

MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 8th September 2026 at 7.00pm
In Marldon Village Hall

Present; Cllrs , Caddell , Clarke , Cotton , Hellier , Hore (Chair) and Roddy
District Cllr Penfold & County Councillor Rake (left 7.15pm)
Clerk - Karen Gilbert, and 5 members of the Public

The Chairman welcomed those present

26/09/01 Apologies for Absence - Cllr Cooke - approved .

The Chairman advised with regret , that Cllr Bailey had resigned from the Council and both he and the Councillors thanked her for the service she had given to the Parish

26/09/02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Clarke - as Trustee TRAYE

26/09/03 Dispensation request - None

26/09/04 - Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Full Council meetings held on 14th July 2026 and 5th August 2026 were **APPROVED** by all and signed by the Chairman as a true record

STANDING ORDERS WERE SUSPENDED

26/09/05 - Public participation - NONE

26/09/06 Councillor reports

County Cllr Rake

The Minister of State for Communities, Housing and Local Government today announced the reversal of four Local Government Reorganisation decisions and the placing under review of fourteen further decisions (the four were further along the process than the fourteen, hence the slight difference in approach).

You will also have noted that the Minister confirmed that the elections to be held in May 2027 will be for Councils in their current form. In LGR terms this means that next year's elections will be for Parish and District Councils as they would have been before the whole LGR process commenced

Devon County had already lodged a pre-action protocol prior to the request for a Judicial review. It should be noted that the process had cost both County and District over £1 million - in addition it had taken up a considerable amount of Staff time

It was reported that both Child Services and the condition of the Highways had seen considerable improvement in recent months

District Cllr Penfold - REPORT CIRCULATED / NOTED - Full copy available from clerk

Poo Bin Footpath Number 18 - I have requested an update on the request for a replacement poo bin at the end of footpath 18, and I am awaiting a response.

Cllr Penfold encouraged the Parishioners to ensure that they are on the Electoral Register at South Hams to ensure that they will be able to Vote when required

As part of the new Joint Local Plan, SHDC is running a Call for Sites and inviting landowners, developers, agents and others to submit land for consideration.

- Sites could be for housing, jobs, gypsy and traveller provision, or larger opportunities such as new settlements or communities.
- The Call for Sites is open until 24 September 2026,
- Sites already provided do not need to be resubmitted.
- Submit a site via the link [here](https://cfs.plymouth-swdevon.urbanintelligence.co.uk/events). <https://cfs.plymouth-swdevon.urbanintelligence.co.uk/events>

CLLR RAKE LEFT THE MEETING

To receive any presentations regarding the Co-option to fill 3 vacant seats

It was **NOTED** that there were three seats available for co-option

There had been 5 applicants - one had decided to withdraw that day

The three applicants attending introduced themselves and gave a brief summary

The resume of the fourth applicant was read out

The Chairman thanked them for their interest in becoming a Councillor

STANDING ORDERS WERE RE-INSTATED

26/09/07 - To consider applications for co-option to fill 3 vacant seats

SEAT ONE - the Clerk passed round voting slips for the first vacancy

The seat was offered to Steve Veasey

SEAT TWO - the voting slips for the remaining 3 candidates were passed round

The seat was offered to Elena Litster

SEAT THREE -the slips were circulated for a vote of the remaining seat

The seat was offered to Pippa Laas-Richards

All three signed their Acceptance of Office and received the Code of conduct and

Register of Interest to complete and send to SHDC within 28 days

The Chairman thanked all candidates and was pleased that Marldon attracted interest in filling vacant seats where other Parishes struggle

Cllrs Veasey . Litster and Laas-Richards took their places with the Council

26/09/08 Village car park

The Clerk confirmed that the Council had received the draft lease for the Village Car park - and a summary of the main points from the Council's solicitor . Several points had been queried - one of which was still awaiting clarification

All documents had been circulated in advance and the Clerk reminded the Council that the situation and potential cost of Business Rates remained unclear at this time

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the lease be accepted and that Cllrs Hore and Caddell (with Clerk as witness) sign the lease when required

26/09/09 - Planning

To consider the following - and any appearing online after production of this agenda

a) 2373/26/TPO - 30 Moorview Crescent Marldon TQ3 1BR

G1: Field Maple - Prune southeastern canopy back by 1.5-2 metres, including higher growth. Maximum Diameter of Cuts 50mm. Rationale: These works are proposed as part of the reasonable maintenance of this vigorous tree and reduce dominance over the residential garden. **NOTED**

b) To receive an update regarding the Empty properties in the Parish
It was **NOTED** that investigations were ongoing

The Chairman asked Cllr Veasey if he would agree to act as Planning Councillor to present a brief resume of each application at each meeting - **AGREED**

26/09/10 - Admin

a) To consider the Membership of the Personnel committee and to set a date for the Clerk's annual appraisal

It was **AGREED** that Cllrs Clarke , Cooke ,Caddell and Litster would form a Personnel Committee with the first meeting to take place at 6.15 on 13th October 2026 for Clerk's appraisal and Council review

b) **REMINDER** - applications to the PC Small grants fund - closing date 30/9/26
Details/forms available from Clerk **NOTED**

c) To note and agree cost of living increase awarded to Staff - at the rate of 3.3% backdated to April 2026 **NOTED AND APPROVED**

26/09/11 -Village projects -

a) **MUGA** - It was **AGREED** that the weekly checks would be carried out by Cllr Cotton - with a gentle sweeping on a monthly basis

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk instruct a specialist contractor to carry out Annual checks and routine works as required

b) Benches - To decide on style , position and numbers for replacement (inc donated bench in Cricket Field)

The Clerk had circulated quotes for 5 x resin 3 seater traditional benches in either green and brown to be placed in Jubilee Meadow

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Marmax at £2126.50 + Vat for 5 x Green benches

The Clerk had tried to obtain 3 quotes for the supply of 5 x plinths plus the handling and fitting of the all benches - but had only been able to obtain one - which was in accordance with Financial regulations

It was **RESOLVED** that the quote for £2998 + VAT from Hero excavators be accepted
ACTION ; CLERK TO ORDER BENCHES / LIAISE WITH CONTRACTOR

c) To authorise purchase of 4 new Silver Birch trees for Garden of rest - **APPROVED**

26/09/12 - Clerk's report

The Clerk advised that a further communication from a Parishioner had been received re the Milestone on Totnes Road . In view of the LGR being paused , the Clerk agreed to contact Highways to ascertain whether it would remain in their ownership for the time being

The Clerk advised the Council that the budget setting process would commence in October 2026 - although the precept request was to be submitted at the end of January

26/09/13- Finance

a) Cheques for payment - **APPROVED - ALL IN AGREEMENT**

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Hore could sign his own cheques along with the second signatory

KAREN GILBERT	63.00		63.00	EXPENSES 09/26
KAREN GILBERT - REIMBURSE	73.56	14.72	88.28	2 X INK + ENVELOPES
DEREK HORE - REIMBURSE	23.19		23.19	TAP/CONCRETE
DEREK HORE - REIMBURSE	15.00		15.00	FLOWERS - CHAIRS ALLOWANCE
CUMBRIA CLOCK CO	235.00	47.00	282.00	PARISH CLOCK SERVICE
ROBIN COX	193.94		193.94	MEG COSTS 25/26
SOURCE FOR BUSINESS	30.71		30.71	WATER STANDING CHARGE JUB
KAREN GILBERT	436.68		436.68	3.3% INC BACK TO 1/4/26
DEREK HORE - REIMBURSE	12.99		12.99	PADLOCKS
CHRIS JEBB	78.00		78.00	PAYROLL SERVS 04/26 - 09/26
PKF LITTLEJOHN	420.00	84.00	504.00	2026 AUDIT FEE
DAVE RODDY - REIMBURSE	17.00		17.00	DEFIB LIGHT UNIT
HMRC	333.77		333.77	EMPLOYERS NI 09/26 (INC BACKPAY)

b) To note second half claim of 106 monies re MUGA £32442.00. **NOTED**

To **NOTE** the conclusion of Audit 2025/6 and confirm publication of Notice

There were no comments made by the External Auditor

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her accurate work in the Audit

NOTICE POSTED ON WEBSITE AND MAIN NOTICEBOARD

26/09/14 - Councillor reports

a) **MEG REPORT – September 2026**

Our band of Volunteers worked on through the hot summer Wednesdays and were able to keep well on top of things. A lot of time was put into tidying up all around Love Lane, cutting back overhanging growth and clearing the drains.

Jubilee Meadow was strimmed, tidied and cut back ready for the Apple Pie Fair.

The outside area of the Village car-park was de-weeded and swept ready for the Parish Council takeover and the Apple Pie Fair.

A new tap was fitted to the fence in Jubilee Meadow with the connecting flexi-pipe shortened and buried for tidiness. The dreaded FP1 was tackled for the one and only time this year, not being our favourite job so. always left as long as possible.

MEG would like to ask if the Parish Council would fund two replacement half barrels situated on either side of West View Road beside the benches. They are there in memory of joint MEG founder Angela Cox and we have sourced new ones at £25 each with free delivery and also a discount on bulk buying.

It was **RESOLVED** that **SIX** barrels be purchased for use around the Parish

b) **COMPTON REPORT – September 2026**

Once again there is nothing to report from Compton, all is quiet!

Concern still remains about the increase in large lorries using the road through the Village and Residents have once again asked if the weight restriction signs could be removed and replaced with width restriction ones.

ACTION ; CLERK TO ASK CLLR RAKE TO CONSULT HIGHWAYS

c) Police advocate report

I attended this on-line meeting this morning organised by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide an Introduction to Policing Reform. There were approximately 52 Councillors in attendance. Devon and Cornwall and Isles of Scilly is the largest policing area in England.

What is planned in a White Paper dated 26 January 2026 is an extensive programme of reform of policing in England and Wales. This includes the abolition of the role of Police and Crime Commissioner in May 2028 and the reduction of the number of police forces from the current number of 43.

The 3 key areas of change that were discussed are:-

- An independent review of police force boundaries (the concern being that our own is large enough already).

- The abolition of the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner with the introduction of Police and Crime Boards instead.

- The introduction of a National Police Service - this would lead on serious and organised crime, counter-terrorism and be the host of other national functions over time.

There is also a plan to review the police funding formula. Here 43% of funding is from Council Tax. A survey conducted by our Force found that the majority of all age groups did not support a merger with another force and this is mirrored by responses across all forces. Significant change appears to be coming but the detail and timing of the next steps is unclear.

d) TRAYE - Marldon Youth Club

We made the most of the sunshine with an outdoor session at the park, including bubbles, glider planes, badminton, ball games and a picnic. We also spoke with the young people about staying safe in the sun. The session was attended by 48 young people, 45 from Marldon and three from outside the village and was delivered by five youth workers.

Summer programme. With funding from DYS Space, we delivered a vibrant programme of trips and activities throughout the summer: Altogether, young people from Marldon filled **46 activity places** across the summer programme.

Marldon Apple Pie Fair – 5 September 2026 Ten year old Teddy from Marldon Youth Club ran two activities at the fair, axe throwing and "guess how many sweets are in the jar" to raise money for Marldon Youth Club. I visited him during the day and was incredibly impressed by the confidence and enthusiasm he showed when speaking with members of the public, encouraging participation and handling the money. He did a brilliant job, supported throughout by his parents, Candice and Thomas. We are enormously grateful for their contribution to the club and village community.

The Parish Council congratulated Teddy on this excellent initiative

e) Defibs/ bleed kits - Cllr Roddy - I completed the inspections at all three sites on Tuesday 1st September 2026. I am pleased to report that all equipment was working and in order, I have updated the online portal accordingly. I refixed the blood box at Compton with two new screws at the top of the case and it is now solidly attached to the wooden display. The LED strip light inside the defib case at The Old Smokey was faulty so I have contacted Denmans for a quote to order a replacement. The defib and case is still operational but currently hasn't got an internal light.

I will arrange the replacement and fit it as soon as possible.

f) - VAS signs. - verbal report given by Chairman

g) Library Box - Cllr Caddell reported that the Library in the phone box was attracting far fewer unwanted items and that she continued to monitor on a regular basis

26/09/15- Open Spaces

a) To receive a report on the condition of the allotments and consider any actions required - Cllr Hellier Plot inspections - During August and September, I inspected all allotment plots. I am pleased to report that every plot is now being maintained to the expected standard and no further action is required at this time.

New tenant – Plot 8 We have welcomed a new tenant, to Plot 8. The previous tenant left the plot in very good condition, providing Linda with a well-maintained plot to take over.

End-of-season meeting. I am looking to organise an end-of-season meet-and-greet. This will provide tenants with an opportunity to meet one another, share feedback and discuss any suggestions for the allotments ahead of the next growing season.

b) to consider an increase to the annual allotment rental

The Clerk explained the financial position - including the fact that over £275 worth of water was used in 54 days in July/August .

It was **RESOLVED** that the Annual rental be increased from £50 to £60 from 1st January 2027

26/09/16 Playground and Fitness equipment Cllr Cotton gave a brief report highlighting the various issues which were currently under repair . The Annual inspection had been made by Zurich - no major issues/faults highlighted

26/09/17 HIGHWAYS - To consider possibility of purchasing an additional VAS sign.

It was **AGREED** that quotes be obtained for an additional VAS sign - once Highways had approved a new position . It was **AGREED** that grant funding be sought

ACTION ; CLERK TO SEEK QUOTES / GRANTS AND CONTACT HIGHWAYS

Cllr Litster mentioned that the Road narrows sign on Village Road may not be correctly positioned - in that if it were higher up the Hill , wide vehicles would not have to back up negotiating parked cars and stone walls

ACTION ; CLERK TO CONSULT HIGHWAYS

26/09/18- DATE OF NEXT MEETING. 13th October 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall

26/08/19 - It was **RESOLVED** that the press and Public be excluded from the Meeting to allow discussion of sensitive matters .

There being no further business , part 1 of the Meeting was CLOSED. at. 8.35pm

PART TWO

Various staffing and training matters were discussed - **NO DECISIONS WERE MADE**

Part two of the meeting was CLOSED at 8.55 pm