

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 via the Zoom application on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.30pm.

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

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

(P) Present

(A) Absent

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

Also present: Two members of the public as well as County Cllr Harrison and District Cllr Bennison.

**Apologies for absence**

21/65 Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a member of a Local Authority to attend at least one meeting of that Authority within a six-month consecutive period, in order to avoid being disqualified as a Councillor. This requirement can be waived and the time limit extended if any failure to attend was due to a reason approved by the Authority in advance of the six-month period expiring.

Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that “if a member of a Local Authority fails, throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, to attend any meeting of the Authority they will, unless the failure was due to some good reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the Authority.”

Attendance can be at any committee or sub-committee, or any joint committee, joint board or other body where the functions of the Authority are discharged.

Councillor Gant has not been able to attend any Council or Committee meetings since the Annual Council meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020, due to a serious illness and extended hospital admission. The Clerk has received a request for the Council to consider approving an extension to the usual six month attendance rule enabling him to remain in office until he is able to resume normal duties.

The Council can only consider approval of any reasons for non-attendance before the end of the relevant six month period, which will be the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Councillor Gant has confirmed that he will not be able to attend Council meetings for the foreseeable future and so this request has been submitted to approve an extension of the usual six month rule.

21/66 **RESOLVED:** The waiver of the six-month attendance rule (Section 85 Local Government Act 1972) in respect of Cllr Gant was approved unanimously.

21/67 Member of the Parish Council sent Cllr Gant and his family their very best wishes.

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

**Declarations of Interest**

21/68 No declarations of interest were made.

**Public Participation**

21/69 Mr Jonathan Holmes of the Marchwood Scout & Guide Building Management Committee spoke about the project at the Lloyd Recreation Ground. His report contained the following highlights:

- Work has recently re-started on the internal fit out of the building as allowed by the revised Covid-19 regulations.
- It is hoped to complete the landscaping over the next month.
- This will include the removal of a significant of material to be replaced by good quality topsoil.
- Work to satisfy the outstanding NFDC planning conditions are in hand.
- The Scouts and Guides were not meeting currently due to the Covid-19 restrictions.
- As a result of this situation there was no occupancy of the building.

Cllr Hindle asked if the project plan included the removal of the old building's footings. He also comments that some of the footings were unsafe. He asked when the work would be complete. He was concerned about the current situation as it had an impact on the safety of the site.

Cllr Saxby asked if all utilities (water, gas and electricity) had separate meters. It was confirmed that there were meters in situ for gas and electricity and the water supply was invoiced separately to the Scout group. No utility bills incurred by the building management committee were paid by the Parish Council.

Mr Holmes said that although the site did not look tidy at the moment he would like to reassure the Parish Council that when work was complete the area would look much different.

Cllr Hindle asked what planning conditions were outstanding. Mr Homes commented as follows.

- The bat tiles and bird boxes have now been installed and some are already in use by the local wildlife.
- The acoustics report is complete and has been lodged with the NFDC planning department for sign-off.
- The bike rack installation remains outstanding.
- The landscaping is also outstanding (as discussed).

Cllr Young thanked Mr Holmes for his report.

21/70 A member of the public asked if there would be an opportunity for residents to meet with the Trustee and the Scout & Guide Committee at the time the building is ready for public use to discuss any outstanding local concerns.

**Chairman's report**

21/71 Cllr Young provided a brief verbal report. He said that the "We love Marchwood" bags had been a great success with many being sold locally. Cllrs Young and Wright had presented cheques to the Waterside Food Bank and the Brighterway Charity (Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust) in sharing the proceeds.

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

These were to the value of £1,050 to each recipient.

21/72 A community engagement event by Solent Gateway Ltd will shortly take place and publicity for this will be on the website and in the Village magazine.

21/73 Cllr Young commented that the Marchwood War Memorial restoration is under way. He said that the monument was beginning to recapture its former glory.

Mr Holmes and the member of the public departed the meeting at this point.

### **Minutes**

21/74 **RESOLVED:** To accept the minutes of the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 as a true record.

### **Reports from the New Forest District Councillors**

21/75 Cllr Bennison reported that the Fawley Waterside planning applications submitted to New Forest District Council (NFDC) and the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) are being dealt with this week.

She is involved with both Development Control Committees. She also reported that all NFDC and NFNPA meetings are being hosted in a virtual manner.

21/76 Cllr Hoare said that a phased re-opening of the authority's leisure centres and fitness areas will take place over the next few months.

21/77 NFDC are also launching an initiative to reduce anti-social littering.

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

21/78 Cllr Harrison spoke briefly about The County Council's approach to the Covid-19 crisis. He also highlighted the following items:

- The County Council's finance is under some stress due to Covid-19 expenditure on top of over the reduction of the County's budget by over £80M.
- Blackfield and Lyndhurst libraries have been earmarked for closure in order to save over £1.5m pounds a year.
- The County will invest over £1m in reaching the remaining 4% of households requiring a gigabit broadband service.
- The Fawley Waterside planning applications will be dealt with this week. When approved these applications will put pressure on the development of an integrated transport solution for the Waterside area.
- This will include the feasibility of re-instating the Fawley branch line.

His report is appended to these minutes as an appendix.

### **The Local Government Boundary Commission NFDC Ward Review**

21/79 **RESOLVED:** To delegate the LGBC consultation working party to be able to respond to the latest consultation without further reference to the Parish Council.

The Working Party consisted of Cllrs Young, Havercroft and Case with support from Cllr Hoare.

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

**The Fawley Waterside development proposals**

21/80 The Clerk reported that a meeting of New Forest District Council's Planning Committee this morning gave the Council's approval for the development of a new community at the old Fawley Power Station site adjacent to Southampton Water.

The major redevelopment will provide 1,500 homes, an estimated 2,000 jobs and public open space on currently disused land in a coastal and forest location within the district.

21/81 Cllr Bennison commented about the debate and outlined the concerns that were expressed about transport options.

Cllr Bennison departed the meeting at this point.

**Orders for Payment June 2020**

21/82 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council approved the complete list of Orders for Payment for June 2020.

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

**Orders for Payment for the financial year 2020-21 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter from April-June 2020**

21/83 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council approved the 2020-21 first quarter list of Orders for Payment from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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

**Income & Expenditure as at 30th June 2020**

21/84 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council noted the Income & Expenditure Report as at 30th June 2020.

The Clerk referred members to Appendix C in their briefing pack that showed the summary of the Income and Expenditure up to the 30th June 2020.

**Income & Expenditure against budget as at 30th June 2020**

21/85 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council noted the Income & Expenditure Report against Budget as at 30th June 2020.

The Clerk referred members to Appendix D in their briefing pack that showed the Income and Expenditure against budget (listed by Cost Code) up to the 30th June 2020.

**Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2020**

21/86 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council noted the Balance Sheet report as at 30th June 2020.

Members were told that the Balance Sheet up to the 30th June 2020 was Appendix E in their briefing pack.

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

**Bank Reconciliations as at 30th June 2020**

21/87 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council noted the Parish Council's Bank Reconciliations as at 30th June 2020.

Lloyds Bank Instant Access Account £82,622.08

Lloyds Bank 30 Day Notice (Treasurers) Account £62,628.35

Members were told that the Bank Reconciliations up to the 30th June 2020 was Appendix F in their briefing pack.

**Committee Minutes**

21/88 **RESOLVED:** To receive as follows:

Planning: 1st June 2020.

Policy & Resources: None to receive.

Amenities: None to receive.

**Exempt Business**

21/89 **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 8.40pm.

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

**Exempt Business**

21/90 **RESOLVED:** To accept the exempt minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 as a true record of that part of the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

## **Report For Marchwood Parish Council 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

### **Covid-19**

Hampshire County Council have risen to the challenge of coping with the virus outbreak and the associated restrictions in a huge number of ways, whether it is maintaining services (using different working methods), working with other agencies in its' leading public health role to protect the public and especially more vulnerable people. Unfortunately, there was a issue with excess deaths in care homes, which are mostly private run but I understand that the County was not worse than other Counties (compared to its' size) and there will be a National Inquiry to learn lessons.

As most Parish Councillors will know, the spread of the virus is much reduced, as our deaths but we may see further restrictions, as and when deemed necessary – including the use of facemasks, local lock downs, restrictions on foreign travel.

### **Finance**

The County Council has spent £millions on coping with the virus and hasn't been fully reimbursed by government. This has caused even further stress on top of the £80 million that it is proposing to try and save over this two year period. Strong representations are being made because the County Council, like Marchwood Parish Council, isn't allowed to go bankrupt.

### **Libraries**

It's very likely now that we will see the closure of Blackfield library and Lyndhurst library, along with reduced hours on many other libraries. The final Decision Day takes place this week.

### **Broadband**

HCC is to invest £1 million in topping up the Government's existing Gigabit Broadband Voucher scheme.

### **Fawley Waterside Development**

I listened to the debate at New Forest District Council on the Fawley Waterside planning application, (including the very clear representation delivered on behalf of MPC by the Clerk). The planning application was approved. It still has to go through an additional hurdle, with the National Park Authority tomorrow. I think there now needs to be a concerted concentration on transport challenges that developing the site bring about. It strengthens the case for the Waterside railway line to be used for passenger transport services (which is currently undergoing a viability study).

**County Cllr. David Harrison.**