

MARSTON MORETEYNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marston Moreteyne Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st July 2026 at Marston Moreteyne Community Centre, Great Linns, Marston Moreteyne commencing 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors: Hugh Roberts (Chairman), Carol Carter, Janice Green, Steve Lonsdale, Kelvin Pell & Simon Thomas,
CBC Ward Councillor Saverio Bongo.
2 representatives – Vale Community Church
2 members of public.

Officer: Mrs H. Trustam – Parish Clerk.

Minute Reference	Item	Power	Action by
26/07/239	Apologies for absence Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Chris Banks, Robert Morris & Ted Pilbeam. Apologies for absence were received from Ward Cllr Sue Clark.	Local Government Act 1972, Part V, s85 (1+2) & Sch 12, Part VI, p40	Clerk to keep on file
26/07/240	Disclosure of local and/or disclosable pecuniary interests No interests declared.	Localism Act 2011, Sch 7, s31	N/A
26/07/241	Dispensation Requests None received.	Localism Act 2011, Sch 7, s33	Clerk to keep on file.
26/07/242	Open Forum Residents raised concerns regarding planning application CB/26/01150/REG3, Marston Moreteyne VC School, Church End site which seeks permission for the construction of a new classroom block etc to accommodate the increase in pupils for years 5 & 6 as it transitions to a primary school. Concerns expressed related to anticipated increase of traffic and associated parking in the vicinity at drop off and pick up times. The parish council advised that it had responded to this planning application in June which included concerns relating to additional traffic and obstructive parking along residential streets.	Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, s1 (1).	
26/07/243	The Chairman brought agenda item 15 forward for discussion: Vale Community Church The final 3-month report from Vale Community Church on their 'The Table' community meal initiative had been received and circulated to members prior to the meeting.	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s19.	

Chairman Signature

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	The report was received and accepted. It as resolved to: • Allow Vale Community Church to use the community centre hall without charge for the purposes of providing 'The Table weekly meal'. • Note the operating calendar as provided in the report including the Christmas meal on 22nd December • Agree that Vale Community Church provides a further formal review at the end of March or beginning of April 2027 with quarterly reports received in the interim period.		
26/07/244	Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Cllr Sue Clark provided the following written report: East West Rail Partnership Board: The Councillor reported election as a representative on the East West Rail Partnership Board, representing councils along the route. They intend to use the role to raise local concerns and are seeking permission to share the Council's formal response to the recent consultation. Cumulative Development in the Marston Vale: The Councillor attended the Westminster Hall debate on the cumulative impact of development in the Marston Vale, secured by Blake, which helped raise the area's concerns in Parliament. A related motion submitted to the Council meeting was deferred due to lack of time and has been resubmitted for the September meeting. The motion calls for a coordinated Government masterplan covering East West Rail, Universal, Marston Valley and the proposed data centre at Quest Pit, together with adequate funding to mitigate their combined impact on local communities and infrastructure. Community Governance Review: The review was concluded at the latest Council meeting. The Councillor expressed strong criticism of the process and the proposals to reduce parish councillor numbers. Ultimately, no parish was required to reduce its numbers unless it wished to do so. Universal: Following a meeting with Gidon Freeman, Vice President of External Affairs, Rosie Kavanagh was introduced as the ongoing parish council contact. She has agreed to visit all parish councils during the autumn. Local Plan Sites Consultation: The Councillor intends to visit all proposed development sites within the ward over the next ten days, alongside representatives from H&S Parish Council and Cranfield Parish Council, and offered to arrange a similar visit with Marston Parish Council if helpful. Cllr Saverio Bongo provided the following report: • EWR has recognised that closing the Millbrook rail crossing will have an impact on residents. It has agreed to revisit the potential closure by undertaking a new study and come back in September with new plans.	N/A	

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	CBC has launched its new website today which is anticipated to be more user friendly.		
26/07/245	Minutes of meetings. It was resolved to accept the above amendment and to confirm and adopt the minutes of the meeting of Marston Moreteyne Parish Council held on Tuesday 16 th June 2026. Proposed Cllr Green, seconded Cllr Lonsdale. Agreed.	Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, Part VI, p41 (1)	
26/07/246	Matters arising from the minutes. A written report providing an update on matters following the previous meeting was received and noted.	N/A	
26/07/247	Howes Drive Pumping Station. Cllr Pilbeam advised that Anglian Water responded to the submitted complaint within the 10-day response time, however the response was disappointing. The complaint has now been escalated to stage 2 whereby Anglian Water have a further 10-day window to respond. If the response is unsatisfactory a second time, the matter can be referred back to the Consumer Council for Water.	N/A	Cllr Pilbeam
26/07/248	Local Plan Sites Consultation Central Bedfordshire Council is consulting on submitted sites as part of the new Local Plan. Deadline for comments is Monday 17 th August. Marston Moreteyne Parish Council welcomed the opportunity to respond to the Local Plan – Submitted Sites Consultation and recognises the importance of planning positively for the future of Central Bedfordshire. The Parish Council acknowledged that growth would continue to play an important role in the future development of the area. However, it was felt that the residents of Marston Moreteyne have already experienced significant strategic growth pressures as a result of existing and proposed development within the Marston Vale area. Over the past 15 years, the parish has accommodated approximately 1,020 new dwellings. In addition, the proposed Marston Valley development, comprising up to 5,000 new homes, specialist residential accommodation, up to 30 hectares of employment land, and retail development on land between Brogborough, Lidlington and Marston Moreteyne, will have a substantial impact on the surrounding communities, including Marston Moreteyne. In light of this scale of development, the Parish Council strongly believes that no further site allocations for development within Marston Moreteyne should be considered until the Marston Valley development has been completed and the community has had sufficient time to integrate and adapt to the significant changes arising from that scheme. It was agreed to object to each site and provide a reason why the site should not be included within the Local Plan.	Stakeholder consultation	
26/07/249	Local Transport Plan 4, 2027 to 2040 Consultation Central Bedfordshire Council is consulting on its Local Transport Plan.	Stakeholder consultation	

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	The Parish Council carefully considered the consultation documentation and agreed the following comments: The Parish Council supports the broad principles behind LTP4, including the promotion of active travel, improved public transport, safer roads and sustainable transport choices. However, the Parish Council considers that there is a significant disconnect between some of the policy aspirations contained within the Plan and the practical reality experienced by residents in Marston Moreteyne and the surrounding villages. The Council is particularly concerned that some of the fundamental issues affecting the ability of residents to make sustainable transport choices are not being adequately addressed. CBC's own consultation material recognises that Central Bedfordshire is predominantly rural and that opportunities to travel by means other than the private car are limited in many areas. It also recognises that successful delivery will depend upon partnership working and that funding availability is uncertain. The Parish Council therefore believes that the final LTP4 needs to place greater emphasis on practical deliverability and the infrastructure and services that residents actually experience, rather than relying on aspirations which cannot be achieved without the necessary investment and supporting infrastructure. For residents to choose to walk, cycle or use public transport, those options must be safe, convenient, reliable and genuinely practical.		
26/07/250	Road Safety Partnership Scheme A report outlining the Central Bedfordshire Council's Road Safety Partnership offer was considered and noted.	Stakeholder consultation	
26/07/251	Lower Shelton Link Road A report had been circulated in regard to the ongoing deterioration and condition of the Lower Shelton link road following issues raised by a resident. Members supported the issues raised and agreed that reports had been logged on CBC's Fix My Street portal. Ward Cllr Bongo agreed to take this matter up with CBC and report back to the parish council.		
26/07/252	War Memorial A report and associated costs for the conservation cleaning of the War Memorial as outlined by the War Memorial Trust had been circulated and were received. Members considered the costs. It was resolved to authorise the work to be carried out by Wrighton & Barker Memorial Masons via a steam cleaning method at a cost of £2,760.00. This included additional repairs / painting as outlined in the specification.	War Memorials Act 1923.	
26/07/253	Central Bedfordshire Council: Town & Parish Council Forum	Stakeholder consultation	

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	A report from Cllr Roberts had been circulated and was received following his attendance at the Town & Parish Council forum held on 15 th July 2026.		
26/07/254	Marston Moreteyne Playing Field Committee A request was received from the Playing Field Committee and subsequently considered to fund professional arboriculture report to assess the extent of tree root damage at Bedford Road skate park and play area. The report will subsequently assist obtaining remedial quotations and insurance claim process. It was resolved to award a grant to the Playing Field Committee for the arboriculture report at a cost of £435.00 + VAT.	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s19	
26/07/255	Crime Statistics, Bedfordshire Police Liaison and Priority Setting (a) Parish crime statistics for June 2026, were circulation prior to the meeting. Statistics were accepted. (b) Bedfordshire Police Liaison meeting. Next meeting scheduled for 8 th July. Cllr Pilbeam advised that he would not be able to attend. Cllr Green to deputise in his absence. (c) Local Policing Team – not present.	Local Government & Rating Act 1997, s31.	N/A
26/07/256	To receive reports from the following outside organisations It was resolved to receive all written/verbal reports which had been circulated prior to the meeting / made available at the meeting. (a) Village Hall Committee: Cllr Carter advised that a new member had been welcomed onto the committee. The hall has regular hirers. The condition of the hall is in good repair; however, the car park surface needs replacing. (b) Playing Field Committee: Remedial works are needed to the overflow car park due to potholes. During the summer, the MUGA has been opened during the daytime for residents to use free of charge. The committee will be considering the removal of the ‘kissing gate’ by the pavilion building. Whilst it is maintained by CBC Rights of Way, it is overgrown and cannot be used by those with a pram/buggy. (c) Rookery South Energy Recovery CLP. A written report was received and accepted from Cllr Roberts.		
26/07/257	Parish Clerk’s Report – for information only It was resolved to receive and accept the parish clerk’s report which had been circulated. It was resolved to authorise outsourcing the watering for the In Bloom planters over the summer period, up to a cost of £1,000.00.	N/A	N/A
26/07/258	List of correspondence received – for information only (a) Emergency Works Notification – Moulsoe Road, Cranfield (13.07.26) (b) Bedford Borough Local Plan 2050 – Call for sites and development opportunities (10.07.26) (c) NALC Chief Executive’s bulletin (09.07.26) (d) Central Bedfordshire Council, New Website coming soon (08.07.26) (e) NALC Events (07.07.26)	N/A	

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	(f) Central Bedfordshire council – notification to put out bins early due to hot weather (03.07.26) (g) Central Bedfordshire Council – Reporting breaches of Planning Control (03.07.26) (h) Central Bedfordshire Council – In person Town & Parish Council Forum invitation (02.07.26) (i) CBC103584 – Brittens Lane, Salford, emergency road closure notification (02.07.26) (j) NALC Chief Executive’s bulletin (02.07.26) (k) Important roadworks information: A421 westbound Marsh Leys to Marston Moreteyne – road surface patching works (02.07.26) (l) CPRE – CBC Local Plan, site consultation (01.07.26) (m) Important roadworks information: A421 westbound Marsh Leys exit slip – resurfacing and loop renewal works (30.06.26) (n) Central Bedfordshire Council – Town & Parish Council Update – Summer 2026 (29.06.26) (o) CPRE Bedfordshire Newsletter – June 2026 (p) East West Rail – Updated Safeguarding Directions (25.06.26) (q) Armed Forces Week – A Small Conversation Could Save a Veteran's Life (25.06.26) (r) NALC Chief Executive bulletin (25.06.26) (s) Emergency Works Notification - Red Lion Close, Cranfield (23.06.26) (t) NALC Events (23.06.26) It was resolved to receive the above correspondence which had been circulated prior to the meeting.		
	There being no further business to transact, the meeting was closed at 9.05pm.		

Chairman Signature

Date