

Marden Parish Council

New Community Facilities Working Group (NCFWG) Meeting
for the New Community Centre
on Thursday 11 February at 18.30 in the Community Centre

Notes of the Meeting

Present: David Bennett (Chairman), Arthur Fraser and Geoff Nash

In attendance: Alison Sutton, Parish Clerk. Rich Frost (District Scouting Commissioner) and David Owen (District Scouting Chairman)

1. **Apologies** – Jess Tidball, Robin Brook, Chris Wathen, Paula Barratt, Dave Lloyd, Sandra Gladwyn and Stefka Glavcheva
2. **Open Forum** – None
3. **Discussion with Scouting District Commissioner** –
General background: South Marches District extends from Orleton to Ewyas Harold and Bromyard to Weobley; district commissioner team with 3 DCs.

Background to closure of local group: 70 children, 6-14 yrs old; entire leadership team resigned in January and decision made to close group; parents given choice of joining other scouting or private fringe groups; district has now removed all scouting equipment from the scout hut, which will never be used again; not appropriate to restart in same venue or for some time, currently animosity between parents, as some children gone to fringe group, some remained in scouting; District currently considering position for site of Marden hut, power being turned off, unregistered land and not known where deeds are currently.

Requirements of personnel for new Marden scout group: executive group – chair, secretary, treasurer and others from each section – act as trustees for group; scouting side – group scout leader, leader for each section, plus assistant leader for each section ideally or at least an adult assistant; need executive committee, group leader and 6 section leaders; no experience required, full training given.

Venue requirements: storage – lots of long term storage inside for tents etc (5 trailer loads taken from Marden hut); encourage older children to monitor and retrieve items from storage so needs to be safely accessible; hall sized venue; cupboard storage space for day-to-day equipment; display boards on wall; secure, metal unit for storage of knives, axes etc.

Other issues: groups have to fund-raise, even when in purpose-built accommodation; groups help each other as needed, not isolated; demand is high within District, so likely that can restart in future; would be joint effort to look for leaders, can use resources of regional development team; sections may meet on same night or different nights

4. **Next steps** –
DCs will support Marden lottery bid and can provide data to help; agreed will stay in contact via Alison; come back at later stage when doing more detailed planning.
5. **Next meetings** – Monday 15 February at 7.00 pm