

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 18 December 2023 at 7.30pm

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

In Attendance: Tina Dudley, Parish Clerk, Angela Woodward, Responsible Finance Officer.

Apologies

PC/23/069– apologies for absence were received from J Leath (work commitments).
Resolved to approve apologies for absence from Cllr Leath.

Declarations of Interest

PC/23/070 – There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

Public Participation

PC/23/071 – No members of the public attended this meeting.

Minutes

PC/23/072 – Resolved – To accept the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 16 October 2023 as a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.

Reports from NFDC (New Forest District Council) Councillor

PC/23/073 – Further to his written report provided Cllr Young informed the meeting he had held a meeting with Julien Lewis MP regarding the issues and concerns with the Southern Water not supplying vulnerable residents with a supply of water during the outage in November. There were also inconsistencies with compensation monies paid to residents, he had raised these issues with Southern Water.

An update to the recycling was provided, wheelie bins for garden waste would be rolled out in April 2024, in 2025 a wheelie bin for recycling would be rolled out however, due to central government changes glass would be collected separately and food waste bins separate also, collections would be on a fortnightly basis.

Members of the Council raised issues with the lack of works planned for walks through the village despite site visits being undertaken some six months ago. Cllr Young was asked to chase this up with the relevant NFDC officers.

Issues were also raised regarding enforcement action being taken on a particular site within the village and the lack of action that was further exacerbating neighbouring residents' problems.

Cllr Mballa reiterated the issues raised with Southern Water and informed Council that NFDC were to meet with the Water Board to discuss lessons to be learnt.

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He further informed Council about the issues with Freedom Leisure and their struggle with operating costs, help had been sought from NFDC.

A survey regarding the implementation of the wheelie bins was to be implemented to identify what properties would require alternative wheelie bins.

The increase in the price of parking clocks was to take effect in January 2024 with a review of the plan for discounted parking for local businesses.

Crime, fly tipping and vandalism was on the increase across the forest, NFDC are planning to install more CCTV cameras as a deterrent across areas of the New Forest.

Local infrastructure improvement works 'phase 2 Marchwood bypass/Rushington bus priority improvements works were to begin in January and finish in June 2024.

NFDC were to hold talks with Southern Water regarding the discharge of wastewater into local rivers the District Council were also engaging with HCC to better plan future works.

The closure of Ringwood Brewery in January was being transferred to the midlands however, lovers of the iconic English ale could still enjoy it from afar.

Report from Hampshire County Councillor

PC/23/074 – Cllr Harrison explained his recent absence due to health issues. He updated Council on issues regarding local traffic and fly tipping. The widening of the A326 was work in progress no final design had been agreed on. The National Park Authority had a duty to conserve and enhance the New Forest with its members struggling to support any proposals. It was thought that Central Government could intervene is agreement could not be reached.

Cameras were to be installed at the Stapehill junction in the New Year. Transforming Cities was progressing.

Members of the Council stated that they considered there was too much work going on all at the same time and this was exacerbating residents' problems with Marchwood being adversely affected. Jacobs Gutter Lane was impassable at times due to the number of potholes.

The residents of the village had endured eight months of mayhem with the road works at Redbridge and now works on the Transforming Cities was creating mayhem on local roads in and out of the village, Members asked for Highways officer to attend site visits to experience the issues themselves with a view to address the problems. Members considered that Highways Authority simply did not care about the situation that was created with the roadworks and lack of suitable planning.

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Cllr Harrison declared he would report to highways and express the concerns and fury of Council.

Members further raised issues with cell links in the village stating that the National Park Authority were effectively blocking the village from moving on to faster broadband due to the policies regarding masts in the National Park resulting in a lack of cell link up.

The A326 consultation was considered to be a farce with Marchwood being a forgotten part of the County.

When planning local infrastructure plans should take into account the number of lorries on local roads therefore more robust materials should be used to prevent short term damage on local roads.

Councillor Harrison explained HCC were reviewing its financial situation resulting in proposed cuts to services including school crossing patrols. Within a two-year period, the Council were expecting to issue a section 114 notice therefore, cuts were being planned for now. Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 requires chief finance officers of the public body to report if the expenditure is likely to exceed the available resources, HCC has a legal duty to prevent overspending, this could mean that all but statutory services would be withdrawn and would be unable to make any new spending commitments.

Community Infrastructure Levy Project Bidding

PC/23/075 – Resolved to approve a Bid for CIL funding at Lloyd Recreation Ground and Admiralty Quay play area.

Cyber Security

PC/23/076 – Resolved to approve the quote for Cyber security insurance.

Budget 2024-2025

PC/23/077 – Resolved to approve the budget as set out in appendix D.

Correspondence

PC/23/078 – Resolved to respond for funding for a speed gun/radar asking the speed watch team to apply for a grant.

Close of meeting and Date of next meeting

PC/23/079 – the meeting closed at 8.55pm. The next meeting was 11 March 2024.