

MARLDON PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Wednesday 28th April 2026 at the Village Hall , Marldon. Meeting Commenced a 7.00pm

Present – Cllr Hore chaired the meeting and Karen Gilbert , Clerk took the minutes
In attendance - Cllrs Bailey Caddell , Clarke , Cotton , Hellier , Hore and Roddy
Dist Councillor Penfold
21 members of the Public

The Chairman welcomed all present and thanked everyone for attending

1 Apologies for absence

Cllrs Cooke and Morris-Rabbitts
Grant Thompson - Cricket Club
Nick Glanfield - Marldon Village Hall
Police

2. Report from the Chairman of Marldon Parish Council

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Good evening and welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting.

As I am sure you are all aware by now this is a separate meeting from the Parish Council Annual Meeting which takes place on May 12th. This meeting is a relatively informal event for the whole community, giving the opportunity for a representative from each Parish group to give a brief explanation of what they do; along with giving Parishioners the chance to say what they like and dislike about the Parish!

Invites were sent out to all our regular Parish groups and some of them will be briefly speaking later.

But as is the norm, to start things off, I will give just a brief summary of some of the many events and achievements of the parish council over the past 12 months.

The much-needed Vehicle Activation Sign (VAS) was purchased and installed on Marldon Cross Hill, with the speed detector being activated at anything over 20mph due to the close proximity of the school. The data collected monthly has shown a vast decrease of speed by the 25,000 plus vehicles that travel down the road monthly.

The Parish owned 'Garden of Rest' was officially opened at the end of May, with our bell ringers starting the event off. Our local choir gave a rendering along with a blessing of the area from Reverend Jane and the unveiling of the first plaque by outgoing Church Warden Fred Webb. I am pleased to say that advance bookings are now coming in regularly to Karen.

The sink hole in Meadow Park was finally infilled and appears to be sorted now, we never did find out if it was Highways or South West Water who infilled it!

All the fencing in the Village carpark has been replaced by South Hams prior to them handing the lease back to the National Trust, hopefully we, as a Parish, will then be taking it over.

Local Government Reorganisation meetings went on and on, both face-to-face and online. The outcome of our fate should be known in July.

Marldon Environment Group (MEG) were able to purchase a new and larger storage container for Broomhill Meadow, funded with S106 money, along with some new electric power tools funded by grants from our County and District Councillors.

The Council funded a new aluminium ladder for access to allow the winding of our Parish clock in the church tower; the old original wooden one being condemned during a Health & Safety review. Two poppy wreaths were laid on Remembrance Day in the Memorial Garden on behalf of the Parish and Devon County.

A caravan which appeared at the end of Furzegood was finally removed by Devon County, only for it now to have reappeared on Vicarage Hill, so it's back to Devon County again.

And lastly onto our Multi Use Games Area, or MUGA, in Tor Field. Work was scheduled to start last June but the contractors deferred starting until September due to Health and Safety reasons during the school holidays. Once they had started it became obvious that there was a discrepancy between what we had asked for as a Council and what they were delivering, so work

was halted. The worst winter rain wise then kicked in and delayed the ongoing remedial work BUT I am pleased to be able to report that the contractors are hoping to conclude construction at the end of this week. This will then be followed by a final survey and any snags fixed before it can be opened for public use. What I will say is that this has turned out to be a huge project for the Parish Council to have taken on, resulting in many hoops being placed in front of us throughout the process. However, we have jumped through all of them one by one and the result will soon be enjoyed by young and old. I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their support over what has been a very stressful period for both the Clerk and me, but as the late great Spike Milligan once said .. "We did it all on our own!"

One member of the Parish Council stood down as he had moved away from the area, we thank John Sharland for his time and dedication given to the Parish, and welcome Paul Hellier who has recently been co-opted to fill the vacancy.

Also, we sadly lost more of our regular Parish locals over the year and one I must mention is Bob Thorpe who was a long serving and respected member of our Parish Council.

Finally, I would like to thank a few people for their help and support over the past year: our County Councillor Simon Rake and our District Councillor Sam Penfold, our local PC Zoe Carter and her team of PCSOs, our fine body of Councillors who are so supportive of all that goes on within the Parish, our Lengthsman Simon who is not here but deserves a mention for the sympathetic way he cuts our verges and Tor Field, Farmer Dave for the free time he gives us cutting hedges and Broomhill Meadow and of course my right hand 'person', our Parish Clerk Karen, for all her hard work, so very often above and beyond the call of normal duty.

Last but not least, a massive thank-you to all the volunteers who do so much to keep the community spirit going in the Parish. Some are members of groups like the Community Composters and the Environment Group .. others just turn out at will to help keep our Parish clean and tidy.

So now you will hopefully hear more positive news on many different topics from the various Parish groups who have opted to say a few words.

That will do for me. ...

Thank you.

Derek Hore

3 Report from County Cllr Simon Rake

No apology or report sent

4. Report from District Councillors Penfold

For those who don't know me, I am Sam Penfold, I'm your district councillor and I am very pleased to be here at another Marldon Parish AGM organised by the parish council.

I know there are very many volunteers and your parish councillors who work hard for the village, and that is reflected in how much the village is flourishing.

Neither the parish council, the district council or county council is responsible for or answers directly to one another. We work alongside one another and that helps to keep each body accountable and democracy functioning. I am pleased to work with the parish council and support it where asked and needed, and I am happy to be contacted directly by any residents.

You might not have heard the buzz but Devon is moving into a new phase of local government with the local government reorganisation bill. The results of how Devon is going to be divided up into unitarities will be announced by the government around June this year.

No one knows how it is going to end up. All we have is educated guesses but in the end it comes down to Westminster politics and we know logic up there doesn't always come into it.

I want to share that I am sad that SHDCs is being abolished. The move to a unitary council isn't a bad thing in itself. In one way it will make it easier for you, the residents, to go to one council representative for all things council related rather than not knowing if it's Simon as county councillor, or me as district councillor who is responsible for whatever service you are enquiring about.

The current system can mean things get a bit confused and lost between the two councils even when the two levels of council work well together as Simon and I do.

South Hams has been a functioning successful council and have moved with the times. Some election cycles ago the powers at SHs and WD recognised that they needed to make efficiencies and amalgamated many of the services and staff. Each council retained the same number of councillors but behind the scenes procedures and staff numbers tightened up.

I can also say as a first term councillor unused to party politics most of the councillors at SHDC regularly put aside politics and work as a team to best support all residents, and I do think this is something to do with the small local nature of our council which may be lost by expanding.

We can see many unitary councils close to us that don't do that. But we are where we are.

It seems obvious that with the local government reorganisation that parish councils are likely to pick up more slack locally. Also having fewer councillors at a combined unitary level will create a more distant authority for residents to connect with and create more distance between councillors and local issues.

I was pleased that the county elections went ahead last year. I supported them being held. Regardless of cost and outcome, keeping democracy going is most important. We all need to be able to vote people in, and when necessary, out! When elections are thwarted or diverted even at the local smallest level such as parish councils, unfairness and nepotism happens.

Barring a by-election our next local elections will be for our unitary councillor and the parish council in May 2027. I will continue in place as your DC and Simon as your CC until April 2028 but we will be working alongside whoever is elected as your new unitary councillor. The new unitary will then run alongside the DC and CC and will take over more of the services until finally all services are amalgamated and responsible to the unitary. Hopefully it will be nice and smooth so you, the residents won't even notice.

In the meantime, I will do all I can to continue to champion Marldon.

One of the gifts of being a district councillor is locality funds where I can decide where to use them. In this parish this year I've contributed to TRAYE who just celebrated its 10th anniversary with two brilliant celebrations, the red telephone box library, a great project which I've just committed a bit more money to, (and I saw some people visiting it as I came here) and Apple Pie Faire bollards.

I'm in discussion with Makuna Matarta about a composting toilet which will greatly help their volunteer situation. Also there is a new charity being started up that will support Mothers of adult children with Trauma. And I am to give funds to support a project involving the war graves in the churchyard. I still have funds so if you have an environmental project you think might be useful or a local group that needs support for, please do ask me.

The SHDC S106 funds raised from local house development enabled Marldon's Environmental Group to have a home on Broomhill Meadow for their expanding tools. I know they do a great job at keeping the village nice and tidy and looking beautiful. S106 also supported projects with cricket and bowling club, and Marldon Parish Council with their project for a Multi Use Games Area which will be exciting when finished.

South Hams deals with enforcements with regards to Caravans left around not ideal places, trailers, and abandoned cars. So, I have received and dealt with lots of enquiries concerning these. Due to sensitivities they aren't always easy or quick to deal with but we have successful results. It often needs to be coordinated in conjunction with the county council.

Planning is South Ham's responsibility. There is no doubt in my mind that whomever you pick for the next councillor, planning is going to be something they need to keep an eagle eye on. Regardless of the new unitary division, the village will be seen as having potential to expand, and we only have to think of Compton to know building is not straight forward.

SHDC is working on a building development plan to give to the next council. This will identify areas in SHs that might be better for chunks of new builds to be built on such as happened with the new Sherford town development. Hopefully this may prevent the dreaded house creep and allow the necessary services for the new communities. As well as the usual committees all district councillors attend at SHs, I also sit on the Overview and Scrutiny committee where as the name suggests along with other things we scrutinise the services of SHDC and how your money is being allocated. On that committee I've also been able to raise with South West Water the issues with the Compton area. I will continue to do so as long as I am councillor.

I have also been deputy chair for licensing for a couple of years which regulates the taxis, selling of alcohol, gambling and any sex shops none of which seem to affect Marldon too much.

Recently I was asked to be Trustee of TRAYE which I am delighted about. Young people and education are close to my heart. And I love going to read to the Marldon Preschoolers. It is such a delight, and we are so lucky to have a preschool where along with TRAYE the children have the potential to make lifelong friends with their neighbours.

This year I also attended the local Speed Watch group when they were out in action. I know monitoring speeding isn't always looked on kindly but as I know when I returned back from somewhere and almost ended up with one of the "watch your speed" letters, it can be a useful way of calming traffic and reminding people to slow down.

Marldon is a wonderful village, and it is only that way because there are local residents like you who want to make their community as liveable and wonderful as possible so they put in time and energy freely. I also want to thank all those who have supported me and helped me do my job as best I can.

Please do contact me if you have any questions or thoughts or want me to do anything or I've forgotten to do something. I am always happy to hear from you.

5 . Speakers / reports from Parish organisations

POLICE - No report sent

MARLDON COMMUNITY COMPOSTING scheme

David Bradbury gave an animated talk on the works of the Composting Group , its current projects and the amount of help and assistance provided by a wonderful group of Volunteers Not only does the Group produce a first class grade of Compost , but it provides a valuable Community asset - in that it helps to reduce stresss , improves Mental Health and reduces loneliness . It has helped to create new friendships and shown the tor value of Community

MEG

Another year has rushed by but there have been many positives for the group along the way. Currently our representative Robin Cox has had some health problems so I have prepared this in his absence.

For many years we have relied on Rob's outstanding mechanical skills to keep our machinery (almost all second hand and at the end of their useful working life) maintained and working - no mean feat with 26y old strimmers! As a result we have many tools to store and have jammed them in to Rob's garage and our small container at Broomhill. This year thanks to parish funding things have changed with a new shipping container, new leaf blower, three new hedge trimmers and new strimmers making the work much more efficient. All are battery based so quieter and more environmentally friendly.

We have conducted the annual survey of paths and signage and I believe this has been submitted.

Works through the year include:

Mowing and strimming parish paths and trimming hedges to maintain access. Repairing/ replacing steps on footpath 5 in Strainy Tor woods, on footpath 6 at Smallwell Lane, and on footpath 13 off Vicarage Hill.

Replacing signpost on FP15 at Ocombe Woods.

Maintenance work around the new tree plantings in the Remembrance Garden. Clearance of the buddle drain on Vicarage Rd

Re attachment of plaque at east parish boundary marker stone.

Litter picking

Ivy management

Underpass leaf clearance.

Clearance of overgrown shrubbery prior to new bus stop on Vicarage Rd.

Maintenance around Five Lanes roundabout to keep the approach to the village looking smart.

Two members attended a course on strimming this year.

There are now around ten volunteers enabling a turnout of between three and eight most Wednesday mornings weather permitting.

We enjoyed our usual Christmas get together for a beer and sandwiches and we're delighted to be given another slap-up meal due to the kindness of Jon and Lucy Wearing.

Some members may be retiring this next year and new volunteers are always welcome.

Cricket Club

The past year has been a significant one for Marlton Cricket Club, marked by the successful delivery of major projects funded through Section 106 (S106) contributions. These projects have enabled the expansion and development of club facilities and activities.

The S106 projects were delivered successfully and included the installation of new net facilities at the bottom of the ground, which have been put in the same location as the old nets that were taken down a number of years ago. We were also able to purchase a new electronic scoreboard. The scoreboard is mounted on the side of the shed on matchdays and is powered by a small solar panel. The new net is portable, allowing it to be rolled out during the week so teams can practise batting on the square and prepare effectively for matches.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who supported the delivery of these projects, including the Parish Council, Councillor Penfold, and the many local organisations who provided supporting letters. We would also like to thank everyone at the cricket club who contributed their time and effort, whether helping with project preparation or repairing other equipment at the ground. These efforts helped reduce costs and ensured we could meet the required budget for the club's contribution to the projects.

These improved facilities have allowed us to begin running structured training sessions for teams and have helped attract new players from the local area. We were also able to run cricket outreach sessions with the local Scouts group and youth club, and we plan to organise these sessions again this year.

Building on the success of these projects, and with the support of Councillor Rake towards the purchase of softball equipment, we were delighted to successfully launch our women's team. A total of 24 participants attended the first session, with the majority signing up for future sessions. We warmly welcome anyone interested in joining to get in touch.

Training sessions for the women's team will run every Wednesday from 6:30–7:30 pm throughout the year. We are also planning a programme of friendly matches against local teams, attendance at softball festivals, and the organisation of a softball festival on the meadow.

We continue to enjoy a close and valued relationship with The Church House Inn, who kindly allow the use of their car park, host us after matches, and provide snacks for both our teams and visiting opposition. They have also confirmed their support for the women's team going forward.

Finally, for the first time, the club was able to host a stall at the village Apple Pie Fair. We ran a small throwing competition, which helped raise funds for the club and increase awareness ahead of the new season. We are looking forward to taking part again this year.

As always new players are always welcome for women's softball, mixed hardball and general volunteers for scoring, umpiring and looking after the ground.

Revd Jane Frost - Associate Priest

Thank you for the opportunity as the part time resident priest in the village to open the door on something of church life in last 12 months, once again.

Please remember church is open every day. Prayer tree; tealights. I can be found in the Vicarage in 1 Love Lane Close; have a chat if you see me dog walking cocker spaniel Daisy!

Some snapshots from the last 12 months here, from a church perspective:

Good to continue to liaise with Village Groups when invited. Pre School are very good at doing this as are Scouts.

Connections with the Primary School strengthen: recent end of term Easter service in church; recent baptism of one of the pupils; wedding last Autumn of 2 school parents. Today has also been a case in point, school connection-wise: Collective Worship today for example on the theme of 'The Kind Stranger' also known as 'The Good Samaritan' of whom there are a number alive & well – here this evening & living in Marlton....also been into Year 2 before that at school's invitation to explore what we think Christians believe the good news is Jesus brings.

After that some of the children chose to go on to 'Flourish' – a weekly after school club run by 2 members of the church offering themed teaching/activities/craft.

In the last 12 months, we've continued to offer children's & families craft mornings in some school holidays when capacity permits – enthusiastically supported. Welcomed 15 families earlier this month for a morning of free activity on the theme of God's Wonderful World.

Parish Magazine is still delivered or can be bought at the shop & the garage. A big thank you to those who write for it & receive it!

Seasonally, in September, like so many other village organisations the church plays its part in the Apple Pie Fair & staffs the free children's craft activities.

Autumn in the village: is marked also by Harvest & Remembrance in church – thanks to Marldon Scouts under the leadership of Laura Balkwill who felt able to play a part.

Christmas 2025 was hugely encouraging again. The Community Carol Service is always a highlight. In the last calendar year the Youth Choir innovation from 2024 was embedded in a Service of Light to mark the beginning of Advent in early Dec 2025. Offering 2 bookable Christingles on Christmas Eve seemed to work and a village Advent trail in the run up to Christmas was also well supported – again, a big thank you to you if you decorated your window or verge which appeared on our trail map.

Routinely Gathered HC is still happening every 6 weeks plus monthly Home Communion as are pastoral visits, baptisms/weddings/funerals: I'm the best person to contact for those at present but after the end of July it will be CW Steph Webb.

If any of the following are news to you, under a church umbrella, so to speak, also come the Bell ringing Team; Toddler Group; Lunch Club; House Group and the Sing with the Spirit gathering. Please ask me or someone else you know who goes to church or go on the church website if you need further information.

Looking forward to Flower Festival at the end of June with which some of you are involved as planners & we hope all of you will visit!

Speedwatch

Community Speed Watch is a national road safety scheme which is designed to help change driver behaviour. Trained volunteers gather information about speeding vehicles and report them to the police who send out educational advisory letters to registered keepers of vehicles that have been recorded travelling more than the advertised speed limit. It is important to understand that volunteers and the scheme DO NOT prosecute drivers, but warn them about the dangers of speeding. Where drivers continually fail to adhere to these warnings, then enforcement action in the area may be considered by the police.

There are Speedwatch teams placed across the whole of the Devon and Cornwall policing area, and where those teams are regularly able to get out and about, there is evidence that shows their activity helps to reduce speeding on their local roads.

I set up the Totnes-Marldon Speedwatch Team in May 2024 with the sole intention of trying to make our roads a safer place for us all to use.

Mrs Balster continued to update the meeting on the progress to date

TRAYE - Marldon Youth Club Report. Lead Worker: Adele Marshall
Youth Support Workers: Jane Swanston, Ty Taylor, Kelsie Scott, Jack McCabe
Young Volunteer: Kaci Taylor
Age Range: 8–16 years

Overview

Marldon Youth Club is now celebrating 10 years of delivery and continues to be one of TRAYE's most established and well attended provisions. The club runs fortnightly on Friday evenings at Marldon Village Hall.

The club currently has a membership of 253 young people, with regular attendance ranging between 40 and 50 young people per session. This makes it one of TRAYE's busiest and most vibrant youth provisions.

Provision and Environment

The youth club provides a welcoming, inclusive space where young people are encouraged to engage, explore ideas, and build positive relationships with both their peers and trusted youth workers.

The session has developed to include:

A senior youth club space for young people aged 11+

A dedicated quiet room, offering a calm environment for young people who may need time away from high energy activities, supporting wellbeing through arts, crafts, and reflection

This balance allows the provision to meet a wide range of needs within the group.

Programme and Activities

Over the past year, the club has delivered a varied programme of activities underpinned by a strong focus on health and wellbeing. These have included:

Group discussions supporting emotional wellbeing and resilience

Opportunities for young people to share experiences and reflect

Seasonal celebrations and themed sessions

Sports and active games

Arts, crafts, and creative activities

Practical cookery sessions

These activities provide both informal learning opportunities and space for meaningful social connection.

Community Engagement

Marldon Youth Club has become a central hub for young people within the village. The club has also welcomed visits from Parish Council members, giving young people opportunities to:

Engage with local decision makers

Learn more about their community

Develop confidence in expressing their views

Sessions have also explored topics such as prejudice and discrimination, helping to promote respect, inclusion, and understanding.

Additional Opportunities

Alongside weekly provision, young people from Marldon have accessed a range of holiday activities, including:

Photography and film workshops

Horse riding. Trampolining. Trips to Quay West and Woodlands

These opportunities support broader experiences, confidence building, and social development.

Targeted Support and Progression

During the past year:

5 young people were supported through targeted 1:1 youth work

3 young people progressed into volunteering roles and took part in TRAYE's youth work training programme

These pathways offer valuable personal development opportunities and may lead to future employment within youth work.

Staffing

All sessions are delivered by professionally trained youth workers, ensuring a safe, supportive, and high quality environment for young people.

Impact

Marldon Youth Club continues to thrive as a lively, supportive space where young people feel:

Safe. Valued. Included. Supported to build confidence and relationships

Feedback from Families

"Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity for such a great community youth group in our village. My son, age 8, has only been a few times but is buzzing from it as he has made new friends, tried new activities and already gained confidence to do something outside of his comfort zone".

"It's a fantastic opportunity for the younger generations to mix in a community and it is led by a valuable team of friendly, professional, fun people, all of whom make sure the young people enjoy their time there".

"A totally invaluable group, one of which we are so grateful to be a part of. My daughter has tried many times to engage in after school clubs but with no joy, however, this one she can't get there quickly enough!"

"Thank you to all involved."

(Parent/Carers of Marldon).

1st Marldon Scouts

Thank you for letting us attend this evening. My name is Laura and I took over Group Lead Volunteer September last year in total we have 36 YP and we would like to keep growing.

We have had a busy 12 months, last year in July we did our group camp which was a very hot weekend, we did grass sledging- shooting – backwood cooking – fire lighting and on the Saturday afternoon we did the slip and slide to cool us all down.

In September we took part in the Apple pie fair, we did hook a duck and indoor archery which was a huge success for the group in what we raised.

We had a busy winter term, we took part in remembrance service, and we also sang at the festival of lights. The YP really enjoy getting involved in the village.

In January we did a scout open day at watcombe, where they tried loads of different skills and what scouts will be like.

A few weeks later, we opened the new scout section for ages 10 –14 which we now do on a Wednesday evening at the school.

A few weeks ago, the scouts did their first evening at the church, where they learnt alot of history, we would like to say Thankyou to Rev jane for all her continued support and the parish also.

We just took part in St Georges day Parade last sunday, we have never been part of a parade before, i was extremely proud of all the Beavers, Cubs and scouts that took part.

The future of the Scout hut remains our biggest challenge. The existing building needs to be replaced as is 70 years old and long past its useful life. The Torbay district is really committed to continue provide scouting in Marldon and I am hoping that we will be able to progress this meaningfully over the year. In the meantime we will be spending some time tidying up the site in preparation for this.

When we talk about scouting, we often talk about adventures, camping and badges, But none of this can happen without volunteers. Being a volunteer isnt about having all the answers or being an expert, its about offering your time and enthusiam to help young people step up, speak up and to believe in themselves.

As a group we have faced alot of challenges over the years, with leaders leaving, but we have grown so much as a team, and i cant thank my team enough for their hard work.

If your child is interested in joining scouting please let me know.

Marldon Village Hall

Marldon is fortunate to have an excellent village hall, with facilities available to local organisations and to those from outside the village for clubs, community activities and private functions.

Village organisations that regularly use the hall include the WI, the Choir and the Gardening Club, as well as term-time sessions for the pre-school.

This valued community facility is supported by a dedicated committee of volunteers, alongside the wider support of the groups represented at our quarterly meetings.

A key sub-committee organises the annual Apple Pie Fair. The event is run by a committed core group, with substantial support from volunteers across the village. Funds raised each year help to finance improvements beyond day-to-day running costs, such as refurbishment works and the replacement of the main hall curtains.

The committee has worked hard to manage rising utility costs while maintaining a fair and sensible hire structure for the hall's facilities, helping to ensure the long-term sustainability of Marldon Village Hall.

The trustees of the Village Hall will continue to act in the best interests of the hall and all users of its facilities.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Apple Pie Fair on Saturday 5th September, planning is well underway!

6. Questions and remarks from Parishioners - NONE

The Chairman thanked all for their contributions and hoped that Parishioners would remain to enjoy the refreshments

A thank you presentation of flowers was made to Jenny Clarke - who had baked some excellent refreshments and to the Clerk - who had provided the wine

The meeting closed at 8.20pm