

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 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.30pm.

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

Cllr J Case	(P)	Cllr M Havercroft	(P)
Cllr D Hindle	(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), Mrs C Cockeram (Deputy Clerk).

Also present: Six representatives from Solent Gateway Ltd. Ten members of the public as well as County Cllr Harrison and District Cllrs Hoare and Bennison.

Before the meeting commenced, Cllr Young asked for a moment of silence to mark the passing of Cllr Graeme Gant.

Cllr Young said that Graeme would be much missed within the village and beyond.

Cllr Young also sent the sincerest sympathies of the Parish Council to Graeme's family.

**Apologies for absence**

21/97 All members were present.

**Declarations of Interest**

21/98 No declarations of interest were made.

**Solent Gateway Ltd's presentation on their "Options for the future" consultation.**

21/99 Mr Richard Parkinson of Solent Gateway Ltd spoke about the ongoing consultation that sought to expand the current operations at the port.

Firstly, he outlined the history and current position of the port using the following bullet points:

- In 2016 Solent Gateway Limited (SGL) signed a concession with the MoD for 35 years (until 2051).
- Keen to have ongoing discussion and engagement with Marchwood PC.
- Port allocated in the New Forest District Council Local Plan ECON3.
- Local Plan policy seeks to make efficient and effective use of the port.
- Port is currently operating significantly under its capacity (just over half is currently operational).
- Site covers a total of 82.8ha.
- Port will continue with military and commercial based cargo import and export.
- Environmental Impact Assessment will be completed.

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21/100 He then outlined the proposed future operations as follows:

- Proposals will create increased areas of hard standing and in turn increased space for storage (container and finished product).
- Port will continue to operate 24/7 but with most activity in normal working hours.
- Short term storage for fast moving freight and support MoD function.
- Ancillary uses such as industrial, offices and staff welfare facilities to be included.
- Creation of circa 1,100 new civilian jobs (75% onsite and 25% indirect and in the supply chain).
- Additional construction jobs created during the construction phases.
- Opportunities for training & apprenticeships.
- No changes to existing marine infrastructure.

21/101 Finally he outlined the aims of the current community consultation.

- Initial political engagement May/June 2020.
- Stakeholder discussion forum July 2020.
- Public consultation 10 September 23 October 2020.
- Additional consultation planned (including traffic & mitigation) early 2021.
- Ongoing engagement via stakeholder meetings.
- Opportunities for site visits.
- Submission of application Spring 2021.

21/102 Mr Parkinson referred everyone to the website [www.solentgatewayconsultation.com](http://www.solentgatewayconsultation.com) for further information. He then invited questions from councillors.

21/103 Cllr Havercroft asked about other proposed mitigations to deal with extra traffic (both road and rail) that will arise from the increased use of the port. Mr Parkinson said that the existing restrictions on HGV movements would be maintained and enhanced. He said that the consultation would go some way to identifying the future increases in traffic movements. A full traffic study is currently being undertaken in order to better understand the current position.

21/104 Cllr Hindle asked about the impact on Jacob's Gutter Lane particularly at time of high use in the morning rush-hour and evening rush-hour? He also asked about the on-site rail head. Mr Parkinson said that it was crucial to the project that ship-rail logistics comes to the fore. This initiative will help reduce road traffic movements locally. Up to three freight rail movements a day is envisaged hopefully avoiding peak travel periods such as the school run.

21/105 Cllr Mballa ask about the proposal to operate the port 24 hours a day. Will this affect the neighbours during off peak periods? Mr Parkinson said that the vast majority of work will take place during the core working day.

21/106 Cllr Harrison asked if there was the potential for a community liaison panel to be established between SGL and all the other local stakeholders in the district. Mr Parkinson said that this was a positive idea that he would take up with the Clerk at a later date.

21/107 Bio-diversity and ecology targets would be achieved by both on-site and off-site initiatives working with the District Council and the National Park.

21/106 Cllr Hoare asked about the proposals for container storage due to the fact that they are unsightly and generate noise when being moved or being emptied. Mr Parkinson said the noise assessment will take this into account.

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### **Public Participation**

21/107 Several parishioners spoke during the public session and made the following comments.

- Neighbouring property owners in Cracknore Hard Lane say they are already suffering unacceptable levels of noise and traffic movements.
- The consultation will not consider the current position in any way and is unfair.
- The road is already in a poor state. The accumulative effect is not good.
- Is the current traffic survey/study still ongoing? In reply SGL said that the study is ongoing but the survey has been completed.
- The traffic survey will no doubt have skewed data as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown.
- What capacity level is the port currently operating at?
- There is noise in the vicinity of the port entrance 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### **Chairman's report**

21/108 The chairman spoke about the following items:

- Due to the most recent announcements by the UK Government it has been decided that the Parish Office will close to the public until further notice. All staff will remain working but where possible the office staff will work from home.
- The Grounds Staff are aware of their new work priorities in maintaining the open spaces, play areas, litter and dog bins and the Lloyd Recreation Ground.
- The Lloyd Recreation Ground Trust has held its Annual General Meeting. Its main item of business was to approve the Memorandum of Understanding so that its day to day functions can be administered by the Parish Council.
- The new play area has now been installed at the Lloyd Recreation Ground and is now in use. Special thanks were given to members of the Amenities Committee and the Deputy Clerk for their diligence and commitment in enabling this project to succeed.
- The Community Speed watch teams were thanked for patrolling speeding hotspots in the local area. A lot of social media interest has been generated as a result and the teams were thanked for their efforts.

### **Minutes**

21/109 **RESOLVED:** To accept the minutes of the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 as a true record.

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

21/110 Cllr Bennison briefly spoke about the ongoing issues with container storage and transportation. She said that she had been trying to assist local residents in Byams Lane over several years to resolve their difficulties in living so close to an ever-growing industrial site.

21/111 Cllr Hoare spoke about the Marchwood Footpath project. Some progress is being made regarding the identification of funding. The NFDC Head of Planning will be writing to the Parish Council with this information when it is ready.

20/112 The Long Lang footpath project is now at the appraisal stage with final sign-off awaited.

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20/113 The draft NFDC waste strategy will be put before the NFDC environment panel for the approval of the forthcoming consultation. One of the key elements to this will be the proposal to introduce fortnightly collections.

20/114 A parish councillor commented that the provision of wheeled bins will provide no visual benefit for the village whilst another expressed his disappointment about the prospect of fortnightly collections.

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

21/115 Cllr Harrison spoke about the “connecting highways” project. It is hoped that this project will eventually provide a pedestrian crossing at the junction of the Marchwood Cycle Path and Bury Road.

21/116 Cllr Harrison also spoke about the possibility of extending the Marchwood Cycle Path through to Houndsdown. This will be subject to funding being released over the next few years.

21/117 Cllr Harrison concluded his report by saying that the Hampshire Waste Recycling Centres will continue with the booking system for the foreseeable future.

### **Parish Council Co-option process**

21/118 The Clerk introduced this item. The vacancy had arisen following the resignation of Mr T Pocock in February 2020. Two applications have been received from Mrs Alice Ushamba and Mr Rory Collis.

21/119 Both candidates had previously submitted written applications and both introduced themselves and spoke about how they thought they could help the Parish Council with its business.

21/120 Both candidates were then asked to return to the Zoom waiting room whilst councillors discussed their applications and made a decision on who should be co-opted.

21/121 **RESOLVED:** To co-opt Mrs Alice Ushamba on to the Parish Council.

21/122 The Clerk was instructed to liaise with Cllr Ushamba so that the required forms could be completed in a timely manner.

21/123 The Chairman thanked Mr Collis for his interest in the Parish Council and asked him if he wished to be consulted if there was a future vacancy. Mr Collis thanked the Chairman but said that he was no longer interested in being co-opted.

### **Policy Review 2020-21**

21/124 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council approved the following draft policies with immediate effect and publish them on the website.

- Data Protection Policy.
- FOI Vexatious or Repeated Requests Policy.

### **.Committee Minutes**

21/125 **RESOLVED:** To receive as follows:

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Planning: 6th July 2020, 3rd August 2020, 7th September 2020.

Policy & Resources: 15th June 2020.

Amenities: 10th February 2020.

Before close of business a vote of thanks was recorded for Cllr Hoare's service on the Parish Council.

Although remaining as a district councillor, Cllr Hoare has now moved out of the village and has tendered her resignation as a parish councillor.

All wished her well for the future.

**Exempt Business**

21/126 **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 9.30pm