



**Marden Links Parish Hub Working Group Meeting**  
7pm Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Summary Notes**

1. Present – David Bennett, Lesley Hayward, Lorna Wathen, Mike Blake, Kate Ryan
2. Apologies – none received
3. **Hub Update**
  - a. Feedback from Volunteers - attendee numbers lower recently, several residents, unable to attend or moved away. Discussed possibility of leaflet drop to advertise. Decision to go ahead with the questionnaire option discussed previously. Kate to circulate the draft questionnaire to group for comment/amendment. Soup lunches stopped now as planned – attendees keen for them to continue, decision to stick with 3 months over winter only as costly and labour intensive
  - b. Finances – money donations from attendees and consumable donations from volunteers continue to be generous.
  - c. Volunteer rota for April- now published, closing for Good Friday,
  - d. **easter egg hunt** planned for 16<sup>th</sup> April 2-3pm egg hunt, 3-4 pm usual hub session. Lorna and Lesley to organise, Kate to post on the volunteer group for help, likely to need several volunteers to manage.
  - e. review the risk analysis to present to next PC meeting – risk analysis already in place for RC as was a requirement for the insurance, David to review/update.  
RA for Hub, Garden and other activities David to produce and circulate for comment prior to review at next PC meeting
  - f. discussed how we want the new hall to be run to ensure all the activities (current and future) can take place. Long discussion by group, all agreed that important New Parish Hall is utilised as much as possible, ensuring it's place firmly in the heart of the community open and accessible for drop in not just for booked clubs/groups and locked again afterwards. Initially, staffed by volunteers but with an ambition that as bookings and revenue grows supplemented by a part time paid caretaker/manager. Discussion on how Marden Links can help with the transition from MVT to MPT and whether the current working group would consider becoming trustees of MPT. Kate to contact Paula to suggest a meet up to informally discuss Marden links reps on the



MPT and how we can help and/or how we can be represented in the new management structure

#### 4. Repair Café Update

- a. Feedback from volunteers – sessions are busy, with almost as many 'walk-ins' as pre booked. These can be problematic as parts often needed meaning time is spent on diagnosis, but then not able to be completed and moved to next session. We now have multiple jobs still awaiting assessment/repair. Plan to close the booking calendar for April to allow consolidation/clearing of outstanding jobs. Change the wording on the website to discourage walk-ins
- b. Workshop/Shed/tool library – container shelving nearly complete, once finished date to be fixed to prepare an inventory and select the best of the donated items to form the basis of the loan Library
- c. Repair tools – items needed to purchase from donations. Selection of test bulbs needed for lamps, screw and bayonet
- d. New volunteer drive – particular need for electrical/electronic/clock repairs. Request in this month N&V's
- e. Also need for a jewellery repairer 2-3 times a year – Kate to approach an individual who is a silversmith and possibly open to persuasion to join us

#### 5. Community Garden

- a. Dates for next working group? (hopefully weather will be kinder)  
**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 10-3 pm** David to speak to 'Yardbirds to request their assistance
- b. Security Cameras for rear to purchase – second camera to purchase from donations Consider purchase of wood for Pergola/shelter (we have wood suitable for uprights left over from fencing) decorative string lights, Picnic tables
- c. Water feature/barbecue/greenhouse/pond – water feature painted and now ready for liner, water and solar fountain. Barbeque we have enough bricks and the metal racks ready to build. Greenhouse donated, kind offer to move from current location to hub garden by Local farmer. Wildlife pond defer to a future working party day.
- d. Fencing and gates – options being considered that will preserve access to rear for businesses and still ensure security of site. Proposal to still have fence, vehicle access gate and pedestrian gate (not locked) await confirmation/approval from neighbours



- e. Large bench needs fixing to prepared ground foundations. David to speak to clerk to arrange with lengthsman
- f. Community Garden Celebration Open day Barbecue Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup> time TBA

**6. New Parish Hall / Website -**

- a. Q&A page – updates – David to produce a monthly newsletter for PC and this will subsequently be loaded onto websites and social media

**7. Welcome to Marden – Parish Guide** Kate to get outline quote from Signworx based on an 8 -12 page A4 document light card glossy outer with stapled paper insert. 200copies initially

**8. Date & time of next meeting 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 7pm at the Hub**