

Marston Parish Council Tuesday 9th September 2025

Marston Chapel, 7pm

Meeting Minutes

Present: Mark Cherrington (Chair), Jon Robbins, Phillip Bellow, Jonathan Nickell (Finance), Charlie Milton, Steve Bennet (Clerk)

Also Present Dawn Whiting (minutes)

Agenda Item No	Agenda Item	Notes
1	Apologies	None Received
2	Declarations of Interest	None Declared
3	Approval of Minutes of previous Parish Council meeting	Minutes of Parish Council meeting on 8 th July 2025 approved as accurate. Proposed JN, Seconded PB
4	Matters arising from the minutes of previous meeting	Action Tracker updated accordingly: Completed Actions: 7/ii/270525 Jubilee Footpath sign installed. MPC would like to thank Harry and George Howard for helping with the installation. 9/27052025 Land Registry have confirmed the land at NB where the bench is sited is unowned/unregistered. Parish Steward to be tasked with tidying up area. 6/b/080725 – Semington Brook update to be given at this meeting 9/9/25 therefore action closed. 6/c/080725 No objections, agreed comment submitted to WC re PL/2025/05057. 6/e/080725 Solar Fund applications from Chapel and Christchurch to be finalised. On agenda for this meeting 9/9/25 therefore action closed 6/f/080725 MPC meeting dates have been uploaded to website and published in The Bridge 6/g/080725 Trustee of Common Land discussion on agenda for tonight 9/9/25 therefore action closed.

		Actions 6/c/080725 & 6/a/080725 were closed as considered to be covered in 6/270525 which will be addressed at Nov meeting by Fiona Cassidy. 5/080724 was closed as was a duplicate of action 4/270525.
5	Items for discussion Common Land Footpaths	a) Tree maintenance plan/action on Common Land 1. A Marston tree plan was created last year – SB to circulate to all councillors to enable a decision to be made on what works to undertake. Tree plan is reviewed every 3 years by William Waldron. Recommendation is for all trees prioritised as 1 & 2 to be addressed this year. Quote from Waldrons received for £1080 inc VAT. Priority 1&2 trees are mainly along Long Street. 2. SB to mention Tree Plan to Great Cheverall council as trees beyond the Marston boundary on Long Street fall within their footprint. b) Following a discussion re an overgrown area of the Common Land MC confirmed there will be 1 more mow this year to include the uncut right-hand side of Long Street. c) Management of Parish Steward Parish Council allocated ½ day per month in Marston. PB to liaise with Steward re jobs required, and job prioritisation, including walking the ditches with him to understand where they run, and the condition they are in. Any village issues to be sent to PB to discuss with/allocate to steward. d) My Wilts App – Parishioners are encouraged to continue to use the app to raise any issues, and to advise the Parish Council if no action is taken to address the issues raised. e) Common Land Trustees – SB gave a summary of the history of the Common Land and the Trustees. Discussion took place. JN to review the Solar Fund Management documents and summarise the original detail and bring to the next MPC meeting. Footpaths f) Blockage of Marston ROW 4 Stile & footpath overgrown for over a year. Landowners are responsible for clearing footpaths on their land. CM to review site with landowner, then landowner will maintain. g) WC upgrade of horse path to restricted byway

		CM proposed MPC support the recommendation, JN seconded. CM to respond to WC correspondence. h) Update of progress on the maintenance of the breach in the Mill Leet at Reybridge. EA unable to manage water level without Mill consent. WC now have a plan to deal with pedestrian access over the river. Plan yet to be shared with MPC. WC will ensure public footpath remains open. Item to be closed, however footpath access to be monitored and if issues persist MPC to liaise with WC on his matter. i) Letter requesting information on footpath at the end of West Lane. CM gave an update – Historic maps show in 1700's a footpath from West Lane to the end of the parish boundary towards Bulkington. However, from the boundary to Bulkington was not defined on definitive map in 1952. Feedback has been given in response to the letter received.
	Highways	Highways j) MPC very happy with the hedge and ditch works undertaken at Norney Bridge/Rd recently. Long Street ditches need to be deeper – Landowners to work together to maintain ditches ability to carry water levels. 1. SB to share website details re water levels to enable parishioners to be aware of likely flooding in advance. Members of the public raised flooding and the stress related to this are a major concern. PB suggested MPC create a flood plan to include drains/ditches/etc which cause the most impact, identify residents most impacted including vulnerable and disabled residents whose care may be disrupted by flooding. CM to continue to sit on Flood meeting. JR is dedicated flood coordinator. 2. PB, CM and JR to establish a working group to work together on Flood plan. 3. Local landowners to work together re clearing ditches along Long Street. MC to approach Howards to enquire as to whether they may be able to assist with deeper digging of ditches if required. 4. Quote to be obtained to remove bull rushes from the drip and the pond – MC to discuss with Robert
	Solar Community Fund	k) White Lines at Long Street junction – CM & SB have reported absent lines and will continue to do so via the My Wilts App. Solar Community Fund

		l) Fund criteria summary document reviewed by all councillors – 1 amendment to be made to reflect the decision to reserve 50% of annual income to be accrued for big projects. JN proposed summary be accepted (with amendment), CM seconded. Funding Allocations m) MPC agreed to award Christchurch £750 towards the application for £2500, and £1500 to Marston Chapel towards application for £5000. CM proposed, MC seconded. Planning n) P/2024/009 to divert footpath NO 1. Led by Janice Green Senior Definitive Map Officer. In summary the application is to move an unsafe footpath to a safer place with a bridge across and pipe for drainage. No objections – SB to reply.
6	Finance	No finance report available – JN will report at Nov meeting
7	Correspondance	Clerk has received information regarding a meeting on 2nd Oct at 6pm in the Town Hall in Devizes regarding a proposed train station at Lydeaway. This was discussed however MPC will not be sending representation. Easement Land registry requested section 16-18. SB has discussed with Bybrook resident's solicitor. Land Registry have requested an agricultural surveyor assess the land to ensure common land trust is not missing out on valuation increase payment. The easement was granted in 1964 by WC. JN proposed the PC reply by saying the easement was granted in 1964 and the owners are now actioning the right of the easement. MPC don't have the power to turn it down, charge them, etc as easement already issued. SB and JN to discuss this week. JR to reply to previous correspondence received requesting British Horse Society signage be displayed throughout the village. MPC have decided against displaying these signs.
8	Closure of meeting and AOB	Wiltshire Councillor update Black dog scheme starting; £2 million investment. 4-way traffic lights. Electric installation currently underway. Works will be ongoing until Feb 26 and this will involve road closures at times.

		Caen Hill junctions being upgraded, Poulshot road will be signalised. Whistley Rd plans to be finalised. Will also involve reductions in speed limits. Consultation process is currently open. Plea from Whistley not to use Whistley road as a cut through when roads are closed. Community governance review – Parish survey received SB to respond by 7th Oct. AOB A discussion took place regarding speed limits throughout the village. This was reviewed in recent years and it was agreed that at this time this would not be revisited. Christmas Tree on the green. A suggestion was received to invest in a light tree or similar for both the Green and at Norney Bridge. This would align with the council's intentions to reduce its carbon footprint and reduce harm to wildlife and the environment. Item to be further discussed by councillors.
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Item No	Action	Responsible Person	Update	RAG rating
4/ii/101224	Further horticultural advice to be sought re planting a permanent "Christmas" tree on the common.	JN	Update 24/2/25 – JN to obtain quotes for a red oak 27/5/25 - None available atm. Action carried forward. 19/9/25 JN to update on 11/11/25	Pending - Action is nearly 12 months
Items raised at Village meeting 27/5/25	Future of MPC marquee, generator and trailer to be decided, hire out, use, sell	MPC	9/9/25 JN to assess condition of marquee to determine whether it can be kept, advertised/hired and used	Pending - JN to bring update to 11/11/25 meeting
2/270525	Councillors disclosable interests to be registered with WC	SB	Update 8/7/25 1 councillor outstanding 9/9/25 SB and MC to submit ASAP - week following the meeting	Pending - SB and MC to submit asap wc 9/9/25
4/270525	Info re termination of analogue land lines and the availability of free mobiles for disabled and vulnerable residents to be issued	SB/DW	Update 8/7/25 BT have transferred the village to digital. SB to submit article in the Bridge 9/9/25 - SB to write and submit article to The Bridge - deadlines are 15/9 and 15/10 for upcoming editions	SB to action by 15/9 or 15/10 to enable article to be published in Bridge
6/270525	Recommendations for future mowing of the Common Land to be explored. Could include a village survey.	FC	FC to also look into having a wild flower area (previously Action 4/i/101224). Agenda item for 11/11/25	Pending - agenda item 11/11/25
9/270525	Options appraisal to be compiled to include the 2 most likely options of separate Trust and MPC & continuation of joint Trust and MPC. Options appraisal to be brought to future MPC meeting once drafted.	SB	item on agenda for 8/7/25 - Future discussion to take place when full council in attendance. On agenda 9/9/25 deferred to 11/11/25	Pending - agenda item 11/11/25
11/270525	Website commissioning to be discussed and brought back to future meeting	JN/FC		JN and FC to discuss prior to meeting on 11/11/25
11/270525	Traveller Procedure/policy to be drafted	SB	08/07/2025 Members of the public have access rights but not rights to camp. Update Common Land is considered Private land - therefore it is the responsibility of the trustees to take legal action against anyone illegally camping on the common. SB to seek legal advice from WC legal team	Policy to be drafted and circulated to councillors prior to meeting on 11/11/25
11/270525	Recommendations for AI technology to support minute taking in future to be sent to DW.	ALL	A number of suggestions have been received and considered, no suitable free option identified currently.	Pending
5/a/1/09092	Tree plan to be circulated to all councillors prior to meeting 11/11/25	SB		Item to be added to agenda 11/11/25 for decision to be made on works to be approved
5/a/2/09092	Tree plan to be mentioned to Great Cheverall council as they may want to assess the trees that fall in their footprint, beyond the Marston boundary on Long Street.	SB		Item to be added to agenda 11/11/25
5/c/090925	PB to coordinate Steward, including walking the ditches to understand where they run and the condition they are in	PB		
5/e/090925	Summary of original Solar Fund set up detail to be compiled and brought to the Nov MPC meeting. This to form an agenda item in Nov	JN	This info will enable discussions re future of Common Land trustees to progress	Item to be added to agenda 11/11/25
5/f/090925	CM to review Marston Row 4 footpath and stile with landowner	CM		

