



Martock Parish Council
The Market House
Church Street
Martock
Somerset
TA12 6JL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Martock Annual Parish Meeting which was held on Wednesday 24th May 2023 in the Parish Hall, Church Street, Martock at 6:00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr John Hole (Chair), 8 members of the Council and nine members of the public.

Also Present: Locum Clerk and the Operations Manager.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Cllrs Welsh, Bailey and McDonald. The Ward Councillors had indicated their intention to be at the meeting but had been held up.

2. RECORDING OF THE MEETING

It was noted that the meeting would not be recorded.

3. ANNUAL REVIEW 2022/2023

The Chair, Cllr Hole, presented his annual review which is attached.

4. COUNCIL REPORTS

The following reports were received:

- Financial Report – This was not yet available and would be presented at the Full Council meeting in June 2023.
- Building & Open Spaces Committee Report – The verbal report was received. The volunteers had done a tremendous job with the trees at the top of Stoke Road, new play equipment had now been installed and Council would not be responsible for the maintenance of the new equipment.
- Planning Committee Report – Cllr Helyer presented the attached report.
- Events Committee Report – Cllr Clarke gave a verbal report. The Committee had recently been set up with the first meeting on 3rd April 2023. It had organised the Coronation events and was in the process of organising the fireworks night event.
- Services Team Report – The Services Team reports were noted. Council employed three people to deliver the Job Club, seniors support and community support for those facing hardship.

5. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

These were deferred.

6. QUESTIONS

Questions were then invited.

Q1: Were the additional homes being constructed in Martock a good or bad thing and at what point did Martock become a town?

Martock was ahead of its housing target which was set at 220 but this was only a guideline. Each application was considered on its merit and must be sustainable. A number of applications were still awaiting decision.

There were various criteria to meet before a village could become a town. Martock was larger than some towns in the area and was considered a rural centre.

Q2: A question regarding the potholes in the car park was asked. These were being addressed but approval for additional funding to complete the job had yet to be granted by Council.

Q3: Thanks were extended to Cllr Clarke for the recent Coronation event. Around 80% of costs had been covered and the Events Committee was looking at ways to raise additional income for events in the future. The aim was to break even and it was hoped that the fireworks events would contribute.

Q4: A resident expressed an interest in joining the parish council. She was encouraged to email the Locum Clerk as there were currently two vacancies subject to an election being called.

Concern was expressed regarding access to the Coate Road footpath to and from the new estate. The meeting was assured that the Ward Councillors were pursuing this matter and that a level of success had been achieved to secure a result.

Q5: Disappointment was expressed that very little seemed to have happened regarding the footpath and clarification was sought. It appeared to be an easy issue to remedy.

This was outside the Parish Council's remit but Councillors were lobbying the Ward Councillors and a resolution to this issue was expected soon. It was understood that Barratt Homes were going to undertake the upgrade of the footpath. The Parish Council had been raising the issue for the last 2-3 years.

Q6: A brief report was presented regarding flooding. The Flood Coordinators were supporting work on the River Parrott alongside five Parish Councils affected. They were beginning to produce information to help inform what works were required to address the issues on the Somerset Levels which were at odds with Wessex Water and phosphate issues.

A meeting with the scientists of Wessex Water and the Somerset Environmental Cabinet Member had been arranged and Martock Parish Council was requested to support this effort in principle. This support would be ratified by Council.

It was also reported that the Martock sewerage works with phosphate intervention works in due course.

Q7: Some concerns were expressed regarding recent social media posts that had been posted over the last few days.

The Parish Council confirmed that it would raise all the issues expressed during the meeting with the Ward Councillors.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 6:51pm.

CHAIR

DATE