

Marston St Lawrence Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 28th August 2018 in the Cricket Pavilion at 7.30pm

Councillors Present: Richard Gale, Daniela Carletti, Stephen Goodwin, Mick Scott and Chris Skermer

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and two villagers

- 18/46. To receive apologies for absence**
Cllr Tims (work)
- 18/47. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda**
The Chair and Cllr Skermer declared an interest in the village hall planning application. Cllr Carletti declared an interest in the discussion of traffic along the Main Road as her property is affected.
- 18/48. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th June 2018**
The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.
- 18/49. To note any Matters Arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only**
There were no matters to raise.
- 18/50. Public participation session**
There was nothing to discuss.
- 18/51. To receive an update on the Marston Inn and to receive the report of the meeting with HNB on 25.07.18**
A meeting took place with the Chair and Cllr Tims of the Parish Council, James Clarke (JC) of Hook Norton Brewery (HNB) and Simon Warner of Fisher German (FG) on 25th July. This was the first meeting for nearly a year. The project had been handed to a non-exec Director who had made no progress. HNB have now appointed Mr Warner of Fisher German to head up the project. Mr Warner is part of the planning team at FG and based at Bedford but covers the Banbury office.

There were no new proposals at the meeting. JC explored the possibility of HNB applying some of the funds from a development of the site to either the Cricket Club or Village Hall to make those venues more suitable as an alternative pub. He indicated a figure of £80-£100K. This was not appropriate partly due to the nature of the premises but also the organisational problems of ad hoc evenings rather than having a venue that was available all of the time for people to pop in when they felt like it. The point was made that it was previously understood that funds from the development would be available to inject into the Marston Inn enabling it to become a hospitable and viable venue again.

The Chair and Cllr Tims emphasised that they are open to all possibilities which might create an opportunity to have a village inn to provide a meeting place for villagers. A low cost base offering with limited simple food was likely to be more viable as a village backed operation. The village is not large enough to provide volunteers to run the establishment and it would need an employed manager. It would be difficult to raise funds to purchase the Inn but it should be possible to finance a tenanted business. It would need to be a separate company as the Parish Council cannot trade.

JC discussed the possibility of knocking down the existing building and rebuilding using salvaged materials further forward on the site. This would have the advantage of creating premises which are much more economical to run. The Chair and Cllr Tims said they would not be against this and

jointly expressed the importance of the garden which is fairly unique in being at the front of the property and directly accessible/visible from the bar.

JC appreciated the poor look of the premises and agreed to arrange for someone to tidy in the next couple of weeks to include the removal of the pub sign and ragwort. SW will now lead the project and be the point of contact.

A letter was received from South Northants Council to note the Marston Inn is coming to the end of its 5 year listing as an Asset of Community Value. This will be removed from the ACV register on 9th September. This was the first asset to be registered. It was **RESOLVED** to re-register the Marston Inn. Cllr Tims has completed a new form.

Action: The Chair and Parish Clerk to return the completed form to SNC.

18/52. To discuss how to get more visitors to the website

The website company are offering a free makeover. They can change and add more quality photographs and change the colour scheme to give the site a fresh new look. Included in the makeover is the latest software release.

It was agreed the website costs a lot each year to keep up to date but it is a legal requirement for certain information to be posted on it. The current web manager is up to date with legislation. Internet searches do not bring the website up very easily. Information is also put on Facebook but not everyone uses the internet.

Action: The Chair to make contact with Mike Henson who hosts the website.

18/53. To approve the following payments:

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£49.14 to EON (electricity)

£42.00 to mh-p internet ltd (website)

£240.36 to EON (electricity)

£163.53 To Parish Clerk (hours)

£9.00 to HMRC (tax)

£130.22 to M Mumford Electrical Ltd (defibrillator installation)

£31.83 to Parish Clerk (holiday pay)

£8.00 to HMRC (tax)

To review the budget sheet

The budget sheet was reviewed. The Parish Clerk has submitted her PAYE returns on time.

18/54. To receive an update on planning

Two applications had been received since the last meeting:

S/2018/1284/FUL, Air source heat pumps and solar panel array at MSL Village Hall.

S/2018/1878/FUL, Demolition of existing barn and proposed new annex at Thorpe House, Banbury Road. The Parish Council would note no objection.

18/55. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received and circulated:

- The Salvation Army, Siting of clothing recycling bank
- SNC, Notice of impending removal of Register of ACV (The Marston Inn)
- Andrea Leadsom MP, Withdrawal of local bus service
- Northants CALC, Notice of AGM on 06/10/18
- Northants Highways, Closure of A422 in Farthinghoe

Several items of correspondence were highlighted:

- The Salvation Army, Siting of clothing recycling bank. It was agreed to advise a recycling bank would not be appropriate and used in the village. The Parish Clerk to respond.
- Northants Highways, Closure of A422 in Farthinghoe. Since the closure of the A422 in Farthinghoe there has been a huge increase in traffic through the village. The Chair contacted Highways immediately and he has had a very positive response from them. Stagecoach buses have agreed to stop in the village. Concern was expressed over the extra traffic using Ponds Road and this has now been closed. Damage was caused to the roof of Cllr Carletti's house which is situated very close to the road. Tall vehicles are causing the damage but are unable to pass each other at the same time. The damage has been reported to Highways. The Chair has suggested to Highways if there can be a priority for traffic to create single file past the cottage. He is awaiting a response. The situation is improving but diversion signs are being moved. It was agreed that not much can be done to improve visibility at each end of the village and parked cars do reduce speed. The Parish Council were successful in getting the top 30mph signs moved at the Thenford end of the village in May 2016.

Action: The Parish Clerk to ask Highways if the bottom speed sign can be moved further round. The Chair to involve Andrea Leadsom MP in the discussions.

A letter from NCC Highways was discussed. It was dated 26th August but requires a response by 15th September. A review of NCC owned grit bins has been carried out to ensure they meet the current criteria. For a new grit bin to be placed on the highway network the score must be six points and existing bins must achieve five points. The bin outside the village hall car park has been scored as one point and NCC will not continue to maintain and fill it. This item will be discussed further at the next meeting.

18/56. Councillors Reports

The Chair had taken a phone call from Greatworth PCC about lighting a beacon on Remembrance Day and providing bell ringers. The Parish Council have not received any official correspondence about this and nothing further will happen.

The defibrillator has now been installed and training was discussed. A date in September had been offered but no confirmation received from the Ambulance Service.

Action: The Parish Clerk to arrange a new date in October to enable it to be advertised in the Glimpse.

18/57. Date, time and place of next meeting

Tuesday 6th November at 7.30pm in the village hall

Meeting finished at 8.45pm