

All minutes are draft until ratified by the Committee at the next meeting.

Marchwood Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Marchwood Parish Council held at Pine Room, Village Hall, Marchwood on Monday 16 October 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: N Buckett, J Case (Chairman), D Hindle, J Leath, P Mballa, M Proctor, M Saxby and L Shelley.

In Attendance: Tina Dudley, Parish Clerk, Colette Cockeram, Deputy Clerk.

Apologies

PC/23/058– There were no apologies for absence for this meeting.

Declarations of Interest

PC/23/059 – There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

Public Participation

PC/23/060 – No members of the public attended this meeting.

Minutes

PC/23/061 – RESOLVED – To accept the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 11 September 2023 as a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.

Reports from NFDC (New Forest District Council) Councillor

PC/23/062 – Cllr Young talked about the Share Prosperity Fund and the decision to award Marchwood Parish £15,000 the funds were to be spent by March 2025. He thanked the Marchwood Fete organisers and the stall holders for their hard work and efforts in putting together the fete.

Cllr Young had attended the first ‘Singing with Friends’ held in the Marchwood Village Hall on Mondays. The group had been organised to help local people with dementia and those feeling isolated in the community, he informed Council new members were always welcome to join.

He further explained contractors working on behalf of Hampshire County Council would soon commence construction of a light-controlled toucan crossing at the Trotts Lane crossroads at the northern end of the cycle path, and a zebra crossing at Tavells Lane at the southern end of the cycle path. This was part of the “transforming cities fund” a scheme of work which aimed to improve sustainable travel corridors to and from nearby cities such as Southampton. The enhanced safety for vulnerable cyclists and pedestrians was recognised however, concern was raised by the concurrent scheduling of some of the works alongside other highways projects and the potential for serious adverse impacts upon residents and businesses. Robust representation had been made to Hampshire County Council.

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Cllr Mballa addressed the Council informed Members that NFDC were reviewing the cost implications of the Climate and Ecology Bill before committing to support it.

The new Car Parking charges for January 2024 was highlighted with a 25% increase being implemented, the district council was to implement a new strategy for car parking making it fit for the future. The closing date to receive an early offer of a £25 discount for garden waste wheelie bins was on 24th November 2023 at 23.59pm.

He further highlighted the issues with swimming clubs and leisure centres; Freedom Leisure had now agreed to reconsider their positions to meet the community need, it was hoped the matter would be resolved soon.

Regarding road improvement works Cllr Mballa and Young with other Councillors had been concerned with the traffic issues and timing of the roadworks on Marchwood Road and the A326. Although it was acknowledged the works were essential to provide safer crossing, and improved bus routes.

Unfortunately, the public consultations were held in Totton not Marchwood. Cllr Mballa had addressed this to Cllr David Harrison. It was noticeable that Marchwood residents need assistance to report issues affecting all residents of Marchwood.

Members of the Council raised concerns with the amount of road works being undertaken all at the same time with no consultation being taken with the Council or residents of Marchwood. There had been months of disruption to residents during the Redbridge roadworks, Giganet and work in Pooks Green the waterside was being severely impacted. It was agreed that Cllr Harrison needed to be on board as the Hampshire County Councillor representing Marchwood, it was further agreed the Councillor Mballa and Young would also lobby Hampshire Highways Authority and its officers to hold consultations within Marchwood and better inform residents of the village.

Draft 5-year plan – Task and Finish Group

PC/23/063 – Resolved Councillor Buckett, Case and Leath were appointed Members of the Task and Finish Group to develop the 5-year plan.

Conclusion of Audit

PC/23/064 – Members noted the Conclusion of Audit 2022/2023. It was agreed that with no actions required the Responsible Finance Officer had done an excellent job, she was thanked by Members of the Council.

Town Centre Improvements – Parishes

PC/23/065 – The Clerk explained that NFDC had received a sum of monies from Central Governments UK Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the Levelling up Agenda. The funds administered by NFDC had been allocated to several local areas with Marchwood being allocated £15,000. The funds were required to be spent on projects to promote the town centre or encourage people to come to the centre, one

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off events, existing projects links with other UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) activities in the area.

Resolved - Members agreed the monies would be utilised within the village centre to include tree planting, flower/bulb planting, adult tree planting in the planters in the centre. Public seating on the land opposite the Roebuck and, repairs or replacement to the ornamental boat on the corner of Main Road/Oaklands Drive, enhancements to the Falkland War Memorial including a memorial plaque for the cherry tree to commemorate the passing of former councillors, the Millenium Garden improvements and planting of seasonal bulbs and flowers. If funds allowed a Christmas tree would be purchased for the village centre with a number of Christmas lights. Welcome signs sited on the approach to the village would also be enhance.

Falklands War Memorial Cherry Tree

PC/23/066 – The Deputy Clerk explained the history of the Cherry Tree planting and why the memorial plaques were removed and put on the trees within the Orchard Garden.

The Council considered that the Falkland Memorial Garden was not an appropriate place for a memorial to former councillors and that the Orchard Garden was a quiet place of reflection and a more appropriate site to commemorate.

Resolved – a plaque would be put on to the Cherry Tree to inform residents of why the tree was planted.

Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project

PC/23/067 –

Members discussed the declining numbers of hedgehogs nationally. Some members informing the Council that they had a number in their gardens, they were animals that liked to forage. In the interest of biodiversity and hedgehog conservation it was agreed to support the project.

Resolved to approve the purchase of hedgehog highway shaped fence surrounds to enable residents to purchase them from the office at cost price.

Close of meeting and Date of next meeting

PC/23/068 – the meeting closed at 8.32pm. The next meeting was 18 December 2023.