



**Marbury and District Parish Council**

**Marbury Village Hall**

**Thursday 10 April 2025 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillor J Briggs (Chair), Councillor J David, Councillor J Makin, Councillor P Shakeshaft, Councillor R. Perry, Councillor M. Turnbull and Councillor F Wilson (Vice Chair).

**Also Present:** Reverend Veronica Green

**Apologies:** Councillor T. Leese

Wrenbury Ward Parish Council - Councillor Lyndon Jones

Ward Councillor- J Pearson was absent.

## **72. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided brief introductory remarks.

## **73. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

## **74. Public Forum**

There were no matters raised during the public forum.

## **75. Reports**

### **75.1 County Councillor Report**

No updates were received from the County Councillor.

## **76. Approval of Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 13 January 2025, were approved as an accurate record.

## **77. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

### **77.1 Road Safety and Parking near The Swan Inn (Item 53.5)**

Councillors further discussed ongoing concerns about road safety and pavement parking near The Swan Inn.

- It was suggested to reposition the parish council-owned planter to deter vehicles from parking on the pavement, which forces pedestrians onto the road.
- Police confirmed that double white lines could not be implemented; councillors had requested "No Parking" signage, but no agreement has yet been reached with The Swan Inn.
- Councillor Lyndon Jones had raised the issue with Police Representative Sharon Jones at the recent Police Cluster Meeting.

### **77.2 Neighbourhood Plan Update (Item 56)**

The Clerk provided an update from Chris Wheeler:

- The Draft Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Cheshire East Council five weeks ago.
- Due to numerous changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), feedback is delayed.
- Chris Wheeler has chased a response and will follow up again if no reply is received by 4 April.

### **77.3 Parish Council Facebook Page (Item 58)**

It was agreed to establish a Parish Council Facebook page to share information with residents.

- Public posting will be moderated, and councillors will continue to use WhatsApp for internal communication.

#### **77.4 Proposal to Change Banking Provider**

The Clerk confirmed that the process to transition to Unity Trust Bank has been initiated, in preparation for the closure of the TSB branch in May.

### **78. Regular Reports and Updates**

#### **78.1 Police Update**

- The Police would be organising the next Police Cluster Meeting.
- Councillor M. Turnbull reported incidents including a vehicle collision with The Swan gates and the theft of a pressure washer in Marbury.

#### **78.2 Church Update**

- Reverend Veronica Green conveyed thanks for the Parish Council's contribution to the Parish Magazine.
- Plans were discussed for a VE Day celebration, including lighting a beacon and ringing the church bells.
- The Church Annual Meeting will be held in May for those on the electoral roll.
- Councillors discussed access issues regarding a gate by the church, previously used during the Merry Days event, and confirmed it is not a registered public footpath.

#### **78.3 Cemetery Update**

No update was reported.

#### **78.4 Grounds Maintenance and Tree Inspection**

It was agreed to ask the local contractor to cut the play area field behind the Village Hall.

#### **78.5 Highways and Roads Update**

- "Fix My Street" was promoted as a reporting tool.
- Some road repairs, including pothole filling, have taken place in Norbury and Wrenbury Road areas.

- Issues regarding drainage at Wrenbury Road were discussed; Roy Cooke from Cheshire Highways had assured councillors work is progressing.
- Concerns were raised about Gauntons Bank, Norbury. A planned site visit by the Head of Highways and the Ward Councillor did not occur, leading to disappointment among councillors who had waited for over an hour.

#### **78.6 Other Parish Matters**

- The SPEN Wayleave Agreement was presented and approved.  
Resolution:  
It was RESOLVED that Marbury & District Parish Council approves the Wayleave Agreement with SP Energy Networks. Councillors Joe Briggs and M. Turnbull were authorised to sign the document on behalf of the Council, with the Clerk/RFO acting as witness.  
Vote: Unanimous in favour.

#### **78.7 Training and Development**

- Councillors agreed to explore relevant training through ChALC.
- The Clerk has secured free funding for an Auditing qualification through SCLC and will seek further local government training opportunities.

#### **78.8 Environmental and Sustainability Matters**

- The planter at the Marbury T-junction had been moved by United Utilities, when repairing a leak; councillors noted disappointment regarding the untidy condition left behind.

#### **78.9 Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL)**

- Receipt of NCIL funds was acknowledged.
- Project ideas were discussed, including EV charging points and Village Hall improvements.
- The Clerk will seek advice from other parishes already implementing EV charging infrastructure.

## 79. Planning Matters

### 79.1 New Applications

No new planning applications were received.

### 79.2 Pending Decisions

No updates were available on pending planning applications as of 5 May 2025.

### 79.3 Recent Decisions

No new planning decisions have been issued.

## 80. Clerk's Report and Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received, including:

- Notification of the External Auditor appointment for 2024/25 (PKF Littlejohn LLP).
- Summary of new procurement legislation impacting parish operations; Finance Regulations will be updated accordingly.

## 81. Financial Affairs

### 81.1 Review of Transactions

Councillors reviewed and approved the financial transactions for 2024/25 as detailed below:

Date	Reference	Payee	Detail	VAT	Total Amount
3/12/2024	188	HMRC	clerks December pay	0.00	55.00
3/12/2024	189	D Foulkes	clerks December pay	0.00	230.31

3/12/2024	360	Avow	December Payroll	0.00	19.50
1/01/2025	dd	service charge	bank charges	0.00	5.00
13/01/2025	190	D Foulkes	Clerks pay January	0.00	230.11
13/01/2025	191	HMRC	HMRC January	0.00	55.20
13/01/2025	192	community heartbeat	defibrillator	20.00	120.00
1/02/2025	dd	service charges	bank charges	0.00	5.00
22/01/2025	dd	PWLB Loan	Play area loan	0.00	1,460.36
7/2/2025	193	D Foulkes	February pay	0.00	237.11
7/2/2025	194	HMRC	HMRC February	0.00	55.00
1/3/2025	dd	service charges	bank charge	0.00	5.00
7/2/2025	195	St Michael's Church	Parish Council magazine	0.00	350.00
8/3/2025	196	Chester solutions	hosting/emails	0.00	287.00

### **81.2 Income Received**

- NCIL Payment (Period 01/04/2024–30/09/2024): £1,152.00.
- VAT Return (submitted 31/03/2025): £126.00.
- Parish Precept Payment (received 01/04/2025): £4,500.00.

### **81.3 Annual Accounts**

- All finances remain on track with no concerns raised.
- Councillors authorised the issue of accounts for submission to the Internal Auditor, including:
  - Detailed Statement of Accounts for 2024-2025.
  - Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).
- Councillors approved opting for exemption from an external audit, as income and expenditure are below £25,000.

### **81.4 Asset Register Review**

- The updated Asset Register for 2024/25 was reviewed and approved.

## **82. Date of Next Meetings**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 12 May 2025 (Annual General Meeting), subject to potential change based on councillor availability.
- Further meeting dates will be confirmed as required.

## **Any Other Business**

- A report was received regarding increased dog waste issues along a footpath in Marbury.
- Councillors discussed the possibility of installing dog waste bins at either end of the footpath (School Lane near Church Bridge and Wrenbury Road).

- The Clerk will contact Cheshire East Council regarding the provision of extra bins and arrange for dog fouling posters/signage in key locations, including near the canal bridge.

Meeting finished at 9pm