

MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 14th January 2025 at 7pm
(Meeting commenced 7.15pm)

Present; Cllrs Bailey , Caddell ,Cooke , Cotton , Hore (Chair) ,
and Roddy County Cllr Hawkins & District Cllr Penfold
Clerk - Karen Gilbert, and 9 members of the Public

The Clerk apologised for her late appearance , explaining that she had been stuck
in traffic for the last hour

25/01/01 Apologies for Absence -

Cllrs Claridge , Clarke , Morris-Rabbitts and Sharland

25/01/02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Roddy - as Trustee - Marldon Land Charity

25/01/03 Dispensation request - None

25/01/04 - Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Full Council meetings held on 12th November 2024 were **APPROVED** by all
and signed by the Chairman as a true record

STANDING ORDERS WERE SUSPENDED

25/01/05 - Public participation

The applicant for Planning app 4113/24/FUL Construction of two houses with associated access &
landscaping at Westerland advised the Council of the reasons for the withdrawal of his previous
application , the use of a Pre-app and the revisions included in the current scheme

25/01/06 Councillor reports

District Cllr Penfold - Full report available from Clerk

Changes to Local Government; English Devolution Deal.

In summary: There is to be a major change to the structure of local government. All
districts and county councils are set to become unitary councils. At the moment, it is
unclear where the boundaries of the new councils will fall. It will be implemented within the
election cycle of the current government. There has been little mention of parish and town
councils in the legislation but it looks like they will remain in place. It will undoubtedly
have an effect on our parish councils and their responsibilities, particularly on the non-
statutory services the District and County provided. It is also expected to have an impact
on funding.

However, while in transition, South Hams District Council is committed to ensuring its
services will not be affected, and will work with the parish councils for as smooth as a
possible transition.

It is unclear whether council elections will go ahead in May. But certainly, I will be the last
district councillor for Marldon and Littlehempston.

Detailed information on the Devolution Deal: A few days before Christmas, Westminster
announced changes to local government. A white paper called the English Devolution
Deal explained the intention to move to large unitary councils (minimum of 500,00 people)
rather than district, county and smaller unitary councils that are currently in place. If the
county councils agree to a regionally elected mayor, the county council elections will be
cancelled and the unitary councils will be put in place sooner.

At South Hams District Council on Monday 6th, I supported the motion to oppose the
introduction of the Devolution bill as it stands, and also to oppose the delay of County
Council elections. I believe delaying elections without substantial reason such as war or a
pandemic, is undemocratic. These motions were passed with only two abstentions, and

the councillors who abstained did for reasons that related to boundary concerns and in their ward.

On January 9th, Devon County Council is to respond to the government's Devolution proposals. At the moment, it is suggested that Devon County Council will agree a regional mayor as well as proposing a delay to the county council elections. In mid-February the Government will inform Devon County whether it accepts their proposals.

National Planning Policy (House Building)

Alongside the announcement of the English Devolution Deal, the Government also introduced the National Planning Policy. In summary, increased housing targets will be imposed on to our area and there will be little to no local consultation as to where housing will be built. With the abolition of the local planning department of South Hams, planning decisions become more centralised. I have concerns for increased unconsidered building in Marldon, Littlehempston and Berry Pomeroy.

Both these policies will have significant impact on our area but as yet, we have little details as to how and when.

For those who would like to read the Devolution proposals, a link to the Government's White-paper is below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper#:~:text=This%20White%20Paper%20announces%20that,and%20high%2Dquality%20public%20services>

County Cllr Hawkins

A Special Meeting was held at Devon County Council on 9th January to discuss the White Paper and whether Devon should submit an expression of interest to be included in the first tranche. The Leader of the Council, James McInnes, outlined at the meeting that there was no obligation for him to hold a meeting, but felt it important for all viewpoints to be considered before responding to the Minister.

The White Paper outlines that authorities would prioritise reorganisation and devolution through the creation of a Strategic Authority with Mayoral elections in May 2026, should local agreement be reached. The Local Government Minister has been clear that they will lay secondary legislation and expects Local Authorities to postpone local council elections from May 2025 to May 2026, to help areas deliver reorganisation and devolution to the most ambitious timeframes. This will provide the capacity on which reorganisation proposals can progress at pace in 2025 to ensure the benefits of devolution for the area are realised as quickly as possible.

General consensus that the move to a unitary model made sense to provide improved accountability (many members of the public aren't always able to determine which Council is responsible for which services) and increased funding into Devon, as well as other benefits like economies of scale etc.

A difference in opinion arose over whether the elections, due to be held in May 2025, should be delayed until May 2026 as outlined in the White Paper. The argument for postponement were that holding an election this May would mean any newly elected Councillors would only be in post for one year, with decisions regarding Devolution having to be made by many new Councillors getting to grips with induction/how the Council functions. Over a third of existing Councillors had indicated that they wouldn't be standing at the next election before the White Paper was published, so there would be a considerable influx of new Councillors. An election would cost £1.5 million; it was felt that as another election would need to be held within 12 months that this wouldn't be best use of taxpayer's money. There was also a point raised that administering an election takes a significant amount of Officer time; should this be at the same time as a 'shadow authority' for unitary is being organised then there would be a lack of Officer capacity to

meet the Government timetable of proposals to be finalised by Autumn 2025. There were some in the Chamber that felt the one-year delay to the elections would be a denial of democracy and argued that the elections should go ahead as scheduled in May 2025. A vote was held The vote was carried, the Elections delayed and a letter has been sent to the Minister. It is anticipated that a response to the letter should be received from Government by the end of January, that should outline whether Devon has been accepted onto the Devolution Priority Programme.

STANDING ORDERS WERE RE-INSTATED

25/01/07 - Planning

<u>4113/24/ FUL</u>	Development Site at SX 865 626, Westerland Lane, Marldon	Construction of two houses with associated access & landscaping NO OBJECTION
<u>4058/24/ PDM</u>	Barn at SX 860 651, Compton, Marldon	Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural unit to 3No dwellinghouses (class C3) & for associated development (Class Q (a+b). NOTED
<u>4059/24/ PDM</u>	Barn at SX 861 651 Compton Marldon	Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural unit to 2No dwellinghouses (class C3) & for associated development (Class Q (a+b). NOTED
<u>4020/24/ HHO</u>	1 Parkfield Close Marldon TQ3 1PF	Householder application for proposed rear 2 storey side extension & internal alterations to form proposed bedroom with ensuite & kitchen, dining area & utility (resubmission of 2906/24/HHO). NO OBJECTION
<u>3954/24/ CLE</u>	Land At Sx 865 636, West Lane, Marldon	Certificate of lawfulness for existing material commencement of building operations comprising demolition of an agricultural barn undertaken pursuant to conditional planning consent 3729/21/FUL NOTED
<u>3593/24/ FUL</u>	Greystone Barn Village Road Marldon TQ3 1SJ	Conversion of existing garage to domestic accommodation and change of use of attached barn to create ancillary annex, full replacement of windows, doors & roof. NO OBJECTION
<u>2059/24/ FUL</u>	The Old Kiln, Kiln Road, Marldon, TQ3 1SH	Erection of a dwelling

2059/24/FUL The Parish Council **RESOLVED to OBJECT** to the application
Kiln Road is an unlit single track , narrow lane with little or no passing places
It is widely used by dog walkers / horse riders / cyclists and pedestrians - having no footpaths or places to take shelter
The additional traffic from the approved 5 houses will add to the existing issues - the problem can only increase further should the Planners grant approval for this sixth house
I should mention that the Parish Council feels that improvements to the already stretched sewerage system are essential before any further development is carried out in the Parish

25/01/08 - Garden of Rest

a) **To receive a report on the working party meeting held on 7th November 2024 and 7th January 2025** - The Minutes had been circulated and contents **NOTED**

b) **To receive recommendations from working party for approval**

The recommendations were read out and those requiring further clarification were noted
The remainder were provisionally **AGREED** but acceptance was deferred until 02/25 meeting when more Councillors were present

ACTION - RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE RE-AGENDA'D FOR 02/25

Cllr Cooke - along with other Cllrs - thanked the working party for the amount of time spent so far on this project

25/01/09 - Admin

a) To receive report on potential new website / hosting - **Deferred to 02/25**

25/01/10 - Arrangements for consultation on Saturday 18th January 10am - 1pm re potential allocation of 106 funding

a) **To note applications for funding - NOTED**

Parish Council - Towards a MUGA facility in Tor Field

Marldon Cricket Club - Nets / scoreboard

Marldon Bowls Club - Clubhouse improvements

The Chair confirmed that all had been arranged and that the event had been widely advertised .

25/01/11 - Clerk's report

Letters of thanks received from the Bowls Club / TRAYE/Composting re PC Grants

The Clerk had chased Devon County re bus shelter installations - DCC chasing Euroshel

New Councillor training has been taken by Cllr Caddell

Cllr Claridge has been booked onto a planning training course as Lead Cllr for planning

25/01/12 Cheques for payment - Approved

14/1/25	Karen Gilbert	93.40		93.40	Exps 01/25 + Book
14/1/25	Devon ass of local councils	40.00	8.00	48.00	Alison Caddell - training
14/1/25	K Gilbert (Reimburse)	6.91	1.38	8.29	Plastic wallets
14/1/25	D Hore	15.70		15.70	Reimburse for Dave Berlyn
	MEG				
14/1/25	Robin Cox	304.41		304.41	Meg expenses 5/24 - 12/24
12/24	TO BE NOTED - retrospective approval				
	K Gilbert	93.00		93.00	Clerk expenses + stamps
	J Hore	338.82		338.82	EXP Garden of Rest

Cllr Caddell confirmed that progress had been made on the Asset register but additional input was required on some historical information

25/01/13 Councillor reports - Full reports available from Clerk

a) **WAM** December has been a quiet month for WAM. Our plans for the next year mostly to concentrate on maintaining the already established wild areas and helping looking after the trees and wildflowers in the new 'Garden of Rest'.

b) **MEG.** The entrance to FP4 was cleared and visibility improved by cutting back overgrown ivy, and as this involved some working on Village Road our Chapter 8 qualified

volunteers came in handy. Some further cutting back was done in Tor Field and that was about it.

c) Compton report

Devon County Highways cleared the roadside edges of weeds and debris as promised at our meeting way back in September, but nothing has been heard from South West Water regarding the unacceptable delay in starting work on the sewage relief tank and residents would love a meeting with their CEO Susan Davy so she could explain the decision!!!

The National Trust have still not dredged their section of the stream as was promised in September. An unregistered salt/grit bin is located in the Village and Residents have asked if the Parish Council would adopt it so as to alleviate Highways removing it.

The grass area between the stream and the road is due it's six monthly cut and clearance by our Lengthsman – this to be requested.

d) Police Advocate report

The last Police Advocate meeting of 2024 was held in early December. Only five Councillors connected online so it was a pretty short meeting.

Inspector Mark Stevens sent out crime figure illustrations for the usual high-volume towns so jokingly I asked him to provide a copy for Marldon. This he did And it showed four reported criminal offences and no anti-social behaviour offences for the month of November.

The first meeting of 2025 was held last week and only four Councillors attended.

Overall crime rates were down for the month of December.

There was one incident in Marldon which involved a dog unit and the Force helicopter, resulting in a man being arrested near Brockhurst Park following a chase from Torquay and final decamp of the vehicle by Cox's garage.

e) TRAYE On 08/11/24 we had 48 young people attend Marldon Youth Club, of these young people, 46 were from the village and 3 were from outside Marldon. We had 4 youth workers delivering the session and 1 volunteer. This session focussed on the Food for Thought project and making homemade coleslaw and also National Youth Work Week where young people talked about what was important about youth club - young people said they liked 'learning new skills', having a 'quiet area for quieter times', that it was 'something fun to do', and that many of them had 'made new friends'. Young people also made some art work using fallen leaves and created pom poms.

On 22/11/24 we had 54 young people attend Youth Club, of these young people 51 were from Marldon and 3 were from outside the village. We had 4 youth workers delivering the session and 2 volunteers helping out. We once again, focussed on the Food for Thought project and young people did some taste testing, seeing if they could tell which foods were organic and which were supermarket bought. Young people enjoyed trying purple carrots and using a spiralizer to make vegetables and fruits more fun. Young people made christmas cards for their family members and some lovely angel tree decorations.

On 13/12/24 we had a Christmas Party and played party games such as Pass the Parcel, Santa Splat, Musical Chairs and the Chocolate Game. At this session 40 young people attended, 39 from the village and 1 from outside of the village. Fun was had by all and the young people created some wonderful Christmas cards, tree decorations and made reindeer food.

Christmas Activity - We held a Christmas Feast at the Apricot Centre on 21/12/24 - this activity was as part of the Food for Thought project that we have been circulating throughout our 10 areas. All young people were invited to come along to this event. We had 5 young people from Marldon attend and they had great fun cooking a christmas dinner outside and over a fire. The turkey was cooked in a pot and together we picked vegetables from the farm and also cooked these up over the fire. We learnt how to chop wood, we made christmas wreaths out of holly and talked about our christmas wishes. It was a wonderful day and marked the culmination of this valuable project. All of the young people who attended said they would like to continue learning about food and possibly create a food hub. This is something we at TRAYE will look into.

In the new year, we had our first back session on 10/01/25. In this session, 38 young people attended, 35 from Marldon and 3 from outside the village. As usual, 4 youth workers delivered this session and we had 1 volunteer helping out. Young people set their New Year's Intentions and put them on a tree which will be kept and then looked at throughout the year. Many young people wanted to try out the Quiet Room and enjoyed looking at ways to improve their own self care. It was great to see young people thinking about what makes them feel good and learning new strategies around wellbeing. We have now started a new project which is around mental health, so these topics will be focussed upon over the next 6 months. Other young people enjoyed playing Pool, Table Tennis, making hot chocolates and doing some clay modelling.

f) Defibs/ bleed kits inc production of rota for inspections

I completed inspections on our defib case and blood pack case at The Smokey and Cut of Class on the 3rd of January, I am pleased to report that the defibs are working and the packs are in order. We are still actively looking for a site in Compton while keeping the National Trust option open with the hope we can finalise this project, we are also working on another lead and will keep you posted. The Defib Monitoring site reported that the Air Ambulance accessed the defib box at The Smokey Public House in December, however on checking the equipment and the pads we were able to confirm that they had not been used. As previously reported, once the project has been completed, we will set up a recording and inspection process within the Parish Council and organise training.

NB . The Parish Council RESOLVED to adopt the grit bin in Compton

25/01/14- Open Spaces - All areas are looking good and well used by Parishioners. Councillor Hore advised that the mats had been laid at the Allotments - thanking Cllr Penfold for the Grant and those volunteering for all their help . Monthly plot inspections will now commence

25/01/15 Playground . Cllr Cotton reported he had tightened a couple of loose bolts otherwise all was good Thanks to be sent to Rhinoplay who supplied and fitted some minor components free of charge

25/01/16 HIGHWAYS -

It was **NOTED** that the Clerk was awaiting a response from Devon lighting granting permission for the equipment to be added to existing lamp posts

ACTION : CLERK TO CONTINUE TO CHASE

25/01/17- DATE OF NEXT MEETING. 11th February 2025 at 7pm - Marldon Village Hall

25/01/18 The Council **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 item 19 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. It was also **RESOLVED** that Julie Hore remain as Member of the Garden on Rest working party

19. To discuss Clerk's role in management and administration of Garden of Rest

The amount of time and effort by the Working party to bring the project this far was acknowledged - as was the amount of work - additional to normal duties - by the Clerk

It was **AGREED** that once the project was finalised and the role of the burial Clerk commences , the hours quoted in the Clerk's contract should be adjusted - as this role should be noted as an additional employment line

Meanwhile it was **RESOLVED** that any future time taken setting up this facility should be charged as overtime at the rate currently paid to the Clerk

The Council and Clerk were unanimous that it was extremely important to ensure that investigations / research and preparations should be carried out in a thorough and in-depth manner

There being no further business , the Meeting was CLOSED. at. 9.40 pm