

Marston St Lawrence Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 27th August 2019
in the Cricket Pavilion at 7.30pm

Councillors Present: Richard Gale (Chairman), Wayne Lindop, Mick Scott, Chris Skermer and Matthew Tims

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and one villager

19/39. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Goodwin and Greatworth Parish Council

19/40. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

There were no interests to declare.

19/41. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th May 2019

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

19/42. To note any Matters Arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

There were no matters to discuss.

19/43. To discuss the Draft Footpath Strategy

Greatworth Parish Council have drawn up a Draft Parish Footpath, Three Year Strategy Consultation paper to submit to Northants County Council. Greatworth Parish Council were hoping to attend this meeting to discuss the paper as most of the land to the west of Greatworth is in the area of Marston St Lawrence. They have sent their apologies and will attend the next meeting in November.

The draft paper was circulated and discussed. It is made up of a strategic challenge and six strands. Greatworth has grown over the years but the supply of walking and riding opportunities has not kept up with the demand. General comments included stiles and gates could be improved, if land is ploughed it is sometimes difficult to see a route without a map, all existing footpaths must be accessible and the history of footpaths originates from people being able to get between villages.

From the floor a villager said that one main issue is the maintenance of existing footpaths and hedges. Path AT2 is currently inaccessible. The Chair agreed to be the Footpath Warden and walk the village footpaths. This item will be discussed further at the next meeting in November.

19/44. To discuss VE Day 75 in May 2020

The early May bank holiday in May 2020 has been moved to the Friday to make a long weekend. There will be events happening all over the country. Ideas for this village to consider include the official opening of the village hall, church bell ringing and a Victory Parade from the Church to the Village Hall.

Action: The Parish Clerk to forward any new information.

19/45. To receive an update on the Marston Inn and discuss if a TPO should be placed on the lime trees

Several phone messages have been left with Hook Norton Brewery but no responses received back. The public consultation in June was well attended by 80 people. Different plans were presented by the brewery on the day which the PC had not seen. The garden had shrunk and the PC did not approve of the plans.

Action: The Chair to draft a follow on email to Fisher German.

The lime trees were discussed as they are an important part of the village. They take up a lot of space but may need pruning and crown raising at some stage.

From the floor a villager noted they are a valuable ecological source, home to 300 species of animals/insects, an environmental benefit and a significant amenity of the area. Trees are protected if they are within the Conservation Area and permission would be needed for work to be done to them. Councillors voted three votes to two abstentions to proceed and find out more information about the TPO process and cost.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact SNC to ask about the process and costs of a TPO and circulate to Councillors.

19/46. To discuss the village website

The website is a legal requirement but a large part of the council expenditure. There are no allowances for smaller parishes who only meet five times per year compared to the bigger councils who meet on a more regular basis. This website was set up some years ago with the help of the Transparency Fund. It requires the work of a Councillor to look at this in more detail to see if any savings can be made.

Action: The Parish Clerk to get another quote and working costs from a local company.

19/47. To discuss the SNC Electronic Planning Consultation

SNC are planning to introduce electronic planning which would mean that no hard copies would be posted out. Some parishes already work this way. It would save money in the long run and SNC may be forced to bring this in at a later date. Parishes can agree to order a laptop, projector and screen to help with the transition and training will be organised. These items will be funded by the New Homes Bonus Grant. It was agreed to order a laptop only as there will be a projector and screen as part of the Village Hall Refurbishment project.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact SNC.

19/48. GDPR Compliance

The following documents were adopted with immediate effect:

- Councillor Resignation Checklist
- Breach Reporting Flowchart

19/49. To approve the following payments:

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

- £138.42 to EON (electricity – dd)
- £69.46 to Opus Energy (May/June electricity – dd)
- £18.00 to mh-p internet ltd (website – 100594)
- £49.14 to EON (maintenance – 100595)
- £60.08 to Opus Energy (June/July electricity – dd)
- £3.50 to Northants CALC (Good Cllr guide book – 100596)
- £125.07 to Parish Clerk (hours - 100597)
- £31.20 to HMRC (Tax – 100598)
- £33.75 to Parish Clerk (mileage – 100599)
- £13.67 to Parish Clerk (expenses – 100600)
- £59.96 to Opus Energy (July/August electricity – dd)

To approve a salary increase for the Parish Clerk

It was agreed to increase the salary of the Parish Clerk in line with the NGC Salary Award effective from 1st April 2019.

To review the risk assessment

The risk assessment sheet was considered. No further action is needed at this time.

19/50. To receive an update on planning

Two new applications had been received since the last meeting:

S/2019/1214/FUL, Replacement porch, two storey side and single storey side extensions at Fairacre, The Green. No objections but the PC had the following observation that there was concern of an overall increase in the footprint of the building. This has been approved by SNC.

S/2019/1547/LBC, Listed building Consent – Replace all exterior joinery (windows and doors) with European Oak, using traditional flush casement design with new ironmongery finished in black paint at 1 Mold Cottages, The Green. The Parish Council to raise no objections.

19/51. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received and circulated:

- SNC, Update on Local Government Re-organisation
- Villager, Proposals for development at Marston Inn
- SNC, Review of South Northants Polling Districts and Polling Places

One item of correspondence was highlighted.

- SNC, Review of South Northants Polling Districts and Polling Places. The email was passed to the VHC and the information can be shared within the village. There is normally a good turnout for voting, approximately 50% of the village.

19/52. Councillors Reports

Street lighting was briefly discussed as savings could be made if the bulbs were changed to the LED type. The Parish Clerk has made contact with a lighting contractor in Bucks. Cllr Lindop agreed to look into this.

Action: The Parish Clerk to forward the relevant email to Cllr Lindop.

A villager has been given permission by Hook Norton Brewery to place a mirror in his hedgerow to help with road safety.

It was agreed for the Parish Clerk to resend the draft minutes with the new agenda before the next meeting.

Cllr Lindop attended the West Northants Local Council Forum held in June. It was not informative and working parties have been set up to for feedback at the next session. Borough Council's were able to put their points across.

It was noted there is still a Councillor vacancy to fill. However there will be elections in May 2020.

19/53. Public participation session

No matters were raised.

19/54. Date, time and place of next meeting

Tuesday 19th November 2019, 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The Parish Clerk to liaise with Cllr Skermer and book the February 2020 meeting date.

Meeting finished at 9.10pm

