is currently an outline application and that the appeal decision can be found on the MHDC planning webpage under 21/02245/OUT. Cllr Cumella is to write to the local MP to ask for any further decision to be delayed until after the new

legal planning changes have taken place. Also to write to the Chief Executive of MHDC and the Head of Planning regarding concerns over the appeal hearing representation. Drafts to be circulated for approval before sending.

**31.23 Highways Matters:**

- 31.23.01 Road Safety Strategy – no further updates.
- 31.23.02 Community Speed Watch – Police vetting form outcomes still awaited. Volunteers still required.
- 31.23.03 Footpath Safety Group – no recent updates from Solicitors.
- 31.23.04 Road Closures – none.

**32.23 Parish Matters:**

- 32.23.01 Defibrillator & CPR training – Clerk to progress.
- 32.23.02 Xmas Lights 2023 – no further update.
- 32.23.03 Defibrillator BT kiosk maintenance – Cllr Hardwell is getting a quote for a maintenance package.
- 32.23.04 Community First Responders – Clerk to look into local scheme.
- 32.23.05 Parish Paths Warden role – Cllr Hardwell has been asked and has agreed to take on this role since the passing of J. Nicklin and is awaiting a further update from WCC.

**33.23 Correspondence:** None.

**34.23 Councillor Reports & Items for Future Agendas:** Cllr Cumella asked for the Weighbridge to be placed on the next agenda.

**35.23 The next meeting will be held on:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 at 7:30 pm

**The meeting closed at 8:45pm**

Michelle Alexander  
Clerk