**DRAFT**

**MINUTES OF MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MEETING HELD ON**

**Thursday 6th January 2022 @7.15pm at Marldon Village Hall, Marldon**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Ward, Cllr. Sharland, Cllr. Camden-Ward, Cllr. Hore

The Parish Clerk/RFO – Susie Watt. There were 2 members of the public present.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** There were no submitted questions from the Public

1. **1:6.1.22**  **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Page, Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Pennington, Cllr. Thorp, Cllr. Taylor

The Parish Council agreed unanimously to accept the apologies of all Cllr. unable to attend.

Cllr. Hawkins

**2. 2:6.1.22 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**3**. **3:6.1.22 : APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Parish Council Meeting held on 5.10.21

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

**4**. **4:6.1.22: CLERK’S REPORT/FINANCE UPDATE:** The Monthly Finance sheet had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and were duly signed off. The Clerk reported the following:

The Clerk reported that the Chairman had received the resignation of Jon Waring. The following statement was read and will be placed on our Website and Facebook page. The Statutory Notice of a vacancy will be published by the Clerk in due course. It was highlighted that the last vacancies have cost the Council and the Parishioners £3,079.00 and was paid to SHDC at the beginning of December.

Resignation statement: 'It is with regret that Marldon Parish Council announces the resignation of Jonathan Waring. Mr Waring has stated that he feels unable to carry out his Office under the restrictions which are placed on Parish Councillors.  The Statutory Notice will be published in due course.  We wish Mr Waring all the very best for the future.'

There has been a further complaint from the Parishioner who is suing the Council, this time a further complaint has been made to the ICO and also SHDC. Our Solicitors are dealing with all areas of this litigation. It was explained that the Insurers were now assessing the claim and will hopefully backdate our legal costs to August 2021 when they (the Insurers) failed to act on our behalf. We have received an apology and the Solicitors are dealing with them direct.

The Marquee has been provisionally reserved for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022 to be held on the aptly named Jubilee Meadow. Details to follow.

The Police, Highways and Cllr. Hawkins have all been active regarding the problems outside the school. Interactive 20 MPH signage is being investigated, however, we need the support of the School to assist with our and Cllr. Hawkins request to Highways. Cllr. Camden-Ward will liaise with the Headmaster on the Parish Council’s behalf and inform the Clerk accordingly.

Highways have again been contacted to urgently assist with the request for a temporary road closure in Farthing Lane to enable the 20 Is Plenty poles and signage to be erected safely.

A local business had been approached regarding the possibility of use of their car park to assist with drop off and collection of school children. Unfortunately, this option was not possible. The Clerk to continue investigating options.

A new bin has been sited to replace the broken dog bin in Compton Road. There is another bin on order for Compton itself, along with new signage on the bin in Peters Field.

Our Lengthsman has been busy and has started the Landscaping of the front bank in the Play Park. He has also started to clear the dense foliage behind the Village Hall.

The Allotment Holders have all been invoiced. The Three new Allotment holders have been provided with their lease document.....two are outstanding. There is confusion over one old plot having been paid twice by two different persons. The Parish Council requested the Clerk sorts this out urgently along with the Allotments Officer.

**MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FROM 05/10/2021 to 16/11/2021**

Note:\* Clerk’s salary ‘s Standing Order from December has been cancelled and will be paid by Cheque until further notice. The amounts remain the same. Total £619.67

**Bank Account Balances as at 30th November 2021**

Bank of Ireland Main Account: £17,454.89

Bank of Ireland P3/MEG Account: £1,186.22

Bank of Ireland Marldon Fundraising Account: £5,128.17

NS & I Reserve Account (June 2021) £12,176.52

Marldon Parish Council total balance as at 30th November 2021: **£35,945.80**

**EXPENDITURE: Oct/Nov 2021**

**MAIN ACCOUNT**

Chq.No: 1028 CANCELLED

15.10.21 Chq No. 1029 MCready Landscaping – Church Hill Steps £1500.00

28.10.21 Chq No. 1030 Locomotion Marketing – Distribution Public Consulation £160.00

28.10.21 Chq No. 1031 Halloween Hoot Fireworks/Misc £300.00

28.10.21 Chq. No. 1032 Source for Business. S W Water – Allotments £196.54

16.11.21 Chq No. 1033 RoSPA Inspection – Torfield Play Park (November) £100.00

16.11.21 Chq. No. 1034 Solicitors (Samuels) £2,400.00

16.11.21 Chq .No. 1035 Clearance old sheds shared 3 way payment( Jubilee Meadow) £500.00

16.11.21 Chq.No. 1036 Wotton’s Printers – Halloween Hoot £132.00

16.11.21 Chq.No. 1037 First Choice Locksmiths. Jammed Padlock Jubilee. £50.00

16.11. 21 Chq.No. 1038 Plandscape /verge/grass Peters/Torfield July/Aug £251. 38

16.11.21 Chq. No. 1039 Opus Energy Electric (Jubilee) £ 19.28

16.11.21 Chq. No. 1040 Source for Business. S W Water – Jubilee £12.96

25.11.21 Clerk’s Salary – SO (Standing Order) see above\*(last S/O) £619.67

**EXPENDITURE : Oct/Nov 2021**

**FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT**

12.10.21 Chq.No. 000106 HALLOWEEN HOOT float/sundries £500

13.10.21 Chq. No. 000107 HALLOWEEN HOOT – Amazon (Marquees purchase) £1,079.96

**EXPENDITURE : Oct/Nov 2021**

**P3/MEG ACCOUNT**

04.10.21 Chq.No. 000103 CHEQUE CANCELLED AS DRAWN FROM WRONG ACCOUNT.

16.11.21 Chq. No. 000105 Cemetery Volunteer expenses. £43.94

16.11. 21 Chq. No.000106 MEG Volunteer expenses – Strimmer Course £20.05

**5**. **5:6.1.22 : TRAYE –** there has been a request from TRAYE to increase our financial commitment from £1000 to £2500 per annum on an ongoing basis. All Cllrs. had been provided with documentation sent by TRAYE to assist with their decision.

After a very long discussion and input from members of the public (Standing Orders were suspended/reinstated) it was agreed, that Marldon Parish Council would continue to pay £1000 as per the SLA plus pay for the room hire, therefore, its total commitment is now set at £1,440.00 per annum.

However, as the RFO found some more funding from the current draft budget, a further £1000 by way of a ‘donation’ would be given in the coming financial year, making MPCs total commitment to TRAYE for 2022/2023 - £2,440.00. It was felt by Cllrs. that we could not commit to £2500 year on year.

However, the agreed sums are conditional that our monies are used purely for the Youth of Marldon, MPC will pay the Village Hall direct for the room hire, a monthly report is provided by TRAYE on activities but mostly on exact numbers attending Marldon YC each session.

MPC also look forward to working closely with the Youth Club during our events and hopefully, a Youth Council could also be created with a representative coming along to our Meetings to talk about things the Parish Council could assist them with now and in the future. The Youth Club were thanked for the help they gave us at the Halloween Hoot. A vote was then taken to confirm firstly the £1440 – Proposed by: Cllr. Camden-Ward, Seconded by: Cllr. Sharland. Unanimous Vote. Further vote for a donation of £1000 in the year 2022/23 Proposed by: Cllr.Hore, Seconded by Cllr. Sharland. Unanimous Vote.

**6**. **6:6.22**  **: THE BUDGET/PRECEPT:** Confirmation of the draft Budget and setting of the Precept: Agreement and vote to be taken.

The draft budget had been circulated to all Councillors at the beginning of December with a request that any amendments, additions etc., be submitted prior to any confirmation. The RFO had received comments from just one Cllr. These comments were discussed and explained and the Cllr. was satisfied with the results.

Each element of the Budget was discussed and agreed and a couple of movements of funds made.

It was RESOLVED by a unanimous vote that the Draft Budget be confirmed as the budget for the year 2022/2023 and the Precept agreed and set at £45,650.00 This represented an increase on a Band D property of £21.90 per annum which amounted to a 72.46% increase on the current 2021/22 year. (as per SHDC Parish Precept Calculator)

Proposer was: Cllr. Sharland. Seconder was: Cllr. Hore

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**  **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Tuesday 18th January 2022 at **7.45pm** in the Main Hall of the Village Hall. This is because a Zoom class does not finish until 7pm, the Clerk and all Cllrs. and those members of the public present, were extremely worried about the ventilation of the room after such a class leaving anyone using the room after at risk of contracting COVID. It was therefore, agreed unanimously to start the meeting later so the room could be ventilated prior to us attending. The Clerk will go in early and open all the outside doors. Emergency Plan to remain in place whilst the threat of COVID is so high.

Meeting Closed at 21.20hrs

Signed.................................................................................Date: 18.1.2022

The Chair: Cllr. Andrew Ward