

MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL

Court Garden, Pound Lane, Marlow, Bucks

MINUTES OF THE PLANING ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY AND LIVE STREAMED ON THE TOWN COUNCIL'S FACEBOOK PAGE ON TUESDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7PM

Present:	Chairman	Cllr N Marshall
	Councillors	Cllr E West Cllr R Scott Cllr R Wilson Cllr J Towns Cllr S Brown
	Town Clerk Admin	Hilary Martin Debbie Abbott

P.193 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr T Avery

P.194 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

P.195 MINUTES DATED 05.01.2021

The minutes of the previous meeting dated the 05.01.2021 were presented by Cllr N Marshall and agreed as a true record.

P.196 DECISIONS MADE BY BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL SINCE 21.12.2020

INFORMATION

Members noted that there was an 97% compliance rate between MTC's comments and decisions made by Buckinghamshire Council between 21.12.2020 – 07.02.2021

P.197 CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING SHEETS 047

DECISION

Members reviewed the current planning applications on planning sheet **047** and comments were submitted to Buckinghamshire Council.

P.198 LISTON COURT LIGHTING

INFORMATION

Correspondence sent to the office:

Sorry to continue to have to report that the lights in Liston Court are not getting any brighter. I accept that you may not own the lights but this is a matter that affects the safety of the hundreds of Marlow residents passing through Liston Court every day. Lots of those in The Claremont's and Cromwell Gardens are as concerned about this as I am.

Firstly **All** of the available lighting in the relevant section of the footpath would seem to be working but the light available from those lights is completely inadequate, especially at each end of the path marked A and B on the **attached** plan. The result is that at night both areas are virtually completely dark and therefore potentially hazardous to pedestrians.

It would seem now that my attempt to register the issue on the FixMyStreet website failed and it is now impossible to see how to register the issue given that it doesn't

neatly fit into the strict parameters required by the numerous drop-down menus which seem to exist solely to eliminate the reporting of this matter.

To resolve this following needs to be considered urgently: -

The tree foliage blocking the lights needs to be severely cut back. All of them are completely obscured. James at the management company for Liston House tell me that they are more than prepared to take this work on but are not able to establish ownership of the land where the work would need to be carried out. The council have not yet responded to their requests for clarification of ownership. There is a tree that is leaning dangerously over the footpath and that also needs looking at too anyway.

1. One side of the glass in one of the lights (on land owned and operated by Liston house) has been painted black, rendering it useless to Liston Court traffic. I presume this was done to stop it shining into the windows of Liston House. The paint needs to be removed.
2. The light from the streetlights is simply not bright enough anyway and additional lighting needs to be added at the two points A and B on the attached plan where it is totally dark from late afternoon in the summer.

Recommended

That a site visit be arranged with Bucks. The Town Clerk and Cllr J Towns are currently in talks with Bucks regarding the issue of inadequate lighting in Liston Court and the ownership and responsibility of these lights.

P.199 UNNAMED ROAD

DECISION

Residents in Queens Road have recently encountered issues with deliveries and people trying to find addresses in the road that exits Queens Road and follows up to the allotment site adjunct to The Duke.

There are a number of residents who are in agreement, and would like to engage in a consultation with Marlow Town Council to suggest and agree an appropriate name, particularly as the lane had significant context with historical connections to the workhouse, hanging gibbet and has the footpath still running up through it.

If this is appropriate to proceed with, residents are happy to engage to suggest a name based on the guideline's issues by Buckinghamshire Council.

Recommended

That members agree to proceed with an informal consultation

Resolved

Members agree to contact Bucks regarding the naming of the road.

P.200 BEHAVIOUR IN LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE

INFORMATION

Questions received from a concerned resident:

Ignorance of a growing number of town dwellers regarding their behaviour in the local countryside - how can Marlow Town Council help inform, educate, and change behaviour?

Recent Facebook postings on local groups are highlighting previously hidden frustrations, brought to the fore by the lockdown increase in access to the nearby countryside. Examples include:

1. Dog faeces left on footpaths, or bags left on fencing for all to see and for some livestock to reach
2. Vehicles parked in front of field gates, with no respect for needs of access to fields
3. Dogs left off the lead in fields containing livestock, currently risking death of ewes and lambs
4. Ignorance of private ownership of fields/woods within which footpath access exists
5. Public feeding of horses, with no respect for their private ownership or the potential damage to health.
- 6.

Looking at some of the bizarre comments on these Facebook posts, there appears to be significant ignorance amongst Marlow residents regarding even the most basic, common sense factors to be considered when accessing our local countryside.

I think that there is an opportunity for Marlow Town Council to inform our local residents of the basic behaviour expected, but I'm not sure which Councillor would be best placed to progress this. Who would be the best person?

Recommended

That this will be addressed through the Town Council's social media platforms, if this is not effective then more signage will be requested from Bucks.

P.201 ALL SAINTS CHURCH COMPLAINT ABOUT CLOCK CHIMES

DECISION

All Saints Church have contacted the Council for assistance with a local neighbour of the Church who has complained about the noise of the clock chimes at night last November. They are finding that the noise is resounding and loud. The complainant believes that the noise from the chimes is unacceptable and that the disruption to sleep is adversely affecting their mental health. They have asked that the chimes be silenced at night.

The Church has contacted Buckinghamshire Councils Environmental Health officer and after investigating the options, met with the complainant and discussed the choices available for taking the matter forward. They have now been asked to ascertain the extent of other concerns from residents and neighbours. The option for the complainant to make a formal complaint to Buckinghamshire Council is still being considered by them.

If a formal complaint is made, the Local Authority is duty bound to investigate it; and if a 'Statutory Nuisance' is found then the Church would have no option but to switch off the chimes until they could be automated. The Church would prefer to resolve this by discussion and negotiation if at all possible.

The Church is asking the following questions of the Council.

1. Do you support the concern that the ringing of the church clock chimes overnight can be detrimental to the Church's neighbours?
2. Would you support the silencing of the chimes between 2200 and 0700hrs daily?
3. Would you be able to offer a financial contribution towards automating the chime?

Recommended

That members agree to supporting the Church with a wider resident's consultation of the noise impact of chimes ringing between 2200 hours and 0700 hours. The findings of that consultation to be brought back to committee for further consideration.

Resolved

The issue of the church bells ringing at night and consequential disturbance was discussed by the Planning, Environment and Transport committee and after some discussion it was felt that there was insufficient evidence of complaints and a lack of support on social media, in conclusion the committee felt that it could not support the silencing of church bells overnight.

P.202 CARBON AUDIT

INFORMATION

Cllr N Marshall read through and explained the main points of the Carbon Audit to members.

Recommended

That members ask the environmental consultant to prepare an options paper.

P.203 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

INFORMATION

Plans Only – Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 7.00 pm

Full PET meeting – Tuesday 30th March 2021 at 7.00 pm

Signed:

(Chairman)

Date: