

MARLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Marlesford Parish Council meeting, held on
Friday 16th August 2024, 7.00pm, in the Marlesford Community Centre.

Present:– Chair Richard Cooper, Vice Chair Roger Waterfall, Cllr Sam Catling, Lord Marlesford, Cllr Heather McConville, Cllr Simon Warriner.

In Attendance: 4 members of the public and the Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Member of the public would like to bring to the attention of the PC, the footpath which runs along side the A12 from the village up to Fiveways Roundabout and would like to know what the plan is to get this sorted as it is currently not fit for purpose.

The Chair explained that he has a meeting with Highways next week and it is intended to walk the current footpath, if it is passable up to the proposed location of the Southern Park and Ride at Wickham Market. Highways will then see the issues, the top end of the footpath is over grown and is not passable, he will make a point that this must be a priority to get sorted.

The Chair reported that as a result of the planned Sizewell C, EDF will be working alongside Highways to install new footpaths both sides of the A12 through Marlesford. There will also be a pelican crossing with traffic lights near the bus stops. All to be installed the first half of next year. The early introduction of the agreed 30mph speed limit is still being worked on.

Reports have been received ahead of the PC meeting from both SCC Cllr Stephen Burroughes and ESC Cllr Sally Noble.

The Chair expressed that he would like the Parish Council meeting to be finished by 9pm and encouraged all to help with the swift movement of the meeting and to not sidetrack from the agenda.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** SCC Cllr Stephen Burroughes and ESC Cllr Sally Noble.
- 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.** Cllrs Cooper, Waterfall & Lord Marlesford as homeowners, declared an interest in the Article 4 Direction.
- 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 24th MAY 2024, to consider the approval.** Approved by all proposed Cllr Catling, seconded Cllr Waterfall. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

a. Article 4 Direction, Marlesford Conservation Area.

The Chair reiterated the discussions regarding Article 4 Direction, which the PC has had at previous meetings. The PC needs to decide if it wants to preserve the streetscape in Marlesford. The residents of Marlesford will also be encouraged to make comments on the proposal.

Is the PC still supportive of the Article 4 Direction? And does it wish to protect the frontage of the properties in Marlesford which are visible from the road?

Cllr Waterfall would welcome this for the village as it will help to protect against planning applications which the PC may wish to object to.

Cllr Warriner considers the article to be restrictive. Planners do have the power to allow permitted development rights.

Lord Marlesford supports the Article 4 Direction and believes it would be an advantage to have this for Marlesford.

The Chair advised that a village resident has informed that they are against an Article 4 for the village,

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as it puts restrictions on residents wanting to make better their properties which may include general maintenance to make good. There are 4 bungalows on Low Road which they would like removed from an Article 4. The Chair has advised the resident that they should make their views known to East Suffolk Council. The PC has a right to vote on the consultation and make representation and debated the issue of excluding the bungalows in Low Road from the Direction, but it was felt that this would create an un-unified approach to this part of the Conservation Area and the Article 4 Direction should be applied in order to provide protection to this area in the event of inappropriate development being proposed in future years. He asked for a show of hands who is in favour of Marlesford proceeding with the Article 4 Direction, 3 members voted for a supportive letter to East Suffolk Council. 2 voted against and there was 1 abstention. It was therefore agreed that the PC will send a positive response to an Article 4 Direction for Marlesford, proposed Lord Marlesford, seconded Cllr McConville. **Chair to draft the response, Clerk to send.**

b. To Consider an Emergency Plan for Marlesford.

The Chair informed that following on from the draft Marlesford emergency plan which the PC considered at the last meeting, East Suffolk Council are reviewing the document, comments have not yet been received back from them. He would like to have the finished document for approval at the November PC meeting and would like the help of fellow Councillors with the final document.

c. To Consider Increasing the number of Parish Council Meetings from 4 to 5 or 6 a Year.

The Chair advised that the request had been raised by Cllr Catling at the last meeting. It is the Chair's preference to stick to 4 meetings a year, he proposed to try to manage the agenda and keep the meeting moving and therefore to finish at 9pm. However, the meeting could start at 6.30pm. By controlling the meetings, it will enable them not to overrun. Items which Councillors wish to have discussed at meetings should be requested in advance to the Clerk so that they can be included on the agenda. There will be no "Any Other Business" on the agenda in future, this will also help the meeting not to overrun. 5 in agreement to continue with 4 meetings a year, 7pm start. Chair thanked Cllr Catling for his input which can be reviewed in the future.

5. TO CO-OPT A NEW MEMBER ONTO MARLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL DUE TO THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR BENSLEY.

The Chair introduced Sophie Franklin who would like to be considered to fill the vacancy. It was agreed by all to Co-opt Ms Franklin onto the Parish Council, proposed The Chair seconded Cllr Warriner. The Chair welcomed the new Councillor. Declaration of acceptance of office form was signed. Register of interests to be disclosed within 28 days.

Cllr Waterfall advised that he will be moving from the village soon, therefore there will be another vacancy on the Parish Council to fill. Cllr Waterfall said that he would stand down as soon as a new Councillor has been identified. The Chair thanked Cllr Waterfall for his helpful comment and asked Councillors to start looking for another new member and encourage them to apply.

6. TO ADOPT THE NALC NEW FINANCIAL ORDERS.

The Chair and Clerk have adapted the new Financial Orders for Marlesford Parish Council and the document has been sent out to all ahead of the PC meeting. The PC approved the new Financial Orders, these will be adopted and will replace the old version. Proposed Cllr Catling seconded Cllr Waterfall, signed by the Chair and Clerk.

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7. FINANCE.

a. Monthly Payments Schedules May, June & July.

May payments £1420.46, no receipts. June payments £459.56 no receipts. No payments or receipts for July. The schedules were approved by Cllr McConville and signed by the Chair.

b. Statement of Accounts. Bank balances as at 31/07/24, Barclays Community Account £6147.47 inc. £319.81 CILs. Business Premium Account £854.79. The statement of accounts were approved by all and signed by Cllr McConville.

The Chair advised that once Cllr Waterfall is no longer on the Parish Council a replacement cheque/authorisation will be needed.

c. To Approve Payment of an Annual Subscription for an up-to-date software programme for the Clerks Laptop.

The Chair informed that the Clerks personal laptop which she uses to carry out Marlesford Parish Council work, needed updated software. She only had the cut down version, which gave difficulties trying to carry out her work. Therefore the latest version of Microsoft Office has been downloaded onto her laptop, the annual subscription fee is £60.00.

The Chair asked for the approval of the PC to pay the annual fee for the software package, the Clerk has paid this upfront and to claim back on her expenses. Agreed by all.

d. Clerks Expenses – Invoice to pay.

Clerks quarterly expenses also includes half year working from home fee £150 and the Information Commissioner renewal subscription of £40, total £256.30. Approved by all proposed Lord Marlesford seconded Cllr McConville.

e. Suffolk Cloud – Invoice to pay for website hosting.

Annual fee is now due £120, approved by all, proposed Cllr Catling seconded Cllr McConville.

8. REPORTS FROM PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Energy Projects – The Chair reported that a lot is happening with the Sizewell projects. However, they still do not have all the funding in place for Sizewell C. EDF is however committed to giving a community fund worth £24 million. This will be granted to communities which are directly affected by the new Sizewell C and will include Marlesford. The Marlesford Community Council could make an application for funding towards improvements at the community centre.

The Marlesford to Wickham Market footpath improvements could also be worth claiming for from the funding. Building of the southern park & ride should start early next year and it is hoped that the PC will have plans to see at the November PC meeting.

Lord Marlesford suggests that now the area has a new MP the PC should write and inform that it is a huge mistake not to build a 4 village bypass. **The Chair will action this and draft a letter to the new MP.**

The Chair also informed that there will be a great impact to the surrounding area with road improvement works from 7 Hills at Ipswich through to Yoxford. He would like a member of the PC to volunteer to keep an eye on the SCC Highways website which will give updates on the roads effected. These could then be summarised and emailed out to the village email list. **Cllr Frankin offered to do this monthly.**

The A12 mitigation should start to happen at the beginning of next year. Some progress is being made with the issues of noise & vibration which effects 50 properties in Marlesford (properties within 20 metres of the A12 carriageway. He has a meeting to discuss this with EDF in October.

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Planning to include planning applications etc – Cllr Waterfall informed that there has been no new planning applications.

Firs Bowling Green – Cllr Waterfall informed that the land is now registered with the Land Registry and now needs to be transferred to the Parish Council. Then the PC will hand it over in Trust to Marlesford Community Council. The Chair thanked Cllr Waterfall for the work he has done. **The Chair will pursue with Land Registry the final changes that are required.**

Footpaths & Access – Cllr Catling reported that all are cut and clear except for the path which is impassable alongside the A12 leading to Wickham Market. The PC passed on thanks to Jason Catling who carries out the footpath cutting on a voluntary basis.

Highways – Cllr Catling reported the concerns of residents along Low Road, hedges are overhanging into the road. Lord Marlesford informed that he will get this sorted.

Cllr Waterfall will try to encourage the local Suffolk County Councillor to take on board getting the 20mph speed limits implemented along Quiet Lanes, as currently traffic travels much faster than this.

The Chair will also make a point to Highways at the forthcoming meeting he is having with them, that speeding is an issue along the New Road/Hall Road.

Framlingham and Wickham Market Community Partnership – The Chair reported that some funding is available to run a first aid course. This could be carried out in conjunction with the Community Centre.

The Chair & Cllr Warriner will discuss applying for funding.

Environmental Dimension of all other Policies – Cllr Catling informed that there are none.

The Chair reported that he and the Clerk have debated “Any Other Business” on the agenda and have agreed to no longer include it. Councillors will be encouraged prior to each meeting, to let the Clerk know if they have any items which they wish to be included on the agenda.

9. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

Friday 15th November 2024, 7pm

The Chair asked the PC to consider setting dates for the 2025 PC meetings, however no one was in favour of doing so.

Meeting ended at 8.35pm.

Chair signature.....

Date.....