

# Marton Parish Council Meeting

Chair: Cllr Faye Chambers

Minutes Taken by Sarah Robson - Parish Clerk

## Draft Minutes of Marton's Annual Parish Meeting (APM) held on 19th May 6:30pm.

Meeting Commenced at 18:55. Meeting Closed 19:30.

### 1. ATTENDANCE

Cllr Faye Chambers (Chair), Sarah Robson (Clerk)

### 2. APOLOGIES

Cllr Lumis, Cllr Heath

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd May 2022 were agreed and signed as accurate.

**Completed**  
**Cllr Faye Chambers**

### 4. CHAIR'S REPORT

#### MPC organisation

- Cllr Mark Hardy chose not to stand for re-election in 2023 and was thanked for his valuable contributions. All other councillors – Faye Chambers, David Fry, Rob Lummis and Mike Taylor - were re-elected and were also happy to welcome new councillor Sarah Heath to the role.
- All are to be thanked for their continued dedication in volunteering as councillors.
- Cllrs would like to thank Sarah Robson for continuing as the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer throughout the 2022-23 financial year.

#### Village improvements / maintenance

- A village questionnaire was compiled and distributed in early 2023, the results of which will inform parish council priorities and decisions going forward. Thanks to everyone who responded.
- A grant to replace five streetlamps with energy efficient lamps was successfully secured from Warwickshire County Councils Green Shoots fund. These are now in place on the main road.
- Plans to build a storage area as an extension of the museum, to also house the council's emergency response equipment and provide additional pavilion storage, are well underway and building is expected to start in early summer 2023.
- Village biodiversity improvement has continued, most notably with a further 200 native species saplings and hedgerow plants (donated by the Woodland Trust) being planted in March. Thanks to a donation of wildflower seed from Railway Paths, the verges around the demolished bridge have also been sown by volunteers. All volunteer efforts are greatly appreciated.
- Community Speedwatch continues, co-ordinator Adam Hewitt and all the volunteers are to be thanked.
- The Covid-19 Community Network of volunteers, including parish council members, continues to offer support. Cllr Lummis is to be thanked for his regular email communication with residents.
- Monthly defibrillator checks continue to be completed by the clerk and logged on The Circuit (online database). A free public CPR and defibrillator training event using BHF online training was held in February.
- The annual independent playground inspection was successfully conducted and the report received.

#### Crime reports

- The police continue to have access to the pavilion on the playing fields as a drop-in Police Hub.
- It has been a low crime year, with very few crime reports.
- Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator Miranda Aston is to be thanked for her continuing volunteering work.

#### Grants/Donations/Finances

- Secured funding of £2,605 for energy efficient streetlight replacements from Warwickshire County Council.
- Successfully bid for around 200 free saplings and hedgerow plants from the Woodland Trust.
- A bench donated in memory of Tim Foden has been installed by the MPFA.
- The council voted to increase the precept to cover increasing electricity and service costs, but were able to limit the increase to just 1% to reduce impact on residents in 2023/2024.

## 5. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

### **Marton Brownies**

Another busy year at Brownies.

Summer 2022 we went den building at Ryton Pools, held our own Commonwealth games and celebrated the Platinum Jubilee. You will have seen our beautiful notice board in the Hall.

Later in the year we explored all things that fly including paper aeroplanes and rockets using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar as fuel. This had mixed success but we did have one rocket that leapt 2 feet in the air!

The highlight of our Spring programme was a pamper evening for the Brownie Mums and Grandmas for Mothers Day. We ended the term with a visit to St Esprit and an egg hunt around the churchyard.

You will probably see us out and about around the village this term.

As always we would be grateful for any additional help.

Elizabeth and Rosanna

Brown Owl and Little Owl

### **Marton Local History Group**

The MLHG met for the first full season of a variety of meetings after the dip in the waters of the previous year – post Covid. The full list of meeting is given below

- 31th October 2022: Tales from St Esprit Churchyard – Group talks
- 28th November: The Chedham's Yard Story – Krys Pietrecki
- 30st January 2023: Police & Crime in Marton – Group talks
- 27th February: A Nineteenth Century Bourton Hall Photo Album – David Fry
- 27th March: Visit to Bourton on Dunsmore church
- 24th April: AGM + Concluding presentations on the history of the police in Marton.
- 29th May: Outing to Chedham's Yard

It is clear that attendance is always best for talks that relate well to the near locality. That was especially born out by the poor turnout to the fascinating Chedham's Yard talk, despite it having the glamour of being associated with a BBC series. By contrast the Bourton talk brought in a bumper audience from the associated villages. The committee will continue to bear this in mind despite the limitations of the criterion.

The committee are always interested in finding local people who have already done, or are prepared to do, some local history research. Ideally they would then either present it to the Group themselves, or pass the material on for someone else to do a talk. Please contact email:df@davidfry

### **Marton Newsletter**

In February this year the Marton Newsletter celebrated its thirteenth birthday in its new magazine format. In that time it has been entirely funded by its valued advertisers so that a print run of 230 copies is delivered each month for 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 volunteers who have battled through the many wet days this year to get the copies out. Along with the village website, the Newsletter continues to have a valuable role in keeping all villagers informed and helping to promote a sense of community.

Financing the Newsletter has become less of a concern in the last couple of years. Advertising income continues to be our most important support, but thanks to generous donations from residents for Christmas greetings, we have been able to guarantee production of the Newsletter for another year. Our printer has not raised costs and continues to offer a very competitive service and quality of reproduction – and even a full colour cover included in the price (now inside as well as out!)

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

## **Marton Museum**

There has been a lot of activity at the museum over the past year. We had our first full year of openings unaffected by Covid and have made further progress in updating the displays, however, the need for a new storage area is becoming more acute.

The target sum necessary to start work on the storage extension has been reached and work is expected to start in June lasting a couple of months. Once done we can start editing the items in the museum and aim for more variety in the displays.

Work is also continuing on the outside of the museum. Overwinter the museum sign has been taken down and has received a much needed several coats of varnish. It is hoped to re-erect it soon in a more prominent position. The strategy of making the building look less anonymous that started with the mounting of the pony hoe last year, continues with the commissioning a life-sized silhouette of George Tims, the museum founder. This will be in powder coated laser cut steel and set alongside the entrance with George's hand extended in welcome. Attention will also be given to the old farm machinery outside and the hurdles surrounding it.

The temporary displays relating to the old queen's diamond jubilee was well received, but is being replaced for the new season with one based on creativity, which is the theme for this year's Heritage Open Days in September. The museum will be taking part in this celebration as it did last September which brought many visitors to the museum. The museum will be open throughout the summer on Sunday afternoons as well as hosting groups at other times. Some have been as entertaining as the museum, especially the vintage motor cycle club from Kenilworth who were hosted last autumn!

Finally, a great big thank you to all the volunteers whose generous donation of time makes the museum a viable operation, and also the new members who have enabled the big strides forward to be made.

## **Marton Walkers**

We have had some new members join over the last few months and had on average 10 walkers out.

Notification is via our Whats App Group - Marton Walkers. We walk generally on the last Sunday of the month at 10.00 covering approximately 5 miles and then staying for a drink or meal ( both optional).

For further information contact Mike Johnson ([mikeofmarton@hotmail.com](mailto:mikeofmarton@hotmail.com))

01926-632960

Our walks recently have been at Bascote ,Bubbenhall, Stretton, Long Itchington, Southam and Birdingbury Wharf. Mike Johnson on behalf of Marton Walkers.

## **Mpeg (Marton Practical Ecology Group)**

Mpeg was created in November 2021 to build on the work of the parish council to improve the village's biodiversity. Mpeg activities are guided by ecology expert Dr Nick Steggall, working with Faye Chambers to co-ordinate volunteers.

In 2022-2023 the group's work towards village biodiversity improvement continued, most notably with a further 200 native species saplings and hedgerow plants being planted in March by more than 15 volunteers one late afternoon. All the saplings were donated by the Woodland Trust and include silver birch, oak, willow, elder, rowan, wild cherry, hawthorn, dog rose, hazel and dogwood. Thanks to a long period of wet weather after planting, the vast majority of the trees are thriving.

Also in March, thanks to a donation of wildflower seed from Railway Paths, the verges around the demolished bridge were sown by volunteers one weekend. The slopes that were barren rubble and soil for so long are now looking green and healthy and should go on to support a wide range of wildlife.

All volunteer efforts are greatly appreciated. If any resident would like to help manage Marton's 'wilder' areas, to improve the village's overall ecology, please register interest at [mpeg2022@gmail.com](mailto:mpeg2022@gmail.com).

You can also volunteer on a one-off basis, as details of all work parties will be sent ahead of time on the village email group. Accompanied children are always welcome.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

I would like to start by thanking fellow villagers for being so alert and keeping an eye out for any suspicious before or crimes in the Village and quickly reporting it, both to the police on 999 for an emergency or crime in progress, or on 101 to report a crime or suspicious activity, and to the Village using the brilliant Marton Google Mail - this absolutely is a best line of defence as it reaches the vast majority of residents instantly.

Crime in the Village is very low, but it is occurring - instances included high level, keyless car theft, van break ins and attempted burglaries.

Police support is stretched and I receive no feedback directly from the police on crimes in our area. I will continue to filter and forward all relevant information on crime prevention or crimes, scams etc. If you need any direct advice on crime prevention please contact me

Keep safe, keep vigilant and Thank you again

Miranda

### **Marton Pig Club**

Following on from the success of Pig Club 2022, we are glad to have been able to continue the enterprise with Pig Club 2023! In true Marton (and beyond) style, 11 enthusiastic pig loving households, including 3 from Eathorpe, have signed up. Understandably, there has been some turnover of pig club members. We are sorry that some have decided to not take part again this year, but fortunately we are delighted to be able to welcome some new members, joining for the first time. With member numbers slightly down, pig numbers are also slightly down this year, so now we will be raising eight.

This year's litter has been purchased from the same breeder, Pip and Charlie in Chipping Norton, as last year. The pigs have been taken from two litters; one litter is pure Saddleback and the other is a cross between Saddlebacks and Large Whites, also known in America as "Yorkshire Pigs". Both breeds are well known for being inquisitive and friendly and for their good quality, lean meat! Our cross bred pigs have none of the markings of the Saddleback so we have 4 pink pigs and 4 Saddlebacks! This lack of colouring makes them prone to sunburn, so we'll need to make sure the wallow is always filled so they can roll in the mud for their sunscreen. Currently, they are still a little nervous of human interaction but are quickly becoming braver as they get to know us.

Surprisingly, most of the major costs like purchasing the pigs, field rent, insurance and vet's contingency, have remained the same as last year. The exception, of course, is feed costs. So, with fewer households taking part, the costs per pig is a bit more that last year.

There was little preparation work needed in the field before their arrival one Sunday in late April. Just as well really, as before that time we had some very cold weather which froze the water in the trough and rainwater runoff tank. The permanent fences around the field remain in good condition after last year's repair work, so all that was needed was to clear the ground around the caravan and feed shed.

Since we decided to use half of the field last year, we were able to fence-off the other half this year. We have also added a depth gauge to the water tank, to make it a little easier to check the fresh water level; a valuable lesson learned!

As ever, arrival day was magic, with many people turning up for the first sighting of "The Eight". Pip & Charlie were mightily impressed with the piglets' new home! Since then, even though they've been with us for only a short time, The Eight have already given us so much pleasure with their funny antics and they seem very happy. They are remarkably intelligent and interact well with their human carers, of course, encouraged by their daily feed. Despite the pink colour of 4 of the piggies, none of them is called "Babe"!

We're really thankful to everyone who has joined in on our second year. Look out for our emails later this year when, all being well, we will be looking for new members for next year.

## **Marton Playing Fields Association**

The AGM was held on Monday 20th March 2023.

Chairman's report 2023

On Saturday 10th September 2022 we held our Marton Get Together Day which was a combination of Sports, Vintage cars and a collection of some amazing stalls – showcasing local businesses and activities as well as raising a huge amounts of money for the MPFA.

MPFA – Future use survey – Recently we have asked the village what facilities and improvements they would like to see at the pavilion with the aim to improve village life and to “Keep Marton Active”. The results of this will be inform our decisions about the development of the Pavilion and also our future activities.

Pavilion Development – Many special thanks to Rich and Tim who have been very active over the year in maintain the pavilion especially building the new counter bar, fitting new blinds and other improvements. We have also got two new benches fitted around the field. We have also agreed with local architect Patrick Thirwell to develop renovation plans and to give professional expertise and advice.

Friday Night at the Pavilion – We hosted our first free and evening at the pavilion in April – where we played sports and had a good catch up over a free BBQ – many thanks to those that donated money. We plan to hold these events on a monthly basis over the summer months. The next one is on the 19th May 2023.

Wildflowers/Trees - MPEG have continued their work to improve the biodiversity on the playing fields by planting an additional 100 trees to the 100 planted last year. The wildflower areas continue to mature and a greater diversity of plants are now making an appearance together with the associated insect life.

Appointment of 2023 Committee

Chair/Treasurer – Dinyar Baria

Secretary – Helen Keeves

Bookings Coordinator – John Buchanan

Facilities Manager – Richard Gardner-Brockle

Committee Member - Alan Naylor

Committee member – David Fry (also representing Museum of Country Bygones & Parish Council)

Future Dates

24th June Saturday – 13:00-16:00. The Great Marton Get Together 3.

9th September – Cancer charity fundraising event

7th Oct Saturday 19.30 – 23.00 – Pig Race fundraiser

## **Marton War Memorial Hall**

It is probably true to say that 2022/23 was the year that things got back to normal for the Village Hall, following all of the disruptions during and following the pandemic.

We hit the ground running in April with a Hall full to capacity with the first face to face Village Quiz since 2020. After her sterling work hosting online quiz evenings for many Martonians and their friends during the pandemic, it was appropriate for Clare Callaghan to be asking questions. Sadly, after many years, this was to be her last time "in the chair"; she deserves the many thanks she received for all of her efforts. Fortunately all was not lost, in January of this year Danny Dawes stepped forward bravely to take on the Marton crowd - a different style, some different subjects, but still some tough questioning and hard marking which made for another great evening of fun and laughter.

In May 2022 we were delighted to welcome Ashley Hutchings and Becky Mills for some live music which also included some additional backing from Blair Dunlop, who was a popular performer from last year.

It was pleasing to see the return of two Marton institutions, one relatively young the other long running. It was great to welcome back the monthly Friday night cinema after a long absence giving Villagers the opportunity to relax and unwind with a drink and a good film. In November, after a gap of three years, Marton Night Out came back with a bang! It was excellent to see a mixture of the regulars and some first timers take to the stage over two nights to entertain the Village and their friends. It is remarkable that the show goes from strength to strength, having said that we always need some more new acts, so please get ready for this year!

Despite the weather gods being very much against us the Village Hall hosted a street party to celebrate the late Queens Platinum Jubilee. Even though it was a chilly and wet "summers" day there was a good turn out of villagers keen to share their baking and cooking skills - and have a good time.

Another successful standalone event was the staging of Marton Arts and Crafts at the end of September with many local artists and artisans exhibiting their work at the Hall. This years event is already at the planning stage.

The Hall continues to be used by many groups such as the Brownies, the Pilates class, the MPC and the History Group. It also remains the venue for the excellent monthly Retirees Tea led by Mary and her fantastic team. We are, as a committee, pleased to provide support for other Marton organisations. In September we ran a bar at the Great Marton Get Together organised by the MPFA. This was a particularly poignant event for Marton, taking place so soon after the passing of Queen Elizabeth. In March the Hall was once again the venue for coffee and after dinner drinks following the Progressive Dinner an important event in the diary of St Esprit.

Whilst the 2022 Football World Cup and 2023 Six Nations gave our audiences the usual discomfort and disappointment we are no doubt looking forward to watching the Lionesses take part in this years World Cup over the summer and then squirming in our seats as England take part in the Rugby World Cup in September.

The Marton Community Network, set up in 2020 by the Village Hall, Church and Parish Council has continued to function offering support to Villagers who need some help - whether it is picking up shopping or a prescription or transport to a medical appointment, there is always someone willing and able to give some support.

In conclusion I must thank all of the Committee Members, and their families (who are regularly dragged in to help), for the hard work and support over the last year; we couldn't keep going without you! I would give special thanks to Bernie Baylis who stepped down (hopefully only temporarily) from the Committee this year. I asked for some new volunteers last year and we were delighted when Danny and Sarah both agreed to support us. There is lots to do and we love to hear from people who would like to lend a hand, please give us a shout if you would like to be involved. You don't have to join the Committee to come along and give some help at an event, we can, however, promise you some fun.

Marton is a great place to live, the Village Hall Committee are delighted to be part of the community!  
Rob.

**St Esprit Church**

**6. A.O.B**