

MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 11th March 2025 at 7pm

Present; Cllrs Bailey , Caddell , Claridge , Clarke , Cooke , Cotton , Hore (Chair) ,
And Sharland County Cllr Hawkins from 8pm
Clerk - Karen Gilbert, and 2 members of the Public

25/03/01 Apologies for Absence -

Cllrs Morris-Rabbitts & Roddy (Apologies approved)
Cllr Penfold attending Littlehempston

25/03/02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Clarke - as Trustee TRAYE
Cllr Claridge - as Member of Cricket Club

25/03/03 Dispensation request - None

25/03/04 - Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Full Council meetings held on 11th February 2025 were **APPROVED** by all and signed by the Chairman as a true record

STANDING ORDERS WERE SUSPENDED

25/03/05 - Public participation - A Parishioner commented on the speed of traffic past the shops and requested that the Speedwatch team spend some time in that area

25/02/06 Councillor reports

District Cllr Penfold - Full report available from Clerk

Residents can now sign up for the Resident Discount Parking Scheme. Please help share the following information.

You can get discounted parking at all our car parks for a £5 yearly admin fee.

Please have one of the following documents at hand before you visit the website:

V5 log / Motability Agreement / Leasing Agreement

You can find further information from our FAQs and apply online at:

www.southhams.gov.uk/residents-parking-scheme

Government Financial Cuts

SHDC has a financial shortfall.

The Rural Services Delivery Grant has been withdrawn. Usually, SHDC receives over £0.5 million? in funding. 2025/26 SHDC has received the last of the New Homes Bonus. SHDC usually uses £0.7 million of it to cover its base budget.

The Government Business Baseline has been reset and reformed for 2026/27. At the moment, the indication is that the money will be relocated elsewhere.

National Insurance Contributions are predicted to cost the council an extra £410,000. The prediction is that the government is only likely to reimburse £143,000 of this, so there is expected to be a significant shortfall.

Additional financial challenges:

Increase in emergency (short term) accommodation costs (£90,000).

Pay awards (£775,000).

Drop in Treasury Management Income (£600,000).

Inflation (£450,000).

Additional wasted collection costs (£850,000).

To compensate for the above costs, the council has increased parking fees.

There will be a review in December 2025 to ascertain if the increased fees have affected the business in our towns.

County Cllr Hawkins - Given at 8pm

Cllr Hawkins apologised for his late attendance but advised he had been in Littlehempston where a flooding issue required his attention . He commented that the Devon County Budget had been set at 4.99% - noting Somerset had been set at 7.5% .

STANDING ORDERS WERE RE-INSTATED

25/03/07 - Planning

<u>0471/25/TPO</u>	6 Parkfield Close Marldon TQ3 1PF	T1: Oak - Reduce height of Oak tree by approximately 4.0 metres, leaving a final tree height of approximately 10.0 metres, the main framework & overall shape of crown will be retained, ensuring a high proportion of the foliage-bearing structure remains intact, individual pruning wounds will not exceed 60mm in diameter to minimise the impact on tree health. The proposed works will promote the tree's long-term health, reduce future maintenance requirements, improve light levels, & maintain an appropriate scale relative to its surroundings
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APPLICATION DULY NOTED

25/03/08 - Garden of Rest

a) to receive an update

Cllr Hore advised that the benches had been ordered , the gate was to be installed imminently and further planting had been carried out

The Clerk mentioned that in order for burial plots to be logged , a comprehensive survey needed to be drawn up . She had made enquiries & received an estimate of approx £450.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk ask the surveyor to proceed - All in agreement

b) to receive , consider and approve administrative documentation / suggestions

The Clerk confirmed that all Documents had been circulated in advance - the Councillors confirmed that all documents had been received and read

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council adopts all relevant documents - All in agreement

The Costs of traditional record books v online recording systems were discussed

It was also **RESOLVED** that the Clerk order traditional Burial registers

ACTION : CLERK TO ARRANGE SURVEY AND ORDER BOOKS

c) To agree to use Fundraising bank account for Garden of Rest business - AGREED

25/03/09 - Admin

To receive report on potential new website / hosting - Cllr Morris Rabbitts had ascertained that the email accounts could be migrated to a Cloud Based platform and is in the process of testing out the process

b) To confirm date / arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting - It was **AGREED** that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on **Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 7pm** .

Refreshments to be offered after the meeting - cake and coffee/tea and Wine / Nibbles

c) To confirm appointment of Internal Auditor - Carol Retallick CILCA

d) To note the period of increased sensitivity (DCC ELECTIONS) 25/3/25 - 1/5/25
DULY NOTED

25/03/10 - 106 FUNDING APPLICATIONS. It was confirmed that applications had been submitted to South Hams - from The Parish Council / Cricket Club and also the

Bowls Club . It was hoped that a decision on allocation of Funds would be made in the near future

It was **NOTED** that a Lottery grant of £12000 had been secured by the Parish Council to be applied towards the proposed MUGA project

25/03/11 - Clerk's report

The Clerk advised that she was to take a weeks holiday in March

One week of unused leave remained and it was **AGREED** that the Clerk be allowed to be compensated in pay rather than carrying it over to 25/26

25/03/12 Cheques for payment - APPROVED - ALL IN AGREEMENT

11/3/25	Devon ass local Councils	1333	30.00	6.00	36.00	Training - Claridge
11/3/25	Karen Gilbert	1334	66.74	1.55	68.29	
11/3/25	Julie Hore	1336	167.21		167.21	G of R - earmarked
11/3/25	Karen Gilbert	1337	409.17		409.17	Hol pay 15hrs / overtime (8 hrs)
11/3/25	Karen Gilbert	1338	30.31	6.06	36.37	
26/3/25	PWLB	D/D	1372.80		1372.80	Loan repayment

25/03/13 Councillor reports - Full reports available from Clerk

a) **WAM** Spring is here, and we're absolutely thrilled to see the Memorial Garden bursting to life with an abundance of bulbs! Over in Jubilee Meadow, there's a promising hint of beauty to come—the trees planted in autumn are starting to bud, and the wildflowers are beginning to flourish. Even the verge around the roundabout is joining in the seasonal joy, with bulbs beginning to emerge.

We've been delighted to have been lent a hand MEG volunteers with their wonderful planting efforts in the 'Garden of Rest'. Looking ahead, aside from regular maintenance, we're hoping to build a new Bug Hotel in Jubilee Meadow. The current one, while lovely, is tucked out of sight near the big roller and may be even more hidden if the cricket club moves forward with their new training nets—a project we wholeheartedly support. Together, we'll make sure we maximize the use of the area for everyone's benefit (bugs included!). In fact, we think the bugs might enjoy the fresh, open view from their new hotel! We look forward to continuing to work alongside other village groups to make our shared spaces thrive.

b) **MEG.** The weather took its toll on our regular MEG gatherings over the past month. However, we were able to meet and split into two groups on the first Wednesday morning of the month with one group planting some donated fruit trees in the 'Garden of Rest' whilst the other group removed some thick ivy growth around the trees in Jubilee Meadow, as recommended by our recent tree survey. Two volunteers also cleared the buddle holes along the Old Ring Road.

The following two Wednesdays were lost due to the rain but last week we met and cleared a lot of ivy growth from around the trees bordering Village Road.

c) **Compton report** As of last month, residents are still waiting to hear something from Southwest Water regarding the unacceptable delay in starting work on the sewage relief tank. Our MP Caroline Voaden has again been requested to try and get a response from them. The National Trust have still done nothing with their section of the stream which they promised to dredge.

d) **Police Advocate report** Just one other Councillor and myself attended the March Police Advocate meeting.

There was a spike in crime for Totnes as this covers our Parish. The burglaries and number plate thefts covers a much bigger area than just Marldon and it is an ongoing investigation by CID which is well on track.

With regards to the recent spate of youth activities that have been highlighted on Facebook, I requested an increase in Police patrols on Friday and Saturday evenings when the trouble seems to be occurring and this was promised by Inspector Mark Stevens. Residents must report any incidents that occur, CCTV footage is always welcome but any independent action is not acceptable.

Our regular PC Zoe Carter has been off work sick but now she is back on patrol we can expect some higher profile policing around the Parish.

e) TRAYE On 14/02/25 we had to unexpectedly cancel the session .

On 17/02/25, 7 young people from Marldon made a visit to Parkers Farm in Buckfastleigh to meet some Suffolk Punch Horses and learn about the breed and how to care for them. This was an interesting day and it was wonderful to meet such beautiful horses and see how powerful they were when they were pulling a cart around a field. After visiting the horses, youth workers took young people into Buckfastleigh for lunch.

As well as the above trip, young people from Marldon were invited to another half term trip at Adrenalin Trampoline Park. This trip took place on 18/02/25 and welcomed 35 young people from different areas across South Devon, 11 of these young people were from Marldon. Young people enjoyed having a bounce and sharing Pizza and Chips for lunch. It was a great day had by all. On this trip, there was an incident of Bullying that needed to be followed up by the Lead Worker and Manager of TRAYE. Parents were contacted on both sides and an action plan was put in place.

On 28/02/25 we had 39 young people attend Youth Club, of these young people 37 were from Marldon and 2 were from outside the village. We had 4 youth workers delivering the session and 1 volunteer helping out. This session focussed on what young people would like to see in Marldon? Some ideas were - More bins, Skateboard ramp, Trampolining and Dance classes.

Young people enjoyed a game of Tug of War and learnt about the Police Cadets. They also made Identity Plates, Sensory Calming Bottles and Key Rings and enjoyed some free refreshments

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

1. I completed inspections on our defib case and blood pack case at The Smokey and Cut of Class on the 5th of March I am pleased to report that the defibs are working and the packs are in order, I have updated the monitoring site accordingly.

2. Marldon Land Trust Charity received a request from the Marldon Village Hall Committee for funding to replace their faulty Defibrillator at the Village Hall.

The Trustees have agreed this funding {£668.00} and have ordered a replacement unit which will be installed in the new box that was provided by the charity last year.

3. Following our signing of the agreement with The National Trust I am delighted to report that the Compton site fitting is moving along at pace {well compared to its previous pace it is}. A contractor has been approved and appointed for the electrical installation, and we are in the process of agreeing a date for all parties to attend the site and carry out the work.... hopefully by the end of March or early April we will have a fully operational site in Compton and the project funded by the charity will be complete.

25/03/14- Open Spaces - All areas are looking good and well used by Parishioners. Regular inspections of the allotments had commenced and several plots had been identified as requiring improvement

b) To consider granting a lease to the Cricket Club / Jubilee meadow The Clerk advised that the Cricket Club were in the process of recruiting Trustees to enable a lease to be considered. The Council stated no objection in principle

Cllr Cotton advised that he had received a grant from Cllr Penfold to enable him to purchase a new mulching mower for the graveyard . Once this transaction had taken place , he intended to donate the mower to the Parish Council

25/03/15 Playground . Cllr Cotton reported that the equipment and general area were in good condition and well used . The recommendation from SHDC to consider steps beside the slide were rejected by the Council

25/03/16 HIGHWAYS - Cllr Cooke presented a breakdown of the cost of the VAS sign and the required metal pole / installation . The total cost was £4661.78 + VAT (recoverable) It was **NOTED** that the sum of £1000 had been kindly granted towards this by Cllr Jonathan Hawkins . A Vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that this be ordered . The Chairman thanked Cllr Cooke for his hard work bringing this to fruition

It was also **NOTED** that the 3 bus shelters had been installed and were proving very popular with Parishioners and travellers

A Caravan - parked by Cox's Garage was discussed - **REFER TO CLLR PENFOLD**

25/03/17- DATE OF NEXT MEETING. 8th April 2025 at 7pm - Marldon Village Hall

There being no further business , the Meeting was CLOSED. at. 8.05 pm