

Parish of Marchwood

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

held at Marchwood Village Hall
on Monday 20th March 2017 at 7.30pm.

Present: *Mr F White (Chairman of the parish council) – in the Chair

*Mrs R Andrews	*Ms B Golden
*Mr D Hindle	*Mrs A Hoare
*Mr D Makinson	*Mr K Petty
Mr M Proctor	*Mrs J Saxby
*Mr M Saxby	*Mr R Young

* 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: County Councillor David Harrison
District Councillor Mrs Sue Bennison

Minutes

1. **RESOLVED:** To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2016.

Chairman's Report

2. I have recently found on file my Annual Report for 2012. It is interesting to see how much remains the same and the issues that then concerned the electors of Marchwood.

Part of the news then was that Keith Elcoate, a councillor at the time, was organising a petition for "A SAFE CYCLE LINK BETWEEN MARCHWOOD AND ELING HILL". At a local level we clearly have achieved something, it is a positive benefit to the village. In 2017 we shall be further exploring the possibility of extending the cycle link from Marchwood to Hythe. A target for us all.

In 2012 I reported that plans for a "dedicated Marchwood youth facility" in Lloyd Recreation Ground were proceeding. We now have the building and a busy Youth Club and very recently in conjunction with Handy Trust appointed Lizzie Anell as our new Youth and Community Leader for the village. Lizzie has fantastic plans for the young people of the village. Many of you may question how we spend "your" money. I believe this is a positive example.

Back in 2012 we had the "Good Citizens Award" and in conjunction with the Head Teacher of the Junior School, the Clerk and I helped launch the "Diversity in the Community" project. In 2017 we held an event similar but different. At our "Marchwood Heroes" celebration I had the opportunity to host an evening to say "thank you" to those often-unsung heroes of our village. We can reflect on both events in that at both we were able to consider and recognise the contribution made by others to our community.

In 2012 high on our agenda and concerns was the future of the Marchwood Military Port and the then Defence Minister Mr. Peter Luff MP visited the Port. Subsequently I was involved in

organising the petition demanding that as a village we should be consulted. We made a trip to London, the petition was delivered to 10 Downing Street and our representations made to the then Government. I feel that we were largely ignored and we now have Solent Gateway "in charge". They have written in our Winter edition of the Marchwood Village News. Let us wait and see!!!!

Back in 2012 we naively believed that the issue of Dibden Bay had been "sorted" but more recently ABP, having failed to acquire the Military Base in Marchwood, have confirmed that they have plans for Dibden Bay. ABP had retained ownership of the land designated on their maps as "Port Development Land" ABP do now own the Industrial estate in Marchwood. The Port Director Alastair Welsh recently spoke to us at a full Parish Meeting and assured us that they will "consult about future plans", whatever that means?

In 2012 the traffic density on the A326 was an issue and now just previous to my writing this report there has been a major incident on the bypass. Thankfully no fatalities, but once again considerations have to be given as to whether it is right to widen or dual the A326 BEFORE the Dibden Bay development or the further housing not just in Marchwood but elsewhere on the Waterside. Clearly the roads in Marchwood are full to capacity!!!! In the short term the installation of cameras on the A326 may be effective in controlling the speed of the traffic on the bypass.

THE FALKLANDS MEMORIAL

The highlight of the year has to be the rededication of the War Memorial and the visit by HRH Prince Edward the Earl of Wessex. The day proved to be a fantastic success and the only regret I have is that due to security issues we were not able to give the event the pre-publicity that we would have liked.

The event took several months of organisation and it would not have been practical for me to list all those who helped but I did single out our Clerk, Melanie, our Deputy Clerk Colette and George Kershaw, Solent Station SSO for special thanks.

VILLAGE PRECEPT

There have been comments around the village concerning the increase in the village precept. I must take the opportunity at this our Annual Meeting to remind the electors of Marchwood that this year we have scheduled 31 meetings of either the full Council or one of our 3 Committees, plus meetings of the Lloyd Trustee.

PLEASE COME YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEBATE AND SEE HOW WE SPEND YOUR MONEY.

GOODYBYE AND WELCOME

The Councillors who have left in the last 12 months are Jane Bovey who has retired to Portugal and David Dale who has other commitments, specifically working with Age Concern. Dan Kitcher did serve for a short time but has now moved to the Isle of Wight.

David Makinson also joined us last year and Rachel Andrews has just been elected at the full Council meeting last week, welcome to you both.

So many things change but so many remain the same.

Fred White - Chairman

Highlights of 2016/17

Falklands Memorial



In April the Parish Council were honoured to hold a rededication service for the Falklands Memorial. The day was attended by the Commodore in Chief of the RFA, HRH Earl of Wessex and members of both the RFA Sir Tristram and RFA Sir Galahad.

The Parish Council would like to say thank you to everyone that help organise the day and attended the service in the rain.

Circus



The Circus came to Marchwood in May. It was a great evening and everyone that attended had a lovely time. Due to the popularity of the evening the Circus will be returning in May 2018.

Marchwood Hero's



Marchwood held an evening of celebration when residents were awarded for being 'Marchwood Hero's'. People were nominated by other residents for their voluntary roles in the village. These roles ranged from collecting rubbish to running the Orchestra.

Public Open Spaces

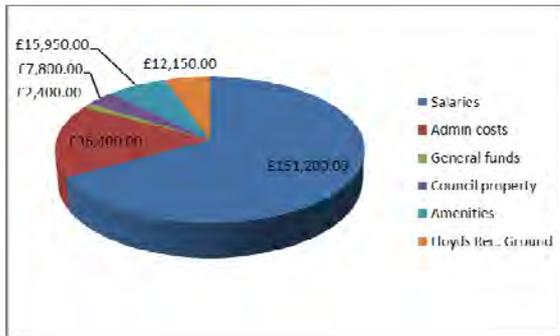
The Grounds men have worked tirelessly again this year to maintain the 80 acres of open space within the village. The Grounds men have continued to carry out daily litter picks around the play areas and open space. Over the autumn they planted another 5,000 bulbs which have flowered this spring. The Parish Council also had new outdoor gym equipment installed at the rear of the Village Hall.

More photos from the year

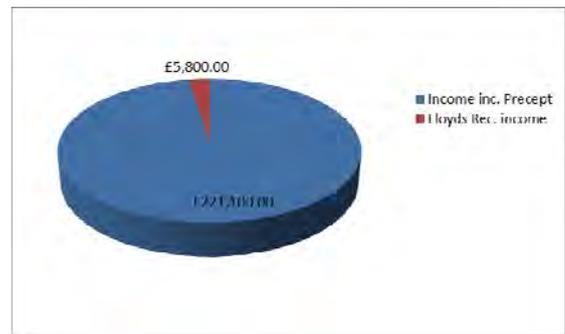


Expenditure and Income 2016/17

The precept for 2016/17 represented an increase of £1.69 or 3.2p per week per band D property.



Expenditure



Income

Parish Council accounts for year ended 31st March 2017

- 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

- Cllr Mrs Hoare reported:

Community Charge

New Forest District Council has set the budget for 2017/18, there will be an increase of 3.2% to the Community Charge, this equates to a rise of £3.14 a week for a band D property.

New Executive Head of Economy, Housing and Planning

As a lot of you are aware, Chris Elliot will be retiring at the end of the month, his replacement will be Flo Churchill, and she is currently Head of planning at Sheffield City Council, which interestingly has part of the Peak District National Park within its boundary. She will commence work on the 22nd May 2017.

Marchwood Industrial Park

I have been in contact with Hayley Sheppard from ABP, firstly about the Lorries parking overnight on the slip road into Admiralty Quay and the need for more screening around the entrance to the industrial park.

Hayley has contacted all businesses on the park and asked them to stop using Admiralty Quay as an unofficial overnight stop and has asked to be informed if this practice doesn't desist.

ABP have asked their landscaping team to have a look at the entrance and I am waiting to hear back.

New Council Houses

New Forest District Council has just completed building 21 new Council Houses on the North Milton Estate in New Milton, all are occupied with new tenants from the waiting list.

Unfortunately the right to buy, policy set out by the government remains, and tenants will be eligible after 3 years tenancy. NFDC along with other councils from around the Country have written to the government asking for an end to this policy.

I have recently received complaints about Staplewood Ground and the new orange lights that have appeared. I have spoken with Planning Enforcement and they are not going to take any action as the lights are temporary and removable.

Please could the Parish Council send a letter of thanks to Chris Elliott for his service to Marchwood and NFDC.

Cllr Mrs Bennison reported:

Roundabout at Marchwood Industrial Park

You will have seen that for the next three weekends this roundabout will be partially closed on both Saturday and Sunday. Traffic accessing the Industrial Park will be diverted along Normandy Way to Cracknore Hard where it will access the Park via Oceanic Way and East Road.

Initially this work was to be done overnight to keep the problem of road closure to a minimum but having spoken to Andy Holding he explained more fully the plan that HCC have given a lot of thought to and have come up with this ingenious plan that will hopefully keep the traffic flowing whilst this very overdue repair work is undertaken.

Environment Panel 9th March

There were a number of issues discussed by the Panel and below is a flavour of some of them. In particular I thought a more detailed summary of the Housing White Paper would be of interest.

Traffic Management Service

Funding from HCC this year will be £100,000, next year it reduces to £60,000 and the year after £40,000. The amount of funding will cover officer time for liaison and design of any schemes. Funding in the main will be for lines and signs only.

Planning Policy Update

Chris Elliott advised the timetable for the Local Plan. There will be an opportunity to raise any concerns before the plan goes to PDC in July, then in September a 6 week public consultation begins, followed by the submission to the Inspector in 2018.

Building Control Service

Chris advised that the partnership with Southampton & Eastleigh for a joint service has not proved to make financial sense for NFDC. There will be an in house review of the service in order to stabilize the loss of the market share.

In essence the best developments are cherry picked for the building control service providers.

The Housing White Paper

In the forward to this paper the Prime Minister says that "Our broken housing market is one of the greatest barriers to progress in Britain today. We need to build many more houses, of the type people want to live in, in the places they want to live. To do so requires a comprehensive approach that tackles failure at every point in the system".

The paper sets out its proposals in four sections:-

Planning for the right homes in the right places

Building homes faster

Diversifying the market

Helping people now

Planning

Talks about “Objectively Assessed Need” being between 11,740 and 13,740 new houses over 20 years. Making land ownership and interests more transparent by improving the Land Registry. Giving priority to brownfield land being brought forward for housing development.

Green Belt

The Government continues with its commitment to protect the Green Belt but there is an interesting, and perhaps significant, change in the wording. It says, that national policy will be amended to make clear that authorities should amend Green Belt boundaries only when they have fully examined all other reasonable options for meeting their identified development requirements including brownfield sites, underused land, optimising densities and exploring whether other authorities can help to meet unmet need in a particular area. It also says that Green Belt released in one place should be compensated by enhancement in other areas and that the detailed boundaries of a Green Belt can be set in neighbourhood plans.

Comment - Marchwood does not have any Green Belt land but it might be able to take advantage of the release of Green Belt land in the south of the Forest by enhancement of green space areas that are close to Marchwood.

A section of the Paper then refers to using land more efficiently for development. This means avoiding building houses at low densities where there is a shortage of land to meet demand and looking for high density options in urban areas that are well served by public transport such as railway stations.

Comment - This is slightly at odds with the Sangs policy but I am informed that the Sangs land will need to be supplied on the edges of a development to meet that policy requirements.

Building homes faster

There is often a substantial time lag between planning permission being granted and houses being built. It is perceived to be unnecessary delays caused by too many planning conditions being imposed.

Developers will be required to get on with the development of site where planning permission has been granted and there will be a consultation on whether they might be penalised, by the refusal of further planning permissions to them, if they have not implemented previous permissions. There will also be a consultation on whether planning permission should be granted for two and not three years to encourage quicker implementation.

A new housing delivery test will be introduced for local authorities. Local authorities will need to ensure that builders deliver them at the annual rate set out in the Local Plan otherwise they will be forced to allocate more land for development, if the annual building rate is below the Local Plan target, even though they have allocated enough land for it to be achieved.

Diversifying the market

The Government want to attract more institutional investment in building more homes for rent. They will change the National Policy Planning Framework to make it easier for Build-to-Rent developers to offer affordable private rental homes instead of other types of affordable housing.

Comment -I am particularly disappointed that the Government have retained their commitment to new Council developed property having to be sold to tenants at a Discount

under the Right to Buy policy. I believe the Shared Ownership option is a much better route to home ownership especially for first time buyers.

Helping People Now

Starter homes remain an important part of the strategy but will not be a mandatory requirement on all new larger development sites. They will not be available to cash buyers. NPPF will be amended to ensure that all new housing sites are expected to deliver a minimum of 10% affordable home ownership units. The paper confirms that the pilots allowing housing association tenants to buy their homes will continue to be rolled out with right to buy discounts.

The Government invites responses to the White Paper by 2 May 2017.

Home Energy Consumption Act – CO² admissions and gas consumption in the New Forest area have declined.

Report by Hampshire County Councillor

5. Cllr David Harrison reported:

It's always a bit strange, preparing an annual report, covering a year of activity, having been regularly reporting things during the course of the year anyway. That said, I have picked out a few "highlights" that seem worthwhile recording here:

Council Tax

The Annual increase that HCC has decided to adopt for this coming financial year represents a 4.99% increase, which is the maximum allowed before it has to hold a referendum. 2% of this increase has to be used for Adult Social Care, which government seems now to accept is seriously under pressure.

Adult Services

I have been closely involved with this issue as Opposition Spokesman for Health & Adult Services for the past 4 years. HCC has been trying to cope with a heavy demand, from an aging population with more complex needs. The impact of not providing care people need can mostly be seen in our hospitals where people are occupying beds when probably well enough to be discharged, whilst others being admitted to hospital at peak times are waiting in on trolleys in corridors. There has been a huge amount of work aimed at making efficiencies and moving to different models of care, especially treating people in their own homes. Funding is still a big issue. The extra money that government has found just about covers the increased cost of care workers living wage, but will do little else. A more sustainable solution will need to be found to fund the ever increasing demand.

Highways

The two biggest decision on highways this year was to drop "Ameys" as the preferred contractor and replace them with a different company who will carry out repairs and maintenance for the next 7 year period. Also, a policy adopted that they won't spend money on highway safety works unless the road in question has a incident record that justifies it. It's no longer enough that people think "it's an accident waiting to happen"... it has to happen! Parish Councillors will be well aware that the maintenance budgets for highway maintenance has reduced. Dangerous items like deep pot holes will be fixed in a timely fashion but there will be ever longer waits for things like resurfacing work.

Household Waste

New charges have been introduced at the HWRC's which have caused a bit of surprise and mild "aggro", for dumping things that HCC does not consider to be household waste, (such

as plasterboard, or even pots of soil). However, it is pleasing that HCC did decide to withdraw proposals to limit the opening days of the tip, at least until autumn. The Marchwood tip is very well used and we must keep up the pressure to keep it operational, not just for the convenience of residents, but to avoid additional fly tipping and to keep recycling materials.

Grants

It has been pleasing to make grants available to lots of local organisations in the past 12 months. My £8000 budget is now virtually spent. Whoever is the County Councillor for this area after May 4th (elections), will have a new budget to spend.

Cycling

It's been a good year for the Marchwood to Eling cycle route. A few hiccups, including some short term flooding over one section and some vandalism, but generally a great success and I am told the most well used cycle route in the whole of the New Forest!

Report by Marchwood Parish Council appointee on the Dibden Allotment Fund

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

I will just give a short rundown on the origin and function of the fund for those who are unaware of the funds existence.

In 1862 the Dibden Allotments were founded for the poor and needy of that parish. In 1995 the fund, originally named the Dibden Allotment Charity was launched after a local superstore purchased the allotment land from Hythe and Dibden Parish Council. We are celebrating 22 years this year.

Those monies resulting from the sale were invested and the annual investment income is spread between the Waterside parishes of Hythe and Dibden, Fawley and Marchwood.

There are nine trustees, who represent all three parishes, and they are able to provide grants to local organisations and more importantly provide help to individuals who are in need within our Waterside community.

Some of the trustees represent the parish councils and the rest are local residents who have been interested enough to apply when a vacancy occurred.

Parish representatives stand for a four year term and independent trustees for five and either 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 always advertised in the local press.

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

There are areas of deprivation all along the Waterside and the charity helps in various ways. We provide mobility aids, white goods, carpets, (*not carpeting, except sometimes on stairs, maybe rugs*) 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 for example from Tesco and Asda are now not able to be used for anything other than groceries or clothing. These vouchers are different to the Food bank vouchers but we do hold a stock of those as well.

Sadly, some of our Waterside residents can sometimes find themselves in desperate need, possibly without any money for heating, lighting and cooking, or 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, our local doctors' surgeries and the Job Centre, all applications are means tested.

The fund also works with the Food Bank and the Debt Counselling service which is accessible at the venue in Blackfield. Both of which are also supported by DAF with help towards the rent of premises and storage facilities.

Sometimes 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 pre-used but we will never provide a secondhand bed!*) On very rare occasions some applicants request help with the first month's rent and deposit, and that is granted but only in exceptional circumstances.

The Fund has 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 once provided, will become the responsibility of the recipient and 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 may 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 very careful consideration before a final decision is made.

Sometimes a visit is necessary to identify or confirm need.

You may ask, how does Marchwood in particular, benefit from the fund.

Well, within our own parish since the start of the financial year in April 2016, 8 individual applicants have been helped by the fund with grants totalling £4853.83.

The organisational applications granted were £10,000 towards the Marchwood Scouts and Guides building, £1276.00 for New kit and Equipment for Marchwood Rangers Youth Football team and £5,500 to Marchwood Junior School for trips and uniform.

Our young people in the village are very ably supported by their new Youth Support worker. Lizzie is one of the four youth workers in the Waterside, covering Fawley, Netley View and Hythe and who are all part funded by DAF as ongoing assistance to the Handy Trust, whose Senior Youth and Community worker Candy Huxham leads the team providing such sterling work within our local schools and youth clubs. (*This 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!*)

An annual event is "Sport in the Park" where our young people can go and have sporty type fun at various venues, usually the local recs in the area during the summer holidays, Lloyds rec in the Marchwood area, this too is part funded by Dibden Allotments.

Dibden Allotments Fund runs a very successful gardening scheme which helps mostly 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. The gardeners don't do landscaping or decking though, it is just basic lawn and hedge maintenance! This scheme is also means tested to a lesser degree and the clients pay a proportion of the gardener's hourly rate. This service becomes free when you reach ninety! We currently have residents both within

Marchwood and Pooksgreen who benefit from this scheme. Of course every gardener employed by DAF is subject to a CRB check.

The schools that serve our village, The Infant, Junior (as previously mentioned) 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. Occasionally we might help a local sixth form college student with travel costs as well.

This hardship fund enables every child to be able to have the relevant school uniform and go on school trips along with their peers. (*We do of course request reports from the schools as to how the financial help was spent*)

The hardship fund 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 as well as the office.

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.

Every year Father Xmas in the guise of the trustees and staff distribute Xmas Hampers to some of the clients. This could be an elderly person who might be on their own during the "festive season" or a family who could perhaps do with a bit of extra cheer at this expensive time of year. Most of the recipients are thrilled with the gift and very grateful. Generally they don't go to the same people two years in succession.

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 June 14th at the Parish Hall, West Street Hythe from 12 till 2p.m.

The office is managed by an enthusiastic and very dedicated and experienced staff, Valerie our excellent clerk, Diane our long time secretary and Gemma who now runs the gardening scheme after Charlotte's retirement.

The Office is at Drummond Court opposite the (Save the) 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.

Marchwood is really fortunate to be one of the parishes to benefit from the Dibden Allotment Fund. It is totally unique within the area and makes a lot people's lives so much better within our Waterside community.

I am proud to be a trustee of The Dibden Allotment Fund representing our parish.

Judy Saxby
Dibden Allotments Fund
023 8086 6610

Questions?

How much available funding per year?

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

Matters raised by the Electors of the Parish of Marchwood.

7. There were no matters raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.05.

_____Chairman