

The Parish of Marchwood

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Marchwood Village Hall on Monday 25th March 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr R Young – in the Chair

Mrs R Andrews

Mr D Makinson

Mr K Petty

Mrs J Saxby

Mr M Saxby

District Cllrs Bennison & Hoare

In attendance: Mr B Gibbs (Clerk to the Council)

Mrs C Cockeram (Deputy Clerk to the Council)

Also present: 11 members of the public

Minutes

1. **RESOLVED:** To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2018.

Chairman's Report

2. It truly does not feel any more than a few short weeks ago that I was preparing my previous report to the Annual Parish Meeting. It has been a pleasure to serve the community as Parish Council Chairman this year and I am grateful for the support that I have personally received from colleagues, officers and the wider community.

Over the last year we have said farewell to former Councillor Beverly Golden, and to our former Clerk Mrs Melanie Wathen. To each I extend my personal thanks for their efforts in ensuring Marchwood continues to be a thriving village with a very strong sense of community. Last summer we welcomed our new Clerk Mr Brendan Gibbs, who has undoubtedly thrown himself head first into all things Marchwood.

This last year also marked twenty years' service by our Parish Council Deputy Clerk Mrs Colette Cockeram. Such dedication and commitment is an increasingly rare thing in modern times, and again I wish to place my personal thanks on record for her service to our community.

I also would like to thank our Responsible Financial Officer, Mr Steve Daly for all his efforts over the past year. During that time he has worked with the Policy & Resources Committee to complete a review of the Council's earmarked funds. He has also put in a great deal of work to complete an internal and external audit of the Council's business for the year 2017-18 whilst also commencing the same process for the current financial year.

Spring seems to have arrived in recent days, and with it the many green open spaces around Marchwood are once again bursting back into life. Whilst nature works its magic our Landscape Team consisting of Tony Lavington, Dave Bartlett and Ryan Lane are also working hard to help things on their way to maintain and where necessary improve the amenities available to everyone around the village. During the summer months we also welcome back Mr David Ince to the team in order to manage the ever growing (pardon the pun) commitment of open space management.

A few weeks ago I was invited to speak with the year five students at Marchwood Junior School and discuss many community matters with them. I look forward to a follow up visit next week

where they will present me with their suggestions and conclusions. It was very humbling to engage with young people who clearly care so deeply about our village.

Efforts continue on resolving a number of challenges across the village such as the Scout/Guide Headquarters project, road traffic incidents both on the A326 and through the village centre, anti-social behaviour, and the seemingly perpetual nuisance of dog faeces.

I welcome any and all contributions that may assist this or the next Council in identifying positive and productive resolutions amongst the many other things that your Parish Council are engaged in handling. We also look forward to the finalisation of the NFDC lead Housing Plan and then analysing what impact this may or may not have on Marchwood, similarly there will also likely be a forthcoming development plan from ABP about Dibden Bay.

So as you can see there is a lot “up in the air” at this time, and I am sure that as a community we will all continue to work together to respond in an evidenced and meaningful manner when they do finally “land”. I cannot allow this opportunity to speak to you to pass without inviting all of you to consider if you would like to serve the community by joining the Parish Council.

Details on how to become a councillor are on our website and our notice boards but please feel free to contact Brendan and Colette if you would like further advice. The closing date for applications is 4pm on Wednesday 3rd April so please do not be backward in coming forward.

I will conclude by wishing you and families well, and all the very best for the forthcoming year.

Councillor Rich Young

Parish Council Finances

3 The Clerk provided a brief commentary on the Parish Council’s finances

- The Council’s reserves were at a reasonable level but were not considered excessive.
- Most of the reserves are earmarked to finance particular projects.
- Following advice from its Internal Auditor, the Council is currently reviewing all of its earmarked reserves to ensure they remain fit for purpose and are being retained appropriately
- The Responsible Financial Officer and the Clerk are also working closely with the Internal Auditor in order to produce and action plan following her report.
- The Parish precept rose by just 1.43% to a figure of £241,525 with a Band D rate of £116.72 following on from this.

Report by District and County Councillors

4. Cllrs Bennison and Hoare reported on the following matters:

- The Marchwood cycle way has now been completed with the link between Tavells Lane and Bury Road recently provided by Hampshire Highways and the Barker-Mill Estate.
- It was hoped to provide a link between Byams Lane and the Normandy Way / North Road roundabout.
- NFDC are providing one and two bedroom units for emergency accommodation for those people who should not go into bed and breakfast accommodation. These sites are at Backfield, Fawley and Totton.
- District Cllrs Bennison and Hoare have now had an opportunity to visit the Scout & Guide Headquarters and gave a brief commentary on recent progress.
- NFDC’s Local Plan Review has now reached the stage of “Examination in Public”. These hearings will take place in the Council Chamber at Appletree Court from 9.30am on

Monday 3rd June 2019. The session specifically relating to Marchwood will take place on Tuesday 18th June.

- The NFDC tree service has now returned to “in house” management from 1st April.
- Cllrs Bennison and Hoare recently visited the Solent Gateway site with the NFDC head of Development Control, Claire Upton-Brown. They met with Mr Richard Parkinson in order to discuss future plans to develop and enhance the site.
- Cllr Hoare thanks the Parish Council’s ground staff for their wonderful floral displays throughout the village.
- Cllr Harrison had sent his apologies to the meeting. Consequently, there is no report to receive from him.

Dibden Allotment Fund Report 2019

5. My name is Judy Saxby and I represent Marchwood Parish as a trustee on the Dibden Allotment Fund.

In 1862 the Dibden Allotments were founded for the poor and needy of that parish. In 1995 those allotments at Applemore were sold, and the income from the investment monies achieved are used to help people in need within the Waterside parishes and even local charities and organisations who require financial help, it is within our remit to make a gifted grant, for example towards running costs.

There are nine trustees including myself who represent the inhabitants of Marchwood, Hythe and Dibden, Hardley, Fawley and Calshot, some of the trustees represent the local councils and the rest are residents from the parishes who have been interested enough to apply when there was a vacancy.

Parish reps stand for a four year term and independent trustees for five and either of these may be reselected. When a vacancy occurs for whatever reason (it is a commitment) it is advertised in the local press and on our website.

A monthly meeting is held, when organisational grants and those individual grants of over £1000 are discussed and a weekly meeting when decisions are made by three trustees regarding requests from individuals, sometimes after that meeting two of the trustees will make a visit to an applicant to confirm need.

Should an individual request be denied, any appeal is heard at the monthly meeting when all or most of the trustees are present. Due to financial restraints, the fund cannot fulfil every request for help and clients are reminded that any further request cannot generally be considered within a year, nevertheless, every application is dealt with in a sympathetic manner and receives careful consideration before a decision is made.

The amount of money available each year depends on the success of the investments obviously, but in general ranges between 250 and 300K.

One of the most successful schemes run by the fund and overseen by the excellent and dedicated office staff is the Gardening Scheme, where local gardeners are employed to do basic gardening work (Lawn and hedge maintenance really) for clients who feel that they are unable to cope themselves.

It has proved to be an absolute boon to older people who want to stay in their own home but find that their outside work is overwhelming. This scheme operates during the summer months and the client is charged a proportion of the costs depending on their means, but is free when you reach ninety! We currently have clients both in Marchwood and Pooksgreen.

Dibden Allotments Fund has its own larder and joins the Waterside Food Bank at Blackfield in providing food parcels, consisting of dried and tinned food and toiletries for those temporarily in difficult personal circumstances. Some of our clients are homeless and therefore vouchers for a supermarket are of more use if you don't have the facilities to cook!

The fund can also provide vouchers for food and or clothing in the form of plastic cards and may not be used for anything else. We also can help with heating and lighting. There is a scale of help rising from a single person upwards depending on the size and age of the family members.

Dibden Allotment Fund works closely with the local doctors' surgeries, support workers, SSAFA and of course the CAB, as every application should have professional support and is means tested to a degree.

Sometimes someone moving into different accommodation has nothing to put in it and the charity helps supply furniture and rugs, in general fitted carpets are not supplied because they don't move with the tenant!

All local schools, primary and secondary, can receive a hardship grant, should they request it, which helps to pay for uniforms and trips for children from less well-off families, they also hold shoe vouchers of £30, which are also available from the Dibden Allotment office.

This ensures that every child can have a decent pair of school shoes and the proper uniform and not be excluded from a school trip. The shoe voucher scheme is also available for our older parishioners through Age UK. Sometimes the fund helps young people at local colleges with travel costs as well and maybe laptop if they need one.

You may wonder how Marchwood residents and organisations specifically benefit from the fund, well, this year there have been 8 individual applications and they have received help of various kinds amounting to total grants of £3188.61p. There was also a large grant of £10,000 requested from the Scouts and Guides for their new building but only actually released last summer when the building had reached a certain stage.

In the broader view, residents from Marchwood also benefit from grants made to organisations such as Relate, the Food Bank, and the Waterside Cancer Centre and of course our local schools as previously mentioned.

The level of help to all areas in the Waterside does fluctuate with need and some areas more than others. The requests from Marchwood residents, seems to be less this year but may well increase in this current atmosphere of financial instability and the introduction of Universal Credit.

Another community benefit is in the support of the Handy Trust and the local youth leaders, Candy Huxham, Crystal Kinch and Marchwood's own youth worker Lizzie Ansell. They are part funded with an annual grant from the Fund, which helps with the invaluable work that they do with our local young people.

Lizzie and her volunteers provide support and a willing ear plus sensible advice regarding the dangers with regard to drink, drugs and underage sexual activity.

In the parish magazine, the Marchwood Youth Club section shows what a great time they have during the year and also at "Sport in the Park" which takes place during the school summer holidays at various local recreation grounds and is also part funded by the Dibden Allotment Fund the attendees at this summer event are now able to get a proper meal at lunchtime as well.

In June the charity hosts an “open lunch”, those who have benefitted or could benefit from a donation are invited to attend, but it is open to everyone and widely advertised and also provides an opportunity for local organisations and groups to do a bit of “networking”.

At the end of March Diane Carroll who has been the mainstay of the office for many years is retiring and Gemma who has been looking after the gardening scheme is taking over her position. With our brilliant Clerk Valerie the office is run efficiently and smoothly in its dealings with the clients and help and advice for the trustees!.

The Dibden Allotments Fund is unique, and we in the Waterside parishes are so fortunate to have this charity in our area, as nothing like the fund exists elsewhere in the New Forest, the help offered is of great benefit to many residents.

I thoroughly enjoy my role as a trustee, and am proud to represent our community.

Judy Saxby

Matters raised by Marchwood parishioners

6. There follows a summary of the points made by parishioners during the evening’s discussion.
 - A number of parishioners asked if any further information was forthcoming from the Scout & Guide Build Committee regarding the costs of the remaining work at the Scout & Guide Headquarters.
 - Parishioners commented that despite many meetings between the S&G Build Committee, the Parish Council and the Lloyd Recreation Ground Trustee it was apparent that no further work has been undertaken on the building since November 2018.
 - A parishioner asked when the building is now scheduled to be completed.
 - A parishioner asked when the storm drain re-routing would be undertaken.
 - Two parishioners asked if the building was insured properly.
 - A parishioner asked if the building will receive a satisfactory sign-off by NFDC planning and building control once it is completed.
 - A number of parishioners expressed concerns that there may be a Calor gas installation near their properties.
 - A parishioner asked what happens if the building is not completed by the time specified within their lease.
 - A parishioner asked about HGV Operators Licences within the Marchwood Industrial Park and at Cracknore Hard. She commented that this would result in a further 275 vehicles being allowed to operate from Marchwood that would lead to many more HGV movements per annum.
 - A parishioner expressed her concerns that HCC hedge-trimming was leading to more cycle punctures as the cuttings were not being cleared up.
 - A parishioner expressed her concerns that many users of the village centre car park allow their engines to “idle” rather than switch them off. This is leading to poor air quality in the area and would mostly affect the young and the elderly.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.05hrs

Chairman