

Marton Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting

Chair: Cllr Faye Chambers

Minutes Taken by Helen Keeves - Parish Clerk

Draft Minutes of Marton's Annual Parish Meeting (APM) held on Thursday 6th May, 18.30pm Online Microsoft Teams Meeting

Meeting Commenced at 18.30 and concluded at 19.00.

1. ATTENDANCE

Cllr Faye Chambers (Chair)	Helen Keeves – Marton Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Cllr Sarah Crawford	Cllr Mike Taylor Cllr David Fry
Cllr Rob Lummis (Vice Chair)	Mrs Jenny Walsh

2. APOLOGIES

PCSO Banks

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 9th April 2019 agreed and signed as accurate (2020 meeting cancelled due to Covid restrictions).

**Completed
Cllr Faye Chambers**

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

Marton Parish Council chair's report April 2020 – April 2021 by Cllr Faye Chambers

Context

- A year of Covid-19 restrictions, online meetings, and community support from volunteers for those isolating or shielding.
- The only parish council organised events were volunteering days for the biodiversity project (with limited numbers to enable social distancing) and two junior cricket sessions arranged in partnership with the MPFA and Marton Cricket Club.

MPC Organisation



- No change in councillors, thanks to Sarah Brown, David Fry, Rob Lummis, and Mike Taylor for their continued dedication in volunteering.
- Adopted a 'rolling chair' model in Sept 2020 so each councillor takes the chair role for two months to share the responsibility.
- Adopted an Equality Policy and a Safeguarding Policy (Sept 2020) as recommended by WALC.
- The parish council's Financial Regulations, Constitution and Standing Orders were reviewed and adopted in Nov 2020.
- Helen Keeves sadly handed in her notice as clerk in March 2021, due to other work commitments. The role has been advertised and we would love village residents to apply.

Village Improvements / Maintenance



- Despite covid-19 restrictions, the planting project was supported by an amazing 52 residents who volunteered in small groups a total 1600 hours to improve biodiversity in village areas totalling 2060m².
- Flooding in Dec 2020: Experiences shared with the Coventry and Warwickshire Flood Resilience Team to request further support for road closures and traffic communication. A new Emergency Plan template was completed in early 2021.
- The primary school bus pick up/drop off point was moved by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to the main road without consultation while schools were in lockdown operations. Supporting parents, the MPC got the decision reversed in March 2021.
- Marton Cricket Club formed a partnership with AJ Landscaping and took over the playing fields grass cutting from March 2021.
- The streetlamp next to the church is due for replacement but delayed costings from WCC mean this could not be completed this year.
- Community Speedwatch continues to be a village ambition; various new police officers have been contacted this year and funding bids have been submitted to purchase equipment needed.

Crime Reports

- A low crime year, with one-off reports only of a stolen catalytic converter, vandalism of the willow dome and night noise near the pavilion.
- Illegal motorbikes on the railway line resumed once lockdown eased, though additional temporary bollards are restricting their access.



Finances

- Secured a Councillor's Grant Fund of £1050 for planting and environment improvements, including a willow dome, completed Dec 2020.
- Received a Severn Trent Community Fund grant of £5597 for biodiversity improvements, including community raised beds, wildflower areas and signs, completed Jan 2021 with a recycling area to follow.
- Awarded a County Councillor's Covid-19 Grant Fund of £815 for newsletter printing during restrictions limiting social contact, July-Nov 2020.
- Emergency supplies shed funding (£850) will roll into another year, delayed by planning issues.
- The 2021/2022 precept was increased by £500 (equivalent of £2.50 per household per year) to cover increasing village maintenance costs.

Assets



- Monthly defibrillator checks continue to be completed by the clerk and logged on The Circuit (online database). New pads were added in April 2020.
- A new bench has been donated in memory of Tim Foden, to be sited soon by the MPFA.
- The annual playground inspection was successfully conducted, and the report received in Nov 2020.

5. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS (in alphabetical order)

5.1 Marton Brownies

What a strange year. We stopped meeting in March and met again for 2 outdoor meetings on the playing field in September, then moved onto Zoom for the rest of the winter term and all of the Spring term.

The Brownies have adapted well to Zoom meetings on the whole. We even held an enrolment ceremony online, though the internet provided a few challenges that evening. We have enjoyed Bingo online and have even managed to make a cake in a mug. We have delivered craft packs so that we can make our crafts together.

We currently have only 6 Brownies and need to recruit when the world becomes more normal.

Financially it has been a difficult year. We still have subscriptions to pay to girlguiding for insurance etc while income has been reduced. However, we successfully applied for a youth COVID grant from the government and this together with subs from parents last term will keep us afloat.

We are going to meet outdoors and on Zoom alternate weeks until half term, then review.

If you know of any girls aged 7-10 in Marton and surrounding villages, we would love them to join us.

Wishing everyone a restful, normal and healthy summer.

Elizabeth Murray
Marton Brownies
01926815466

5.2 Marton Village Cricket Club

2020 Season results summary: Due to the COVID Pandemic only 11 games were played during the latter part of the season of which we won 5 and lost 6

The club has around 30 players of which most (21) are members and 9 are non-members who can be drawn upon when we are short.

The Club's financial status continues to meet the committee's aim which is to have sufficient funds at the end of the season to cover the following seasons' fixed costs.

Due to the reduced number of games, there was no end of season awards ceremony but there was an AGM. Also, members attending the Green Man at Dunchurch did get a chance to say farewell to Kyrone Dodd, our outgoing Chairman who was leaving to return with his family to his native country, Australia. A presentation was made to Kyrone to thank him for his support and commitment to the Club.

The 2020/21 season committee members are:

Chairman - Dan Liddle, Vice Chairman and Grounds - Alan Naylor, Treasurer - Alun Evans, Secretary - Neil Lawson, Captain and Fixtures Secretary - Loz Truslove, Webmaster - Sean Povey, Social Secretary - Damian Slater, Safeguarding Officer - Gareth Evans, Committee member - Jay Singh, Grounds - Reg Smith

The club is grateful for the continued support of Topgrass and Mainline Timber. The Club is also grateful for the support we receive from the village, the Village Parish Council (in particular, Helen for her management of the sports field mowing) and from other village organisations.

The club has a full list (24) of home and away fixtures for 2021. For the time being at least and until advised otherwise, all of these games will be played in line with Government and ECB guidelines which basically means that the pavilion can only be used for toilets and not as changing rooms or for the purpose of serving refreshments.

Please do come and watch some of the home games but please also stay socially distanced and safe.

Finally, if anyone wishes to join the club as a player or in any other capacity, please contact the undersigned.

Yours on behalf of your Marton Village Cricket Club "The place to play and players to play"

Alan Naylor, 07480193093
6 Louisa Ward Close, Marton

5.3 Marton Local History Group

Along with most other village organisations the Local History Group has not met this year. We await the developments of the next few months, especially the functioning of the village hall. Hopefully we will return to normal in the autumn with a full programme for the winter season. Group finances remain stable; there has been no income and the only expenditure has been on external subscriptions. A full review of the finances will be presented to the next AGM, covering the period from the last AGM held.

The committee are always interested in finding local people who have already done or are prepared to do some local history research and either present it to the Group themselves or pass the material on for someone else to do a talk. Contact email: df@davidfry.net or telephone: 01926 632936.

5.4 Marton Museum of Country Bygones

There has been little formal activity in the museum over the past year apart from a short, socially distanced, opening season during the summer, followed by a HODs Weekend with reduced activities. The latter had been prepared as if it would be a normal HODs weekend on the theme of Marton Nature, but it will still serve the museum well for a fuller repetition this year. A couple of Offer Group meetings and informal Collection Group meetings have been supplemented by more individual meetings and communication by email. A tentative Zoom meeting for all the volunteers is being prepared in readiness for a possible late June reopening. The museum will definitely be fully open for the Heritage Open Days Weekend with teas provided on the 18/19 September.

Informally progress has been made in planning for additional storage for the museum which will require quite a bit of fund raising, mainly through grant applications. Preparatory work has also gone into hanging the small pony hoe on the side of the museum and brackets have been forged by a local engineering firm. Other plans for improved displays and signage in the museum are also to be enacted before summer opening.

All in all, having more time to think has had some positive benefits, not least in recharging batteries and reviewing aspects of taking the museum into the next ten years.

David Fry

5.5 Marton Newsletter

In February this year the Marton Newsletter celebrated its eleventh birthday in its new magazine format. In that time, it has been entirely funded by its valued advertisers so that a print run of 235 copies is delivered each month to every household in the village (and a few beyond). This involves contributions by a team of regular writers, together with guest contributions, which are then compiled by a small editing team, with support from an advertising

manager. The printed copies are delivered by yet another team of regulars. All involved are volunteers and there are too many to individually credit here, but many thanks to each of them. Along with the village website, the Newsletter continues to have a valuable role in keeping villagers informed and helping to promote a sense of community.

During the first lockdown the decision was taken to continue producing the Newsletter as a vital means of communication within the village at a time when we were restricted from face-to-face contact. Fortunately, a County Council grant was secured to cover additional costs imposed by having to use a commercial printer (previous costs were much lower through using a co-operative school that was closed and unavailable during lockdown). When schools did return the option of using the school was no longer open to us. Thanks to the residue of the grant, improved advertising income and generous donations from residents for Christmas greetings, we have been able to guarantee production of the Newsletter for another year. Although costs have almost doubled, the use of a commercial press has improved the time lag between editing and production as well as the quality of reproduction – now even a colour cover included in the price!

For the time being we have a business plan that secures the future of the Newsletter with the continued support of the volunteers and the village.

David Fry

5.6 Marton Playing Fields Association

Due to restrictions caused by the Covid pandemic, unfortunately all MPFA events were cancelled. In the late summer, the committee followed the available government guidance for the re-opening of the play area and gym equipment after reviewing health and safety risk assessments. The hire of the pavilion for private use was not allowed. (Hiring will be available after June 22nd 2022).

However, on a positive note, the Junior cricket session in September and the project to introduce wildflower meadow & willow dome lifted the spirits in a difficult year for everyone.

Please get in touch if you would like to join the MPFA committee and “Keep Marton Active”. There is currently a vacancy for a treasurer and secretary.

Dinyar Baria
dinyar.baria@hotmail.co.uk

5.7 Marton Walkers

We hold our first walk for over a year this month (April 25th). Our last walk was in February 2020. We formed the Marton Walkers Whats App group in March 2020 and have been keeping in touch throughout the pandemic.

We held four virtual reality walks between March and June visiting Hunningham, Bubbenhall, Grandborough and Offchurch. With up to 20 members involved this enabled us to “walk” whilst viewing pictures of the countryside. We hope to continue with our walks in the future.

Dates for future walks are as follows 23 May, 27 June, 25 July, 22 August, 26 September, 31 October, 28 November, 26 December (Boxing Day Walk) 16 January 2022 (Late Christmas Lunch) 30 January.

We walk approximately 5 miles starting and finishing at a pub, where you can either depart, stay and have a drink or enjoy a meal (Sunday Lunch) always nice after a country walk.

To join Marton Walkers contact Mike Johnson 01926 632960 mobile 07753968570
e mail. mikeofmarton@hotmail.com or join our Whats App group by sending me your mobile phone number.

Mike Johnson

5.8 Marton War Memorial Hall

Well, what a year memorable for lots of reasons.

Nobody in the audience at the showing of Downton Abbey or those happy Progressive Dinner coffee attenders in early March would have predicted that for the majority of Martonians the Village Hall was about to shut for more than twelve months.

No more cinema, sporting events, History Group, Keep Fit, Pilates, Brownies, and the unthinkable: no 2020 Marton Night Out!

As the nation went into shutdown in March 2020, we reluctantly shut the doors for events at the Hall. What we didn't do, however, was give up. Throughout the year, I'm delighted to say, the committee continued to meet via Zoom and so we were able to remain in close contact. Whilst we were unable to meet together at the Hall thanks go to individual committee members who carried out various pieces of work. The bar area was cleaned, tidied and stock was sold off. A major refurbishment of the audio-visual control box was undertaken, and plans hatched for improvements to the fabric of the buildings and the heating system.

Work to improve our administration also took place. A project to contact all residents and encourage them to receive our marketing communications via email has been very successful and will see a major reduction in the amount of paper that we use in future. A major step forward has also been taken in the use of technology. In future we will all be able to buy tickets for events and purchase refreshments at the Hall without using cash. We have also recently launched a revitalised, improved 200 Club.....please note we still have some numbers available.

Whilst we scaled it back, we still maintained basic cleaning of the Hall and although the Hall was essentially closed, we were able to support a family who found themselves mid building work and kitchenless at the start of lockdown.

We were delighted and very nervous when the easing of restrictions last summer meant that Pilates classes could recommence on a limited attendance basis. Again, great work from committee members meant that we could declare the Hall as Covid secure. It was also positive that we were able to host Brookside surgery who again used the Hall to provide flu jabs for some of the Marton residents.

Unfortunately, good things came to a quick end with the second lockdown meaning that we, once again, had to close our doors.

Whilst no events have meant that we have not sold any tickets or provided any bars or food the Hall, again through the hard work of committee members, has been able to receive some financial support from Rugby Borough Council. We are very thankful for this as it means we have maintained a sound financial base.

The pandemic also provided other opportunities. Early on in 2020 the Village Hall, together with the Church and Parish Council established the Marton Community Network. This has been a great success, working through a fantastic group of dedicated volunteers. Help and support has been provided to Villagers who have been affected by Covid whether it's a trip to the Post Office, pharmacy or supermarket or just a chat on the phone. We should all be proud of the Network as it is one of the things that makes Marton such a brilliant place to live.

Looking forward we are starting to discuss our plans for reopening as and when the stages of the Government Roadmap allow. There is a fantastic summer of sport to look forward to and discussions are taking place with other Village organisations about joint events during the rest of the year. We are looking forward to welcoming back our regular users, the most important thing is that we won't be opening the doors until it is safe to do so.

So, an "interesting" year and one, I'm sure, we will all remember.

In conclusion I have to thank all of the Committee members, and their families, for the hard work and support over the last 12 months. We couldn't have kept going without you all! I'm certainly looking forward to serving the first pint at the first Village Hall event.

Rob Lummis, Chair

5.9 Neighbourhood Watch

Well this has certainly been an unusual year! One thing Coronavirus and Lockdown has done for our village is create an even greater sense of local community - something Neighbourhood Watch relies heavily on! It is with your vigilance in keeping an eye out for any suspicious activity and your quick response in alerting neighbours either directly or through our magnificent Village Google Mail, that crime in our village is relatively low - Thank you so

much for this, Marton is a very well connected and caring community.



Crime Statistics for our area - Rugby Rural South (map left) can be found on the police website - www.police.uk, search by postcode. As you can see from the map just fit in the top left boundary - Marton often seems to be on the edge of lots of boundary areas! Crime in Marton itself for the year has been relatively low, over 12 months: 1 theft of a catalytic convertor from a vehicle, 24 reports of domestic disturbances and antisocial behaviour, 4 of criminal damage and 1 public order report.

Last but not least, we continue to see speeding vehicles around and through the village. Hopefully the Speed Watch group will be trained up soon and out on our streets to catch speeding and dangerous vehicles.

The most effective means of reducing crimes is for all to keep an eye out for both ourselves and our neighbours, secure your property - lights, CCTV and good locks, mark your property, and most importantly sign up to be included on our wonderful Marton email group - just sent a request to admin@martonvillage.com I use the email group to send out all of the relevant reports and advice that I receive from the police and it is also used to report very quickly any suspicious activity - it is quick and invaluable – please join if you are not already in the group, it is also a wonderful way to keep connected to your friends and neighbours in these strange times of lockdown and social distancing (which hopefully will come to a safe end soon).

Keep safe and let's keep on looking after each other in our wonderful village,

All the Best from Miranda Aston
Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

5.10 St Esprit Church in Marton

CHURCH BUILDING REMAINS CLOSED BUT MAY BE CHANGING SOON

It is hoped that the church building will be permitted to open either in May or June, we will update via the Marton email and the church noticeboard. St Esprit Marton's church community continues to be active and available to all. Please contact either of the churchwardens (Janet Paget or Jenny Walsh) with any queries or requests for pastoral support. We continue discussions about a new vicar.

CHURCH SERVICES (may change)

Revd Rob Rogers continues to support us, with 2 online services of Holy Communion plus we have recorded services on the other Sundays. We also share deanery resources including In the Spirit (1st Sunday evening) via Facebook and YouTube. Details are on the noticeboard and the Marton email.

Please contact Joe Walsh if you want joining details for services or wish to be included on our Church mailing list (email or posted) t:01926 632547, m:07399 480966 e: joe.a.walsh@btinternet.com

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING – MAY 12th 7.30pm via Zoom

Please contact Joe Walsh for joining details, further information is on the church noticeboard and will be circulated via the Marton email group.

FOODBANK DONATIONS

Thank you for all the foodbank donations (cash and products). Tins, jars, packets and toiletry items can be left in the collection boxes on the drive of The Cottage, North Street or in the porch of 18, Birdingbury Road.

CHURCHYARD – HELP REQUIRED PLEASE

Working Party in family groups on MAY 8th 10.00 -12.30 (Bring your own tools). As we are allowed to meet as 2 households or 6 people, we can resume work to tend the churchyard. All help appreciated - no group activities are currently allowed however households are very welcome to support your village churchyard. Any strimming or weeding would be fantastic, thank you to those who keep plots or areas neat and tidy. If you cannot join us but have any spare time to support the churchyard, please do so at any time.