



**Marden Links Parish Hub Working Group Meeting**  
7pm Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Summary Notes**

1. **Present** – Maggie Hopkins, Lesley Hayward, David Bennett, Lorna Wathen, Kate Ryan
2. **Apologies** – none received
3. **Hub Update**
  - a. Feedback from Volunteers -. Less cake being eaten currently – decision to make 1 cake per week - acknowledgment that an additional cake may be needed for Friday if lots eaten Weds – monitor and rediscuss
  - b. Finances – donations remain healthy.
  - c. Volunteer rota for July/Aug - Less availability of volunteers over summer months but all sessions covered so far
  - d. Post Meeting with MVT discussion. – Discussion re MLPHWG members joining the MPT committee once active. Possible roles that may be needed. Discussion re flexibility if Parish Hall booked for private party/wedding on planned repair café day. Discussion re use of the hub for meetings groups displaced if/when the school takes over the community rooms and NPH not ready to occupy. Kate to speak to Chris Wathen for list of groups currently using community room for meetings. Suggest 50% of current charge to reflect smaller venue.
  - e. Online hall booking software – David and Kate reviewed several online booking systems, this will be used in NPH and trialled at the hub during transition (to ensure works well and current hall bookings sec is on-board with it) [www.hallbookingonline.com](http://www.hallbookingonline.com) as used by Staunton on wye and can be seen in use here [www.hallbookingonline/staunton](http://www.hallbookingonline/staunton)  
A further meeting with MPT once timeline clearer would be helpful
  - f. Review questionnaire results any actions? – responses from current users were all very positive, majority prefer informal meetings with no structure. 2 respondents wanted occasional visits from outside agencies for info sharing (much as we currently do). Several responders asked for the village youth to be catered for with 2 asking for daily (inc weekend) childcare drop off and holiday childcare. Disappointingly 1 respondent didn't know where we were based or what days/hours we were open. The questionnaire demonstrates that we are providing largely what parishioners want currently and we will review this again once we have moved into the NPH. WRT to wrap around childcare the current volunteer base



has neither the training, legal processes, safeguarding clearance nor stamina to undertake this kind of care and in addition there is a business in Marden providing before and after school and some holiday care and it would be inappropriate for us to compete. WRT to youth provision, it is the ambition of the PC to restart the Marden Youth group once moved to the NPH. However, this needs careful consideration and planning. Catering for youth groups would require significant uplift in the number of volunteers to ensure safe adult to child ratios. All would need DRB checks and ideally experience of working with children. Resolved to discuss in future Suggest PC working with the MPT and MRGT to develop an integrated solution.

g. Move fridge Freezer into Hub room –

#### **4. Repair Café Update**

- a. Feedback from volunteers – all good, we have streamlined the booking in and recording process which should speed up the throughput of items. Walk-ins still present a challenge, but if no time on the day can be booked for the next session
- b. Workshop/Shed/tool library – on hold as no time to progress
- c. Repair tools – items needed to purchase from donations? - multipurpose scissors and a solder kit

#### **5. Community Garden**

- a) Ideas for development wildlife pond/paths- S&A agreed to assist with both, David to speak again to Jim about timing. Likely to be in mid/late autumn when growing season slows down
- b) Crack noted in circular water feature, - thought to be longstanding agree to monitor for now
- c) Volunteer working party day – 27<sup>th</sup> July 10am onwards
- d) Volunteer celebration day - thank you for current and open to all village hopefully sign up more. **20<sup>th</sup> September 1-4pm**
- e) Purchases – 2 x Water Butts 240L for main building and 120L for greenhouse

#### **6. New Parish Hall update** – Newsletter 5. Posted on FB and Marden Links website

#### **7. Welcome Guide** Update - In progress will be ready for comment/approval by next meeting

#### **8. Date of next meeting** **9<sup>th</sup> September 2025 7pm**