

**Marston Parish Council Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Marston Chapel, 7pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present: Mark Cherrington (Chair), Philip Bellew, Jonathan Nickell (Finance), Charlie Milton, Steve Bennet (Clerk)**

**Apologies: Jon Robbins**

Also Present Dawn Whiting (minutes) and Tamara Raey (Wiltshire Council)

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	Apologies	Dave Hansford
2	Declarations of Interest	None Declared
3	Approval of Minutes of previous Parish Council meeting	Minutes of Parish Council meeting on 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2025 approved as accurate. Proposed CM, Seconded JN.
4	Matters arising from the minutes of previous meeting	<p>Action Tracker updated accordingly: Completed Actions:</p> <p>4/ii/101224 Horticultural advice to be sought re planting a permanent “Christmas” tree on the common – Advised red oak would not be suitable. MPC agreed to purchase a Christmas tree this year and revisit next year prior to Christmas 2026 – Item closed.</p> <p>Item raised at Village meeting 27/5/25 - Future of MPC marquee, generator and trailer to be decided. Hire advert submitted to The Bridge – Action completed.</p> <p>4/270525 Info re termination of analogue land lines and the availability of free mobiles for disabled and vulnerable residents to be issued - Item closed as SB unable to find official wording/notification from BT.</p> <p>6/270525 Recommendations for future mowing of the Common Land to be explored. Action closed as agreed to form a working group to scope and progress ideas.</p> <p>11/270525 Website commissioning to be discussed and brought back to future meeting. Currently under 3-year contract. Item closed and will be reopened in 2 years’ time.</p>

		<p>11/270525 Recommendations for AI technology to support minute taking in future to be sent to DW - Item closed as no suitable options atm.</p> <p>5/a/1/090925 Tree plan to be circulated to all councillors prior to meeting 11/11/25. No objections to the plan. Contractor commissioned and is currently programming works – Action completed.</p> <p>5/a/2/090925 Tree plan to be mentioned to Great Cheverall council as they may want to assess the trees that fall in their footprint, beyond the Marston boundary on Long Street. Clerk has attempted contact, will try again - item closed.</p> <p>5/c/090925 PB to coordinate Steward, including walking the ditches to understand where they run and the condition they are in. PB is coordinating a list of jobs and will liaise with steward. Advised TR that steward has not been in village for a number of months now. Action closed.</p> <p>5/f/090925 CM to review Marston Row 4 footpath and stile with landowner. – Completed.</p> <p>5/g/090925 MPC support the upgrade of horse path to restricted highway. CM to reply to WC correspondence – Completed.</p> <p>5/j/1/090925 Website address to monitor water levels to be published. SB submitted article to the Bridge for Dec issue. Completed.</p> <p>5/j/2/090925 Flood plan working group to be established. Group established and ditches have been reviewed – Completed.</p> <p>5/j/4/090925 Quote to be obtained to remove bull rushes from the drip and the pond. Quote agreed and work completed – Completed.</p> <p>5/n/090925 Response re P/2024/009 to be submitted to confirm no objections – Completed.</p> <p>6/090925 Finance report to be presented at 11/11/25 – Completed.</p>
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5	<p><b>Items for discussion</b></p> <p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p><b>Footpaths</b></p> <p><b>Highways</b></p> <p><b>Solar Community Fund</b></p> <p><b>Finance</b></p>	<p>a) Correspondence</p> <p>Letter from Worton and Marston Link scheme relating to further developing the service within our villages. There are currently approx. 12 drivers in the 2 villages, and the scheme are inviting new drivers to join. Commitment is approx. twice per month ideally for approx. 3 hours per time. Paid mileage. Flyer to be circulated via Mailchimp. SB volunteered to undertake a leaflet drop in the village. For more info email wandmlink@gmail.com</p> <p>b) Footpaths. Items i) &amp; ii) discussed under matters arising.</p> <p>c) Highways</p> <p>a) Road maintenance, update of work undertaken in Marston. Goose Street was recently closed for 2 days with no prior notice. Tamara Raey advised One Network website does provide all the info on road closures, etc and notifications/alerts can be set up for village. TR will feed that no prior notification was received by Clerk.</p> <p>ii) Ditching and flood resilience work update – Ditches cleared. Road gully clearance undertaken - 5 completed. PB has requested that more clearances are undertaken, and registered them via My Wilts App.</p> <p>d) Solar Community Fund No applications received</p> <p>e) Finance Report Current funds are: Community Account £16,695.19 Solar Fund £45,409.13</p> <p>No invoice for mowing received however mandatory form has been completed and returned.</p>

	<b>Common Land</b>	<p>Proposed budget to be complied for future fiscals including all frequent expenditure, prior to admin meeting to include expenses such as mowing, Christmas tree, ditch clearing, insurances, future election fees, etc</p> <p>f) Common Land</p> <p>i) Tree maintenance plan/actions on common land Contractor commissioned and scheduling works.</p> <p>ii) Christmas trees update – Tree to be purchased for The Green and a light tree for Norney Bridge</p> <p>iii) Review of seasonal mowing schedule. Discussion took place with a number of ideas voiced. The outcome was to form a Village Green Working Group. Ideally the group will have 6 members. An invite for expressions of interest to be circulated by Mailchimp and published in The Bridge. There may be grants available for this sort of project. Budget to be drafted for any agreed works.</p> <p>iv) Presentation on the maintenance and use of the common land followed by a discussion.</p> <p>As above</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Closure of meeting</b>	
<b>7</b>	<b>AOB</b>	<p><b>Wiltshire Councillor update</b></p> <p>a) Blackdog works underway, due to complete in Feb 2026. Current road closure in place until early Dec. Caen Hill, Poulshot, Whistley Road and Rowde junction improvements will follow later in 2026.</p> <p>b) Q2 financials recorded £6m deficit. There is an increasing demand on social care and inflation impacting the financials. £531million is the current forecasted spend for 25/26.</p> <p>c) TR has feedback re missed parish steward sessions.</p> <p>d) Following the community governance survey there will be a review which includes Devizes Area Board area. Clerk will receive details about this for feedback. Electoral services will be emailing this out. TR encouraged engagement in this review.</p>

		<p>e) Charge for non-election fees was raised. This is a WC policy and covers administration of the electoral process irrelevant of the non-election in Marston earlier this year. This should be budgeted for; however, it should be noted that WC do offer a payment plan.</p> <p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>f) 6 oak trees available to be donated for planting in the village. Discussion took place and it was agreed to plant along Long Street. CM and FC will coordinate. Wire, etc also available for donation.</p> <p>g) Member of the public requested that the footpaths be cleared of overgrowth. PB to take up with steward as this sits within their remit. PB has drafted a list of tasks including cleaning the road signs and clearing footpaths.</p> <p>h) Marston chicken farm has taken precautions against Bird Flu. The potential risk that the footpath poses, which runs alongside the farm, was raised. Defra advice is to advise WC. Email sent to relevant WC department. Landowner to forward email response to TR. Footpath closure notice may incur a cost. TR to follow up with WC.</p>
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