

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

Marchwood Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Meeting of Marchwood Parish Council held at Marchwood Hub, Lloyd Recreation Ground, Main Road on Monday 11 September 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors N Buckett, J Leath, M Proctor, P Mballa, M Saxby, L Shelley & Leath.

In attendance: Tina Dudley, Parish Clerk.

Apologies

AMC/24/016 – apologies for absence was received from Cllr Case and Hindle (previous engagements).

Resolved – apologies for absence from Cllrs Case and Hindle were approved.

Declarations of Interest

AMC/24/017 – There were no declaration of interest for this meeting.

Public Participation

AMC/24/018 – A resident Mr G Wright attended the Committee on a number of items, agenda item 5, Community Activities.

Minutes:

AMC/24/019 - Resolved – to accept the minutes of the Amenities meeting held on Monday 17 June 2024 as a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.

Community Activities

AMC/24/020 – Mr Wright addressed the Committee to update Councillors on the volunteering activities he and other volunteers had undertaken:

Litter picking – there were 31 volunteers that had taken part in the litter pick collecting 16 bin bags full. Gary explained that since starting the group 650 bags had been collected equating to 1.6 tonnes of refuse.

The next community pick was on the 5th October at 10am, meeting behind St John's church.

Wildflowers and Conservation - a survey of Cork Field meadow this year identified more flowering plant species than any previous year at 39. The volunteers surveyed a similar sized area of the unmanaged part of the field and found 15 different species.

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This is partly due to the way the managed meadow is cut annually, with material taken away to reduce soil fertility, but also because it has been established for much longer. The unmanaged areas is beginning to catch up, with new species establishing every year.

The Marchwood Conservation Volunteers had some changes over the last couple of years, as Paul Fisher who ran the group for many years has moved away, and Helen Vesty who took over has recently stepped down.

The group was now being run by Gary Wright, Diane Collier and Trevor Chapman.

In addition to the Cork Field meadow and Hazel coppicing in Crooked Hayes, links have been re-established with both village schools and work will continue to improve areas within their grounds for wildlife.

Marchwood Men's Shed

Christmas Tree Bench - to support the installation of a Christmas Tree in the village centre, there have been discussions about making a structure mirroring the design of the planter that was installed there in the summer.

It is proposed that this is made by the Men's Shed, in partnership with the MPC grounds staff.

The structure will essentially be a box made of substantial timber that will be filled with concrete to bed in a pipe that the Christmas Tree can be installed into.

The design was still being finalised, but the proposal is that some kind of top is made for the box that will allow it to be used as a seat for the rest of the year.

As it was an item for the community, the Men's Shed would only be asking the Parish Council to cover the cost of materials, in the same way as the Lloyd Recreation Ground benches. Cost estimate to follow on completion of the design.

Decorations - the Men's Shed is working on providing some hand painted decorations for the tree. It is intended that the materials for these come from 'stock' and that there will therefore be no cost implication for the Parish Council.

Shed Roof - last year, there were several leaks in the portacabin roof, which lead us to apply bitumen paint as a temporary fix.

Gary applied for and was successful in obtaining grant funding from the Tesco blue token scheme, in order to fund a more permanent solution.

Having spoken to several experts, it was determined that overcladding the roof with plastic coated galvanized box section sheeting is the best way to prolong the life of the cabin.

It has been suggested to us that a small overhang at the front and side of the cabin will further help protect the building. This overhang will be approximately 0.5m, the Parish Council were asked if the work could proceed, and the materials ordered.

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There will be no cost to the Parish Council.

Potential Village Seating Project – the Mens Shed had applied for a Co-op community fund for a grant to fund a seating project. If this is successful, and if the Parish Council are willing, this will allow us to produce up to 6 benches for the village to be placed wherever the council wishes.

The exact specification can be determined if the application has been successful, which we should discover later this year.

Village Planters - in addition to the 3 planters on the Welcome to Marchwood signs, the Men's Shed have also now installed a large 3 tier one in the village centre. A challenge for them is the ongoing maintenance of these. Up until now, the shed has been funding plants for the Welcome to Marchwood planters, as well as taking care of them, watering etc.

The Parish Council were asked if they would consider working in partnership with the Mens Shed to help maintain these going forward. The amount of spending was not huge (perhaps £60-80 per year at this stage) but as a small charity, it takes quite a lot of effort to raise those funds.

The village centre planter in particular has generated more positive feedback than any other project and it would be great to work on this and other similar projects together in the future.

Resolved –

- Further research was to be gathered to ensure the stability of the Christmas tree.
- The shed roof works were approved subject to monitoring to ensure the integrity of the ground was undisturbed from the water run-off. If required guttering could be added to the shed at a later date.
- Additional potential seating within the village open spaces was approved with the location to be determined if the grant was successful.
- The funding for plants in the planters at the beginning of the village and village centre was approved in principle subject to further financial costings.

Budget and Income Expenditure

AMC/24/021 – Resolved - the budget expenditure was noted. Additional works at Cork Field to fell deceased ash trees was approved.

Budget Review 2024/2025

AMC/24/022 - The Clerk explained that a starting point for the budget was to add the current inflation rates to all budget lines. Each line was then considered individually, there were known to be requirements on some budgets to be greater than inflation with others being lower. At the time of the meeting the tree budget for 2024/2025 was almost exhausted with further works in progress.

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It was known that the boiler within the Pavilion was some 30 years old, a quote had been received for a replacement, the quote was £19,000+.

The Clerk further explained that the replacement was not budgeted for however, Members needed to be aware that it would at some point need replacing. Furthermore, it did not have a timer, and the hot water was rather on or off, this was not cost effective.

One of the ride on mowers required a new flail, the cost was approximately £8,000, the other mower would require a new flail in 2025/2026.

The staff training budget required an increase due to a new member of staff and also new working practices had been highlighted that would allow for better time management this would also require training for existing staff.

Community Orchard

AMC/24/023 - Councillor Leath informed the Committee he had consulted with Dr Angela Berrie a specialist in fruit trees. She reported that:

Whilst the concept of the Orchard is a good idea, it should have been planted by someone with experience of orchards and fruit trees.

The trees have not been looked after properly and if the idea was to produce fruit from the varieties planted then amongst other things they need to be pruned regularly by someone who knows what they are doing.

There is evidence of a lack of nitrogen in the soil, and the trees need to be fed high with a nitrogen-based fertiliser to promote healthy growth.

3 of the trees are not in fact trees but the root stock and should be removed.

There is minor evidence of canker (fungal and bacterial) on some of the trees

The memorial tree needs to be re staked to give it support

Overall if you want it to work as an orchard you need one person to look after it (a volunteer with experience in fruit trees) and the area would need to be protected until they are healthy. This is more from objects like footballs etc, rather than people walking around to admire.

Resolved – Cllr Leath was to write an article for the village news asking if a resident who would be willing and able to maintain the orchard.

Remote Access for Lighting at the 3G Pitch

AMC/24/024 - Resolved to approve the purchase of a new timer switch and mobile phone to enable out of hours access for the 3G court lighting.

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Review of Parish Notice Boards and Dog Waste Bins

AMC/24/025 – Members approved the review of parish notice boards and waste bins.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm. The date of the next meeting will be 11 November 2024.