

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

**Marchwood Parish Council**

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Marchwood Village Hall on Monday 9<sup>th</sup>  
December 2019 at 7.30pm.

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

Cllr J Case (P)	Cllr G Gant (P)
Cllr M Havercroft (P)	Cllr D Hindle (P)
Cllr A Hoare (A)	Cllr P Mballa (P)
Cllr M Proctor (P)	Cllr T Pocock (A)
Cllr M Saxby (P) until 8.55pm	Cllr G Wright (P)

(P) Present

(A) Absent

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

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

**Apologies for absence**

20/205 Apologies were received from Cllrs Hoare and Pocock and County Cllr Harrison.

20/206 Cllr Saxby apologised for departing early.

**Declarations of Interest**

20/207 There were no declarations of interest recorded.

**Public Participation**

20/208 A number of residents came to speak against the proposal to restore the Fawley branch line. All were against its re-opening and expressed concerns about the Council's recent resolution to provide "in principle" support for an integrated transport solution including the restoration of the railway.

20/209 A resident of Hythe & Dibden parish made a representation that is added to these minutes as an appendix.

20/210 The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions.

**Chairman's report**

20/211 Cllr Young drew everyone's attention to the agenda for tonight's meeting and said that the main items of business would be the decisions regarding the 2020-21 budget and the 2020-21 Precept.

20/212 He thanked the Council for supporting him whilst he was on a work secondment that had taken him away from the village for a period of time.

20/213 He reported that there would be a community carol service at St John's Church on the 15<sup>th</sup> December where all have been invited.

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20/214 He also commented on the recent wood sculpture that had been completed at the public open space behind St John's Church.

20/215 Finally he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2020.

### **Minutes**

20/216 **RESOLVED:** To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 as a true record.

### **Orders for Payment December 2019**

20/217 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council approved the Orders for Payment that were outstanding up to the date of the meeting.

The Clerk referred members to Appendix A in their briefing pack.

### **Income & Expenditure as at 31st October 2019**

20/218 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council noted the Income & Expenditure Report as at 31st October 2019.

The Clerk referred members to Appendix B in their briefing pack that showed the summary of the Income and Expenditure up to the 31st October 2019.

### **Income & Expenditure against budget as at 31st October 2019**

20/219 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council noted the Income & Expenditure Report against Budget as at 31st October 2019.

The Clerk referred members to Appendix C in their briefing pack that showed the Income and Expenditure against budget (listed by Cost Code) up to the 31st October 2019.

### **Balance Sheet as at 31st October 2019**

20/220 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council noted the Balance Sheet report as at 31st October 2019.

Members were told that the Balance Sheet up to the 31st October 2019 was Appendix D in their briefing pack.

### **Bank Reconciliations as at 31st October 2019**

20/221 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council noted the Parish Council's Bank Reconciliations as at 31st October 2019.

Lloyds Bank Instant Access Account £51,109.46  
Lloyds Bank 30 Day Notice (Treasurers) Account £119,691.73

Members were told that the Bank Reconciliations up to the 31st October 2019 was Appendix E in their briefing pack.

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### **Budget & Precept 2020-21**

20/222 The RFO introduced the 2020-21 Draft budget for consideration by the Parish Council.

Members were told that the Budget and Precept recommendations are contained in Appendices F and G in their briefing pack.

The RFO explained that the Policy and Resources Committee had discussed a first draft of the budget at their meeting of the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Following on from that meeting there had been a number of minor adjustments made to the budget.

20/223 During the discussion that followed the following points were made.

- Staff Salaries made up the most significant part of the budget.
- Employer pension contributions are scheduled to rise in line with the actuarial re-valuation of the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- However, there will no longer be a capital charge made on the employer contributions. This will result in a smaller employer contribution in 2020-21.
- The majority of Cost Centres will have no budget increase.
- Insurance costs may rise due to an increase in fixed assets over the past year.
- The Lloyd Recreation Ground generated more income for the LRG Trust this year.
- Sufficient money has been set aside in the budget in order to fully fund a targeted youth service in Marchwood.

20/224 **RESOLVED:** That a budget of £254,956 be set for the financial year 2020-21.

This represents a budget increase of just over 2% on the current year.

20/225 **RESOLVED:** That a precept of £241,525 be set for the financial year 2020-21.

This represents a zero % increase in the precept for the current year.

Taking into account a small change in the tax base this will mean the Council Tax Band D rate for Marchwood will decrease by one penny to £116.71 from last year's figure of £116.72.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk and RFO for their working in putting together the 2020-21 Budget.

### **Reports from District Councillors**

20/226 Cllr Bennison began her report by saying that she supported the comments made by residents during the public session.

20/227 She had previously supplied a written report and asked if members had any questions to ask about it. The written report is added to these minutes as an appendix.

20/228 Cllr Hindle asked some questions regarding the provision of extra care housing units in the district for the elderly. He was particularly interested in how the housing register is reviewed in order to identify suitably qualified candidates.

20/229 Cllr Case made the point that demand will always exceed supply and that the number of elderly residents will remain high as long as the New Forest remains a desirable place to retire to.

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20/230 Cllr Hoare had previously sent her apologies.

### **Report from the County Councillor**

20/231 Cllr Harrison had previously sent his apologies and had provided a written report for members to receive.

### **The Handy Trust (provision of a targeted youth service)**

20/232 The Clerk referred everyone to Report A. The report highlighted that there were two outstanding items left over from the project to negotiate a new management contract and service level agreement with the Handy Trust. He thanked members for approving the budget for 2020-21 that had allocated £15,000 to cover the costs of a targeted youth service in the village.

20/233 Now that the management contract was signed there was an immediate need to undertake a six-monthly review of the service. Cllr Case and the Clerk would arrange a meeting with the Handy Trust sometime in early January to begin this review.

20/234 Cllr Young thanked Cllr Case for all the work he had done to ensure this project was a success.

### **A calendar of meetings for Marchwood Parish Council and its committees 2020**

20/235 The Clerk referred members to Report B with a published schedule of meetings for the year 2020. Due to a holiday commitment in February 2020 the Clerk had asked for the first Policy & Resources meeting to be put back a week until Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020. This request was agreed.

### **Policy Review 2019-20**

20/236 The Clerk introduced this item and said that the Internal Auditor had recommended a review of the Parish Council's Standing Orders, Committee Terms of Reference and Financial Regulations.

20/237 The Policy & Resources Committee had discussed these documents at its meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The Committee Terms of Reference had been discussed and agreed at that meeting without the need to refer it to the Parish Council.

20/238 The 2019 Model Standing Orders and Financial Regulations had also been discussed and agreed at that meeting but both documents now need the approval of the Parish Council before they can be adopted.

During the discussion on the 2019 Model Standing Orders the following items were approved by the Parish Council.

- Standing Order (SO) 3.f the public participation session should not exceed fifteen minutes unless an extension is agreed by the Chair of the meeting.
- SO 3.g no person may speak for more than three minutes without the agreement of the Chair of the meeting.
- SO 3.x a meeting shall not exceed a period of two and a half hours.
- SO 4.e the Chair of the Council may sit on any committee or a sub-committee if he so chooses.

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20/239 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council approved the changes made to the 2019 Model Standing Orders

20/240 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council adopted the 2019 Model Standing Orders so that they come in force on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

20/241 The Financial Regulations were then discussed. The Clerk said that these regulations are also within a template document published by NALC. The Council's current regulations were first adopted in 2006 and are considered by the Council's internal auditor to be out of date.

The following items were noted by the Parish Council.

- The need to abide by the relevant Accounts and Audit Regulations and Transparency Regulations is understood.
- The Parish Council employs a Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) with responsibilities separate from the role of the Clerk.
- The Parish Council employs an Internal Auditor to review its procedures and processes on an annual basis.
- The Full Council's approval is required for all items of expenditure above £5,000 in value.
- A Committee may approve expenditure between £1,000 and £4,999 in value.
- The RFO or Clerk may approve expenditure up to £999 in value in conjunction with the Chair and vice-Chair of the Council or Chair of a Committee.
- In case of extreme risk to the functioning of the Parish Council, the Clerk may approve expenditure up to £2,000 in value.
- If there is a need for additional work to complete the external audit then this should be limited to a value of £500 (Five Hundred Pounds).
- The limit on the amount of Petty Cash to hold in the Office will be £250 (Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds).

The Policy & Resources Committee had previously indicated that clarification should be sought on how the Council's officers manage use of their debit cards. The Committee was not happy with the wording of clause 6.18 that managed the limits on the use of individual debit cards.

20/242 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council approved the changes made to the 2019 Model Financial Regulations subject to suitable wording being added to clause 6.18 so as to make it clear that only authorised spending is dealt with by debit card and that the agreed spending limits are followed at all times.

20/243 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council adopted 2019 Model Financial Regulations so that they come in force on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

### **Committee Minutes**

20/244 **RESOLVED:** To receive as follows:

Planning: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Policy & Resources: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Amenities: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

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**Exempt Business**

20/245 **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 9.24pm.

To: Members of Marchwood Parish Council.

Subject: Provision of a passenger rail Service; The counter arguments.

In 2013 HCC commissioned an £80,000 study, conducted under the prescribed GRIP process, into the feasibility of reinstating a passenger rail service on the Waterside Line. (It is worth noting that the next stage of study would cost £500,000!) This revealed the service fell well short of the minimum Benefit to Cost Ratio (BCR) required to justify public funding and at a meeting in January 2014 HCC supported the findings of the study and shelved the proposal.

No details are available for the current proposal except publicity material cites £27M cost, vs. £17M at end 2013 (which at the time was stated as a minimum and included many excluded items which would have been included at the next stage of research).

This is a bad deal for taxpayers. The proposal only generates 1/3 minimum required BCR (0.66 vs. the required 2.0) and does not generate sufficient revenue to even cover operational costs, requiring £1M+pa local subsidy (not included in the BCR).

The majority of custom as stated in the analysis would come from existing bus and ferry services (2/3rds!), threatening their very existence by poaching current public transport users without alleviating any congestion.

Passenger revenues were overstated, even at this weak level, as 26% of all customers are those only travelling between Totton and Southampton on the main line section of the route, poaching customers from current 30 minute main line services. As such, this has nothing to do with the Waterside line. This revenue should have been retracted as instructed by DoT for the option cases.

It's a gross misrepresentation to promote this as an idle facility waiting to be utilized. To meet required operational speeds and current safety standards just about everything has to be replaced, e.g. lines, sleepers, level crossings, signaling, station mods, security, etc. It's a total rebuild.

Proponents claim, without evidence, the service reduces congestion on the A326 and local roads. The opposite is true.

It's an irrelevance for A326 users. The service reduces flow by a few % at peak periods, so will not reduce congestion. So, clearly zero benefit in non-peak periods.

It will be a major disruptor of local traffic. Every level crossing will close every 15 minutes, ~65 times each day, 6 or 7 d/wk, from 06.00 to 23.15. Potentially up to 12 road crossings on this route that will delay traffic (and many other paths and farm crossings unaccounted for in the planning).

Perhaps, most importantly, this severely worsens pedestrian safety and congestion between Marchwood Station & Twiggs lane at school times. Accumulations of cars and infant school children/mum's/buggies/dogs etc. will

much worsen an already unacceptable situation of high risk, grid-lock and delays where frustrated drivers frequently mount the pavement because parents parked cars reduce the road to a single lane.

The very high rail traffic density proposed creates intolerable conditions for residents adjacent the line. Trains will pass every 15mins reaching up to 60mph (currently 30mph and 45mph were considered for the 2013 study, now it appears 60mph is required to reach Hardley) which will also reach deep into unsocial hours and weekends. High noise, building integrity and security issues; all unresolved nor costed, worsening the BCR.

It's irrelevant for Fawley Waterside Development.

Extension is to Hardley only, not Fawley as inaccurately reported.

No's 8 & 9 busses will be extended into the development, thus serving Waterside and Southampton bound public transport customers, a far more economically and convenience-based solution.

Current planning applications unambiguously claim full mitigation of A326 impact, without either the passenger rail service or the proposed Ferry link and developer accepts these as conditions for approval. They need to be held to this.

Finally, it undeservedly diverts attention away from using our limited taxpayer's money from where it offers the best value for money. The real need for Marchwood and all Waterside residents is to build structural changes to the A326 which decongest it and reduce journey times, thereby offering zero incentive for commuter traffic to use adjacent residential areas. Support for this unjustified rail passenger service undermines this objective and does a real disservice to the overwhelming number of those who use the A326 for whom the rail link is a total irrelevance due to destinations that are not impacted by the provision of public transport to Southampton.

Finally, in light of these counter arguments I believe Marchwood PC should reconsider and revoke their support for the restoration of a passenger rail service.



## Parish Council Report

9<sup>th</sup> December 2019

### **Extra Care Housing**

The New Forest has three Extra Care Housing units.

1. Winfrid House in Totton
2. Barfields Court in Lymington
3. Gore Grange in New Milton

The scheme is designed for people who want to retain their independence in a home of their own while having the reassurance of staff on site 24 hours a day, seven days of the week to provide the care and support they need.

Eligibility is through NFDC's Homesearch housing register where an application can be made for an Extra Care flat. Each flat has a Kitchen, Bathroom, Living room and Bedroom, with shared residents' lounges and attractive gardens, and provides affordable, secure accommodation for social rent. Personalised care and support from trained carers is available at all times of the day.

I went along to the Winfrid House property, was introduced to some of the residents and was able to see first hand one of the flats. It provided very comfortable accommodation and looked out onto the gardens, where bird feeders hang and some residents have planted up contains for extra colour through the winter months.

Residents can make new friends through the activities such as Film clubs, bingo and coffee mornings all run in the community lounge.

The properties are all situated close to town centres and local facilities for ease of access for those wanting to take a stroll to the shops.

Anyone who would like to take up one of these flats would need to be assessed by **Hampshire County Council's Adult' Health and Care department**. Tel: 0300 555 1386 to request an assessment. Someone who is already receiving care but is not on **the NFDC's Homesearch Register** can apply on line at **[newforest.gov.uk/homesearch](http://newforest.gov.uk/homesearch)** or telephone on **023 8028 5234**

There is a video available to view which can be found via this link

<http://www.newforest.gov.uk/extracarehousing>

### **NFDC Social Housing**

The portfolio holder for housing advised us of recent success in increasing numbers of social housing properties. They include 15 buy back properties that will be available by April 2020. 55 new build properties will be completed during next year. 20 more temporary accommodation units are due to be completed by April 2020. There are 151 future potential site opportunities coming up and finally in the pipeline for 2020-2021 there are a possible 76.

So all in all NFDC Social Housing is getting a real boost in accommodation numbers. The housing team are to be congratulated.

Cllr: Sue Bennison