**DRAFT**

**MINUTES OF MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MONDAY 11th JANUARY 2021 @7.15pm**

**PRESENT:** Via video link: Cllr. Page, Cllr. ward, Cllr. Oliphant, Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Thorp. Cllr. Hart. Cllr. Sharland, Cllr. Pennington via Video

The Parish Clerk/RFO – Susie Watt (video link)

7 members of the public attended via video link.

There were no questions from the Public.

**1.01.21**  **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Palk.

**2.01.21** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** NONE

**3.01.21 CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS:** The Chairman, on behalf of Marldon Parish Council, extended Birthday Wishes to Cllr. Frank Palk who will be celebrating his 94th Birthday on Thursday 14th January 2021. Thanks to Cllr. Ward for the donation of £400 towards the Play Park Regeneration Fund from his employers, Western Power. The Marldon/Compton Coronavirus Care Hub was in operation and thanked everyone concerned along with some new volunteers.

**PWL REPORT**

The Chairman then referred to the Report which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. This report is the Overview and final report regarding the chronology, investigations and resolutions made by Marldon Parish Council and as a requirement of the PWL Application. The Report also contained the revised Final Quote for the Regeneration of the Play Park which is now set at £98,754.00 which has resulted in the PWL Application of just £48,000 over 25.5 years instead of the original amount of £80,000. The Clerk had spoken with the Communities Department at MHCLG who informed that as long as the Council was happy and confident that the public would support the lesser amount, there was no need to hold a further public consultation as the previous public consultation had support of over 82% of the responding public which was for the greater amount. It was stated that a lesser amount on the Precept was going to be welcomed. In total the annual repayment would be £2,637 and amounted to approximately 0.22pence per month per household. The Chairman asked for a motion to be passed to apply for a Public Works Loan of £48,000. It was proposed by Cllr. Ward, 2nd by Cllr.Thorp and unanimously RESOLVED to request approval to apply to MHCLG for £48,000.

**4.01.21** **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th December 2020 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. All agreed.

**5.01.21 TORFIELD PLAY PARK UPDATE:** The Chairman confirmed the start of Stage 1 of the regeneration schedule which had commenced on 21st December 2020 and the main levelling of the area had started today. There had been good and supportive comments received. The Clerk confirmed everything was on schedule, the letters and insurance documents received from the Contractor, the letter of support from SHDC had been received just before Christmas and was also the offer letter for the s106 funds of £45,000 towards the regeneration of the Play Park, there had been a couple of clauses which were questioned and SHDC agreed to amend to our satisfaction.

**6.01.21 PUBLIC WORKS LOAN UPDATE:**  All documentation was now in place including the Report approved in item 3.01.21 – the full application will be submitted to DALC for approval tomorrow and then submission to the PWL Board along with a copy of these minutes, the current year’s budget, next year’s budget, the quote from the Contractors, the Staged Costings and the letter of support from SHDC. There were no guarantees and therefore, fundraising efforts still needed to be put in place. There would now be approximately a 2 to 3 week wait before we hear, which is good timing as once the Groundworks are completed, there needed to be at least a month for the ground to settle before Stage 2 could start.

**7.01.21 NEWSLETTER:**  The next Newsletter is due to be published on 27th January 2021. Distribution of the Newsletter is not affected by the current Lockdown. The uptake on the electronic version of the Newsletter has been poor, we need at least a couple of hundred requests to be able to reduce the print run and the distribution costs, we will put a request in the next issue and guide people to the online application. There are several submitted articles and features including one from the new Police Sgt. for our area, Sgt. Rob Wilson. Cllr. Clarke was asked if she would try and get a response from TRAYE as a page had been allocated for them. The deadline for submissions and letters is Friday 15th January 2021 and can be sent to Newsletter@marldonparishcouncil.gov.uk

**7.01.21 S106 Funds: Cliff Face Repairs Update:** The Chairman was delighted to report that R. Hood & Associates had finally been paid the first part of their invoice after waiting almost 2 years for payment. The cheque amounted to £30,765.99. It was explained that the second invoice would be paid once the VAT return had been completed. The Clerk confirmed she was now working on the VAT Return, had spoken to Mr Hood who was very happy with his payment. The Clerk also confirmed that the payment had been made possible by the receipt of the s106 funds which had been on-going for 12 months in sum of just over £41,000 (Monthly Finance Sheet refers). It had still taken an email from our County Council Councillor Hawkins and numerous phone calls by the Clerk to the Solicitors for all parties who had confirmed that all signatures, document sealing etc had been sent back to SHDC and there was no reason for any further delay. An email was then sent to SHDC stating the urgency of the funds being released. Within 24hrs of the emails to money was paid by bank transfer into the Parish Council’s main account at the Bank of Ireland.

**8.01.21 THE BUDGET & SETTING OF THE PRECEPT:** The Chairman requested the Clerk continue. The Clerk explained there had been no further requests for additions or amendments to the Draft Budget presented to and accepted by the Parish Council at the December meeting, there being no further amendments, the Chairman called for acceptance of both the budget and the Precept in the sum of £26,154.00 which included the annual repayments for the PWL. It was therefore RESOLVED by a proposal from Cllr. Thorp, 2nd by Cllr. Sharland and a unanimous vote to confirm the budget as presented.

**9.01.21 CLERK’S REPORT:** The monthly Finance Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman called for retrospective agreement. All agreed and was duly signed by the Chairman.

**MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FROM 15/12/2020 to 11/01/2021**

Note: Clerk’s salary is paid via standing order operational from 27th April 2020 in the sum of £608.80 which includes monthly salary of £586.80 + £12.00 Office Allowance + £10 Phone Allowance. Sundries including stationery/printing etc., are paid by cheque retrospectively on the production of the relevant receipts.

**Bank Account Balances as at 11TH January 2021:**

Bank of Ireland Main Account: £55,384.10

NOTE: INCOME : s106 funds £**40,198.33 & a \*payment of £65 from Western Power reference hire of land for equipment from August 2020 to July 2021.**

Bank of Ireland P3/MEG Account: £1,136.18

Bank of Ireland Marldon Fundraising Account: £ 772.46

NS & I Reserve Account (June 2020) £12,176.52

Marldon Parish Council total balance as at 30 November 2020: **£69,469.26**

**EXPENDITURE: NOVEMBER/PART DECEMBER 2020**

**MAIN**

15/12/20 Chq No. 970 TRAYE (donation) £250.00

15/12/20 Chq No. 971 80 2nd class stamps ref: Torfield Residents £52.00

23/12/20 Chq No. 972 R HOOD ASSOCIATES £30,765.99

 27/12/20 Clerk’s Salary – SO (Standing Order) see above\* £608.80

\*The Clerk explained the cheque in the sum of £65 from Western Power had arrived in the postbox just after Christmas; the cheque had been dated 23 July 2020 and had been sent to David Eeles ( a former Clerk). The Clerk contacted Western Power to ensure the address change and to ask whether other cheques had been raised and subsequently not presented and to whom those cheques were addressed: Western Power confirmed that there would have been further cheques for at least two years prior to which the Clerk informed Western Power, Marldon Parish Council had not received and obviously not banked. The request has gone in for an investigation into whether those cheques have been presented to the bank and if not, they would be re-issued and sent to us at the correct address. The Clerk stated that it appeared strange that Mr Eeles had not responded to earlier requests for documents to be forwarded to the address and this had included the NS&I bank Statements which were only resolved last June.

The Clerk thanked Cllr. Hawkins for his help and assistance regarding the s106 funds for Torfield Play Park.

The Clerk asked for the ok to promote the position of Village Ranger ready for the role to commence at the beginning of April. This was agreed.

The Clerk stated that it was vital the Play Park was maintained and monitored on a regular basis not only by the Village Ranger but also by CCTV, this would be a direct link to the Police. The Chairman suggested this was put on the agenda for discussion at the next Parish Council Meeting. The Clerk agreed.

The Clerk informed those present that the Cemetery Public Consultation would not appear in the January issue of the Newsletter as the COVID restrictions included only going out for essential reasons, requesting people go into the shop to put their responses into the box would not be appropriate at this time. Hopefully, the Cemetery Public Consultation will appear in the March edition along with the wider Public Consultation regarding the green areas of Torfield, Broomhill Meadow and Jubilee Meadow.

The Clerk read out a letter received from a member of the public regarding a meeting back in January 2020 – the member of Public requested an apology for the way he was spoken to. Various Councillors remembered the incident, being a time when there was no Public Forum at that particular meeting as the Parish Council had Confidential Matters to discuss first and then complete the full budget and precept. Members of the public came into the meeting room and demanded that a public forum was held; some members of the public sat down and refused to move. The Chairman stated that the meeting would not go ahead at all if they did not leave. One member of the public came up to the Clerk and pointed his finger at her face, at this action, a fellow Councillor stood up and asked the member of public to leave and not to be aggressive towards the Clerk. This is the same person who is requesting an apology from the Clerk and the Councillor. The Parish Council RESOLVED that no apology would be forthcoming from the Parish Council as the meeting had not commenced and the actions were to an individual. It was also explained that the member of public had further been abusive to the Clerk in public whilst she was with a Contractor at the Play Park and another member of the public. A letter would be sent to the person in response.

The Clerk informed those present that there had been concerns regarding youngsters playing football on the cricket square, they had even erected temporary goal posts. There had been lots of for and against apparently on the Spotted Marldon Village Facebook Page, however, the Cricket Square has always been protected and there are plenty of other areas within Jubilee Meadow and Torfield where football can be played without encroaching on the Cricket Square. The Clerk informed that a sign was being produced requesting the Cricket Square is not used and also that all dog mess is picked up, there have been numerous complaints regarding the mess left behind, there is no excuse, dog poo bags are provided for free and bins are available to dispose. Dog mess is highly dangerous to children, and even Ofsted has advised the Pre-School not to use Jubilee Meadow because of this.

The Clerk informed Councillors and those present that the Lengthsman would not be working for at least a couple more weeks, as tragically they had a bereavement on Christmas Day. Needless to say this is devastating for the family.

**10.01.21 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

REF: 3441/20/HHO – Loft extension front and rear of Westerley, Five Lanes Road – APPROVED.

**11.01.21: MEG REPORT:** There was no report from MEG as due to Lockdown they were unable to work in pairs.

**12.01.21: COMPTON REPORT –** Cllr. Oliphant extended thanks to Cllr. Hawkins for his help in getting Widdicombe Lane cleared of debris.

Fencing by the Castle was dangerous; no one knew who owned it. It was suggested that the Clerk request the Lengthsman remove it all when he is back in action.

The stone over the brook still needed replacing – Cllr. Page will contact Mr Berlyn again. The Dumpy bags were still a problem, the Clerk would again request removal.

There was a continuing problem with wide vehicles damaging the hedges and requested the Clerk contact Highways. The Clerk stated that last month Highways were contacted and that the response had been that nothing further would be done by Highways, no width restrictions were going to be actioned. The Clerk had also spoken to Cllr. Hawkins who stated the same. The Clerk suggested that Compton residents write to Highways themselves, stating the Parish Council’s support.

Compton was still waiting for dog bins and had been for at least two years. The Clerk was requested to contact Dai Anthill as it needed to be supplied by SHDC so that it was on a collection round.

Standing Orders were suspended:

**13.01.21 County Report/District Report:**

County Report - Cllr. Hawkins was not present.

**Cllr. Pennington** – (District Report) Confirmed the release of the s106 funds. That District business had been incredibly quiet obviously due to the holidays and the lockdowns. Cllr. Pennington stated he would personally ensure that the dog bin situation in Compton was dealt was.

Standing Orders reinstated:

**14.01.21 Business at the Chairman’s Discretion:** NONE

It was unanimously agreed that the next meeting would be on MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2021 via VIRTUAL ACCESS with the Emergency Plan still in place.

The Meeting Closed at 20:36hrs

Signed.................................................................................Date: 08.02.2021

The Chairman, Cllr. G Page