

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

Marchwood Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting of Marchwood Parish Council held in the Pine Room at Marchwood Village Hall on Monday 30 March 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors: N Buckett, K Petty, M Saxby, M Proctor, D Hindle and L Shelley.

In attendance: Angela Woodward, Deputy Parish Clerk/RFO.

Apologies

AC/26/019 – apologies for absence was received from J Case (prior commitment), P Mballa (personal reasons).

Resolved – to accept apologies for absence from J Case and P Mballa.

Declarations of Interest

AC/26/020 – There were no declaration of interest for this meeting.

Public Participation

AC/26/021 – A member of the public raised concerns about vehicles parking on the open space in Bay Tree Gardens. She said they are killing the grass which is causing flooding and the weight could be damaging the roots of the oak trees.

Minutes:

AC/26/022 - Resolved to accept the minutes of the Amenities meeting held on Monday 30 September 2025 as a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.

Bay Tree Gardens

AC/26/023 – the proposal was discussed.

Councillors felt that posts could prevent emergency services gaining access, as it is a small road.

The parking could potentially end up on the open space area round the front.

We don't have enough money in the budget this year.

Resolved –

1. We will continue to monitor the situation.
2. Write another letter to the residents.
3. Put notices on the vehicle windows.
4. Look into the possibility of signage.

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Amenities Team Report

AC/26/024 – Members noted the report.

Machinery/Vehicles

The new flail was fitted to the tractor and the team are very pleased with it.
The bearings have been replaced on the Mower Flail Dec.
Serviced all machines, checked fluids and greased ready for the cutting season.
Ford connect had an oil change service at the Ford Garage.

Lloyd Recreation Ground

Fire Alarm system has been checked and we needed to replace two heat sensors, four call points and six smoke detectors. This is due to legal requirements of replacing detectors over 10 year old.

Plumber has changed the heat sensor to a hard wired one in the changing rooms.

Electrician has installed the second EV charger ready for the new electric vehicle.

The new basketball posts and hoops have been installed and the fencing has been repaired. The re-surfacing and line painting will be completed when the weather improves, hopefully the beginning of April 2026. We will be having lines painted for 5 a-side football, tennis, netball, basketball and a new popular game called pickleball.

The lights in the HUB will be changed to LED at the end of March 2026 and the painting has been booked for the beginning of April 2026.

Changing the MUGA flood lights to LED is not possible at the moment, but I am waiting for quotes for different options.

The new Waterside Health Bus will be visiting Lloyds Recreation Ground on Fridays from 10.00 to 13.00. It will hopefully be ready to start by the middle/end of April and will be trialled on a weekly basis. We will share information on our noticeboards and website as soon as we have the literature.

Councillors asked if we could enquire about having other mobile bus services visit Lloyds Recreation Ground? Eg Dentist, Library, Banks and food pop ups.

Open Space Maintenance - Highlights

Cleared the soakaway ditch opposite The Roebuck Pub and Cork Lane to help prevent flooding.

Cleared vegetation from three other ditches around the village and trimmed the vegetation back from the canals in Admiralty Way.

Planted 3055 bulbs on the mounds at Crooked Hayes.

Pruned the flower beds at the Falklands Memorial, planted some new plants.

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Play Parks

The annual Play Park inspections have taken place and the ground staff are working through the actions raised.

Staff Training

The Ground Staff have not completed any training since the last meeting.

Other

We have a supply of clear bin bags and black bin bags held in the office. These are for Marchwood residents to use until the wheelie bin collections begin in May 2026.

Community Activities Report

AC/26/025 – Members noted the report.

Marchwood Conservation Volunteers

Marchwood Conservation Volunteers have just finished a very productive work season, which runs from September to March and can be broken down into the following projects:

Cork Field Meadow

Work at Cork Field Meadow this season began in September 2025 with the annual cut and rake. This task reduces the fertility of the soil, weakening the grasses and allowing the more delicate wild flowers to flourish. The number of flowering species has nearly doubled since the meadow began to be managed.

Another session was spent reclaiming parts of the meadow from the brambles, by cutting them back. The brambles were cut into scallops. This creates microclimates sheltered from the wind for butterflies and other insects.

Plant and insect ID sessions will take place over the summer, with the results compared to previous years records.

Crooked Hayes Copse

Crooked Hayes Copse is split into 9 areas, and coppiced on a 9 year rotation. MCV have been doing this work for more than 30 years, and it is understood that the copse has been managed in this way for hundreds of years.

Coppicing extends the life of Hazel trees from around 75 years, to hundreds or even a thousand years. When an area is coppiced, more light reaches the woodland floor, allowing more species to thrive, increasing biodiversity. The wood that is coppiced provides a sustainable source of natural fencing, and also timber to local Men's Sheds who use them for walking canes and other projects.

Marchwood Infants School

Many years ago, MCV had a working relationship with Marchwood Infants School which has been rekindled in recent years. Work undertaken here include putting up bird and bat boxes, coppicing, and attempting to establish a bluebell wood.

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Marchwood Junior School

Again, MCV used to work with Marchwood Junior School, a relationship that has been restarted in recent years. This year work has focused on Hazel Coppicing and bramble clearance. The bramble clearance has been done to release trees and other plants from their hold, allow wildflowers to grow, and improve the use of the area for the children. Where bramble habitat has been removed, Marchwood Men's Shed have donated Hedgehog Houses to be sited around the area.

Funding

Marchwood Conservation Volunteers have no source of income, so rely on grants for the purchase / maintenance of tools, and renewal of their insurance. Recently, the group received generous support from the Barker Mills foundation, allowing them to continue their excellent work in Marchwood.

Marchwood Litter Pickers

Marchwood Litter Pickers has been running quarterly community litter picks since 2019, as well as ad-hoc events.

Typically, the number of volunteers ranges between 30 and 50 for each event. In addition to these community events, the group supports young people completing their duke of Edinburgh Award, by providing equipment and signing off their volunteering efforts.

The group also supports the local regiment and the scouts and guides with their litter picks.

Marchwood Men's Shed

Marchwood Men's Shed continues to go from strength to strength working with the local community. They are currently completing their new wood store and working on Projects for Marchwood Infants School and the local pre-schools, with many more projects in the pipeline.

The group would like to thank Marchwood Parish Council for their continued support and collaboration.

Soft Plastic Recycling

The soft plastic recycling facility at Marchwood Village Hall is very well used, now with over 3.5 tonnes of soft plastic in total saved from incineration and recycled into pellets for making secondary products. It is hoped that when the proposed Material Recovery Facility in Eastleigh is up and running, Marchwood residents will be able to put soft plastics (amongst other things) into their wheelie bins, which will further improve the recycling rate locally.

Councillors wanted to pass on their thanks to the Marchwood Conservation Volunteers and the Marchwood Litter Pickers for the sterling work they do to make the village and better, cleaner place to live.

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Willow Pollards, Bilberry Drive

AC/26/026 – the proposal was discussed.

Councillors requested that we enquire which type of trees would be the best to replace trees when we remove them.

Resolved – to fell the two worst willow pollards this year.

Income and Expenditure.

AC/26/027

Resolved – the income & expenditure was noted with any overspends explained.

Lloyd Recreation Ground

AC/26/028 – the hire charges were discussed and everybody happy with them.
Discussed different ways to market the sports and venue.

Resolved – to accept the hire charges as set out.

The meeting closed at 8.31pm. Date of next meeting 1 June 2026 at **Marchwood Hub**, Lloyd Recreation Ground, at 19.30.