

Parish of Marchwood

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

held at Marchwood Village Hall
on Monday 23rd March 2015 at 7.30pm.

Present: *Mr K Petty (Chairman of the parish council) – in the Chair

Mr K Elcoate	*Ms B Golden
*Mr D Hindle	°Mrs A Hoare
*Mr B Jackson	*Mrs J Saxby
*Mr M Saxby	°Mr R Vango-Fisher
°Mr F White	

- * Indicates attendance
- o Indicates apologises for absence

In attendance: Mrs M Wathen (Clerk to the Council)
Mrs C Cockeram (Deputy Clerk to the Council)

Also present: District Councillor Mrs Sue Bennison
Dee Carr and Nicky Harding – Marchwood First Responders
6 Members of the public

Minutes

1. **RESOLVED:** To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24th March 2014.

Chairman's Report

2. This year has seen some major industrial proposals which could have a large impact on the lives of Marchwood Residents. The Ministry of Defence have been working on leasing out the military port and recently announced that Solent Gateway has been selected as their preferred bidder. The Parish Council, concerned that the MOD had refused to “consult” on the issue, organised and took a petition to 10 Downing Street calling for more involvement in the Government’s plans. At the time of writing this report we are waiting to see what the new Developers have planned for the Military Port, although we are sure it will mean increased road and rail traffic.

Another commercial change in our Village is that Associated British Ports have purchased the industrial estate. We have invited them to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to outline their plans and we are still awaiting a response.

Residents will no doubt be aware that Barker-Mill Estates have been consulting on developing the Cork Farm site with an anaerobic digester and industrial units and in return they are offering the Village part of the site to be used for allotments and public open space. The Parish Council have yet to receive the planning application and until we do Councillors are unable to comment on whether they support or

disagree with the plans, doing so would exclude them from taking part in the vote at the Planning Committee.

On a more positive note, the Parish Council is working hard with the Scouts and Guides to replace the old Scout Hut with a new building fit for purpose. The Lloyds Trustee has agreed to the location and design of the building and it is hoped that a planning application will be submitted shortly.

This is the final year of the term of office for all Marchwood Parish Councillors and elections will be taking place on 7th May to decide who will be representing the Village for the next four years. I would like to put on record my thanks to all the Parish Councillors and Staff for their contribution and dedication in working to improve our Village whilst trying to maintain the elements that make our community such a pleasant place to live in.

A copy of the full Chairman's report is attached at appendix A and will be in the June issue of the Village News Magazine.

Parish Council accounts for year ended 31st March 2015

3. The Clerk reported that at the present time the accounts are within budget and will be prepared at the end of the financial year.

Report by District Councillors

4. Cllr Mrs Bennison reported that residents had contacted her regarding speeding through Pooks Green. There is no possibility of roundels being added to the road as the street lamps are too close together. Perhaps Community Speed Watch could be looked into again.

Long Lane footpath stage 1 is nearly completed. Stage 2 will require piping in the ditch and further funding is still needed before this can be implemented.

Cork Farm – NFDC have not had any pre application discussions with Barker-Mill or their agents. Hampshire County Council will decide the permission on the Anaerobic Plant and NFDC will decide the permission on the industrial units.

5. Cllr Mrs Hoare sent a report: Environmental Health at NFDC did not have full records of the contents of the land at Cork Field; it is classed as medium risk, filled land, contents unknown. We went back over the maps to 1892. Should any development take place on Corks farm, full environmental and ecology reports will need to be submitted. The land behind the site, which is owned by ABP and Southern water, is classed as a SINC site, (Site of important Nature Conservation) I have no view on any proposed application, but think it is important to find out all information available, in order to formulate an informed opinion.

Report by Marchwood Parish Council appointee on the Dibden Allotment Fund

6. My name is Judy Saxby and I'm the Parish Council representative for Marchwood on the Dibden Allotments Fund.

For those of you who are unaware of the origin of the charity, and surprisingly there are people who do not know of its existence or function, I will give a short rundown on its beginnings.

In 1862 the Dibden Allotments were founded for the poor and needy of that parish. In 1995 the then named Dibden Allotment Charity was launched after a local superstore purchased the allotment land from Hythe and Dibden Parish Council. The monies resulting from that sale were invested and the investment income is spread between the Waterside parishes of Hythe and Dibden, Fawley and Marchwood.

The nine trustees, who represent all three parishes, are able to make grants to local organisations and most importantly individuals in need within the Waterside community.

Some of the trustees represent the parish councils and the rest are local residents who are interested enough to apply when a vacancy occurs. In fact a vacancy has arisen as our Chairman Peter Parrot is retiring in July.

Parish representatives stand for a four year term and independent trustees for five and may be reselected. Of course not everyone stays for their allotted time, as it is a regular commitment, but if someone leaves mid-term it is advertised in the local press.

Of course need does vary within these parishes and requests for assistance fluctuates.

There are pockets of deprivation all along the Waterside and the charity helps in lots of ways. We provide mobility aids, white goods, carpets, (not carpeting, except sometimes on stairs) clothing, furniture and food (we have our own dry goods larder!)

As ever this year some tens of thousands of pounds worth of food vouchers have been handed out.

The plastic card type vouchers are now not able to be used for anything other than groceries. These vouchers are different to the Food bank vouchers which we hold a stock of as well.

Some Waterside residents may find themselves in desperate need, often without funds for heating, lighting and cooking, they may have nowhere to live, for example, sofa surfing or maybe living in a tent or even a car!

Each individual application should really have some kind of professional support and DAF works alongside the CAB, SSAFA, local doctors' surgeries and the Job Centre and all applications are means tested.

The fund also works with the Food Bank at Blackfield and the Debt Counselling service which is accessible at the same venue. The Food Bank is also supported with help towards the rent of their premises and storage facilities.

Often applicants to the fund are moving into their first permanent home and have nothing in the way of cooking equipment or furniture, so we work with the Dorcas project (through SCRATCH) who can help provide a package of necessary household items (these are mostly secondhand but we never give a secondhand bed!) On very rare occasions some applicants may need help with the first month's rent and deposit, but not as a general rule.

The Fund has in the past provided such items as stair-lifts, showers and mobility scooters for people with mobility problems, as well as laptop computers as aids to study and learning and help with transport costs for hospital visits. By the way all white goods, the fridges, washing machines and cookers etc. once provided become the responsibility of the recipient and will not be considered for a replacement within five years!

Every week the individual applications are considered by any three of the trustees, we are able to make a grant of up to £900 to cover any one request but applications above that amount are generally looked at during the monthly meetings, also any individual request that has been turned down and maybe submitted again by appeal, but the majority of requests for funding at the monthly meetings are from organisations, usually local, but sometimes from larger organisations which also benefit Waterside residents.

Due to financial restraints and the monthly and annual limit set, the fund cannot obviously fulfil every request and clients are reminded that usually any further request cannot be considered within a year or sometimes two. Nevertheless every application large or small is still dealt with in the same sympathetic manner and receives careful consideration before a final decision is made. Sometimes a visit is necessary to identify or confirm need.

With regard to our own parish of Marchwood, since the start of the financial year in April 2014, 14 individual applicants have been helped by the fund. Nearly £10,000 in grants was requested of which £7,549.35 was approved.

This year £1000 was granted towards 2 public access defibrillators, one for Marchwood and one for Hythe, (Which Nicky and Dee will expand upon later).

Our young people in the parish are very ably supported by their Youth Support worker Sharron Fitzgerald. One of the three youth workers part funded by DAF as ongoing assistance to the Handy Trust, whose Senior Youth and Community worker Candy Huxham leads the team who provide sterling work within our local schools and youth clubs. (Which includes providing information and education on all relevant potential problems such as smoking, drink and drug abuse and underage/ casual sexual activity. Most importantly, they listen!)

The annual "Sport in the Park" where our young people can go and have fun at various venues, usually the local recs in the area during the summer holidays, is also part funded by Dibden Allotments.

Dibden Allotments Fund runs a successful gardening scheme which helps infirm or elderly people stay in their own homes by providing help to maintain their gardens should it become too much or too dangerous to cope with themselves. This is just basic lawn and hedge control though, we don't do landscaping or decking! We currently have residents both within Marchwood and Pooksgreen who benefit from this scheme. Every gardener employed by DAF is of course subject to a CRB check.

The schools that serve our village, the Infant, Junior and Applemore College are supported with a hardship fund (as are all the schools along the Waterside who generally request this help on an annual basis) and also some of our young people

attending sixth form colleges. Sometimes we help the local sixth form college students with travel costs as well.

The hardship fund enables children from more needy families to be able to have the relevant school uniform and go on school trips along with their peers. (We require reports from the schools as to how the financial help was spent) This runs hand in hand with the Shoe Scheme which provides a voucher to the value of £30 towards proper school shoes. The schools themselves have a supply of shoe vouchers. The shoe scheme costs the charity in excess of £30,000 a year!

The shoe scheme is also available to assist elderly Waterside residents as well and the fund is doing this with the help of Age UK based in Dibden Purlieu we also support the "Sloppy Slipper" scheme run by that organisation.

Each year the fund holds an open lunch, when those who have received a grant or could benefit in the future are invited to attend. This open day is widely advertised and is open to anyone who is interested in the fund and what it does. This year the Open Day is on Wednesday 3rd June at the Parish Hall, West Street Hythe from 12 till 2p.m.

The office is managed by an enthusiastic and dedicated staff, Valerie our excellent clerk, Diane our long time secretary and Charlotte who runs the gardening scheme. The Office is at Drummond Court opposite Hythe Pier and is staffed three days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and open to the public on the Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

The fund can also be accessed by the website: www.daf-hythe.org.uk.

We are so fortunate to benefit from the Dibden Allotment Fund. It is totally unique in this area and makes such a difference to people's lives within our Waterside community.

I am proud to be your representative.

Questions?

How much available funding per year?

Between £260K and £300K depending on how well the investment has done.

Guest Speakers – Dee Carr and Nicky Harding, Public Accessible Defibrillator (PAD)

7. Community First Responders are probably the first person you will see if you call an ambulance. We are all volunteers and we cover the costs of our callouts. We are allowed to cover most emergencies and we aim to be at the emergency within a few minutes.

We decided about a year ago to try and get a PAD for Marchwood and Hythe. Hythe in the near future will have 3 PAD's and we are hoping to get a 4th at the Hythe Ferry.

Each PAD costs about £1250 which includes the external box and was purchased through South Central Ambulance service.

Thank you to Dibden Allotment Fund, Barker-Mill Estates, Marchwood Parish Council, Marchwood Traders, Cllr Sue Bennison and public donations at the fetes for raising the money to purchase the PAD. Marchwood Community Association has kindly offered to pay for the maintenance and electric costs associated with having the PAD.

Every minute in delaying the use of a PAD reduces the chance of survival by 10%.

There is also a PAD available at the Yacht Club.

Matters raised by the electors of Marchwood

8. Bury Road cycle path, is there going to be a controlled crossing at Eling cross roads? **Not as far as we are aware due to site constraints and cost.**
9. Traffic counter on Hythe Road by Oak Park? **Not sure whose these belong to, we will try and find out.**
10. Air quality – the monitoring sites in Marchwood are currently suspended why? **There have been no breaches at the incinerator and all the time the monitoring took place, there was no concern about air quality. If Barker-Mill were to submit a planning application they would have to supply air quality data as part of the application.**
11. Lorry movements through the village. If Cork Farm is developed could the planning permission state that lorries can only enter and leave the village through Bury Road. **Some existing planning permissions contain lorry movement restrictions, so this could form part of planning approval.**
12. The road signs around Normandy Way are dirty and unreadable. There are also potholes. **You are able to report highway defects to HCC directly on their website. If you report them, as well as the Parish Council, this can help. We will put the link on our Facebook page as requested.**
13. There was news that a desalination plant was to be installed in Marchwood, has there been any more news about this? **This is in the Southern Water plan for the future but we have not heard anything else about it.**
14. Are you happier having an office in the Village Hall rather than on the industrial park? **Yes, the office is more central and accessible for everyone.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.30.

Chairman