

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

Marchwood Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Marchwood Village Hall on Monday 27 March 2023 commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillor John Case – In the Chair

In attendance: T Dudley, Parish Clerk, C Cockeram, Deputy Parish Clerk.

Also present: Members of the public 17. Richard Parkinson, (Solent Gateway), Paul Reeves, (Associated British Ports), Sophia Richardson, (Handy Trust) and Caroline Carlin (Southampton Football Club).

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 March 2022:

Cllr Young proposed to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 28 March 2022, seconded by Cllr Proctor, and approved.

1. **Resolved** – to approve the minutes of the annual parish meeting held on Monday 28 March 2022.

Presentation from The Handy Trust –

Sophia explained that the Handy Trust provided a support for the whole of the Waterside area. They run a youth service from the Marchwood Hub at the Lloyds Recreation Ground on a Monday night, this is very well attended. They work with the local schools and help with team building and are there to offer advice on sex and drugs if required. Another service they offer is Detached work – this is when they go around the local area where younger people tend of 'hang about' and engage with them regarding anti-social behaviour. They run holiday clubs in Marchwood and Hythe and all children and families who attend are offered free healthy meals.

The Chairman and Councillors present thanked the Handy Trust manager for her hard work and diligence, she and her team did not only currently but also during the Covid lockdown when many issues were identified help they young people of Marchwood. The challenging work of the Handy Trust provided invaluable assurance and guidance during their adolescence years.

Presentation from ABP and Solent Gateway -

Thank you for the opportunity to update the Annual Parish Meeting on developments at Solent Gateway Ltd. For those who do not know me, I am Richard Parkinson, Port Director at Solent Gateway. Alastair Welch, the ABP Southampton Regional Director is unable to join us as he is overseas and sends his apologies, so Paul Reeves, ABP Southampton's Head of Commercial has kindly joined us this evening.

You will remember we presented our plans to the Marchwood Parish Council Planning Committee on 23 Sep 21. Our planning application was approved by New Forest District Council on 9 Feb 22. Following the completion of the section 106 agreements and the judicial review period, full planning consent was attained on 2 Dec 22.

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The planning consent gave full planning for the first phase of our development which includes: a new site entrance; areas of open storage and hardstanding; a haulier's park; welfare facilities; sitewide highways and railway improvements; and landscaping and ecological enhancements. It also gave outline planning consent for the development of further hard standing for open and closed storage facilities against specified parameters of activity.

On 31 January 2023, SGL was acquired by ABP. I very firmly believe this is a positive development as it ensures SGL has the financial backing to deliver its development plans as per its planning consent, which in turn enables us to deliver the benefits to the local communities, namely private sector investment to create exciting new job opportunities and additional prosperity in the area. All of this will be within the conditions and parameters of our planning consent. We are talking about in excess of £50m investment in the port and up to 1100 jobs directly on site and in the associated supply chain.

You may remember SGL's port development plans were for approximately half the port being used by SGL for import and export activity, and container storage. This was in the area directly behind the quayside. The other half of the port further away from the quayside was to be used to attract new businesses with private sector investment to develop port-centric manufacturing facilities that needed access to marine facilities.

ABP's planned use of the port supports that approach. We will retain roughly half the space for import and export activity as ABP needs additional space to stop business going elsewhere. Solent Gateway will enable it to retain that business in the Solent area which is clearly good for the local economy. The type of commodity coming through the port may change – for example we may see more automotive activity, but less container storage and break-bulk materials previously planned by SGL.

We still plan to use the other half for port-centric manufacturing which brings in significant investment and creates the majority of the new jobs. We have some very interesting potential clients with whom we are discussing long-term contracts and, as part of ABP, we continue to encourage sea in, sea out businesses and the use of rail to reduce traffic on local roads. So, my message is: under ABP's ownership, the use of the port remains unchanged conceptually – a combination of import/export activity and private sector investment to develop port-centric manufacturing. ABP's acquisition is all about growth in investment and job creation and attracting world-leading innovative industries to the Solent region. It guarantees the development of the port in line with the planning consent, which adds to the prosperity of this area.

I am sure many of you will want to know about the development of ABP's Strategic Land Reserve next to Solent Gateway, and its connectivity to ABP's acquisition of SGL. It is no secret that as part of the Solent Freeport, the development of the SLR is one element of the Southampton Waterside Freeport Tax Site - the other elements being Solent Gateway, developments at the ExxonMobil refinery and the new development on the power station site at Fawley. I would add that emerging plans for the SLR are very focussed on the environment and would create high quality nature space for local communities, so I believe it offers a powerful combination of increased prosperity to the region whilst supporting the environment and local communities. Fundamental to the successful development of the Fawley Waterside tax site is the improvement to the A326, which is an ongoing project. As part of the development of the A326, ABP hopes to build a connecting road into its strategic land reserve and Solent Gateway. This will have real

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benefit to Marchwood as Solent Gateway HGV traffic would not come along Jacobs Gutter Lane and Normandy Road anymore. This connecting road into Solent Gateway is one of the benefits enabled by ABP's acquisition of SGL and I am sure would be welcomed by the Marchwood community if and when it happens.

Looking at timings, we hope to be on contract with our developer by the end of spring this year. This will enable us to complete the pre-construction phase and delivery of any pre-construction planning obligations over the summer, with work starting late summer/early autumn this year. So, in summary, I believe ABP's acquisition of SGL is extremely positive:

- It assures the development of Marchwood Port in line with our planning consent.
- It is all about investment, growth, and job creation.
- The approach to the port remains unchanged – a combination of import/export activity, and port-centric manufacturing.
- There are potential further benefits, including a connecting road to the 326, that would take traffic away from Jacobs Gutter Land and Normandy Road.
- Finally, I should add the MOD is very supportive and excited as, with ABP as a strategic partner, we can offer the MOD a much greater capability to support its operations.

Residents raised concerns with the increase to the number of HGV drivers passing through Jacobs Gutter Lane and through the village at time speeding. The question was that the port authorities were in breach of planning conditions.

Additional concerns were raised for the safety of children on the roads that were being exposed to the lorries travelling on roads where there was a HGV ban, the ban was being ignored by a lot of the drivers.

Residents asked for the port authorities to be more diligent and take some responsibility in monitoring what was happening by monitoring vehicle movements themselves and not to solely rely on residents to report the problems, more robust measures were being asked for to protect the residents of the village.

A Member of the countryside volunteers responsible for litter picking within the village raised an issue with the amount of litter being disposed of including plastic bottles containing urine believed to be thrown out of lorry windows some 100 bottles had recently been collected and 25 bags of rubbish.

Residents believed there was reputational damage to the port authorities through lack of action.

Presentation from Southampton Football Club -

The meeting was informed of how the club engaged with the local community including: Invites to B-Team games, • furniture and football donations • Marchwood summer fete raffle prizes • community litter pick • home grown initiatives • communicating to the public ahead of works on site, • campus tours – would be reinstated following the covid pandemic.

Residents were asked to email if they would like to be added to the mailing list, she further explained that if residents had any further suggestions the club would be open to suggestions.

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Updates on the Staplewood campus included information on the proposed new gym that was expected to be ready in 2023/2024. Ne electric ground equipment was electric and pitch side water refill points had been installed these changes allowed the club to become more environmentally friendly. Biodiversity initiatives were being implemented including log piles, wildflowers, wild hedgerows and long grasses.

The demolition of the farmhouse would allow for more onsite parking and EV charging points were to be installed.

Residents raised concerns regarding football players accelerating at speed when exiting the training site on to the residential roads often late in the evening. Additionally, a resident complained that the flood lighting on what was the 3G pitch were positioned wrongly with light encroaching on to residents' homes and being on outside of the hours permitted by the planning agreement conditions.

Further concern was raised with noise emanating from the onsite gym.

The representative from SFC assured residents the concerns raised were being listened to and that resolutions would be found. The football club engaged with the local community in many ways including litter picks and visiting schools. The campus support team would be informed of the issues and complaints to find suitable solutions to mitigate any annoyance to residents experiencing problems coming from the training site.

Matters raised by the electors of the Parish -

Residents reiterated concerns raised primarily with the issues relating to HGV drivers at times speeding and driving dangerously through the village including on roads where HGV lorries are banned.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm