

Minutes of Marton Cum Grafton Parish Council Annual and Ordinary Meeting

Date Held: Tuesday 9th May 2023

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

Apologies: Mr A Robinson (AR)

Resident attendance 5

Agenda Point	Subject	Action
1 Elect Chairman	<u>Annual Meeting 2023</u> Robin Shepherd was nominated and voted in unanimously as Chairman for the ensuing year And signed his acceptance of office.	
2. Elect Vice Chairman	Paul Gill was subsequently nominated and voted in unanimously as Vice chair for the ensuing year. The following sub committees and officer nominated were agreed. Village Hall: Paul Gill Police and Crime liaison: Alex Robinson Internal Auditor: Miles Stanyard	
3. Chairmans Report 2022/23	RS read through his annual report (find attached) Closed: 7.46pm	
Ordinary Meeting Opened 7.50PM	<u>Ordinary Meeting May 2023</u>	
1. Note Apologies	Persons present as above for Annual Meeting and Ordinary Meeting- Cllr Arnold Warneken (AW) only present for Ordinary meeting.	
2. Declarations of interest	None to declare	
3.Minutes April 23	Minutes agreed and signed	
4. Area /District Issues	AW explained there was little to be updated on district wise but on a local note he shared that James Ryan the Highways Officer had agreed to come and meet with the council – he had mentioned Kerbing and the tactile paving concerns- AW agreed to organise. He added that Chris Keddle was appointed Enforcement officer and again he would set up a meeting with him- it is possible David Potts will replace Chris.	AW
5. Playing Fields and Woodlands	RS shared that, following the disbandment of the village Cricket Club he would set up a meeting with the ‘Young Dads’ of the village to find out what they want in terms of activities -regards to the playing fields/Pavilion	RS

	Discussion was also had regards to the road leading to the area- it was agreed that the surface needing attention and could this now be properly tarmacked? 3 quotes would be sought and TC would look into the 106 monies – also pavilion accounts monies would be another contributory source of payment. RS to check.	
6- Village Shop	No issues	
9- Village Hall	PG shared the annual accounts of the Hall- Income generated for last Year included- hires, fund raising and open gardens which came to £5,900 – Expenses totalled £2,600 Boiler checks and Cleaning amongst the higher spends- This Year monies will be spent on decoration both inside and out.	
10- Planning	<p>a) Application APPLICATION NO: 6.71.98.R.FUL ZC23/01530/FUL PROPOSAL: Part demolition, alteration and extension of Sycamore House, with improved garden connections, erection of detached oak framed outbuilding, re-orientation of existing internal driveway, parking provision and hard/soft landscaping. (Revised scheme) LOCATION: Sycamore House Thorny Hill Lane Marton Cum Grafton York North Yorkshire YO51 9PP Considered and agreed no objections comment A</p> <p>b) Decision PROPOSAL: Hedgerow Removal associated with Application 21/00728/FULMAJ LOCATION: Land Comprising OS Field 2161 Limebar Lane Marton Cum Grafton North Yorkshire APPLICANT: Northern Energy North Yorkshire Council being the Local Planning Authority for the purposes of the Hedgerow Removal Notice received on 7 March 2023 to carryout works as described above, have determined that THE HEDGEROW MAY BE REMOVED</p>	JB
	<p><u>Planning Action points – follow up from previous meeting's</u> <u>PG updated</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limebar Lane, PG confirmed conversation with Chris Kedde and that this has been refused. Discussed that there should be a request put in for ALL site effects be removed. 2. Rougham Farm – Letter of enforcement was being prepared and this should now have been sent - keep on follow up 3. Northern Energy- CS-L had sought outside professional aid to ensure the council had not 'missed' anything from the objections – further conversations were to be sought with regard to the lighting at this site – RS to investigate 	PG RS

	<p>4. Garge Land Registry – no update</p> <p>5. Asphalt Plant- TC read through the most pressing list of what could be objections, these were considered and it was agreed the PC would add these comments to portal and send to Allerton residents as support for their objections. For further information See attached notes.</p>	AR
9 Financial Matters	<p>Summary of recent finances were shared: Outgoings for the Month of April 2023 were £682.40 - Made up of Church (Graveyard project), YLCA annual membership, Clerk Salary, Bank Charges and Trade Waste collection Incomings were from Shop Garage Rent and Precept £4,938.50</p> <p>Parish Council available funds are £10,632.77</p> <p>It was raised that we should transfer some current account funds to the savings account to take advantage of current interest rates- EG: £10-15K</p>	JB
10. Any other items for business and next meeting	<p>A few other points had been raised regards to enforcement – The following are to be put to Chris Kettle at the proposed meeting with him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy Paws • Thorny Hill/Stockfield Lane – field entrance, Gate • Land on Gallabar Lane – possible resident use • Land back of Punch Bowl and left vehicles <p>Boroughbridge Lions funding will be updated at next meeting</p> <p><u>Other items raised</u> Growing concerns again in relation to Dog waste not been cleared up by owners- Resident e-mail to be sent</p> <p>Resident asked when Kiln Garth housing complex would be completed- this is unknown to the PC but could comment that it was approx. 9 months behind schedule.</p> <p>Date of next Meeting: Thursday 1st June 2023 at 7.30 in Memorial Hall Marton</p> <p>Meeting Closed at 20:25 PM</p>	JB

Signed: Dated:

Chairman's Annual Report
Marton cum Grafton Parish Council 2022/2023

Welcome everyone to the May meeting of the Parish Council and my Chairman's Annual Report.

My first task last year was to welcome our new North Yorkshire County Councillor, Arnold Warneken, to the Parish and the corresponding item for this year's report is to thank Arnold for the great support we have received from him across a whole range of issues. It can sometimes feel a Sisyphean task dealing with the bureaucracy of the local authority but Arnold has assisted us through the numerous departments and personnel, particularly as we move to the single Unitary Authority.

As ever the bulk of the Parish Council's efforts over the last 12 months has been dominated by planning, proposed development and enforcement issues both within the parish and on the periphery. This is despite the backdrop of a continuing fall in applications once tree works are excluded. Over the reporting period we have deliberated over 15 such planning applications, compared to 20 in the previous year and 46 in 2020/21.

The year has also been punctuated with an unprecedented number of Royal events, the first of which was the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June where numerous small scale tea parties were held within the village, and 7 trees representing each decade of the Queen's reign, kindly donated by John Richardson and organised by John Watkinson, were planted in commemoration on Gallabar Lane.

The welcome return of the village Open Gardens event at the end of June following the multi-year Covid disruption was most welcome and blessed with some fine weather. As ever our thanks to the organising committee and the mass of volunteers who made it such a success.

In May we also held a 'Freshers' barbeque for all of those residents new to the village, this was a great event to meet & greet and hopefully some long lasting friendships will be formed as a result. It is very likely we will look to have a similar event once Kiln Garth is finally up and running.

In July we were alerted to a scoping document for a proposed Asphalt Plant in proximity to the Allerton Waste Recovery Plant beside the A168. Although technically out with the Parish it has the potential to impact our environment and as such we agreed to monitor any forthcoming proposal, liaise with neighbouring parishes and comment accordingly.

Closer to home, and despite the dry weather, there were numerous drainage issues raised regarding the seemingly never-ending Brierley Homes development at Yew Tree Farm, now known as Kiln Garth which have thankfully now been resolved.

Later in the year we were informed by Chrysalis Arts, a North Yorkshire based charitable arts group, that they had secured a 10 year lease from North Yorkshire County Council for the use of Marton Wood. At our September meeting they discussed their proposal which thankfully is very low key, doesn't require any additional infrastructure and crucially allows residents the right to walk through the woods. To date they have also arranged an ecologist walk through the woods, liaised with the school on educational programmes and held arts events in the village hall as part of their community engagement activities.

One of the ongoing concerns of the Parish Council is the increasing ribbon development aside the A168 that causes encroachment to the countryside landscape and is detrimental to

the character of the area. Hence our objection in November 2021 to the change of use at Rougham Farm from agricultural land to that used for the storage of caravans. We believed this was not an appropriate diversification but an inappropriate change of use in contravention to the Harrogate Local Plan. In September our local planning authority at Harrogate Borough Council agreed with us and, having asked for a retrospective application to be submitted, subsequently refused planning permission. The matter is now with Enforcement.

However we had a disappointing outcome to our objection to the establishment of the proposed oil & gas distribution centre, vehicle depot, workshop and new headquarters of Northern Energy.

Despite being a major application involving hazardous materials, allocated to a green field site and carrying a significant amount of objections whilst being contrary to the adopted policies of Harrogate Borough Council, planning permission was granted by delegated powers and didn't go to committee. This was despite the Parish Council identifying a suitable alternative brown field site for the proposal.

We did complain to the Chief Executive of Harrogate Borough Council, not least their total lack of engagement with the Parish Council, and the response we received should act as an example to the limitations we have in influencing such applications.

We were told that in the opinion of the Executive Officer for Development Management and Building Control, the application was not considered to be significant, controversial or sensitive in nature.

The other contentious planning application we received was for two self-build plots in Chapel Field, adjacent to Limebar Lane. The proposal from Bentley Properties was to gift the bulk of the field to the village should the application be approved. Although this was potentially a tempting proposition in that it would help preserve, in perpetuity, the green field gap between Marton & Grafton the planning authority deemed that our deliberations could only focus on the properties in question and not in conjunction with any gift of land. As both plots were out-with the development line we objected and the planning application was subsequently refused.

Perhaps where we add most value to our planning remit is by keeping a focus on the issues in our orbit and providing the decision makers in Harrogate with a detailed assessment on the more controversial cases, thereby ensuring they have the facts readily available and lessening the potential for oversight.

A case in point is the development activity, or rather the lack of it, in the field adjacent to Limebar Cottage.

In this case it was noted that the time constraints imposed on the previous planning permission had expired without any works having commenced, whilst the construction and groundworks undertaken post-expiry had not received approval. Furnished with our observations and evidence, the subsequent application for planning permission and Certificate of Lawful Development were both refused and action was taken to replace the trees felled during groundworks.

On a more positive note it was great to see the extension to the church progress from the drawing board and Tony Coles hard work and perseverance pay off. It is now nearing completion and I think all would agree it looks a fabulous structure, fitting in very well and providing a great new facility for the church - the first significant addition in nearly 150 years.

On the 1st April the new Unitary authority for North Yorkshire officially came into being and we said farewell and thank you to our Harrogate District Councillor, Ann Myatt, who has been an extremely valuable resource for the village over the last few years.

Our thanks once again to John Richardson for the kind donation of a fine Beech tree to commemorate the death of the Queen and the ascension of King Charles to the throne. This was planted within a handsome metal tree guard in the triangle of grass at the exit of Legrum Lane.

As Spring is upon us we have undertaken what we hope will be one of the final management consultations with Brierley Homes in respect to the Kiln Garth development as the project nears conclusion. As we speak the spoil is being removed from the new public green space and preparations are being made for the installation of new village mower hut.

To date a handful of the houses are occupied but that number is due to increase significantly. We are looking to deliver a 'Welcome to Marton cum Grafton' letter to each new household but please keep an eye out for new residents over the summer and offer them a warm welcome to the village.

One sound that will be missing from the village this summer is that of leather on willow - the village cricket team has finally run its course and disbanded. Our thanks to Stephen Marklew who has single handedly acted as organiser and groundsman for many years. We will have to collectively decide how best to manage the playing fields going forward and a meeting to discuss the options will be convened shortly.

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, 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 is admirable.

Finally to all those in the village who volunteer of their time to make life in Marton cum Grafton enjoyable and pleasant, thank you.