



Marchwood Parish Council
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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** of the Parish of Marchwood will be held in the Pine Room at Marchwood Village Hall on **Monday 29 April 2024** at 7.00pm.

Tina Dudley Clerk to the Council

16 April 2024

AGENDA

1. Welcome from the Chairman of the Parish Council.
2. To sign the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 27 March 2023.
3. To receive the Annual Report from the Chairman of Marchwood Parish Council.
4. To receive reports from District and County Councillors.
5. To consider any matters raised by the electors of the Parish of Marchwood affecting the parish.

Note: A Parish Meeting consists of the local government electors of the parish and you are cordially invited to attend the above meeting. After the meeting has closed Councillors will be available for informal discussions.

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

Annual report Chairman of Marchwood Parish Council

Good Evening, Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to the 2024 Marchwood Annual Parish Meeting.

The year 2023 was challenging for the Parish Council, resulting in the difficult decision of raising the precept much higher than we wanted for 2024-25.

I know we all value our green and open spaces; after all, it is one of Marchwood's finest characteristics, making it a great place to live.

Unfortunately, protecting and enhancing our local environment and promoting participation, good management and efficiency whilst supporting our local community and maintaining the Parish for the benefit of all residents comes with an unavoidable cost.

Therefore, providing some background on how the Parish Council makes decisions regarding the precept is required.

We were required to submit our 2024-25 precept (budget) to the New Forest District Council (NFDC) by 31 January 2024. This is a statutory requirement.

The budget planning process begins in October, with all committees reviewing the existing budget and planning expenditures for the forthcoming year. We cannot foresee what will happen with inflation or plan for the unexpected. We do plan prudently for what we believe our expenditure will be.

Some parishioners may not be aware that the Council manages approximately 80 acres of open space throughout the village. The Parish Council has over a thousand trees that must be inspected and maintained yearly.

For example, when planning the budget for 2023-24, there was £10,000 in the tree budget; the actual expenditure before year-end is £19,769, with additional work being required. However, the Parish Council delayed the non-urgent work needed to alleviate further budget overspending.

Insurers require that we have an inspection regime for all our trees. We do that on a four-yearly cycle with trees categorised as red (immediate works), amber (scheduled works) and green (needs work but not urgently).

Due to the severe weather resulting in increased work and increasing costs to ensure we comply with our legal liabilities, we set aside £20,000 in the 2024-25 budget for expected expenditure.

We also provide five play parks for various ages and a Skate Park at Cork Field. These facilities are also inspected annually, and our anticipated expenditure is aligned with our forecasts.

Vehicle repairs and maintenance also overran the planned budget, and our insurance did not forecast enough of a rise when preparing the 2023-24 budget. For example, there was unexpected expenditure on repairs and maintenance to the Lloyd Pavilion.

There will always be variations in the budget, but we have measures to ensure we review and evaluate our expenditures regularly. Unfortunately, we have encountered

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more expenditures than anticipated. Our electricity, gas, and water charges have all exceeded inflation.

The Parish Council recently received correspondence from NFDC stating that the rubbish collection will increase from £600 to £2,450, an unexpected higher increase than we would have forecasted. A similar significant increase in tree work was also notified to us after we had agreed on our 2024-25 budget.

These increases have necessitated engaging with new service providers to ensure we maintain quality service at a more competitive price.

Since the unlawful encampment, the Parish Council has had to strengthen our security measures and apologise for the inconvenience of some of the security measures we had to enforce at short notice.

It was also bitterly disappointing that the Annual Village Fete had to be cancelled due to the unlawful intrusion of the Lloyd Recreation Ground.

Fortunately, due to the diligent and hard work of Tina Dudley, our Clerk, and her staff, the Parish Council could evict the 'travellers' from the recreation ground. Despite claims that this was a victimless crime, it has cost the Parish Council £3,000.

As sole trustees of the Lloyd Recreation Ground, the Council maintains the Pavilion, sports facilities, and open space.

We recently undertook the scheduled valuation of the Pavilion as part of our risk management and Insurance strategy. Our insurers and risk assessors concluded that the Parish Council is substantially underinsuring the Pavilion.

We have no choice but to correct this situation.

Our current (pre-renewal) sum insured was £650,000, but the recommended reinstatement sum insured has risen to a staggering £1,594,662.

The sum assured includes the actual rebuild cost for insurance purposes, including the architect's fees and site clearance before the rebuild.

The Policy and Resources Committee continues to diligently monitor the Council's finances and procedures to ensure transparency, good housekeeping and best value for using the Council's financial resources.

I assure you that councillors do not take the decision lightly when raising the precept. Careful consideration and analysis of all expenditures are undertaken at every Policy and Resources Committee, with our expenditure and income published on the Council's website before the meeting.

Residents are welcome to attend any of our Council and Committee meetings to discuss items on the agenda and have your say.

We are currently reviewing ways to increase our income and reduce our expenditure.

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We recently applied for a grant to install solar panels on the Pavilion at the Lloyd Recreation Ground, which will allow us to change the lighting from Halogen to LED to reduce our energy expenditure.

Unfortunately, our bid was unsuccessful, but we will remain actively engaged in finding alternative sources of income to support such innovation. This example is one of many exciting projects that will lead to savings and increase revenue streams.

We are installing drinks and snack facilities at the Lloyd Recreation Ground to provide income and enhance the facilities available to visitors and residents.

The Marchwood Mens Shed has worked with us by building several picnic benches for parishioners to enjoy the recreational facilities at Lloyd Recreation Ground.

The Amenities Committee has worked hard to enhance the village's local nature and conservation areas.

I wish to thank our committed team of Landscape and Groundworkers who, once again, kept our open spaces clean and well-maintained.

Crooked Hayes Copse's ancient woodland flourished this year with native bluebells and other wildflowers.

In a few weeks, work will begin on a new footpath that will be a real asset to the village. It will run alongside the military fence in Normandy Way from Cracknore Hard Lane to near the entrance to Autumn Road. This path will make walking through the village safer.

Thanks to a grant we have received, work will soon start enhancing several features on the land we own near the village centre. These include the Falklands Memorial, Millennium Memorial and the grassed area on the corner of Main Road and Oakland Drive. In the latter area, we are currently engaged with the owner to transfer ownership.

As some of you might have noticed, we have been busy developing and enhancing our Parish Website, making it more visually appealing and informative and helping parishioners keep up to date on local activities that may affect them in their daily lives.

We are raising awareness through our Community Page on the Parish Website.

I am happy to announce that the Lloyd Recreation Ground will host another Party in the Park again on Saturday, 24 August 2024. The headline act will be Miami Wave, a crowd favourite at our last Party in the Park.

On 8 June, we gathered at our Falklands Memorial to pay our respects to those killed on board the Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram, who were attacked by Argentine fighter jets on 8 June 1982.

As always, we were pleased that Capt Philip Roberts, the captain of Sir Galahad at the time, veterans and their families could attend the ceremony.

Little did we know that just a few days later, we were to learn of the passing of John 'Sid' Kempton, who sadly passed on 29 June 2023. John, or Sid as he was known to

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his friends, was one of the many people who worked with the Marchwood Parish Council to create a lasting memorial for those who sadly lost their lives and remember all those who served their country in the South Atlantic.

It was Sid that helped to get that immense Falkland Island Rock back to Marchwood.

Our honoured guests wanted me to thank our village and the Village's Landscape Team, who tirelessly maintain the memorial to their fallen comrades. I hope they can enjoy our enhancements the next time they visit us on Saturday, 8 June 2024.

This year sees the 80th anniversary of D-Day, and the Parish Council will lay a wreath on Thursday, 6 June, on behalf of us all to give thanks and praise to the many young men and women who gave so much to ensure we have the freedoms we enjoy today.

We will publish full details of both events on our website, noticeboards and social media.

Last autumn, with the assistance of local children, their parents and grandparents saw the planting of 4,000 crocus corms in aid of Hythe & Waterside Rotary's Purple4Polio campaign to end polio now and forever.

The event helped raise several hundred pounds for this worthy cause.

One of the first projects the Marchwood Mens Shed commenced was working with the village school children to build several bird boxes to be located throughout the village. These colourful birdboxes are now home to many birds.

This is another example of how we can get involved in village life.

Although the Village Traders cannot hold their annual Christmas event, I am pleased to inform you that the Parish Council will be organising a Christmas Market & Fayre on Tuesday, 3 December, and preparations are already underway.

The Village Centre Landlord has permitted us to provide an illuminated Christmas Tree and stalls. Our colleagues who manage the Village Hall will also be involved, giving us further opportunities to enhance the event.

We are engaging with various community groups and organisations to ensure it is a wonderful and enjoyable start to the festive season.

This project will be a regular agenda item for the Amenities Committee to ensure oversight and financial control.

We intend for an annual Christmas Market & Fayre to become a regular feature in village life that will be self-sufficient and sustainable for many years.

We will publish full details on our website, noticeboards and social media.

We are raising awareness through our Community Pages, and I am pleased to introduce the Marchwood Hedgehog Watch. Sadly, the UK's favourite spiky little mammal is in severe decline. While it is challenging to monitor hedgehog numbers accurately, it is believed they could be down by over half in rural areas and a third in urban areas since 2000.

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You can help hedgehogs by setting up a safe retreat or creating a hedgehog house in your garden and providing some hedgehog-friendly food and water. Ensure your garden is attractive to hedgehogs by leaving compost heaps, overgrown areas, and log piles as they are. Then, wait for these cute critters to visit you!

Better still, why not pop along to their Hedgehog Awareness Day to find out more and see the opening of a Nature Garden showcasing what we can do to help give nature a helping hand?

The Hedgehog Awareness Day is on Saturday, 11 May, at the Lloyd Recreation Ground, from 10 am to 2 pm.

Another date for your diary is Saturday, 15 June, at the Lloyd Recreation Ground, when the Marchwood Arty-Crafty Group will host "Art in the Park".

It promises to be a fun day, allowing our talented local amateur artists to showcase their work - the Marchwood WI will supply refreshments. It might even inspire you to take up a new hobby.

The Parish Council is delighted with the enthusiasm of community groups working on projects to benefit residents.

We thank the community volunteers for the litter-picking events undertaken this year. The litter-pickers picked up a tremendous amount of litter and disposed of it, making our streets a cleaner, greener place to live and enjoy.

The Planning Committee has and will continue to monitor any comments or concerns raised by our parishioners on planning applications within the Parish. We will listen to the concerns of parishioners so that we may be their voice within the District and County Councils.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Waterside Community Fund (formerly known as the Dibden Allotment Fund) for supporting individuals and organisations in the Parish.

Also, we wish to thank and congratulate the Handy Trust for the organisation's work and their staff's dedication to providing youth support throughout the year within the Parish.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and staff for their dedication, professionalism, help, support and hard work throughout these challenging times.