

Minutes of Marton Cum Grafton Parish Council Annual and Ordinary Meeting

Date Held: 11th May 2022

Present: Mr R Shepherd (RS) Chair; Mr P Gill (PG) Vice Chair; Mr T Cole (TC); Mrs C Sanderson-Lewis (CS-L) Mr A Robinson (AR) Ms J Baldanza (JB) Clerk, CCllr Arnold Warneken (AW)

Apologies: District Cllr A Myatt (AM)

Resident attendance 2

Agenda Point	Subject	Action
<p>Annual Meeting 2022</p> <p>1 Elect Chairman</p> <p>2. Elect Vice Chairman</p>	<p>Robin Shepherd was nominated and voted in unanimously as Chairman for the ensuing year And signed his acceptance of office.</p> <p>Paul Gill was subsequently nominated and voted in unanimously as Vice chair for the ensuing year, he and the other councillors all signed their acceptance of office and declarations of interest forms.</p> <p>The following sub committees and officer nominated were agreed.</p> <p>Village Hall: Paul Gill Police and Crime liaison: Alex Robinson Internal Auditor: Miles Stanyard</p> <p>RS read through his annual report (find attached) and welcomed the attendance of CCllr Arnold Walkenden and congratulated him on his appointment to office.</p> <p>Closed: 7.54pm</p>	
<p>Ordinary Meeting Opened 7.55PM</p> <p>3. Note Apologies</p> <p>4. Declarations of interest</p> <p>5. Minutes April 22</p> <p>6 County and District Issues</p>	<p>Persons present as above for Annual Meeting and Ordinary Meeting</p> <p>None to declare</p> <p>Minutes agreed and signed</p> <p>AW shared his thanks at being elected and (find shared an insight into how the parish council could take on more responsibility if it wanted which in turn would increase the monies the PC would get from precept. He explained his areas of expertise were Transport – waste and countryside. He currently resides over two constituencies and informed that over the next 5 years there would be more boundary changes.</p>	

AW is very keen for the parish to know he is "Very hands on" and would like his email be shared to residents Cllr.Arnold.Warneken@northyorks.gov.uk
TC shared that McG PC's main issues lie with Planning and Highways

RS ran through the e-mail response from Highways regards to our recent issues- see below
Bramber lane: Fencing which shields the road side and ditch known as the 'WHITE RAILINGS' these have become very old and damaged and need replacing or fixing and painting- please advise

CRN 506357 The highways officer has inspected the fence and raised a works order to have the fencing replaced

Tarmac that has lifted on the pavement at the corner of Thorny Hill and Stockfield lanes in Grafton has not yet been fixed, it has been coned off by your dept? - please can you give me a time frame for completion

*CRN 506238
Again, the HO has inspected the area and raised a works order to reinstate the footway (approx. 8m square). The order will be completed by the end of June at the latest*

Residents have raised major concern over the 'flooding' which develops on Back Lane at the back of 'Scuttlepond' this can make the road become completely impassable if we have had heavy rain fall and is dangerously near the bend.

*CRN 506361
The HO has ordered works for the 5 grips in the verge to be re-dug and for the gully to be cleaned and jetted. Once completed we will need to see how the area deals with a future rainfall to see if this resolves the issues*

'Granite Sets' there has been monies set aside for replacing sets, however it has transpired this has been allocated to one place which doesn't require them? and Scuttle pond a visit is required to reallocate this money

I have asked the team to review this and confirm the process. I will revert with the details once I have them.

Pot holes appearing in the main road - between the Memorial Hall and Yew Tree Farm

The area will be inspected by the Highways officer, he will arrange for any actionable defects to get repaired

We have requested more than once and CC Robert Windass has also followed up that we need a visit to

	<p>the village from yourselves to cover points and 'walk the village' it would be greatly appreciated if you could give me some dates for this.</p> <p><i>I have shared this request with the maintenance manager and we can confirm who can come and meet with you and do the walk</i></p>	
7- Playing Fields/Woodlands	RS shared that there would be a walk around with the woodland group to draw up a list of 'to do's'	RS
8- Village Shop	<p>It was raised that the windows that needed fixing both at the shop and village hall were still to be done.</p> <p>RS to speak with Helen and get an update- he would also remind Helen to send an email to village regards to her plans for the Jubilee celebrations during BH week. At time of writing the minutes these had been cancelled.</p> <p>TC also added that there would be a Church coffee morning on the Saturday and Tennis court entertainment Sunday- He would look to organise a 'flyer' detailing all Village events for the Jubilee</p>	RS TC
9- Village Hall	PG advised on the weekly checks and that the committee would be looking at updating the hall décor.	PG
10- Planning Decision	<p>Demolition of conservatory and porch and erection of 2no. single storey extensions and porch canopy. Conversion of stable block to form additional living accommodation and alterations to fenestration LOCATION: Springfield House Thorny Hill Lane Marton Cum Grafton YO51 9QJ GRANT PLANNING PERMISSION SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS.</p> <p>LPG and Rougham FM applications TC updated that there had been no progress since our last representations in March therefore the PC will again request a meeting with the case officers. RS to send e-mail.</p>	TC/JB
9 Financial Matters	<p>Summary of recent finances were shared:</p> <p>Outgoings for the period 14th March – 14th April 2022 were £1,796 - Made up of Insurance payment, Payroll services, Clerk Salary, Village Mower, Bank Charges, YLCA membership and Trade Waste collection Incomings were from Shop and Garage Rent 1,440</p> <p>Parish Council available funds are £4,795</p>	
10. Other and note matters for information	Resident updated the room on the Richard Helme's McG village Charity	

	<p>During the past year approaches have been made to the village charity by people in need. This has included financial help for school trips to enable children living in the village to attend who otherwise would have missed out. Help has been given for school uniform, shoes and school dinners. Each Christmas donations are paid out to a few elderly people who are struggling with the cost of heating as well as giving to families for their children at Christmas. There may well be more requests in view of the spiralling costs of living.</p> <p>Since the charity appealed to the village in 2020, they have not done any direct fundraising but do occasionally receive small donations and it is possible for residents to set up a standing order payment if they wish to contribute. It is hoped that the Open Gardens committee will make a donation to the Richard Helme charity this year from the income generated following what will be the first event since 2019.</p> <p>Anyone interested in donating via standing order or DD should do so either directly to Linda Bullough or the parish clerk who will forward on.</p> <p>Resident had raised concerns over the bench on the green at Marton, concrete base is eroded, can this be repaired. Look to HBC for funding to replace</p> <p>Residents raised concerns over standing water in the copse by Townend close- PC comment is that this is most likely the landowner's issue not Highway's.</p> <p>RS informed that the Scouts are to utilise the playing fields on June 24th (FYI)</p> <p>Recent emails regard to Ripon Cycling club use of village shop facilities – email to send requesting next year they use opposite green to set up or Pub Carpark</p> <p>Resident updated the PC on his ongoing issues with highways and the new development at Yew Tree Farm and requested we ask for the drainage report from Highways as he believes they are covering up a drainage problem which a surveyor has reported on.</p> <p>The surveyor has also recommended that the kerb outside his property be raised.</p> <p>End of Meeting 20.40PM</p>	<p>JB</p>
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Signed: Dated:

Chairman's Annual Report

Marton cum Grafton Parish Council

2021/2022

Welcome everyone to the May meeting of the Parish Council and my Chairman's Annual Report. It's a great pleasure to be back having meetings in person following the pandemic as village life returns to normal.

The exceptional response to the pandemic from the village, that I reported on last May, and also in May 2020, continued right up until all restrictions were finally lifted in February this year. Many thanks to the many volunteers and organisations who selflessly gave of their time to assist those in greatest need.

As ever, village life continues at pace and there is much to report over the period.

In June last year the village hall was finally permitted to hold events again and it was a huge relief to attend a normal Parish Council meeting without the constraints imposed by Zoom. With the seemingly never-ending construction work in Marton in respect to the Yew Tree Farm development & the conclusion of activity at Town End Close there was a constant stream of complaints relating to surface water drainage, sewage spills, HGV traffic and verge damage whilst dust increasingly became an issue in the drier months.

In addition to engaging with Mulgarve & Brierley Homes on these matters, the heightened levels of activity prompted the Parish Council to look into the possibility of an Article 4 Direction to provide enhanced protection to our hedgerows and village walls. As such the Principal Conservation Officer at Harrogate was approached but such is the glacial response at Harrogate Borough Council, to this and all

manner of other approaches, we are still awaiting any meaningful action.

However a welcome by-product of all the construction activity in the village is the payment of Section 106 monies from the larger developments which can be allocated to small scale infrastructure projects. In June we were informed that the monies due from Townend Close were available to be claimed from Harrogate. A survey had previously been conducted via residents to see what projects they would like to see funded with picnic tables & a Petanque court by the playing fields receiving top billing.

The Parish Clerk is crucial to the successful operation of the council in addition to being our Responsible Financial Officer, so it was with great sadness that Liz Gill resigned from the post she had so ably served for the past couple of years. We can all vouch for her diligence and efficient handling of Parish matters and we thank her for her service.

With no August meeting of the council our next meet was in September and we were thrilled that Jo Baldanza had stepped into the Parish Clerk role and we looked forward to working alongside her. We were also delighted to be able to offer our congratulations to Charlotte Sanderson on the birth of her daughter Florence and thereby becoming the first Parish Councillor of Marton cum Grafton to give birth in office since we were first established by the Parish Councils Act of 1894.

Late in September, under the able guidance of Susie Clark, the Parish Council made a small donation to help purchase native meadow seed in order to sow a portion of verge on Stockfield Lane in Grafton. This was sown and trampled in with the assistance of residents & children. If a success we could look to extend this wildflower meadow planting to other verges in the village thereby creating a

more favourable environment for many different species of insects, birds and butterflies.

There appears to have been something of a perfect storm affecting the workings of both Harrogate Borough Council & North Yorkshire County Council, initially sparked by the Covid outbreak with directives to work from home alongside furlough arrangements and compounded by the moves to establish a single unitary authority for North Yorkshire. This resulted in personnel changing roles or simply leaving the council. The resulting vacuum, particularly in respect to the planning department, has been hugely frustrating and sadly the situation shows little signs of improvement. Central to all of this has been the seemingly impotent and ineffective nature of Harrogate's Planning Enforcement function.

As a result there are some significant outstanding planning issues where we have objected or made significant observations and where the process appears to have stalled, with no one the wiser as to what action, if any, will be taken next.

A case in point is the proposed energy distribution site and headquarters of Northern Energy on a greenfield site at the junction of Limebar Lane and the A168 which I mentioned in last years annual report. Having objected on numerous grounds including being contrary to Harrogates own Local Plan and highlighting the lack of diligence in respect to the Sequential Testing undertaken there has been little, if any action or decisions taken since this time last year. We also await a decision on the change of use at Rougham Farm on the A168 in respect to the substantial caravan storage site. The Parish Councils view on this matter was that it wasn't ancillary to the existing farm use or an appropriate agricultural diversification, but an inappropriate change of use contrary to the policies within the Harrogate Local Plan.

The number of planning applications submitted to Harrogate and scrutinised by the Parish Council has declined over the last year from a total of 46 in 2020/21 to 29 in this reporting period. This included 9 that were solely in respect of tree work, whether crown lifting or felling. This decline has been particularly marked since the beginning of the year when we have been in receipt of only 2 applications for domestic building works. Whether this represents a national trend due to inflationary materials & building costs or simply a response to having majored on applications during lockdown remains to be seen.

In November a set of bollards & a chain were installed at the foot of the track leading to the playing fields. This is only intended to be operational after hours on those, hopefully rare occasions when we are experiencing periods of anti-social activity in the playing fields area.

The other significant development within the playing fields was the completion of the Petanque court in December and the installation of a picnic table adjacent to the tennis courts.

Early in the new year we were informed by Chrysallis Arts, a North Yorkshire based arts organisation, that they had secured a 10-year lease from North Yorkshire County Council for the use of Marton Wood. A subsequent Zoom meeting with the organisation was held in which they explained their concept of a 'slow art' project for the site. We were reassured that no significant development will be taking place and they are focused on the wood's long-term management, future & legacy employing a low impact approach to its use.

As Spring approached the long running consultation regards tree planting on Gallabar Lane came to a welcome conclusion with the planting of 7 native trees to commemorate the 7 decades of Queen Elizabeth's reign. Thanks are due to both John Watkinson & John Richardson in seeing this project to conclusion and arranging a village

tree planting event which was both well attended & enjoyable. The annual litter pick of the surrounding roads & lanes was also undertaken, again many thanks to the volunteers from the village.

In respect to the Yew Tree Farm development plans are underfoot to create a management company to oversee the maintenance of the open green space, the freehold of which will be given to the Parish Council once the landscaping of the site has been completed.

Once spring is upon us our verges & greens are in constant need of cutting and with the ending of the mower contract with Dalton Enterprises a village meeting was arranged to fund a replacement mower by accessing funds from the village shop fund. The funding was approved and a new John Deere ride on mower is now keeping our green spaces mowed.

There has been a significant number of new residents within the village since the beginning of the Covid outbreak, particularly given the occupation of the Townend Close houses. At the latest count we estimate around 60 arrivals since the beginning of 2020. Clearly circumstances have curtailed the usual forms of integration and made it difficult to meet with residents from different parts of the village so a 'freshers' event is being organised at the village hall next Sunday, the 15th with those moving to the village since 2020 invited to attend.

Before I conclude I'd like to thank my fellow parish councillors and our excellent clerk for all the hard work they have put in over the course of the year and also for putting themselves up for re-election. The tasks they undertake from preparing the accounts, deliberating on planning matters, sourcing and allocating Section 106 monies, commissioning works, organising bin collections, litter picks, social events as well as the day-to-day administration matters & the seemingly never-ending stream of correspondence despite all having day jobs to attend to so is admirable.

My final point is to express our thanks as a Parish Council to the huge number of residents in the village who generously volunteer their time to undertake a vast range of tasks, ranging from bin emptying to grass cutting and litter picking all of which are crucial in ensuring Marton cum Grafton remains such a special place to live. I'd also like to note our thanks for all who dedicate a substantial portion of their time to sitting on and contributing to all of the committees and associations that help facilitate village life, from the Church, Village Hall, Open Gardens, Tennis Courts, Cricket Club to the Playing Fields & Woodlands and no doubt many that I have failed to mention. And a final thank you goes to Helen and her magnificent team at the village shop, the staff at the Punchbowl, Marie Lousie and her Primary School staff and to our vicar Sarah Feaster, all of whom play a vital part in the life of our village. Thank you all.