



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8TH JULY 2025 AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

029/25 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam, Boswell, Dobinson, Gibson, Goda, Griffiths, Newton, Rabot (in the Chair), Summersgill, Tippen and Turner were present. Pembury Assistant Clerk also in attendance.

030/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no Parish Cllr apologies.

The Clerk and Borough Cllrs Couch and Russell had given their apologies.

In the Clerk's absence to Pembury Assistant Clerk was in attendance to take minutes.

031/25 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Dobinson declared an interest in item 039/25 Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) as resident of Howland Road.

Changes to Register of Interest

There were no changes of Cllrs Registers of Interest.

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

032/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllrs received and accepted as a true record the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th June 2025. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

033/25 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public in attendance.

The meeting was not adjourned as no verbal reports were received.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance

EXTERNAL VERBAL REPORTS (if in attendance)

No verbal reports were given.

034/25 CLERK'S REPORT

Cllrs received and noted the Clerk's report. Cllr Tippen updated on the Santander account and that it will be closing soon.

035/25 PARISH MATTERS**Reports from MBC and KCC**

Cllrs received and noted the written reports from Borough Councillors

Police Update/Report from Police ForumCrime Figures

Cllr Rabot reported on the most recent crime figures for Marden which included 13 offences including burglary, drugs, weapons and antisocial behaviour. All offences were typical to the same locations as previous months.

Other Police Matters

Cllrs were advised on the various anti-social behaviour in the village, majority of which had been reported via 101 and the Ward Police were aware. These included an incident on 12th June with police raid involving drugs and firearms. 4 people under caution. Residents in the area are very concerned; report on damages to bench on Southons Field, toilets and antisocial behaviour increasing this time of year; CCTV from the Village Club was reviewed but the Police were not able to identify suspect. Residents need to be encouraged to contact 101 if they have any information.

CommunicationNewsletter

The summer edition of the newsletter had been received back from the printers and was currently being delivered around the parish.

Marden Flooding

There were no issues to report

Infrastructure Spend Plan (ISP)

The latest version, as agreed at the last Full Council meeting, had been uploaded to the website. No further information had been received to add to the ISP.

Changing Rooms Refurbishment

The Clerk had responded to the architect in regard to obtaining costings and issues raised from the planning decision but no further information had been received. It was proposed that Cllr Turner review the email received regarding the condition in question and ask for this to be withdrawn.

036/25 COMMITTEE REPORTS**Amenities Committee**

There was no Amenities Committee meeting held in June.

Planning Committee

Cllrs noted the draft Minutes of Planning Committee meeting held on 17th June and 1st July which had been previously circulated and available on the Parish Council website. Cllr Tippen reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Review had failed Regulation 14 as a summarised statement of the modifications is required. This would be discussed at a meeting of the MNP with a further consultation required.

Finance Committee

There was no Finance Committee meeting held in June.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Other attended

Those in attendance updated the meeting on the following:

AI Webinar: 18th June: The Clerk had provided a report on the webinars attending for AI which had been circulated to Cllrs.

KALC EFCM (Reorganisation/Devolution): 19th June: Cllr Tippen gave an update on the EFCM and slides from the presentation had been circulated. Two proposals are being put forward and £500,000 is being provided by the government although the expectation of cost is going to be a lot more. All Local Authorities in Kent will need to put in submissions by 28th November 2025 with feedback expected from government early in 2026 and elections held in May 2027 to create shadow councils. Parish Cllrs were encouraged to look at page on KALC website regarding devolution.

Highways Improvement Plan Meeting: 24th June. Reported at item 039/25 below.

Rude Mechanicals at Southons Field – 27th June

Cloudy IT File Management Webinar: 1st July. The Clerk and Deputy Clerk attended but no information had been provided at the time of the meeting.

Scribe HR Webinar: 2nd July. The Clerk attended and a report would be submitted to the HR Sub-Committee's next meeting.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Events forthcoming

Finance and Governance Networking – 10th July

Marden Memorial Hall Trustees meeting – 14th July

KALC Clerks Forum Webinar - 15th July

Asset Transfer Webinar - 16th July

Assets of Community Value Meeting - 19th July

KALC Chairmans Forum Webinar - 22nd July

Summer Play Scheme – 23rd July to 1st August

MPC Meetings to be arranged:

Resilience Planning

037/25 CORRESPONDENCE

Marden Parish Council Office Correspondence Log – June. Circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting - Noted.

Marden Parish Church Magazine - Noted

KALC Newsletter - Noted

Letter of thanks from Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre - Noted

KALC - Local Government Reorganisation Survey - Cllrs completed at the meeting following the report on the KALC EFCM meeting.

Golding Homes – Consultation for change of name of The Allens. Although not officially consulted Cllrs did not support this change due it being part of the Marden history. Clerk to respond not to support this.

038/25 FINANCE

Bank Statements:

Reserve Accounts

Nat West: £52,685.77

Unity: £125,580.86

Capital Account

Santander: £72,582.55

Grant Request

Cllrs considered a grant request from Air Ambulance Charity which had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllrs discussed and agreed to grant £200 to match the donation last year and review again at the end of the financial year. If any funds are left over, they will review to donate more.

Payments for Approval

Invoices for Payment

There were no invoices for payment.

039/25 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Highways

Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

Update from meeting held on 24th June.

Cllrs Goda, Newton and Tippen, along with the Clerk met to discuss the additional items to be added following the consultation and to review the criteria matrix for the Priority List. These were circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

Cllrs agreed, in principle, to submit the Priority List to Kent Highways.

However, it was raised that the comments on the HIP for Howland Road - Rose & Crown Cottages item, did not reflect what was reported by residents and that the wording needs updating. Once updated the document would be submitted.

Fingerposts

No update had been received from County Cllr Black on this item.

Speedwatch

Cllrs Summersgill and Rabot reported to Cllrs that the next date for a Speed Watch session would be held on Friday 11th July.

Public Transport

An update on items raised at the recent meeting with South Eastern had been received and circulated to Cllrs.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21.01

Cllr Adrian Rabot

Chairman

Date: 12th August 2025

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