

Marton Parish Council Meeting

Chair: Cllr Rob Lummis

Minutes Taken by: Louise Hollings - Parish Clerk

Minutes of Marton Parish Council (MPC) held on Tuesday, 10 March 2026 at 7:30pm Marton War Memorial Hall.

1. ATTENDANCE
Cllr David Fry, Cllr Rob Lummis, Cllr Faye Chambers, Cllr Sarah Heath, Clerk Louise Hollings
2. APOLOGIES
Cllr Mike Taylor, Cllr Dale Keeling, PCSO David Banks
3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th January signed by Cllr Rob Lummis. Minutes of Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd February signed by Cllr Faye Chambers.
4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
4.1 Amended planning application for Hall Farm raised; covered in 7.1 below.
5. COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTEREST
None
6. POLICE ISSUES
6.1 Recent Community Speedwatch meeting in Warwick indicated these efforts are a major contribution to reducing accidents. Plans for more local groups including reintroduction of Princethorpe and Long Itchington. Future dates for Marton planned. 6.2 Next police drop in booked for 26th April.
7. PLANNING MATTERS
7.1 Hall Farm; an amended planning application to change the gate has been submitted, but still does not address any of the previous issues and objections. MPC voted unanimously to reiterate our objections by the submission date, 26/3. 7.2 Summary of the recent Rugby Parish Councils Local Plan meeting included a description of the new land category of grey belt. Grey belt are areas that can be used for development if certain criteria are met. This is influenced by whether they are near towns, large settlements, small settlements, important landscapes, vulnerable to flooding etc. A large area spreading out from Rugby is now classed as grey belt, including Marton, but this does not mean automatic development. It is possibly a downgrading of green belt areas, but some sort of change is needed to allow future housing development. Needs to feed into our Neighbourhood Plan, 8.8.
8. VILLAGE ISSUES
8.1 Updated Emergency Plan leaflet supplied by Cllr Chambers to make it more action focussed. Agreed to print now (250 copies) and circulate later. Include in Welcome Pack for new residents. 8.2 No update on pavement to Long Itchington. 8.3 River analysis for January shows all levels in the normal range apart from ammonia, which is high. Point made that flooding also results in animal waste getting into the rivers. Information to be included in the Newsletter. Some discussion about recent on-line information from unofficial sites. Monitoring will continue. 8.4 New 'No HGV Access' signs for Church Street awaiting scheduling by Minor Works at RBC. Regarding school bus issue, Cllr Chambers has questioned WCCs assessment of safety, but has no response yet. 8.5 No news/decision regarding future of Black Horse. Issue with fly tipping has arisen, owners have been made aware and they have committed to trying to address the problem. 8.6 Assertion 10 - new domain purchased, martonparishcouncil.gov.uk, and new gov.uk emails for each councillor should be in use shortly. First point of contact to remain the Parish Clerk at clerk@martonparishcouncil.gov.uk. 8.7 Cemex meeting confirmed they are ending the Rugby Benevolent Fund, which has distributed funds locally. Annual shutdown means no Cemex lorries will be passing for 22 days from 22 April.

8.8 A Neighbourhood Plan was felt to be needed to replace the existing Village Design Statement and Parish Plan, which will be able to cover more areas. Questionnaires to villagers and development groups were discussed. An informal meeting by MPC was agreed to try and create some direction for the project, with a view to including it as part of the Village Meeting in May when many of the village groups will be present.

9. VILLAGE UPDATES AND MAINTENANCE

9.1 Community Network continues to provide support to the village.

9.2 Pavilion development is now close to completion with final improvements to the kitchen. Phase 2 is within budget, but the outside decking will require further funding. A village Gofundme page has been set up for donations, but the fees are questionably high. MPFA are developing a long term plan of use for the Pavilion. Discussions with Leamington Royals Cricket Club and WCA are continuing, with any agreement likely to be from next year. Following the demise of the old mowers, a new electric mower is being purchased - many thanks to our benefactor.

9.3 Roads and Footpaths. Potholes, drains and cracks continue to be an issue with new problems arising, however they do appear to be being resolved slowly. Very loud drain cover by bus shelter has an urgent submission with Severn Trent. Regular jetting for the problem drains at the end of the village, rather than standard maintenance, has been requested. Crack on the main bridge has been checked and will be followed up.

Issue of grass growing across the pavement towards Long Itchington will be addressed shortly. 30 speed sign currently facing the wrong way is to be turned around.

9.4 Grass and Hedges. New contract starts this month, check when first cut will be as grass is already growing.

9.5 MPEG. Wild flower area has been mown and the recently planted hedge is sprouting.

9.6 Streetlights. No responses from submitted funding requests. Details to be passed to Cllr Keeling for inclusion in the County Councillors Funding, mid May. Check lamps in Birdingbury Road as the area is very dark.

9.7 New food waste collection service to start in July with caddies to be circulated in May. Council Tax communication did not include the information where emails were used; follow up.

9.8 Playground Inspection report for 2025 finally received; all items low or very low risk. Minor maintenance issues and cleaning to be passed to MPFA for action.

10. FINANCE

10.1 Financial transactions from 1st January - 28th February

Expenditure

Date	Item	Value
28/02/26	Service Charge	6.00
27/02/26	SW Broadband - new domain	36.00
20/02/26	Hart Electrical (Pav Dev)	240.00
17/02/26	E.on Next	24.65
13/02/26	SW Broadband - contract change	32.96
13/02/26	EDF	40.67
09/02/26	MPC CRFO February	221.85
04/02/26	MWMH extra meeting	6.00
04/02/26	Countrywide Grass	283.50
04/02/26	Defib Batteries Direct 365	492.00
02/02/26	WATER PLUS (pavilion0302)	15.46
31/01/26	Service Charge	6.00
29/01/26	Water Plus (Mus2024)	30.02

21/01/26	Clews Skip Hire (Pav Dev)	26.40
21/01/26	MWMH Jan meeting	24.00
21/01/26	Clews Skip Hire (Pav Dev)	16.80
20/01/26	E.on Next	15.87
16/01/26	NPower (streetlights)	840.68
09/01/26	Modern Glazing door (Pav Dev)	120.00
09/01/26	Countrywide Grass	283.50
09/01/26	MPC CRFO January	221.85
06/01/26	WATER PLUS (pavilion0302)	14.96
05/01/26	Water Plus (Mus2024)	29.06

Income

Date	Item	Value
09/01-19/02/26	Pavilion Dev lottery funding	403.20

Opening balance: £9,750.73
Total Expenditure: £3,028.23
Total Income: £403.20
Closing balance: £7,125.70

10.2 Ongoing budget maintenance. Updated spreadsheet supplied, no issues. End of year position likely to be just under the planned budget, although this level of spend has required a small amount from the Parish Council reserves. Contribution to the Pavilion Development project also came from the reserves.

Continuing to dispute the large bill from Water Plus before the meter was changed.

10.3 Vic Shayler has again kindly agreed to complete the internal audit of the end of year accounts and AGAR. An external audit will also be required.

10.4 Future budget considerations:

10.4a MPFA developing a long term plan for Pavilion usage. Contribution from MPFA funds towards high electricity usage during the renovations was agreed.

10.4b Some funding for streetlighting may be available through County Councillors fund, see 9.6.

11. CHAIR ELECTION

Cllr Chambers volunteered to chair the next meeting but is unable to do so on the date set. New date agreed.

12. DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

6.30pm, Wednesday 6th May 2026, to include AGM and APM.