

# MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 8th May 2024 at 7pm  
Present; Cllrs Bailey , Claridge , Clarke , Cooke , Cotton , Hore ( Chairman ) ,  
Morris-Rabbitts , Roddy & Sharland  
District Cllr Penfold. Clerk - Karen Gilbert, and 13 members of the Public

## **The Clerk announced that she had received the resignation of Linda Balster from the Parish Council for personal reasons**

Cllr Clarke - as Vice Chair - welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded the Members of the Public that once the Council was in session , there should be no comments without permission from the Chair

The Vice Chair introduced Michael Wright , Area Ranger , National Trust and David Adam of Fountains Forestry who had attended to speak on a project in the Compton area ( see Public participation )

### **24/05/01 - Election of Chairman**

Cllr Cotton proposed Cllr Hore - seconded by Cllr Bailey

Cllr Clarke proposed Cllr Claridge - seconded by Cllr Morris-Rabbitts

A Vote was taken - **Cllr Hore was elected as Chair and signed the acceptance of Office**

A further vote took place for Vice - chair between Cllr Cotton and Cllr Claridge

**Cllr Claridge to act as Vice Chair**

Cllr Hore proposed a vote of thanks to Linda Balster and wished her well

It was also **AGREED** that the use of First names was acceptable during the meetings but **NOTED** that the Minutes would be worded with Councillor titles

**24/05/02 Apologies for Absence** - County Cllr Hawkins

**24/05/03 Declarations of Interest** Cllr Clarke - **other registrable interest - TRAYE**

**24/05/04 Dispensation request** - None

### **24/05/05 - Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 10th April 2024 were signed by the Chairman as a true record

## **STANDING ORDERS WERE SUSPENDED**

Michael Wright explained that the National Trust intended to plant 14 hectares of land at Compton as part of the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest project . This was Defra funded initiative falling into 2 areas - the higher plantation of 8000 native trees and a lower density of a few hundred trees in the field further down the Hill - which would continue to be grazed .

He further explained that a condition of the funding was that Public access be made available .

David Adam explained the process involved and added that it hoped that the Community would become involved in the tree planting

After answering Parishioners' and Councillors questions , Michael and David left the meeting - adding that they were happy to clarify any matters as the project progresses

**The Chairman thanked them for attending**

### **24/05/06 - Public participation**

A Parishioner handed in a petition bearing 123 signatures of supporters of Traye .

Parishioners appealed to the Council to continue its Financial support to enable the facility to continue . The Chairman thanked those present and added that the Council had to exercise due diligence when spending Public Funds but had always been in favour of the Youth Club in Marldon

## **24/05/06 Councillor reports**

### **District Cllr Penfold - Full report available from Clerk**

#### **Re-election PCC**

Police and Crimes Commissioner, Alison Hernandez was re-elected on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and will serve for the next four years.

#### **South West Water and Compton – Flood and Sewage Issues**

By the time of this month's parish council the first Compton/SW Water Working group will have been held.

The aim is to target what needs to be done and who is responsible for sorting each of the problems that combine to create such an untenable situation in Compton.

The main areas of concern have been identified, along with who should be responsible for sorting them.

As a start SW Water have elevated calls from Compton. When you call the service centre regarding flooding issues in Compton your calls will be elevated to top priority. Both Cllr Hawkins and I have been given a specific person to contact if there are flooding issues.

I understand that there has been an incident of a dog becoming poorly because of the sewage overflow in Compton. Cllr Hawkins is raising the issue at the Working Group.

All tiers of your government from parish to MP strongly believe that the situation in Compton is unacceptable and so we will work together until there is some resolution to the situation. We expect there to be mitigation measures in place immediately while more permanent solutions are sorted.

#### **Locality Funds have begun again.**

Please do contact me if you have a village project you would like me to support.

#### **Climate Change and Biodiversity Locality Fund**

In addition to the usual locality fund, all district councillors have been allocated an additional £2000 to tackle the climate and ecological emergency. Contact me for more information. I have already allocated some money to the allotments.

## **STANDING ORDERS WERE RE-INSTATED**

### **24/045/07 - Admin**

Meeting dates for 2024/ 2025 **NOTED and the Hall booked**

11/6 9/7 10/9 8/10 12/11 14/1/25. 11/2. 11/3. 8/4.

#### **To note the Annual Parish Meeting on 29th May and decide arrangements**

- a) Chairman to produce invite and email to local organisations
- b) Posters to be produced and distributed
- c) Clerk to produce agenda
- d) Refreshments to be served after the meeting inc wine / soft drinks / coffee / tea and suitable nibbles

#### **The Following responsibilities were confirmed**

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| a) Snow warden             | Cllr Claridge                                |
| b) Personnel matters       | Cllr Clarke                                  |
| c) Parish Paths            | Cllr Hore                                    |
| d) Emergency planning      | Cllrs Cooke / Claridge / Morris-Rabbitts     |
| e) PC rep for Village Hall | Cllr Cotton                                  |
| f) Noticeboards            | Cllr Hore                                    |
| g) Playground              | Cllr Cotton                                  |
| h) Website                 | Cllr Sharland / Morris- Rabbitts             |
| i) Open spaces             | Cllr Hore                                    |
| j) TRAYE                   | Cllr Clarke                                  |
| k) Highways                | Cllr Cooke/Roddy                             |
| m) Speed awareness         | Cllrs Cooke / Roddy and Linda Balster( TBC ) |
| Graveyard                  | Cllr Cotton                                  |
| Asset register / insurance | Cllr Bailey                                  |
| Tree Officers              | Cllrs Hore / Morris-Rabbitts                 |
| Leases / deeds /agreements | Cllr Sharland                                |

**24/05/08 TRAYE****a) To note Grant application - Section 137 for 1st tranche of annual funding - £2500 and decide if PC has sufficient information to pay**

The Parish Council had received a grant application for the sum of £2500 - being part of the Budget earmarked for this purpose . The form had been circulated in advance

After due consideration , it was RESOLVED that this sum be paid and a further grant request for £1000 be sent in September . District Cllr Hodgson thanked them for approving the grant funding

**b) To note monthly report - NOTED**

Cllrs Bailey and Sharland confirmed they would visit one of the Youth sessions in the near future

**24/05/09 - Clerk's report**

The Clerk advised she would chase the Village Hall Committee to find a permanent home for the portrait of King Charles III

She also commented that a Member of the Public had contacted her to see if a small seat might be installed at the bus stop opposite the shops . An initial enquiry had been sent to Highways but it was generally felt that this would not be possible due to space constraints

8/5/24	K Gilbert	59.00		59.00	Expenses 05/24
8/5/24	Source for business	47.23		47.23	Water - allotments
8/5/24	Source for business	39.28		39.28	Water - Jubilee
8/5/24	Karen Gilbert	75.12	15.02	90.14	Ink / folders/notebook Amazon
8/5/24	TRAYE	2500.00		2500.00	S137 - subject to agenda no 8
	P3				
8/5/24	Conserv Solution Ltd	150.00	30.00	180.00	Replacement cheque 120

**24/05/10 - Cheques for payment - Approved****b) To agree membership of Finance Committee. DEFERRED to 06/24****24/05/11 Councillor reports - Full reports available from Clerk****MEG REPORT – May 2024**

Sadly a Wednesday was lost due to the ongoing wet weather, but MEG volunteers managed to cut-back some overhanging sycamores along Moorview despite a rainy morning.

FP13 was given its first border cut of the season with care being taken to spare the flowering shrubs of mainly wild garlic and white bells.

The boundary fence along the old ring-road was also given some attention where a few broken battens were hanging loose.

Tidying and cutting back of both entrances to the underpass was also carried out, an ideal area when rain is around due to the natural shelter! Finally Farmer Dave managed to get his mowing tractor onto Broomhill Meadow to give it the long overdue first cut of the season, delayed due to the extreme flooding around the entrance gate – he also included the old ring road section within the Parish boundary.

**WAM REPORT – May 2024**

There is not much to report since last month as the relentless rain has stopped us doing any work in Jubilee Meadow and as it is waterlogged, we don't anticipate being able to do any work other than tidying where needed for the next couple of months. The Memorial Garden has a lovely continuing display of bulbs, the trees are breaking blossom and wildflowers are emerging, some general tidying and a little more planting will continue throughout the year. Thank you to the Cricket Club for their considerate cutting of Jubilee Meadow in order to protect the wildlife areas. We would also like to mention the exceptional care and consideration given by Simon our Lengthsman when cutting the grassed areas but preserving as many daisies, buttercups and wild flowers as possible.

**COMPTON REPORT – May 2024**

The flooding and raw sewage issues that Compton are regularly subject to will be an ongoing topic for months to come I think. Progress has been made however as we now have a core

'Working Group' set up comprising of MP Anthony Mangnall, County Councillor Jonathan Hawkins, District Councillor Sam Penfold, South West Water and myself. This will be widened to include the National Trust, SHDC, DCC and some landowners as we move forward. Some surfacing work on the terrible potholes in Widdecombe Lane has been carried out by Highways – more to follow as the year progresses, we hope.

#### **POLICE ADVOCATE REPORT - LINDA BALSTER**

*Our zoom meeting with Inspector Ben Shardlow was held on 18N' April 2024. His reports cover crimes in the Dartmouth, Ivybridge, Totnes, Kingsbridge and Plymouth areas.*

*Some reported crimes are data sensitive and, therefore, cannot be included in this report.*

*Anti Social Behaviour is still being monitored in Totnes town centre and although there has been a decrease, the police are still watching nineteen people.*

*In the first two week period in March 114 crimes were committed covering the whole of the South Hams area, this reduced to 102 for the last two weeks.*

*Intelligence are still monitoring drug dealing in Totnes, along with an epidemic of graffiti which has been appearing.*

*Rogue traders have been operating in the areas for some time and the police in Totnes recently caught 5 illegal males from London and arrested them in the act of stripping a roof belonging to an elderly couple. They had been targeting elderly people who did not need work doing and trying to deprive them of their savings. The police also seized the gang's vehicles which were also stolen. Sergeant Booth has now left Totnes. A support team will join a new policing team in June as an extra resource.*

#### **WESTERLAND REPORT - LINDA BALSTER**

Parishioners in Westerland are concerned about the 30 houses which have outline planning granted on the two adjoining fields to the Christmas Tree Farm.

There have been no other problems to report.

#### **24/05/12 - Open Spaces**

a) To receive update on land originally purchased for a Graveyard extension  
Cllr Cotton had made enquiries with SHDC Planning Dept to ascertain whether the works carried out to date constituted commencement . He had been advised that -  
*the planning application was to change the use of the land to a cemetery from grazing land so no further action is required from you.*

It was AGREED that Simon Birbeck be approached to clear the site after which it would be better to see what was required - ie fencing / gates

It was AGREED that the Church be consulted on the potential plan to create a memorial garden with the possible interment of ashes

**ACTION : CLERK TO ASK SIMON BIRBECK TO LIAISE WITH CLLR COTTON**

**ACTION : CLLR COTTON TO CONTACT CHURCH**

**ACTION : CLLRS COTTON/HORE TO CONSIDER FENCING GATES**

**ACTION : AGENDA ITEM 06/24 to RESOLVE TO PROCEED WITH PROJECT**

⌘) TO agree the use of Jubilee Meadow / Torfield in connection with the Apple Pie Fair **AGREED**

#### **24/05/13- Playground**

Cllr Cotton reported that everything at the Playground was in good and tidy condition

#### **24/05/14 HIGHWAYS -**

a) **Update Speedwatch scheme** - *Having completed the first stages of on-line training, the roadside training will begin shortly when the police have confirmed our risk assessed sites which we are about to submit. ( LINDA BALSTER )*

The Council thanked Linda for setting up this Community scheme and hoped that she would to progress the project Cllrs Roddy and Cooke AGREED to assist and report back to the PC

**b)To note Highways comments re potential speed reduction Preston Downs Rd - NOTED**

**c) To decide whether to not to request HATOC to consider the speed reduction after noting the process of Public consultation required and Highways comments**

Having given due consideration to the comments from Devon Highways (who would not approve) it was **RESOLVED** that NO further action be taken ( Cllr Cooke abstained )

**d) To decide whether to not to proceed in purchasing mobile speed awareness sign/s after noting advice / guidance on process from Devon CC**

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Cooke and Roddy take ownership of this project and look at potential costings

**e) To decide whether Double addition of yellow lines should be considered at entrance to Play park following suggestion made by Police following up Householder complaint**

Having given due consideration to the comments from Devon Highways (who would not approve) it was **RESOLVED** that NO further action be taken

**24/05/15- Planning - NONE**

a) to decide whether to invite SHDC Officer to June Parish Council meeting to detail what is involved in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and to advise re funding opportunities

It was **AGREED** that Graham Swiss be invited to the June 2024 PC meeting in this regard

It was **NOTED** that the LOCALITY / Gov website still stated that The Funding process had get to open for 24/25

**ACTION : CLERK TO CONTACT GRAHAM SWISS - SHDC**

<a href="#"><u>0536/24/HHO</u></a>	10 Peters Crescent Marldon TQ3 1PQ	Householder application for single storey rear (south) & side (east) extension with flat parapet green roof & lantern to create kitchen/ diner, widen existing driveway & new porch <b>NO OBJECTION</b>
<a href="#"><u>1255/24/NMM</u></a>	36 Brockhurst Park Marldon TQ3 1LB	Non material minor amendment to planning consent 2789/22/HHO for window alterations <b>NO OBJECTION</b>
<a href="#"><u>0798/24/VAR</u></a>	14 Nether Meadow Marldon TQ3 1NJ	Application for variation of condition 2 (Accord to Plans) of planning consent 3838/22/HHO <b>NO OBJECTION</b>

**24/05/16. Exclusion of Press and Public**

It was **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Paragraph 1 (2) of The Public Bodies. (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the agenda items 17 & 18 owing to the confidential or personal nature of the business to be transacted and that the public interest would not be served in disclosing that information.

**PART TWO**

**24/05/17. To discuss recent communications.**

The Parish Council gave full consideration to each of the issues raised in the letters of complaint using adopted Policies and procedures

The Council decided that each point concerned Council procedures rather than any staffing matter

It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council writes to the Parishioners to explain

**24/05/18. Staffing matters.**

It was **AGREED** that there were no matters to consider and that no breaches of Policy / procedure had occurred

**24/04/19- DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

There being no further business , the Meeting was **CLOSED.** at. 9.25pm