

MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th October 2023 at 7pm at Blandford Hall, Martin.

DRAFT

Item No	Item	Description	Actions
		Present: Chair – S. Greenwood , Vice Chair – S. Hooper Councillors- J. Richards, T. Scott-Ison, B. Hapke, B. Batten, E. Horley , County Cllr Edward Heron Clerk - Melissa Hildreth , No members of the public	
23-115	Apologies for Absence	23-115 -To receive and record. None	
23-116	Councillors' Declarations of Interest	23-116- Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011. Sam Hooper as Mark Hooper is her husband.	
23-117	Declaration of Acceptance	23-117 – MPC to welcome Eileen Horley to the Council. She is to make her Declaration of Acceptance and receive her Register of Interests form. Eileen Horley was formally welcomed by other Council members to Martin Parish Council. Her Declaration of Acceptance was signed and she received her Register of Interests form to return to the clerk within 28 days.	
23-117	Open Public Forum	23-117- The public is invited to speak on matters relevant to the meeting. The total time allowed is 15 minutes of which any one person may not speak longer than 5 minutes.	
23-118	Minutes of Previous Meeting	23-118- For Approval & Signature: Meeting held 4 September 2023, minutes to be signed have a correction, ' <i>Cllr Janet Richards did not participate in this discussion or vote on this planning application.</i> ', should have been added to 23-108 . The current draft for signing contains this correction on what was previously published. Martin Parish Council approved the corrected version of the minutes and they were signed by the Chairperson.	
23-119	Matters Arising	23-119 All items have been actioned or will be reported on later in the meeting with the exception of the following from 4 Sept: 23-110.1- Update on the placement of the tennis table- <i>The clerk has given the bats and balls to the children living near the rec grounds to share for playing on the table.</i> 23-109.4 – To discuss the copse near the recreation ground and a complaint regarding the trees. <i>The clerk has written to Sovereign to ask for trimming of hedging and trimming of trees in the copse by Rec Grounds. No reply received yet.</i> The clerk had a response from Sovereign by the time of the meeting that it would pass her request to their grounds maintenance department.	
23-120	Affordable Housing	23-120 – Guest Speaker Tim Davis, Service Manager for Housing Strategy and Development NFDC, to speak to the council about the steps needed to see if more affordable housing can be built in Martin. Tim Davis and work colleague Catherine Wallop spoke to MPC regarding affordable housing in NFDC. NFDC is building its own homes and is working with housing associations to create more affordable housing. To add more affordable housing stock to Martin there needs to first be a Parish Needs Survey. If there is a need then NFDC will seek land and help find funding to build homes. It is important that Martin Parish Council is in support of the process. Shared equity housing can also be supported in this process. Martin Parish Council voted to start the process with a Parish Needs Survey. Eileen Horely will be the liaison with Housing Strategy and Development NFDC.	

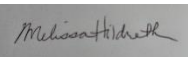
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23-121	Clerk's Report & Financial Matters	<p>23-121.1- To receive Clerk's General Report. Balance on the account as of 16 October £10020.61</p> <p>23-121.2 -To approve payment of the following accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blandford Hall rental OCT - £15 • XLN for broadband & calls SEPT 2023: £47.01 • SEPT Clerk Microsoft 365 Business £9.98 • SEPT Lebra mobile for clerk: £5.00 • Janet Richards for Webhosting UK APR-JUL-£13.49 • Janet Richards for Webhosting UK JUL-OCT - £13.49 • Janet Richards for Webhosting UK OCT-JAN - £13.49 • Clerk for an extension cord - £ 25.00 • Smith and Derby Clock - £306 • ROSPA Fee this year was 102.60 an additional £12.60 needs approval 	<p>All payments approved and change in ROSPA fee noted</p>
23-122	Cllr Heron	<p>23-122- To give Cllr Heron the opportunity to address the Parish Council Cllr Heron provided a Hampshire County Councillor Report for the Lyndhurst & Fordingbridge Division for October 2023. A copy of the report will be posted online with the meeting minutes at www.martinparishcouncil.gov.uk. A paper copy can be requested from the Parish Clerk. Cllr Heron spoke mainly about the budget for HCC which will have a shortfall of £120 million in 2025/26. The budget will be balanced for 23/24 and 24/25.</p> <p>HCC are looking for ways to balance their budget for 25/26 and there may be consultations in future about the delivery of services. It is likely that HCC will only be able to deliver services they are legally required to provide unless there is additional funding from the Government. There is money to fill potholes at the moment so please contact http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenanceproblems/potholes</p>	
23-123	District Councillor Richard's Report	<p>23-123- To listen to Cllr Richard's report from her role on NFDC- NFDC has released Community Infrastructure Levy funds and we can bid for monies to spend on infrastructures. Cllr Richards will send more information out to Cllrs. There will be another Community energy meeting in Lyndhurst and Cllr Richards will be going to see what is being said. At the recent NFDC meeting, it was noted that the finance plan will fall short in the 27/28 budget year for NFDC. Also, support for the Climate & Ecology Bill was voted down because they did not know what kind of economic impact such a bill would have on the New Forest.</p>	
23-124	Recent crime in Martin	<p>23-124.1 – To discuss what the Council may do to help reduce crime in Martin. Clerk to ask police if they have any helpful pamphlets on tips to reduce crime. Villagers should look to secure their own property making it difficult to commit crimes in Martin.</p> <p>23-124.2 – To discuss what can be done about fly-tipping around Downview Road. A clean-up day will be arranged. Cllr Batten to conduct a poll for a good date. Cllr Richards will adjust the flyer to the appropriate date. The clerk will continue to contact Sovereign to clean up the mess.</p>	
23-125	A resting place for wheelchair users in the village	<p>23-125 – To discuss requests for a stopping place, possibly on the green, for a wheelchair user. Near the bench but up and away from the road. Cllr Hooper will have one of the picnic benches moved to the pond area for a rest stop. Cllr Horley and Greenwood will conduct a working group to research a new bench by the bus stop near the notice board.</p>	

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23-126	Flood Control	23-126- Update on written appeal for flood control measures for the village. Towards Drove End there were some fields blocked from draining naturally causing extra flooding to the road last winter. The blockage is to be removed and should improve drainage. Other issues such as blocked drainage and grips will be reported to HCC and to any landowners that are responsible for the clearing of their drains. HCC will also be informed about grating for the large drainage pipes on Sillens Lane. Cllr Richards to make the reports to HCC Highways.	
23-127	Planning	<p>23-127.1 Case Ref: CONS/23/0459 Proposed Works: Fell 1 x Group of overgrown hedge (Including 4 x Lawson Cypress) Site Address: High Bank, Martin Road, Martin, Fordingbridge, SP6 3LA</p> <p><i>Councillor Janet Richards did not participate or vote on the following application.</i></p> <p>23-127.2 APPLICATION NO: 23/10819 SITE: SUNDOWN FARM, DROVE END, MARTIN SP6 3JT DESCRIPTION: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a new dwelling with detached garage/store, fencing, ground-mounted PV cells and ground source heat pump with associated landscaping and ecological pond located northwest of the existing dwelling and fronting Howgare Road MPC would like to see permission granted as it would remove a derelict building which is an eyesore. The new home is hidden from the Downs and is designed to fit into the landscape</p> <p>23-127.3 Case Ref: CONS/23/0448 Proposed Works: Ash x 6 Fell Elm x 1 Fell Site Address: The Old Rectory, East Martin Road, East Martin, SP6 3LJ</p>	<p>No objections</p> <p>MPC voted for PAR 3 Permission</p> <p>No Objections</p>
23-128	Footpaths and trees	<p>23-128.1- Update on seeking a grant for new footpath gates a footpath 29 Cllr Richards has applied for grant money for the project and is waiting for an answer.</p> <p>23-128.2- Update on the meeting concerning the lengthsman. The clerk reported on the meeting about the lengthsman. She explained what duties he would complete and explained that the Parishes had been calling on him to complete tasks that HCC should have been completing but were not.</p>	
23-129	Playground	23-129- To discuss recent public requests for further playground equipment. Local parents are encouraged to create a group to choose equipment and look at pricing. MPC would be happy to discuss how they might help fund a plan put forward by such a group.	
23-130	Climate and Ecology Bill	23-130- To discuss if MPC would like to support the Climate and Ecology Bill. Further information on www.zerohour.co.uk Martin Parish Council voted to support the Climate and Ecology Bill. The clerk is to write to Desmond Swayne MP to let him know of their decision.	

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23-131	Highways & Related Issues	<p>23-131.1- Update on taking SID company to small claims court. The clerk explained it was not likely to be successful in court as it had been too long since purchase and there was outside damage. Cllr Scott-Ison and Martyn Hildreth are to have one more attempt at repairing the SID. If no success then MPC will look at possibly replacing it.</p> <p>23-131.2 – To discuss traffic cones being used to prevent parking on Downview Road Cllr Scott-Ison to speak to our local police constable to see what is the best action.</p> <p>23-131.3- Update on response to letter regarding speeding and requests for highway improvements at the Salisbury end of Martin Drove End. Cllr Hooper to write a letter to address a member of the public's concern regarding speeding.</p> <p>23-131.4 – To discuss grates on the drains in Sillens Lane. Cllr Richards to report to Highways that they should put a grate.</p>	
23-132	Budget for 24-25	<p>23-132 -To decide on the members of the task group needed to work on the 24-25 budget along with the clerk. Cllr Greenwood, Cllr Richards and clerk to meet to discuss the budget.</p>	
23-133	Annual review of the Clerk	<p>23-133 – To decide on the members of the task group for the annual review of the clerk. Cllr Greenwood, Hapke and Horley to meet with the Clerk as a working group.</p>	
23-134	Minor Matters and Items for Next Agenda	<p>23-134- Councillors are to report minor matters and items for future agendas. Report on cracks on the swings in the playground and the cost of new sandbags for the football goals.</p>	
<p>Date of Next Meeting: Monday 4th December 2023 commencing at 7 pm @ Blandford Hall</p>			
<p>Posted: 13th November 2023</p>		 <p>M Hildreth, CLERK TO THE COUNCIL</p>	