

**Modbury Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 7th March 2023, 7.00 pm
The Pavilion, QEII Recreation Field
MINUTES**

Present Cllrs Pete Watts (PW), Barry Keel (BK), Helen Nathanson (HN), Barbara Price (BP), George Rosevear (GR), Phil Smith (PS), Dave Trigger (DT), Ann Turner, (AT), Jo Woodcock (JW)

Also present: Cllrs Rufus Gilbert (RG)(DCC) and Bernard Taylor (BT) (SHDC)

2023 25 Apologies were received from Cllrs Walker (illness) and West (previous personal commitment)

Public Forum:

10 members of the public were in attendance

- **Baker Estates** delivered a statement regarding the status of the **Penn Parks outline planning application**. They understand that there is opposition to the proposed access to the development and reminded Council that this had been subject to an independent safety audit, that work would continue on exploring the green lane options and that the development would play a part in easing the on-going shortage of housing in the area. BK refuted that the recent MPC communication with the local media demonstrated pre-determination and emphasised that Council were just raising their concerns (also raised by the community) These concerns regarding the proposed access have been voiced to Baker Estates from the start.
A member of the public asked for clarification that the Road Safety Audit was only limited to the elements of physical change in close proximity to the site entrance and not to the whole proposed pedestrian route. Baker Estates confirmed that this was the case.
- A member of the public raised the issue of the lack of public transport to Ivybridge and, in particular, the impact it has on young people in Modbury. This has been raised several times over the years. RG explained that in the current climate when bus routes are being cut it was unlikely a new route would be created, but that it would be worth revisiting in the medium term. **RG to send clerk details of the revised arrangement for Bigbury**
- A member of the public requested support from MPC to refurbish the public open space area in Tucker's Brook (The Patch). This will be considered later in the meeting

Devon Councillor's Report

- Explained that currently DCC Highways are opposed to the outline planning application for Penn Parks and will be having an on-site meeting with Baker Estates to discuss their concerns.
- The new Chief Exec. and officers are settling in well and progress is being made in improving the financial situation of Devon County Council

District Councillor's Reports

- Reminded everyone that photo ID is required for voting in the May election
- Confirmed that Scottish Power have been asked to improve the marking of the e-charging parking bays in Poundwell car park

2023 26 Declarations of interest were received from BP (planning application 0326/23/LBC) and DT (Modbury Caring grant application)

2023 27 Minutes of Meetings held on 7th February 2023

Proposed by BP, seconded by AT and all in favour that they be approved as a true and accurate record. (GR abstained as absent from the Feb meeting)

2023 28 Planning

The following planning applications were considered:

1. [0384/23/OPA](#) **0384/23/OPA** READVERTISEMENT (Amended Description) Outline Planning Application (with all matters reserved apart from access) for demolition of existing buildings and a residential redevelopment of up to 40 dwellings, including the formation of access and associated works on land at Pennpark, Modbury Sx 652 5172.

Proposed by BK, seconded by AT and all in favour that MPC postpone a response and hold an open extra-ordinary meeting on Monday 27th March at 2pm in The Pavilion. This will be an open meeting advertised in the normal way. Postponing Council response will mean that there will be greater clarity about the relative positions of the developers and highways (who are meeting independently of MPC mid March) to inform discussion and decision-making. Taking it to a special meeting will also allow everyone to focus all the key issues at length

2. [0326/23/LBC](#) Mr Howard Simons Listed Building Consent for regularisation of the existing roof lights alterations (Retrospectively) Address: 4 Poundwell House Modbury PL21 0XY

Proposed by AT, seconded by JW and all in favour of supporting this application and expressing regret that it was a retrospective application (BP abstained)

2023 29 Finance

- a) Proposed by GR, seconded by HN and all in favour that the payments as listed in Appendix 1 be approved. Three late submissions were also approved: £20 for compost, £374.95 + VAT for the hire of The Little Kitchen, £18 to DALC for the clerk's election training.
- b) The financial statement Appendix 2 was received
- c) Proposed by GR, seconded by PW and all in favour that the proposed signatories for the new savings bank account – Cllrs Price, Smith and Turner and the clerk be approved
- d) Proposed by GR, seconded by PS and all in favour that the grant application of £500 from Modbury Caring be approved
- e) The minutes of the FHR Committee were received
 - Proposed by PS, seconded by BP and all in favour that the proposed payment for the additional hours worked by the clerk during the year be agreed
 - Proposed by PS, seconded by BP and all in favour that the recommendation to increase the clerk's hours to 17 per week be approved

2023 30 May Elections

It was agreed that it would be beneficial for the parish to have an election and all councillors and the clerk would actively engage local residents to stand and participate in voting. The nomination packs are now available and the closing date for applications is Tuesday 4th April. BP has produced an article for The Messenger. It was noted that student ID cards were not acceptable forms of identity.

Information can be found on the [website](#).

2023 31 Maintenance

1. The request for funding and other assistance in the refurbishment of the common area of ground known as 'The Patch' in Tuckers Brook was considered.

It was agreed that, pending confirmation of Council responsibility for the area, the area would be assessed and necessary refurbishment work funded from the Millenium Meadow Reserve fund.

2. Marigold's Day

The date for the day (Saturday 22nd April) was noted and the clerk read a report from the working group on preparation work to date.

2023 32 The [minutes](#) from the Sustainability Committee were received.

Air Quality: The request to DCC for testing of air quality in Church Street and Broad Street had been postponed due to planned SWW works. As that project has now been rescheduled **Clerk to request for air quality monitoring this year.**

Water Quality: A well-attended meeting has been held with Councillors from neighbouring parishes and agreement has been made to work jointly on lobbying SW Water and Government.

It was agreed that BK would draft a letter on behalf of the council to the local MP asking him his position on the current bill going through Parliament removing the targets for clean water.

2023 33 Town Centre Task Group

It was agreed to join with Modbury Traders to form a joint group. BP, AT and PS to represent MPC.

2023 34 The summary of the SLCC report "[The Future of Local Councils](#)" was received and it was agreed that clarity was needed regarding what Council could realistically provide. Recommendations to be revisited at a later date.

2023 35 Updates from Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups: Community Engagement:

- BP and the clerk has liaised with **SH Community Volunteer Services** to organise a meeting for organisations in Modbury working with volunteers to look at support required and how to increase opportunities for volunteers and engage more people in volunteering. This will be the theme of The Annual Parish Fair.
- A meeting has taken place with the Chair of **The 4 Rivers Dementia Alliance** to discuss ways in which Modbury can become a dementia friendly community. This will be a theme for The Annual Parish Fair alongside engaging with volunteers
- **Modbury Warm Space:**
The idea has been very well received by the community although attendance is slow to grow. It is recognised that this provides a good prototype for a social community hub for the town.

Council Structure Working Group:

It was resolved that the recommendation from this meeting would be considered in a closed session at the end of the meeting due to the commercial and personnel sensitivity of the subject matter

Parish Paths Partnership:

- The rotten bridge on FP2 has been replaced by DCC at no cost to MPC – The team and DCC were congratulated on their rapid response
- Shilstone Bridge is repaired and the road is open again
- Rogues Roost has a new footpath sign
- Work has been done on FP 5 and 6 and two problem gates have been subject to negotiations with landowners
- A grant application has been submitted for 23-24

Homes for Ukraine Support Team

- All Modbury's guest families attended the very successful and well attended event at the Watermark in February. Thanks to SHDC for organising
- Continued support is being given around financial and employment matters and with English as a second language support. DCC are being lobbied to provide extra EAL support.
- SHDC are looking for more sponsors to be on a waiting list for when current arrangements for guests come to an end. There is a specific request for a sponsor in Modbury to take in the mother of a son and family in the area. **PS to promote in Modbury**
- **It was agreed that an application be made to SHDC for a grant for a community Ukrainian music and dance evening and if this was not available MPC to fund.**

Modbury Litter Pickers

- Risk Assessment and work method statements are complete
- Individual team members have responsibility for specific areas
- Over the last month group picks have taken place: Modbury to East Leigh, Pennymoor to Harraton Cross, Shortcut from A379 to Bigbury Road and assisting Ermington Litter Pickers.
- SHDC have been very responsive in collecting the bags of waste collected by the litter pickers

Parish Online:

- The stream catchments for the river Erme have been mapped to assist the Sustainability Committee with their work on water quality

MARS:

- Three quotes have been received to resurface the entry driveway to the car park. These are currently being assessed

Neighbourhood Plan:

- The referendum will take place this Thursday 9th March. There has been considerable confusion due to the overlap with the proposed Penn Parks development consultation and MPC are keen to emphasise that the two are totally unrelated. Leaflets clarifying the distinction between the NP and the Penn Parks planning application have been delivered to all households.
- Four representatives from Modbury will attend the count on Friday 10th March

2023 36 Correspondence received:

1. Communication from a resident of Champernowne regarding **facilities on the Palm Cross Estate** was considered.

- **The lack of dog poo bins** – this has been looked at before and the problem is with emptying the bins which SHDC will not take on. Council consider that the bin at the entrance to the estate and on the footpath on Barracks Road together with domestic bins at home are sufficient.

- **Lack of lighting on the path from Barracks Road between the allotments onto the estate** - Council had sympathy with the resident but it was agreed that consideration needed to be given to the impact additional lighting would have on the wildlife. It was also noted that only one request has been received.

2023 37 The Saturday Rota was agreed:

11 th March	Phil Smith
18th March	Dave Trigger
25th March	Barry Keel
1st April	Helen Nathanson
8th April	Barbara Price

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Members of the public were asked to leave.

2023 38 It was resolved that BP and PS would pursue the matter in question.

HN left at 9.20pm

Meeting closed at 9.30pm