



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 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.

086/26 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam, Boswell (in the Chair), Dobinson, Gibson, Goda, Newton, Rabot, Summersgill and Turner.
Borough Cllr Russell was also in attendance.

087/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Griffiths and Tippen. The Clerk had also given her apologies.

In the Clerk's absence Cllr Dobinson took the minutes.

088/26 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Gibson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 092/26 Allotments as a resident of Highwood Green.

Changes to Register of Interest

There were no changes to Cllrs Registers of interest

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation

089/26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Cllrs received, and agreed, as true records the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th August and the EFCMs held on 18th and 25th August. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

090/26 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned for the following items:

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance.

EXTERNAL VERBAL REPORTS (if in attendance)

County Councillor Report:

Not in attendance

Borough Councillors Report

Borough Cllrs Russell and Summersgill gave verbal reports which included: The Local Government Reorganisation had been put on hold by central government; there would be no elections in Marden in 2027, although some were being held in other parts of Kent; Local Plan Call for Sites – date for submission of sites had passed, details were available on MBC website; the decision to close Maidstone Market had been reversed and was now staying open; following the closure of the A229 teams were in place to clear up the litter; the Gypsy and Traveller DPD will not go the Planning Inspectorate as it was withdrawn by Cabinet, but the information in the Regulation 19 document is to be incorporated into the next Local Plan.

Police

Not in attendance.

The meeting was reconvened to discuss item 091/26 onwards.

091/26 CLERK'S REPORT

Cllrs received the Clerk's report prior to the meeting and noted content.

092/26 PARISH MATTERS

Reports from MBC and KCC

Cllrs received and noted the written reports from Borough Councillors

Police Update/Report from Police Forum

Crime Figures

Cllr Rabot provided a report based on the most recent crime figures for July on the Kent Police website. 30 crimes had been recorded.

Other Police Matters

The next Police drop in session was to be held on 25th September at The Village Café, Vestry Hall.

Cllr Boswell had made a request to the Beat Officers to provide a piece for the newsletter.

Communication

Newsletter

Cllr Boswell had contacted village organisations etc and was beginning to draft the next edition of the newsletter. The Clerk would begin typesetting this ready for printing in October.

Water Issues

The Clerk had chased Katie Lam MP for updates but nothing had been received prior to the meeting.

The Clerk would be asked to contact South East Water to ask if there was any data available in regard to tracking/viewing reports on leaks within the area.

Infrastructure Spend Plan (ISP)

No new items had been raised to add to the ISP.

Changing Rooms Refurbishment

Cllr Griffiths was speaking with the architect in regard to costings for phased works and had provided the Management Plan ready for submission to Maidstone Borough Council.

Public Conveniences – Solar Panels

The signed Licence had been received and contractors contacted. Start dates would hopefully be in the next few weeks for the structural work and installation of solar panels would take place after that.

Allotments

Further correspondence had been received back from Redrow regarding the commuted sum proposed by Marden Parish Council. Cllr Rabot would review and make suggested amendments which would be circulated to Cllrs.

Full Council Action Log

Cllrs noted the updated action log.

Deputy Clerk Position

Cllrs received confirmation of the new Deputy Parish Clerk. Susan Smith will be starting at the Parish Council on Monday 21st September 2026 and was hoping to attend the Amenities Meeting on 22nd September. Cllrs wished her well in her new position.

Remembrance Sunday

Cllrs noted the Remembrance Sunday service which will be held on 8th November at Marden Parish Church. A wreath would be purchased and Cllrs Boswell and Tippen would attend to lay the wreath on behalf of Marden Parish Council.

093/26 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Amenities Committee

Cllrs noted the Amenities Committee draft minutes of meeting held on 25th August 2026.

Planning Committee

Cllrs noted Planning Committee draft minutes of meeting held on 18th August 2026.

Finance Committee

There was no Finance Committee meeting had been held in August.

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Other attended

Those in attendance to update the meeting on the following:

19th and 20th August – Golding Homes “Sports Mash Up”: Cllr Rabot reported that several Marden children attended. It was hoped to repeat this, or something similar in 2027.

24th August – Asset Transfer Webinar. The Clerk had provided notes of this meeting. The Clerk would be asked to arrange a meeting of the Asset Transfer Working Party to discuss further.

24th August – HR Sub-Committee meeting. Notes previously circulated.

8th September – Ward Cluster meeting

Conferences/Meetings/Webinars/Events forthcoming

14th September – MBC webinar: Planning Committee changes

15th September – HIP Meeting with Kent Highways

16th September – MBC Parish Conference

16th September – Dementia Group meeting
 17th September – Christmas meeting
 17th September – Age Friendly Meeting (tbc)
 21st September – Chairman/Vice-Chairman/Clerk meeting
 24th September – PPG meeting
 25th September – Police Drop-In Session at Village Café
 26th September – Meet the Council at Marden Library
 2nd October – KALC Finance Conference
 8th October – Site meetings at Cemetery, Southons Field, Toilets and Playing Field (tbc)

094/26 CORRESPONDENCE

Cllrs received the following items for noting:
 Marden Parish Council Office Correspondence Log for August
 Marden Parish Church Magazine
 KALC Newsletter
 Clerk/Council publications

095/26 FINANCE

Bank Statements:

Revenue Accounts

Nat West: £18,206.72

Unity: £153,403.89

Capital Account

CCLA: £57,614.34

Bank Mandates

Cllrs agreed for the previous Deputy Clerk to be removed from the bank mandates and debit card account and agreed the new Deputy Clerk to added to the mandates following her six-month probation period.

Payments for Approval

There were no payments for approval.

For Noting

The AGAR had been received from Mazars External Auditor but was too late to add to this meeting. The Clerk would add to the October agenda for Cllrs to minute receipt.

096/26 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Highways

Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

Cllrs had received the draft letter to the Director of Highways from the Planning Committee meeting and agreed for this to be sent with cc to relevant officers and councillors.

Speed Watch

Cllr Summersgill would contact Kent Police to ascertain whether Church Green had been risk assessed to undertake speed watch.
 No dates had been set for future sessions.

Public Transport

Cllr Adam reported that the train service was currently not good which was mainly due to track defects and speed restrictions which Network Rail doesn't have enough resources to fix.

Cllr Adam would aim to attend the Autumn Stakeholders meeting and, depending on outcome, would ask the Clerk to arrange a further station meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.57pm

Cllr Anne Boswell

Chairman

Date: 13th October 2026

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