



MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 10th MARCH 2026 AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Marden Parish Council operates under General Power of Competence since adopted on 7th May 2024. Minute Reference 012/24.

125/26 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam, Boswell, Gibson, Goda, Griffiths, Newton, Rabot (in the Chair) and Tippen. The Clerk was also in attendance.

126/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Dobinson and Summersgill.
Borough Councillor Couch also gave her apologies.
Not in attendance: Cllr Turner.

127/26 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Gibson declared a Pecuniary interest in item 131/26 (Allotments) as a resident of Highwood Green. Cllr Gibson would leave the meeting when this item was given discussed.

Changes to Register of Interest

There were no changes to Cllrs Registers of interest

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

128/26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllrs received, and accepted, as a true record, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th February 2026. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

129/26 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

No members of the public in attendance.

The meeting was not adjourned as no one in attendance for the following:

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public

EXTERNAL VERBAL REPORTS (if in attendance)

County Councillor Report

Borough Councillors Report

Police

130/26 CLERK'S REPORT

Cllrs received and noted the Clerk's report which included updates on outstanding issues, website and Marden Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14.

131/26 PARISH MATTERS**Reports from MBC and KCC**

Cllrs received and noted the written reports from Borough Councillors. Cllr Tippen raised a concern regarding the change of council tax paid by residents on benefits which may have an effect on future precept/budget decisions.

Police Update/Report from Police ForumCrime Figures

Cllr Rabot provided a report on receive crime figures obtained from the Kent Police website. Although not easy to understand it seemed as though Marden had 4 less than the previous month. The Admin Assistant would be asked to create a spreadsheet to list all crimes listed on the Neighbourhood Watch e-watch newsletter received twice a week.

*7.44 Cllr Adam arrived at meeting.*Other Police Matters

Police and Community Protection Team will be in attendance at the Village Café on Friday 13th March

MBC Cluster meeting was held earlier today. Cllr Summersgill and the Clerk attended and notes had been circulated.

CommunicationNewsletter

The Spring edition of the newsletter had been distributed to all households.

Marden Flooding

The Clerk had received correspondence from Katie Lam's office informing MPC that the Southern Water issues raised were being looked into.

Infrastructure Spend Plan (ISP)

No new items for consideration had been received.

Changing Rooms Refurbishment

An email from the architect had been received and this had been discussed at the Planning Committee meeting held on 17th February – the response from Cllrs had been returned. Building Regs had been submitted, and plans were being finalised by architect for tender purposes.

Public Conveniences – Solar Panels

Cllr Summersgill reported that the licence had been agreed but nothing received in the office.

Allotments*7.49 Cllr Gibson left the meeting*

The legal representative at Redrow had left. MBC had been made aware and were liaising with Redrow. An email had been received setting out work Redrow planned in accordance with the allotment specification. Cllr Rabot had provided a table laying out what MPC's specification included and the response from Redrow. Cllrs went through the items listed from Redrow and this was updated to what was required by MPC prior to transfer.

8.01 Cllr Gibson returned to the meeting

Marden Parish Council Open Morning

Approx 45 residents attended on Saturday 7th April and responses from the MNP consultation would be reviewed by the Clerk following the Reg 14 closing date of 17th April.

MPC Documents

Policies

Cllrs agreed and ratified the Council/GDPR policies along with the agreement of all other Committee/Sub-Committee policies.

The Finance policies were to be reviewed at next Finance meeting; HR policies were reviewed in June 2025 and will be reviewed again on receipt of advice from Peninsula (HR Support).

Risk Assessments

The Clerk would review MPC's risk assessments and report back to next meeting.

Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Standing Orders and Financial Regs had both been reviewed in 2025. Cllrs agreed to ratify these as no additional information had been received from NALC regarding updates. However, on completion of reviewing the Finance Policies these two documents would be checked to ensure there was no amendments to be made.

Terms of Reference

Cllrs agreed the Terms of Reference for Council, Committees and Sub-Committees together with the agreement of the addition for the Highways Working Group.

Annual Residents Meeting

Date of this meeting was on 14th April and would be held prior to April's Full Council meeting in the Old School Room. The Chairman and Committee Chairmen would read out their annual reports and the Clerk would be writing to village organisations to obtain their reports for the handout.

Full Council Action Log

Noted.

132/26 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Amenities Committee

Cllrs noted the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 24th February which had previously been circulated and were available on the Parish Council website.

Planning Committee

Cllrs noted the Minutes of Planning Committee meeting held on 17th February and 3rd March which had been previously circulated and available on the Parish Council website.

Finance Committee

No Finance Committee meeting held in February.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Other attended

Village Events Sub-Group meeting – 12th February: Notes circulated and update provided to Amenities Committee meeting.

Communications Sub-Group meeting – 12th February: Notes circulated
Environmental Sub-Group meeting – 17th February: Notes circulated and update provided to Amenities Committee meeting.

Resilience Cluster Meeting – 26th February: Cllrs Rabot, Tippen and the Clerk attended. Main aim is to assist where possible with neighbouring parishes in the event of an emergency.

Reg 14 consultation – 2nd March to 17th April

HR Sub-Committee meeting – 3rd March: Minutes to be circulated.

Highways Working Group/Car park meeting – 4th March: Notes circulated and awaiting response from Maidstone Borough Council Parking Services.

MPC Open Morning – 7th March: Approx 45/50 people attended.

Ward Cluster Meeting – 10th March: Notes circulated.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Events forthcoming

Police Surgery – 13th March

Village Litter Pick – 28th March

Annual Residents Meeting – 14th April 2026

133/26 CORRESPONDENCE

Local Government Reorganisation Consultation – Cllrs completed the questionnaire and the Clerk would submit prior to the closing date.

Maidstone Borough Council Community Energy Survey for Parish Councils –

Cllrs gave Cllr Boswell and the Clerk delegate powers to review the questionnaire and submit a response on behalf of Marden Parish Council.

Cllrs received the following items for noting:

Marden Parish Council Office Correspondence Log – February

Marden Parish Church Magazine

KALC Newsletter

Clerk/Council publications

134/26 FINANCE

Bank Statements:

Revenue Accounts:

Nat West: £17,736.49

Unity: £26,544.92

Capital Account

CCLA: £57,614.34

Payments for Approval

Invoices for Payment

The following invoices were submitted for payment:

Alison Hooker: Laptop/open morning supplies (Budget Codes 4320/4205/4076) £632.45

The Hop Press: No Dog Walking signs for Cemetery (Budget Code 4303) £30.00

Castle Water: changing rooms water supply (Budget Code 4225) £7.14

Castle Water: Public Conv. Water supply (Budget Code 4327) £42.23

Total: £711.82

Cllrs agreed invoices and Cllrs Adam and Rabot would authorise on Unity.

Cloudy IT contract

Cllrs had agreed at Finance Committee meeting to pay annually and following receiving information on the three contract terms (ie 1, 3 or 5 years) Cllrs agreed to sign up for 3 years.

Nat West Bank

Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to apply to have online access to Nat West Bank account to view and obtain monthly statements.

Business Stream Account

Cllr Turner had agreed to view this but unfortunately was not in attendance. The Clerk would contact Cllr Turner for a response.

135/26 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT**Highways**

The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways Steward for Marden regarding updates on pothole repairs.

Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

A resident had emailed the Clerk regarding speeding in Howland Road. The Police would be asked to consider a speed watch at this location and report to Highways Working Group.

Speedwatch

Two new locations had been agreed for Chainhurst and Cllr Goda was now trained on using the equipment. Three volunteers had come forward from the Open Day on Saturday and these were forwarded to Cllr Summersgill. Further dates would be arranged shortly.

Public Transport

Cllr Tippen had reported a pothole that had appeared in the station entrance.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.44pm.

Cllr Adrian Rabot

Chairman

Date: 14th April 2026

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