



MARTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Martock Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 28th February 2024 in the Parish Hall, Church Street, Martock at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Councillors John Hole (Chair), Joy Bailey (Deputy Chair), Ashley Chapman, Paul Helyer, Alan Potter, Alison Warne, Ash Warne and Tony Welsh

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Finnis (Locum Clerk), Natalie Fortt (Chief Executive) Tracy Lamb (RFO) and Somerset Councillor John Bailey

Public participation time

8 members of the public were in attendance.

Somerset Councillor John Bailey confirmed the Gigafactory site announcement in Bridgewater. The factory site will provide around four thousand jobs and boost the Somerset economy. John also confirmed his support for the youth service provision in the parish.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that Somerset Council are reviewing the maintenance of Highways, verges etc and more details would be emerging shortly. The Chief Executive confirmed that a meeting was planned for 25th March where this was due to be discussed.

Mr Duncan Palmer addressed the Council as a member of the Martock Players. In the past the Players were able to use the upstairs room in the Parish Hall for young people to change for performances but as that room is no longer available, they are unable to accommodate young people who wish to join the group. The Chair confirmed the Parish Council's support for facilities and activities for young people and requested that a meeting take place between representative from Martock Players and the Chief Executive and Operations Manager to discuss the issue.

The Chair announced that 125 job seekers had attended the Job Fair at the Parish Hall the day before the meeting and 22 exhibitors had been available to provide information on employment and training opportunities. The event had been very successful thanks to all the hard work by staff and volunteers.

The Chair also announced that positive feedback had been received regarding the Merry Martock event that took place over the festive season. The event provides entertainment and a hot meal to parishioners and is another example of a great event being put on by staff and volunteers from the parish.

It was also noted that it was Peter Finnis' last meeting, so the Chair thanked Peter for all his hard work and wished him well for the future.

010/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were reported from Councillor Graham Macdonald and Somerset Councillor Emily Pearlstone.

011/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

012/24 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24th January be approved as a correct record.

013/24 COUNCIL VACANCIES – CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS TO BECOME CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

Council considered applications from:

- (a) Danny Dwyer
- (b) James Tresadern

The applicants both introduced themselves and explained their reasons for wanting to join the Parish Council.

Resolved:

- 1. (Unanimous)** That Danny Dwyer be co-opted on to Martock Parish Council
- 2. (7 votes to 1)** That James Tresadern be co-opted on Martock Parish Council

014/24 MARTOCK COMMUNITY SURVEY

Resolved: (By 7 votes to 0 with 1 abstention)

1. Martock Community Partnership (M3CP) be asked to coordinate the community survey with the Community Council for Somerset.
2. A Steering Group be formed by M3CP with at least two representatives from the Parish Council to manage the process.
3. The Parish Council develop a 5 year Community Plan for Martock by the end of 2024.

015/24 COUNCIL BUDGET 2023/24 AS AT 31st JANUARY (MONTH 10)

Council considered the following reports from the RFO:

- (a) Detailed Income and Expenditure by Budget Heading.
- (b) Detailed Balance Sheet.
- (c) List of Payments for December 2023.
- (d) Bank Reconciliation Statement.

Council Noted the Reports.

Notes

1. Invoices are being sent out to hirers going back to April 2023.
2. Invoice terms include a 30-day payment period, so income should start to show in the budget reports from next month.
3. The Locum Clerk thanked staff for all their hard work setting up the new invoicing system.

016/24 FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2024/25

The RFO presented the report regarding Cemetery charges for the coming financial year 2024/25.

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. The Council charge two fees for the Exclusive Right of Burial: a purchase fee for a burial plot; and a purchase fee for an ashes plot.
2. To increase the fees for interments as detailed in the report.
3. To continue with the existing zero fee for interments where a funeral is paid for out of the Social Fund.
4. For the reduced fee for children be applicable to residents under 18 years of age.
5. To increase the charges for Memorials as detailed the report.
6. To continue to charge treble fees for non-residents for interments and Memorials, as per the current scale of charges.

The Locum Clerk presented the report on the review of charges for the Parish Hall, Pavillion and Recreation Ground.

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. To increase hire charges as detailed in the report, with the exception of the proposed Football and Changing Room charges, which were deferred to the following meeting due to the need for further information.

017/24 BANK SIGNATORIES

RFO requested two additional bank signatories.

Resolved: (Unanimously) That Alan Potter and John Hole would act as signatories temporarily until the new bank account was opened.

018/24 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Resolved: (Unanimously)

7. The continuation of the internal audit contract, as agreed in April 2023, for the current financial year at a net cost of £325 plus mileage for a site visit
8. To seek quotes for internal audit for the 2024 2025 financial year, to be brought to council within 3 months

019/24 MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

The Locum Clerk explained that the Operations Manager had secured agreement from the current contractors to extend the contracts until 1st

October 2024 in order to allow these contracts to form part of the overall operational review. The contracts would remain on the current terms and prices.

Resolved: (Unanimously)

That maintenance contracts with Somerset Landscapes LTD and Evis to be extended for another 6 months under the terms of the current contracts.

020/24 YEOVIL DISTRICT HOSPITAL – CLOSURE OF HYPER ACUTE STROKE UNIT

Council considered whether to support the motion to send a letter expressing concern regarding the above proposal.

Resolved: (By 5 to 1 with 2 abstentions)

The Chief Executive issue a letter on behalf of the Council expressing concern regarding the potential impact of the closure of the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit and Yeovil Hospital.

021/24 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Resolved: (unanimously)

1. Note report from Task Group
2. Nominate Paul Helyer and Joy Bailey (with support from the Chief Executive) to serve on the Community Plan Steering Committee.
3. Transfer the Domain Name - martockplan.org.uk ownership from Andrew Clegg to Martock Parish Council at a cost of £11.99 plus VAT per annum.
4. Transfer hosting of martockplan.org.uk onto MPC owned and controlled platform.

022/24 ANNUAL BBC 'MAKING A DIFFERENCE' AWARDS – VOLUNTEER CATEGORY

A proposal was put forward to Council to nominate Gordon Swindells for a volunteer award for all his hard work as a Flooding Coordinator over the last 10 years.

Resolved: (By 4 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions)

That the Chief Executive complete the necessary form on behalf of the Council, nominating Gordon Swindells in the Volunteer Category of the BBC 'Making a Difference' awards.

023/24 COMMITTEES

Resolved:

Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee held on 14th February 2024 were noted.

025/24. FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- (a) Planning Committee – Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7.00pm.
- (b) Council – Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 7.00pm.

Noted.

026/24. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

As the following item is expected to include the consideration of exempt information, it is proposed that, in accordance with Section 1 of Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded during the discussion of the following matter, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Section 1 of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

027/24. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. That the work undertaken so far be paused and that the matter be referred to the Chief Executive to progress the process, in order to;
 - (a) Seek definitive advice with regard to the TUPE issue.
 - (b) Subject to (a) above, recommend a way forward to meet the Council's objectives in establishing suitable future youth provision.
 - (c) Advise on options for interim arrangements, potentially including temporary extension of the current service or running the current contract out, until the matter is resolved.
 - (d) To keep members advised regarding process, strategy and timeline

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Chair

Date