



MARTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Martock Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 24th July 2024 in the Parish Hall, Church Street, Martock at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Councillors John Hole (Chair), Joy Bailey (Deputy Chair), Ashley Chapman, Danny Dwyer, Paul Helyer, Graham Macdonald, Alison Warne, Ash Warne

ALSO PRESENT: Natalie Fortt (Chief Executive) and Somerset Councillor Emily Pearlstone

Public participation time

2 members of the public were in attendance in support of Item 8.

Somerset Councillor Emily Pearlstone had previously submitted a report updating the Council on Somerset Council's bus promotion. Somerset Council is reminding people to make the most of a new bus service to the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm Museum in Yeovilton.

The Council is running a summer campaign encouraging people to make the most of cheap bus travel, enjoy the fantastic locations and activities the county has to offer and help safeguard routes at the same time.

Somerset is blessed with fantastic countryside, historic sites, towns and beaches - as well as fabulous dog walks. And fares are still just £2 for any single journey.

Highways updates:

Coat Grove Issues

Due to start tomorrow - Hills Lane - Thursday 25th July to completion by Friday 30th August.

Due to start post Hills Lane - Coat Road – Beginning one week after completion of the above

Stoke Road Industrial Estate pedestrian access

This will continue to be an ongoing aim, given the expansion of businesses and need for a safe way for pedestrians to reach this site.

7.06pm Councillor Graham MacDonald joined the meeting.

102/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Michael Hall, Alan Potter, James Tresadern and Tony Welsh.

103/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Graham MacDonald declared an interest in Item 10, as his wife is an Allotment plot holder.

104/24 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: (Unanimously)

To accept the minutes as a true record, subject to the resolution of Item 97/24 being amended to state that Full Council resolved not to use SIDs in Martock and clarify that the voting was 4 in favour, 4 against with two abstentions.

105/24 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that the Chief Executive had set up a Sharepoint for Councillors which should save a lot of time and paper.

The Junior Football Tournament held on the Recreation Ground went extremely well and the Council have only received positive feedback regarding the event.

106/24 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TASK GROUPS

No reports had been submitted as part of the agenda, as the only meeting of Outside Bodies that had taken place since the last Full Council meeting was the M3CP and that had taken place after the agenda had been distributed.

However, Cllr Paul Helyer had attended the Bus Shelter meeting. The outcome of the meeting was that the proposed sites at Bower Hinton and Marwin Close were not feasible. The site at the Library may be possible but the officer from Somerset Council is going to seek quotations and the report back to the group.

107/24 COUNCIL BUDGET – 2024/25 MONITORING AS AT MONTH 3:

Resolved: That Full Council note:

1. The Bank Reconciliation Statements
 - Natwest current account and deposit account June 2024
 - Unity bank current account June 2024
2. The List of Payments for June 2024
3. The Detailed Balance Sheet.

108/24 CHANGE TO FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Chief Executive explained that Council's Standing Orders state that the RFO will disseminate quarterly Financial Reports. However, the RFO has been producing monthly reports for Full Council. This has impacted on other finance work and is causing an unmanageable workload. The Chief Executive would therefore propose to move to the agreed quarterly reporting and begin to include budget holder comments within these quarterly reports in order to provide a greater level of detail.

Resolved: (Unanimously) to approve:

The change of frequency of the financial reporting to Full Council from monthly to quarterly, as per the agreed Standing Orders.

109/24 HIRE OF THE RECREATION GROUND FOR AN EVENT JUNE 2025

The Chair reiterated that this report was to seek an 'in principle' decision that would be subject to the production of an event plan and insurance etc, as with all events on the Recreation Ground.

7.29pm – Standing Orders were suspended to allow members of the public to speak in support of the item.

7.30pm - Standing Orders were resumed.

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

To approve the hire of the Recreation Ground to the Martock Pride Community Group for a one day event in June 2025, subject to:

1. The approval of a satisfactory Event Plan
2. The approval of a comprehensive Risk Assessment
3. Production of adequate Event Insurance
4. Agreement over the hiring cost

110/24 CORRESPONDENCE – HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Correspondence had been received from three parishioners regarding three separate highways issues. Highways are the responsibility of Somerset Council but Somerset Council will only consider proposals if they have the support of the Parish Council.

Council discussed the request to support the introduction of a 20mile per hour speed limit on Water Street. Evidence shows that the average speed on the road is currently around 20 miles per hour and it is a small minority of motorists that are speeding. These motorists are completely ignoring the current 30 mile per hour speed limit, so reducing the speed limit is not likely to have a significant impact on their behaviour.

Resolved: (Unanimously)

Not to support a proposal for a 20mile an hour speed limit in Water Street.

Council discussed the request for sound monitoring equipment to be installed in North Street due to loud motorists travelling this road at night. The Parish Council does not have any sound equipment that could be used and noise complaints are not within the scope of Parish Council responsibility.

Resolved: (By 7 vote for, 0 against with 1 abstention)

Not to support the use of sound equipment in North Street.

Finally, Council discussed the request to support the installation of double yellow lines in Hills Lane due to cars blocking access. Parking on a junction is illegal with or without double yellow line markings, so yellow lines would only be useful if monitored regularly.

Resolved: (Unanimously)

Not to support the proposal for double yellow line markings in Hills Lane.

111/24 ALLOTMENT UPDATE

The Allotment administration procedures are currently being updated and the Operations Manager has produced a handbook for plot holders and new tenancy agreement.

Cllr Graham MacDonald had declared an interest in the Item and therefore did not vote.

Resolved: (By 6 votes for, 0 against with 1 abstention)

1. To approve the new Allotment tenancy agreement
2. To approve the new Allotment handbook
3. To approve price increases for September 2025/26 to £33 for a full plot and for a £18 half plot

112/24 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Chief Executive presented the proposal to seek quotations for the production of a Strategic Plan for the Council.

Resolved: (By 7 votes for, 0 against with 1 abstention)

To agree that the Chief Executive seek quotations based on the brief included within the report.

113/24 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

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

1. To note the report
2. To delegate responsibility to the Chief Executive and RFO to approve Council's new Insurance Policy and electricity supply contract.

114/24 COMMITTEES

Resolved: To note the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 10th July 2024.

115/24 FORWARD PLAN

Resolved:

1. To note the Full Council Forward Plan.
2. To add the following reports to the Forward Plan for September:
 - a. Quotations for a condition survey of the Memorials in the Cemetery
 - b. Authorisation to start legal proceedings against a local Stonemason for the non-delivery of goods.
 - c. Section 106 and CIL payments received or due to be received.

116/24 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- a. Planning Committee – Wednesday 14th August 2024 7.00pm
- b. Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 25th September 2024 7.00pm

117/24 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.

8.10pm Somerset Councillor Emily Pearlstone left the meeting.

118/24 YOUTH PROVISION

Resolved: (By 5 votes for, 1 against and 2 abstentions)

To approve the offer of a 1 year contract with the option to extend to 3 years, to the preferred bidder of the Youth Service Procurement Exercise – CYP.

Resolved: (Unanimously)

To agree to continue the Youth Service Task Group and appoint one further Councillor representative.

Resolved: (Unanimously)

To delegate the detail of the Service Level Agreement to the Youth Service Task Group.

Resolved: (By 5 votes for, 1 against and 2 abstentions)

To approve payment of an annual fee of £5,000 to hire Martock Youth Centre for the provision of the Youth Club.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Chair

Date