

DRAFT

MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting of the Parish of Martin held on Monday 16th May 2022 at 7pm Martin Club

Present: Cllr M King (Chairman, Martin Parish Council), Cllr Richards (Vice Chair), Cllrs Greenwood, Batten, Hapke and Hooper
Melissa Hildreth (Parish Clerk) and 24 members of the public.

The meeting started promptly at 7.00 pm with a brief welcome from Cllr Michael King
The theme of the meeting was “**Future hopes, concerns and developments**”. The following groups were asked to present something about themselves under this theme.

Natural England – A new work base is planned on-site at Downs Farm. Every 5 years a new plan for the management of the Downs must be done. One is now being discussed to take them to 2028. Downs is made up of 341 hectares and is owned by HCC, Natural England and NNR since 1979. It has 350 species of plants and is the best quality grassland. This is managed using sheep and cattle for grazing. Currently, problems with unauthorized vehicles driving around, cutting fencing and menacing cattle and sheep. Natural England working with HCC to see if there is any way that unauthorized vehicles can be prevented from entering the Downs. Downgrading the BOAT would help but HCC does not want to take this course of action. A guided walk of the Downs will be offered on May 24th.

Martin Community Association- Set up in 2010 and includes Martin, Tidpit and East Martin. There is a Committee of 10 members. Events are offered to the community. Planning can be difficult as it is hard to judge numbers. It is estimated that about 10% of the people living in the area come out to events. MCA would love to see more villagers come out to events. Always accepting new ideas from people for events. It would be nice to have better communication among all the organisations in the village so that events don't clash with one another. MCA has a Facebook page and advertises on the Whatsapp group.

PCC- Currently we have an electoral roll of 64 and this is fairly consistent. The church is open daily from dawn to dusk. Please come enjoy the church. There are toys for the children to play with whenever. Our Vicar is Les Player and Retired Clergy Rob Eardley. Since Covid, some regular services have been live-streamed and this looks likely to continue. Each year we support two charities. This year is the roof fund for Martin Club and Cueibet a diocese in South Sudan. We are gratefully for our army of volunteers who help to keep the Church and grounds beautiful and tidy. We would like to host more events like book swaps, flower festivals, music recitals and walks from the church. We are open to any of your ideas.

Martin Club – Currently raising funds for a new roof. It will cost £68,000 and they have received £45,000 in grants and trying for one more at £15,000. We are also looking to make some changes and add one more affordable flat. We would like a new name to reflect our changes. We like Martin Club Limited. We have a calendar of events on our webpage. We like the idea of the different Martin organisations keeping communications open so that events don't overlap.

Future Farms – Have been looking at our medium to long term business plans. The farm needs to adapt to change. Currently, could use more help with fruit and veg gardening. Future Farms is breaking even. We are monitoring the service to review and see what changes can be made.

Blandford Hall - Central village location with limited space and facilities. Currently used for the popular and much valued Future Farms Shop, weekly Saturday Market, yoga, Lunch Box Club, provides backup facilities for the Church (water, toilets etc), and many regular and ad hoc functions. We are always open to ideas about new ways to utilise the hall. We recently started the 200 Club and it now has over 140 members. The funds go towards maintaining and cleaning the hall. Hall was last refurbished in 2007 and we are looking to do this again to provide better-

disabled access, use of space and atmosphere in the hall. We survived the village to see what improvements to make and received 18 replies. From this, we will look to rework the kitchen, provide better disabled access, install infra-red heating, provide hot water to toilets and kitchen, install LED lighting, add a south-facing window, improve acoustics, and install a sound and projector system and finally just redecorate. We are speaking with contractors now to see what kind of budget we need and will pursue grant funding. Watch this space.

Parish Council report – A report received from Cllr Heron to concerning updates from HCC. The report will be posted and included with the minutes. Touches on Jubilee grants, UK homes for Refugees, Local transport views, and street lighting.

Michael King spoke for our local Parish Council, we are currently meeting in the Club most meetings but occasionally go to the Blandford Hall. We have been doing a lot of planning decisions. We recommend going through the pre-planning process. It saves time and disappointment. The road has been resurfaced which has been an improvement. Thank you to Daniel Doherty who was very helpful in convincing Highways to do a good job on our roads. We bought the Speed Indicator signs which had been working with some success. We are now having a problem with the battery and the company that we bought the signs from. We are doing our best to rectify the situation. We would like to keep our taxes low. Grass cutting and the clerk's salary are our biggest budget items. Paths are cleared by the Lengthmen program. We did a program in 2019 to see what villagers would like the council to work on. One was improving the accessibility of footpaths for pushchairs and the disabled. We have been investigating and speaking to landowners to see if it is viable to do so. We have not come to any decisions yet. It has been decided to use the name Martin Recreation Ground rather than Park as it was causing some confusion. We planted trees and flowers in the Recreation Ground last year and they are looking lovely this year. We will be purchasing a concrete table tennis table to add to the Recreation Ground. We have received a grant to cover some of its costs. We would like to plant 70 trees in honour of the Jubilee. Finally, we would like to thank Susan Sampson for her years of service on the Council as she steps down. We would like to welcome Suzanne Greenwood as a new Councillor and Melissa Hildreth as the new Clerk.

Member of public asked to know the value of a penny on the pound for the precept in the village. Every 1% increase in precept adds roughly 80 pounds to the precept received.