

All minutes are draft until approved by the Council at the next meeting

Marchwood Parish Council

Minutes of an Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting of the Parish Council held at Marchwood Village Hall on Monday 3rd June 2019 at 7.30pm.

Councillors: Cllr R Young (Chairman) – in the Chair (P)

Cllr J Case (A)	Cllr G Gant (P)
Cllr D Hindle (P)	Cllr A Hoare (P)
Cllr D Makinson (P)	Cllr P Mballa (P)
Cllr M Proctor (P)	Cllr M Saxby (P)

(P) Present

(A) Absent

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

Also present: District Cllr S Bennison and three members of the public.

Apologies for absence

20/34 Cllr Case had sent his apologies.

Declarations of Interest

20/35 Cllr Young declared a personal interest in the item regarding the Marchwood Scout and Guide Build Committee's grant application as his son attends the local Cub Scout group.

Public Participation

20/36 A resident asked if there were any comments from councillors following their recent visit to the Scout & Guide Headquarters at the Lloyd Recreation Ground. Cllr Proctor and Makinson confirmed that they had now visited the site and had seen inside the building and commented that there was still a great deal of work needed to complete the project.

20/37 Cllr Hoare also said that she had visited the site and had entered the building. She agreed that there was a lot of work to do but said that the village is due to grow substantially over the next ten years and the building will be useful in meeting the future needs of the Scout and Guide groups in the village

20/38 The resident commented that once again there appears to be limited information published with the agenda. The resident commented that the Parish Council could not make an informed decision without more information being provided.

20/39 The Clerk said that he had spoken to the Parish Council's Internal Auditor and had received advice that it was not appropriate to seek documentation from third party suppliers who were in a business relationship with the Parish Council's tenants. This was especially true of documentation that could be considered commercially confidential such as a contractor's pricing policies.

Chairman's report

20/40 Cllr Young spoke about the ongoing negotiations with the Handy Trust. The Trust is seeking to agree a new business contract and service level agreement and there is a meeting between it and the Parish Council arranged to discuss this further.

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Grant Application from the Marchwood Scout and Guide Building Committee

20/41 The Clerk spoke about the documentation sent to councillors. This included the document entitled "Criteria for Awarding Grants". He commented that this document should primarily be seen as a guide for the Policy & Resources Committee to follow. He said that this grant application was so significant that it had to be dealt with by the Full Council. He also spoke about the grant application itself and also some documents supplied by the Scout & Guide Committee including its latest project plan.

20/42 Cllr Young invited Mr Jonathan Holmes to comment on the current situation. Mr Holmes said that the project plan showed that there was nine weeks required to complete the building. He mentioned that there were some time-critical elements to the project in order to safeguard existing grant funding.

20/43 Cllr Young invited comments from fellow councillors. During the discussion that followed the following points were made.

- The Parish Council has no choice but to support this project for fear of it not being completed.
- How accurate is the current project plan put before us today?
- No work to be undertaken over the next three months should interfere with the project to bring association football back to the Recreation Ground.
- A grant of about £5,000 is more appropriate than the amount requested (£30,000).
- The provision of services to the building is still to be resolved.
- The Parish Council has always been supportive of the Scouts and Guides.
- It is not appropriate to award a grant of this size to a group with less than 200 members.
- With the projected increase in the size of the village it needs a building of this size to accommodate the forecasted growth in the number of young people.
- If this grant is approved then there should be no further grants made to the Scout & Guide group for at least the next five years.
- The Parish Council should be applauded for its support of the youth of the village.
- Will this grant make the difference to the funding shortfall?
- Will other grant funders now support the project further?
- The Parish Council should also ensure support for its elderly residents.

20/44 Cllr Young asked his fellow councillors if the principle of approving and providing a grant was accepted.

20/45 All councillors present agreed that it was.

20/46 The Clerk was asked to explain the spending options available to the Parish Council. He said that if a grant was approved then there was enough money in the general reserve to meet the cost of it. This meant that no earmarked reserves would be compromised and support for those projects could continue without interruption.

20/47 The Clerk highlighted that if the grant was approved and if all the funding was to come from the general reserve then the Parish Council's spending plans for 2019-20 may be somewhat restricted.

20/48 He provided some examples of planned spending being put on hold such as the provision of new vehicles and further spending on benches.

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20/49 **RESOLVED:** to approve the provision of a grant of £30,000 to the Marchwood Scout & Guide Build Committee towards the costs of completing the construction of a Scout & Guide Headquarters at the Lloyd Recreation Ground.

Cllr Makinson voted against the proposal.

Parish Council Vacancies for Co-Option

20/50 The Clerk said that there have been two people identified as being interested in co-option as Parish Councillors.

20/51 One of these people was introduced to the meeting. Mr Malcolm Havercroft of Kingfisher Way spoke briefly about his reasons for applying for the position.

20/52 The Clerk also spoke about an application from Mr Tom Pocock who was unable to attend this evening due to a prior commitment. It was pointed out that Mr Pocock did not live in Marchwood but that he worked in the village for a long-established business.

20/53 There was a brief discussion regarding the merits of co-opting the two candidates.

20/54 **RESOLVED:** To co-opt Mr Malcolm Havercroft and Mr Tom Pocock as Parish Councillors.

20/55 The Clerk was instructed to ensure both councillors completed their Declaration of Interests and their Acceptance of Office documents.

Exempt Business

20/56 **RESOLVED:** in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press for discussion of the following personnel or confidential matters where publicity might be prejudicial to the special nature of the business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.47pm.