

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 15 December 2025 at 7.30pm

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

In Attendance: Tina Dudley, Parish Clerk, Angela Woodward, Deputy Clerk and RFO.

Apologies

PC/25/039 – Apologies for absence was received from Councillor Mballa (NFDC meeting).

Resolved - to accept apologies for absence from Cllr Mballa.

Declarations of Interest

PC/25/040 – There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

Public Participation

PC/25/041 – No members of the public attended this meeting.

Minutes

PC/25/042 – Resolved – To accept the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 22 September 2025 as a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.

Reports from Hampshire County Council and New Forest District Council

PC/25/043 – In the absence of Cllr Harrison the Clerk read out his report:

You are probably aware of the recent decision taken by the Cabinet at HCC to try and progress the widening of the A326, applying for funding from central government. The latest estimate has risen to £178 million, due to rising costs and inclusion of the section of road linking the A326 to the port area via a planned double roundabout to the south of the village.

I still haven't seen a detailed design of the entire project and nothing has been made public at the time of writing. It is glaringly obvious now that the project will likely provide limited benefits, if any, to commute times (especially when taking into account the years and years of roadworks. However, it will of course provide a great benefit to Associated British Ports, permitting easy lorry access to growing port development along the Waterside, including their plan to use Dibden Bay.

A decision from the office of Road & Rail about the potential re-opening of the Waterside rail line for a commercial passenger service is now expecting in Spring. It is good to see Network Rail have invested in better security at the Marchwood platform, although this is unrelated to whether we get a passenger service. It is not so good to see the neglect of the line further south of Marchwood.

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Doubts still remain over the future of Hythe ferry, despite a change of ownership.

Financial pressures are still very much a theme at HCC, with many facilities have been closed or threatened. Recent questions have been raised over the future of activities at Calshot with a potential closure of the Hangers and now a "temporary" closure of Copthorne Nursery at Fawley (that provides work for vulnerable adults), that some people fear will become "permanent".

In better news, I have a bit of funding available to support local projects, but it is restricted in ways it was not beforehand... such as not being able to repeat funding within a two-year period for the same project or organisation. Best check with me before applying via the HCC website if you know of any organisations that need funding.

Finally, the Mayoral elections have been postponed for two years. However, as I write this, it still planned to hold the County Council elections on May 7th, 2026.

A Member raised concern that the proposed works on the section of road linking the A326 to the port area via a planned double roundabout to the south of the village, it would not take lorries out of the village as a lot of residents expected.

The A326 modelling used by HCC did not account for human behaviour, therefore it did not reflect users use of the road and any time saving proposals accurately, it was not a true picture.

Outside Organisations

PC/25/044 Cllr Hindle attended a meeting with the Marchwood Community Association. He updated members on the recent long-term hiring room hire to a therapist.

Calendar of Meetings

PC/25/045 - Resolved – to approve the 2026/2027 Calendar of Meetings.

Budget 2026/2027

PC/25/046 – Following scrutiny of the draft budget by members of the Policy and Resources the budget for 2026/2027 was recommended for approval.

It was asked if the tree budget would be sufficient with the transfer of Oak Park open space to the parish being expected in the near future.

Resolved – to approve the budget as set out for 2026/2027, with an increase of 4.57% the precept being £363,782.00.

LGR Local Government Consultation

PC/25/047 – Following an extensive discussion with regard to the Local Government Reorganisation, Members felt that the options put forward would not benefit Marchwood.

They cited in particular-

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- NFDC had consistently overlooked the needs of the village, the Council had waited fourteen years for the walking paths to be revitalised with S106 monies, and still the wait continues. Other examples discussed include a lack of cooperation, a feeling of being let down, notably the fiasco of not providing bin bags to residents on time on at least two occasions in recent years.
- It was felt that there was a lack of information provided to parishes, and any financial benefits for a unitary council would be consumed by the black hole providing for social services.
- The reorganisation gave no reassurances that services which may be devolved to the parishes would have the finances required to provide them adequately.
- There were no obvious economic benefits for Marchwood from the NFDC and HCC options, as both take bad service paths.

Resolved – to submit a response to the consultation reflecting the views of the Council as discussed.

Close of meeting and Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 8.30pm. The next meeting of Full Council 16 March 2026.