

# MARLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Marlesford Parish Council meeting, held on  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 7.00pm, in the Marlesford Community Centre.

Present:– Chair Richard Cooper, Cllr Sam Catling & Cllr Lord Marlesford,

In Attendance: The Clerk.

**OPEN FORUM** None.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr Heather McConville, Cllr Sophie Franklin & Cllr Simon Warriner.  
SCC Cllr Stephen Burroughes and ESC Cllr Sally Noble.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.** Cllr Catling declared an interest in item 6e To Consider a Gesture of Good Will to the Village Resident who Kindly Carries out Voluntary Grass and Hedge Cutting and General Tidiness of the village.

The Chair and Lord Marlesford declared an interest in item 4a Article 4 Direction, Marlesford Conservation Area. The Chair informed that Cllr Warriner has still not registered his interests as a Marlesford Councillor with the district council. This should have been done within 30 days of being co-opted onto the council. Therefore, as he is not properly registered as a councillor he is not allowed to vote at a council meeting, the district council has sent him reminders. The Chair advised that Cllr Warriner will have to step down from the parish council if he has not declared his interests by a date that will be advised to him by the Chair.

**3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024, to consider the approval.** Approved by all proposed Cllr Catling, seconded Lord Marlesford. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.**

**a. Article 4 Direction, Marlesford Conservation Area.**

The Chair advised that a response has been received from the district council which he had circulated to all ahead of the meeting. This has now become a contentious issue and he would therefore would like to defer discussing any response back to the district council until the February PC meeting when hopefully more councillors are present.

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

No applications, however the Chair informed that he has spoken to one person who has expressed an interest and he is following up two others. Cllr Catling has also spoken to some interested people. Hopeful to be able to co-opt a new councillor at the February meeting.

**6. FINANCE.**

**a. Monthly Payments Schedules August, September & October.**

August no payments or receipts. September payments £880.30, no receipts. October payments £25.00 no receipts. The schedules were approved by Cllr McConville and signed by the Chair.

**b. Statement of Accounts.** Bank balances as at 31/10/24, Barclays Community Account £5267.17 which includes a recent payment of £25.00 for the RBL poppy wreath, also inc. £319.81 CILs. Business Premium Account £857.99. The statement of accounts was approved by all and signed by the Chair.

**c. Payment for the British Legion Remembrance Day Wreath.**

To advise that this payment has been made ahead of the meeting, £25.00. The Chair would like to suggest that a donation of £30 is paid to the RBL next year. Cllr Catling would like to proposed that the donation is raised to £50 for the next year budget, seconded Lord Marlesford.

*Chair's initials.....*

**d. SALC – Invoice to pay.**

£22.80 for 6 months payroll service to 30 September 2024 payment proposed Cllr Catling seconded the Chair.

**e. To Consider a Gesture of Good Will to the Village Resident who Kindly Carries out Voluntary Grass and Hedge Cutting and General Tidiness of the Village.**

The Chair asked Councillors if they are happy for the parish council to do the same as last year and to give the gentleman a £100 Amazon voucher, agreed. Proposed Lord Marlesford, seconded the Chair.

Chair to purchase and pay for the gift voucher, Clerk will then transfer him the money from the PC account.

All agreed that the work which the gentleman carries out in the village is greatly appreciated.

**f. Clerks Expenses – Invoice to pay.**

Clerks quarterly expenses to 15<sup>th</sup> November £12.60. Approved by all proposed Cllr Catling seconded the Chair.

**g. Clerks Annual Pay Increase April 2024 to March 2025 – National Association of Local Councils.**

Chair reported that new pay scale has now been set by NALC and explained that last year the PC had given the Clerk a pay increase of 9% which at the time was ahead of inflation. The Chair would like to suggest an increase of 6% for this financial year from £2016.00 to £2136.00 and to be back dated to April 2024. Proposed Cllr Catling seconded Lord Marlesford. The PC thanked the Clerk for her services over the last year.

**h. To Consider the Draft Precept Budget for April 2025 – March 2026.**

The draft precept budget has been circulated to all ahead of the meeting. Chair advised that the PC had originally budgeted £1000 for the Quiet Lanes, however this has not been spent. Therefore this amount could be re-allocated to a new heading “Highways and Other Maintenance Costs” and to add £1500 to the forthcoming budget to build up reserves for any highways maintenance needed in the village. The Chair informed that Highways are increasingly telling parishes to carry out their own maintenance works. Agreed by all.

The Chair would like to introduce Community Projects and suggests £500 to be put into the budget for this.

Bearing these additions to the precept budget it was agreed to set the precept budget for the forthcoming year to £6477.00, proposed Cllr Catling seconded Lord Marlesford.

The Chair suggests that it would be a good idea to give notice to the village of the new precept budget and to present a breakdown, so that villagers have a better understanding of what the precept budget is used for, this was agreed by all. Chair to draft.

For the purpose of the external auditors the Parish Council reserves were highlighted as follows;

Earmarked reserves £1000, Highways and other Maintenance costs. £318.91 CILs. Unallocated reserves £1,434.36. General allocated reserves for the current financial year 2024-2025 as at 15/11/24 £2513.00.

**8. REPORTS FROM PARISH REPRESENTATIVES**

**Energy Projects** – The Chair reported that he had today attended a meeting regarding the A12 Southern Park and Ride and works at Park Farm Stratford St Andrew, which are archeological investigations in advance of Sizewell C.

Other energy projects, Scottish Power work at Friston is to start middle of next year. Lion Link and Sea Link projects are scheduled to come ashore on the Suffolk Coast.

The cabling for the Nautilus Connector from Belgium, will no longer come across to Suffolk but instead is being taken across from Belgium to Kent.

The new roundabout on the A12 at Friday Street Farham is to be started the middle of next year.

The Chair and Lord Marlesford have today met with the new MP Patrick Spencer, they have put the point across to him of a 4 village bypass. EDF propose to build a 2 village bypass, however this would not link up with a 4 village bypass in the future. The MP is very sympathetic with this major concern and is happy to look into it. The Chair is getting all of the back ground information for the MP so that it can be pursued.

**Planning to include planning applications etc**

DC/24/3809/FUL - Small front extension to kitchen area. Farm Cafe And Shop, Main Road (A12), Marlesford, Agreed no objection to the application and to advise ESC, Chair to draft a response.

*Chair's initials.....*

**Firs Bowling Green** – The Chair has nothing to report, transfer of ownership to Marlesford Community Council is still in hand to be done.

**Footpaths & Access** – Cllr Catling reported that all footpaths are being well maintained by the village resident who carries this out on a volunteer basis.

**Highways** - Cllr Catling reported that Highways have cut and cleared the footpath leading alongside the A12 from the village up to 5 ways.

The Chair informed that he has raised with the new MP the need for a new footpath to replace the existing to be located away from the side of the A12, the other side of the hedge, up to the new Park & Ride.

Cllr Catling has reported to Highways a twisted finger post sign at Buttons Road and also branches need to be cut back along the A12 as they are screening road signs.

A speed monitor to be in place for a week on New Road, outside the 30moh speed limit and another on Bell Lane. They will calculate traffic count, speed and type of vehicle. Data will be reported back to the PC.

**Framlingham and Wickham Market Community Partnership** – The Chair reported that funding is available through Sizewell C. He will find out if the PC and Community Council can get access to the funding to help pay for improvements at the Community Centre.

**Environmental Dimension of all other Policies** – Cllr Catling informed that there is nothing to report.

**Relocation of Lesley Bensley’s (retired parish councillor) areas of past duties/responsibilities.**

The Chair advised that he would like to wait until the PC has a full complement of councillors.

Councillors are encouraged in advance of future PC meetings to advise the Clerk if they wish for a particular item to be included on the agenda. 2 week’s notice, prior to the PC meeting, is needed.

**9. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025, 7pm

Meeting ended at 8.22pm.

*Chair signature*.....

*Date*.....