

MARKSBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD
ON TUESDAY 30TH JANUARY 2024 AT 7.30PM
AT STANTON PRIOR VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT Cllr Sally Collins Chair
Cllr Alistair Hardwick Vice Chair
Cllr Richard Lord

Cllr Sandra Harding
Cllr Andrew Bendall

13 members of the public

1. TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr David Roberts, Cllr Philip Evans
Cllr Matt McCabe (Banes)

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting on 28th November 2023 were approved and signed as a
Correct record

Proposed Cllr Harding

Seconded Cllr Hardwick **APPROVED**

3. MATTERS ARISING None

4. TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS OF ANY ITEMS TO BE DISCLOSED

Cllr Collins item 7.3
Cllr Hardwick 7.3

5. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Richard Lord

Proposed Cllr Hardwick

Seconded Cllr Bendall **APPROVED**

The Chairman welcomed Richard to the Parish Council.

6. TO ADJOURN TO ALLOW PUBLIC PARTICIPATION None

7. PLANNING

7.1 TO RECORD AND COMMENT ON APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING -NONE

7.2 TO NOTE PLANNING DECISIONS -NONE

7.3 OTHER PLANNING MATTERS – Cllr Hardwick gave an update on the Solar Farm development on Marksbury Plain. Work should begin in February, initially creating a site entrance opposite Valley Farm. This would mean traffic lights for a short time. It is hoped that work should be completed by the end of the summer Cllr Harding queried the possible impact of increased traffic along narrow Hunstrete lanes? Were there plans for diversions? Chairman to check with Banes.

8. FINANCE

8.1 TO APPROVE INVOICES FOR PAYMENT –

£213.15 – JANE WILLIAMS (CLERKS SALARY)

Proposed Cllr Harding

Seconded Cllr Bendall

APPROVED

8.2 FINANCE REPORT – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE OF EXPENDITURE AGAINST BUDGET NAT WEST BALANCE AS AT 4th January 2024 £11016.90. The Chairman reported that taking into account unrepresented cheques, the balance to date was £9516.90.

8.3 TO SET A BUDGET FOR 2024/2025 FINANCILA YEAR Councillors considered the budget proposal previously circulated which had been compiled by the Clerk. After discussion, it was agreed to include sums to reflect the annual cost of the Netwise web site, and hosting costs from the previous provider. Sums were also included to reflect maintenance and servicing costs of 4 defibrillators, and streetlights. Only 2 of which had so far been replaced. It was noted that the carry forward figure would be reduced by around £2500.00.

Proposed Cllr Harding

Seconded Cllr Bendall

APPROVED

8.4 TO SET THE PARISH PRECEPT FOR 2024/2025

Having regard to the budget requirements, the precept should be set at £10,500.00.

Proposed Cllr Hardwick

Seconded Cllr Harding

AGREED

8.5 TO CONSIDER THE PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION Councillors unanimously agreed to trial the new way of presenting financial information. It was particularly helpful to have pertinent information displayed on a single page and Cllr Evans was thanked and congratulated for his work on this.

8.6 TO APPROVE THE ASSET REGISTER

Proposed Cllr Harding

Seconded Cllr Lord **APPROVED**

8.7 TO APPROVE THE TREE REGISTER

Proposed Cllr Bendall

Seconded Cllr Hardwick **APPROVED**

9. MAINTENANCE. HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

9.1 UPDATE ON PROBLEMS ALREADY REPORTED TO B&NES Cllr Harding reported that the footbridge on the Tuckingmill footpath had collapsed. She would use Fix My Street to report to Banes.

Cllr Lord reported that there were blocked drains at the junction of Priston Lane and Mollifriend lane Marksbury, and also at Stanton Prior. Chairman would report these.

9.2 TO CONSIDER AND COMMENT UPON THE PROPOSAL FOR A NEW PEDESTRIAN ISLAND ON A39 MARKSBURY

Councillors welcomed the proposal to provide a safer crossing point near Priston Lane. Their only concern was if pedestrian safety could be compromised by larger vehicles, articulated lorries, coaches, farm vehicles etc. turning into Priston Lane. Chairman to report back to Highways.

9.3 NEW MAINTENANCE ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS None

9.4 PARISH FOOTPATHS None

9.5 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ON A39 None

10. SPECIAL MATTERS FOR ATTENTION

10.1 WEBSITE REPORT, NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR COUNCILLORS, LAUNCH 12TH FEBRUARY 2024

Cllr Evans had circulated a briefing paper to councillors prior to this meeting because he was unable to attend. The chairman gave councillors an envelope containing information about new email addresses. Councillors were able to access the new website as it neared completion, and their comments had been taken into account. Cllr Evans was complimented and warmly thanked for the time and hard work put into overseeing this project. It is hoped that it will become a valued 'user friendly' resource.

10.2 APPOINTMENT OF PARISH CLERK AND PROVISION OF MOBILE PHONE

In the interim the Chairman and Cllr Evans would be keeping an eye on emails.
Otherwise deferred to next meeting

10.3 TO APPROVE STANDING ORDERS

Proposed Cllr Hardwick

Seconded Cllr Harding **APPROVED**

10.4 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE TRANSPARENCY CODE

Proposed Cllr Bendall

Seconded Cllr Lord **APPROVED**

11. TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED – The Chairman reported on the inaugural ALCA meeting for Parish Council Chairmen.

12. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS -None

13. MATTERS OF INTEREST RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr Harding highlighted that Hunstrete residents were concerned about a planning application for a solar farm at Compton Dando. She wondered if there might be some way, they could comment on it? Chairman to ask Cllr McCabe.

The local Plan ‘options’ document which includes plans to develop land behind the ‘Two Headed Man’ will open for comment soon. It was agreed to change the date of the next meeting to allow parishioners to attend and give the parish council adequate time to comment.

14. ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS TO BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE AGENDAS None

15. PRESENTATION FROM AVON NEEDS TREES

Three representatives from the charity Avon Needs Trees explained that they were in the process of buying 420 acres of land, Wick Farm, Hunstrete. The intention is to plant around 60% of the trees. They explained that they did not plant grades 1 or 2 agricultural land, how they were funded, and their involvement with DEFRA and Natural England. Planting would be quite dense, usually native broadleaf trees. They currently have two sites, one in Wiltshire and one at Pensford. They have not yet decided what to do with the Farmhouse and buildings, possibly an educational use. They clearly stated there was no input financial, or otherwise from Bristol airport. This project was inspired by the climate change emergency. Arrangements would be made to hold ‘drop in’ events locally for residents to come to view their plans for the future.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 19th MARCH 2024

DRAFT