



## **Minutes of Martley Parish Council meeting held**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the Memorial Hall at 7:30pm**

**Present:** Councillors P Weddell-Hall (Chairman), G. Wroe (V-Chairman), M. Rushgrove, R. Bray, M. Hardwell. C. Lewis & S. Watt.

**Also present:** County Councillor Scott Richardson-Brown, District Cllr Barbara Jones-Williams and three members of the public.

**Apologies:** None

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

A resident raised concerns regarding the flooding at the Memorial Hall car park. Query regarding responsibilities and drainpipe noted with no drain from Hall roof. Cllr Watt took an action to investigate further.

A resident advised that there was a fallen tree near the skate park. The Clerk was asked to instruct A Draper to remove it.

A resident raised concerns regarding their perception of lack of consultation over the development of the new Pavilion and the lease to be agreed with the Cricket Club to run the Pavilion on behalf of the Parish Council. Members advised of lengthy consultations with the community and that the lease with the Cricket Club would ensure that the building is to benefit all Village Sporting Groups and members of the community. It was advised that the Cricket Club's fundraising is on target and for the Pavilion to be opened at the end of this Summer. The new Pavilion will be funded, built, managed and operated by the Cricket Club under a 99 year lease from the Parish Council. A Heads of Terms for the lease has been provisionally agreed and is to be formalised following legal advice. The Cricket Club remains a not-for-profit organisation with any revenue from the Pavilion invested back into the facilities.

Item	Minute Recorded	Action By
1.	<b>Apologies accepted from:</b> None.	
2.	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> None	
3.	<b>Approval of minutes 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023:</b> Some minor adjustments were made to the minutes, they were then proposed by Cllr Hardwell, seconded by Cllr Wroe, agreed by all and signed by the Chairman as a true record.	Clerk to amend minutes on website accordingly.
4.	<b>Matters arising:</b> N/A	
5.	<b>County &amp; District Councillor Reports:</b>	

	<p>County Councillor Scott Richardson-Brown advised that the County Council was currently going through the budget setting process and was facing a deficit due to increasing costs. Cllr Richardson-Brown advised that some of the biggest costs were down to adult and child social care needs as well as home to school transport requirements. The County Council would be offering a voluntary redundancy scheme for support staff to try and reduce costs. Cllr Richardson Brown advised that a lot of the costs can not be avoided as there were delivering legally required services.</p> <p>District Councillor B Jones-Williams advised that there was a 'Kings' fund available to create an orchard which included the trees, protection, fencing and installation. Available to Parish Council, School, or other community groups. It was thought an orchard to line the new footpath at the Millennium Field would be a good idea, orchard trees also easy to prune and maintain. Cllr B Jones- Williams reminded members she was doing a 'wing walk' fund raising for the Air Ambulance.</p>	<p>Millenium footpath working party to apply.</p>
6.	<p><b>Strategic Planning Matters:</b>  Martley Planning Team plan met 4<sup>th</sup> January, detailed minutes to be circulated. Cllr hardwell summarised.  Cllr Watt would investigate bidding for locality funding.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan agreed to rewrite what was in place currently to bring up to date ready for public consultation.</p> <p>SWDPR noted still no set date for the review.</p> <p>Martley Planning applications: Hopyard application very different than outline planning application, much higher in the field, more visual impact on the 'Nubbins'. The green buffer was inadequate. Cllr Bray wanted it noted that he no longer owned or had any interest in the field.</p>	<p>Cllr Watt re locality funding.</p> <p>Planning team to update NP ASAP.</p> <p>Clerk to request consultation time extension.</p> <p>Planning team to write to MP regarding the developers taking advantage of lack of 5-year land supply.</p>
7.	<p><b>Planning Matters:</b></p> <p>M/23/01729/RM Land at (Os 7499 5981) Berrow Green Road, Martley. Reserved matters application for details of appearance, layout, scale and landscaping following the grant of outline planning permission 21/02245/OUT at appeal APP/J1860/W/22/3306186 which also granted access. Ad discussed above. Extension required.</p> <p>M/23/00476/AGR The Tegs, Pudford Lane, Martley, WR6 6QL. Prior notification for construction of agricultural building. Approved subject to conditioned.</p>	

	M/23/01586/HP.4 Mistletoe Orchard: Application is to convert a carport into a residential extension (retrospectively). The comment from the planning team on this is that the Land Drainage Partnership recommends refusal due to flood management issues, therefore the PC should follow these recommendations & advise DC to refuse this application.	Clerk to submit
8.	<p><b>Financial &amp; Governance Matters:</b>  Payment of professional fees for the Church Lane path to Lovatt and Nott made since the last meeting was noted: £540.00</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Wroe and seconded by Cllr Gardner to authorise the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a.) M Alexander – Locum clerk salary December £250.00</li> <li>b.) G Griffiths – Pavilion maintenance December £80.00</li> <li>c.) DW Lees – Electrical works Pavilion £111.95</li> <li>d.) Water Plus Ltd – Pavilion water supply £32.90</li> <li>e.) ICO – Data protection fee £40.00</li> <li>f.) BT – library telephone by DD £15.61</li> <li>g.) HMRC Employer payment for M Alexander £322.36</li> <li>h.) N Nicholson – Clerk mileage £43.20</li> <li>i.) R Wilkes – lengthsman services December £TBC</li> </ul> <p>Remittance: N/A</p> <p>External funding updates: Cllr Watt confirmed nothing being applied for currently.  Orchard grant to be applied for as discussed earlier.</p> <p>S106 funding projects: Cllr Watt advised that 15 potential projects had been identified totalling £400K. It was agreed to add picnic area for Millenium Green to the list.</p> <p>Clerk IT/Handover: The new clerk would use her own laptop initially, but it was noted that funds were included in the budget for a new clerk laptop. It was noted that due to time constraints there had been no formal handover time. The new clerk had all the information she needed and asked members to bear with her whilst she got up to speed. Contract was yet to be drawn up, target formal start date now 1<sup>st</sup> February.</p> <p>Precept 2024-25  The finance committee had met on 4<sup>th</sup> January and gone through projected expenditure line by line and reviewed the reserves. The committee proposed to request a precept of £43K a £3000 increase on 23-24.  The precept request of £43K was proposed by Cllr Watt, seconded by Cllr Rushgrove and agreed by all</p>	<p>Clerk to process the payments.</p> <p>Cllr Watt</p> <p>Clerk to ensure list sent to MHDC.</p> <p>Clerk to be added to Unity Banking.</p> <p>Clerk to request precept from MHDC by 31<sup>st</sup> January.</p>
9.	<p><b>Martley Recreation Field:</b>  Moles encroaching onto the field. R Cole booked for next weekend to address the issue.</p> <p>The Capital Project Working Group last met to discuss the New Pavilion on November 2nd. Funding for phase 1 of the Project (to</p>	

	complete the build of the Pavilion) is now secured, with thanks being given to MHDC who have provided a significant grant of £50,000. Building of the Pavilion will commence at the end of January, aiming for completion by April 8th. A photo shoot to mark the commencement of the build is planned for January 20th where Councillor Barbara Williams will be 'cutting the first sod'. The site will be fenced off during the build to ensure health and safety of all Villagers. Fundraising continues to complete the fit-out and furnishing of the building interior and is on track for completion and official opening on July 26th at a Village event where our Cricket Club will be hosting a match against Worcester CC.	
10.	<b>Martley Burial Ground:</b> Gazebo repairs on hold due to inclement weather. These would be invoiced on completion. Cllr Wroe asked for a monthly update of burial ground activities to be submitted for the monthly PC meeting, so members were fully informed and up to date.	Clerk to request from M Alexander.
11	<b>Village Improvement Plan:</b> Cllr Hardman advised there were a few outstanding tidy up issues at the children's play area – weather stopping progress.  Cllr Hardman had compiled a list of additional duties the lengthsman performed outside of the lengthsman contract, he would arrange to meet with R Wilkes to check the quoted prices and his willingness to continue with the tasks and report back at February meeting – these had been included in the 24-25 precept budget.  There was a discussion regarding drains and which roads the lengthsman can work on.	Cllr Hardwell
12.	<b>Highways Matters:</b> a. Road safety strategy – Cllr Jones-Williams drew members attention to OPPC funding available for street furniture and VAS's. It was noted that the village had x2 VAS and a new location would be sought for an additional one. b. Footpath safety group. Three members of the footpath group had met with representatives from the Millennium Trust. It was suggested a nominal grant of £50 be made to the trust to allow the footpath to cross Millennium Green. There was a need for a tree survey which the Millennium Trust would undertake the cost to be funded by the Parish Council. Cllr Jones-Williams would talk to C Lewis-Farleigh at MHDC regarding any advice he can give. Likely a need for three trees to be replaced. c. Road closures: N/A d.	Who? OPPC funding maybe closes 2 <sup>nd</sup> February.  Millenium Trust  Cllr Jones-Williams

	Zebra Crossing outside school. Cllr Weddell-Hall advised that WCC highways requested he raise the request via County Councillor Richardson Brown, this would be a 3–5-year project if the site was assessed as suitable. Cllr Richardson-Brown would request an engineer site visit initially.	Cllr Richardson-Brown
13.	<b>Parish Matters:</b> New Defib/CPR training to be arranged.	Clerk
14.	<b>Correspondence: N/A</b>	
15.	<b>Councillor reports &amp; Items for future Agendas:</b> Members agreed date for annual litter pick as 23 <sup>rd</sup> March. Cllr Gardner would draw up advert for Villager and Website  The Crown and its status as a Community Asset to be added as an agenda item under Parish Matters.  Martley Website review to be added to agenda under Parish Matters.	Cllr Gardner Clerk to put on website  Clerk  Clerk
	<b>There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:20pm</b>	

Chairman Signature:

Date: