

Butlers Marston Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Wednesday 29th January** at **7pm** at St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Church Lane, CV35 0NA

Present: Cllr Corpe, Cllr Mitchell-Hilton, Cllr Bloomfield, Cllr Weaver, Cllr Carton, Clerk.

In attendance: 3 members of the public.

67. Apologies for absence – None.

68. Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda – None.

69. Public participation session – A parishioner asked how much of the village would be changed to 20mph if the Parish Council (PC) choose to go ahead with it and why the PC is considering applying for the 20mph. The parishioner was advised that all of the village that is currently a 30mph area would be included. The reason for consideration of a 20mph limit is because speeding in the village has been an issue that parishioners have expressed concerns about for some time and previous attempts at getting speed reduction methods in the village have been turned down but recently the PC became aware that Warwickshire County Council (WCC) seem to have changed their stance on 20mph limits so it was thought it would be worth considering if this would be a good speed reduction option for Butlers Marston. The parishioner asked if the PC would consider consulting the parishioners about this before making any application and for the PC to consider what the impact has been of 20mph in other areas across the country before making any decisions. The PC agreed to consider this when they are at appropriate stages of the discussions.

Due to some of the parishioners present having attended mainly due to their interest in items 72.4 and 74 it was agreed to bring those items forward to be discussed at this point of the meeting.

2 members of the public left the meeting at 7:43pm.

70. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 20th November 2024 – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

71. County/District Councillor reports – None.

72. Outstanding matters/actions from previous minutes

72.1 Butlers Marston Church Restoration and Reorder Group - The working group have selected an architect firm for the project and have been given some indicative costs for the project in three stages. They are currently arranging a time to visit the architects practice and review the proposed plan. The DAC still has not confirmed when they will have a site visit which will be the final preliminary stage before they put in a full faculty application to get permission to proceed. In the meantime the group is meeting with another funding advisor on 12th February to identify possible funding sources. It is hoped that the PC will be able to assist with secular sources of funding. **It was agreed that the Clerk should look into what grant schemes may be available to fund parts of the project and put together a list of suitable schemes.**

72.2 Update re discussions with Highways re width of footpaths - Footpath Widths – Cllrs Corpe and Mitchell-Hilton are hoping to meet with WCC Highways on Wednesday 5th February to discuss footpaths, hedges, road markings, and flooding on the Pillerton/Bridge Road. There should be an update at the next meeting on these areas.

The Memorial Cross Footpath - Orbit has now installed a retaining wall which is much higher than the council thought it would be. The work has made the footpath wider at approximately 900mm at its narrowest point and should remain unaffected by the Orbit property. WCC Highways have confirmed they will now resurface the footpath which Cllrs Corpe and Mitchell-Hilton will discuss with them on 5th Feb.

New Noticeboard – The noticeboard was scheduled to be installed on 14th February but Cllr Corpe asked that the Orbit trees near the site be cleared beforehand as they could damage the new noticeboard. Orbit said they were not aware of this requirement even though it was raised in March 2024 and had been repeated in each email relating to the noticeboard. They are now reviewing this internally so the installation project is on hold until confirmation of these works is received.

72.3 Update re ensuring the parish council has complete records for any easements/wayleaves for owners of property around the Village Greens - The Village Projects Working Group continues to meet regularly on this project and are still waiting on WCC Highways to confirm information following their site visit in 2024. A summary of the works that was carried out on 10th July 2024 have been provided to WCC Highways as requested and follow up letters have been sent to property and business owners around the Village Green. **Clerk and Cllr Bloomfield to create a contact list on the shared drive of all the contacts including parishioners re the Green. Cllr Weaver will take on the responsibility of speaking with WCC in respect of identifying the Village Green rules and thereafter to see what independent legal advice the PC can get on the Green.**

72.4 Update re proposal to request a 20mph speed limit throughout Butlers Marston – WCC has advised that the surveys needed prior to a consultation for a reduced speed limit will cost £110 + VAT per site per week and they would suggest a minimum of 2 weeks data. If the data comes back suggesting that Butlers Marston is suitable for a 20mph limit then consultation is required. The estimated total cost for consultation and signage is £10k which would need to be funded by the PC if funding cannot be sourced from elsewhere. The project would take around 12-18 months to complete and if approved the Speedwatch team would need to be disbanded as you cannot operate a Speedwatch scheme in a 20mph area. Given the very high cost of a 20mph scheme it was felt that it may be beneficial to ask what other lower cost options of speed reduction could be available to the council, such as Vehicle Activated Signs, given that WCC appear to have had a significant change of view on allowing 20mph limits they may have also changed their view on other methods that BMPC previously asked about and at the time were rejected by WCC. **Clerk to contact the Traffic Safety Team to get info on what options are available. Cllr Weaver to also gather information about possible speed reduction methods that could be suitable in Butlers Marston.**

73 Finance

73.1 Confirmation of the bank balances as at 23.01.25 of £44.86 and £6,568.90 – Cllr Weaver confirmed the balances stated are correct.

73.2 To confirm completion of the third quarterly (Oct to Dec) Internal Financial Controls Checks - Cllr Weaver confirmed the check has taken place and all was found to be in order.

73.3 To agree the budget and resulting precept for the 2025-26 financial year – It was proposed and agreed to set a budget of £4713.78 resulting in a precept of £5,541. **Clerk to submit precept demand.**

73.4 To approve the following payments made using delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

29.11.24	ICO	Data Protection Fee	£35.00
23.12.24	Kirsty Buttle	Salary, office, and SIM/One Drive Dec	£174.24
23.12.24	HMRC	Tax Dec	£33.20

73.5 To note the following receipts: Noted.

09.12.24	Lloyds	Interest	£5.36
09.01.25	Lloyds	Interest	£5.63
24.01.25	National Grid	Wayleave	£19.72

73.6 To approve payment of the following invoices: Proposed and agreed.

Kirsty Buttle	Salary and office Jan 25	£185.80
HMRC	Tax Jan	£40.00

- 74 Request from the owners of the Garages Site for the PC to consider if it would be interested in purchasing part of the site to be used for a village amenity such as a play area, orchard, parking area etc if they developed the other half with a single property** – After discussion about the potential uses and the difficulties for those options given the location of the site, the access needs of neighbouring properties, ongoing maintenance costs etc it appears that the only feasible use for the site is as garages and parking. Given that this would only be of benefit to a small number of parishioners rather than being a purpose that could be of benefit to the entire community such as a green space or play area, but any costs the PC incurs would be charged to all parishioners it was agreed that this does not appear to be a good use of public funds therefore the PC are not interested in purchasing any of the site. **Clerk to inform the site owners of the PC decision.**
- 75 To consider adopting a Butlers Marston Sexual and General Harassment Policy** – Subject to changing the word ‘customers’ in section 4 Third Party Harassment to ‘parishioners’ and changing ‘Parish Council’ to ‘HR Committee’ in section 6II the policy was proposed and agreed. **Clerk to make requested updates to the policy**
- 76 Planning applications received**
24/03168/COUQ - Cattleyard West Meads Farm, Pillerton Road, Butlers Marston. Change of use from an agricultural building to a dwellinghouse. **No representation made.**
- 77 Planning decisions received**
24/02209/FUL - 4 Bank View, Butlers Marston. Erection of a self-build local need dwelling and associated development. **Refused.**
- 78 Information exchange** – The insurance arrangements for the PC owned marquee were discussed and it was agreed that the **Clerk should contact the insurer about this** to see if the PC can get a clearer answer than was provided last time the insurer was contacted about this.

Meeting closed @ 8:39 pm

Date of next meeting – 27th March 2025

Signed..... Date.....