Marshwood Community Land Trust

AGM

Thursday 11th June 2026 – Bottle Inn @6:30

Chairman's report

Welcome to you all and thank you for coming to our AGM.

Looking back at my report of last year I can say that we achieved most of what we had planned and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to all of that especially to Samantha who put so much work into refurbishing local finger posts.

As you will see from the accounts the main items this year were finger posts and contributions to the school for playground equipment.

We had another successful Christmas get together at the Bottle Inn in very cold weather and hope to have other community events later this year.

Two of our board members (Anne-Marie Chapman and Marie Winnet) are members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and so we are able to get regular updates of activity there and what we might contribute to in future. The church is open for public and private events and plans may emerge to install a toilet and catering facilities there.

We have two Directors stepping down, being proposed today, Ali Edwards & myself, Charles Somers.

In the coming financial year, we have started with support for playground equipment for the pre-school group at Whitchurch, which feeds into the primary school here in Marshwood and will continue with finger post repairs as just described by Samantha. We also have permission from the parish council to refurbish the phone box near the garage but are waiting for the surrounding hedge to be cut which cannot happen until this autumn.

Helen has outlined the ideas for traffic calming measures through the village and we may, at some point, contribute to those costs, mainly to be borne by the county and parish councils.

We are continually looking for new ideas for how we can use our funds – suggestions please. I will now hand over to John to explain our financial situation and then move on to the formal parts of our agenda.

Finger Posts

Following last year AGM in April, where Tim Beer gave an informative talk / presentation on the history, restoration process & associated costs, we agreed to support the restoration of a few local posts.

Three Way Cross /Turners Lane



The 1st post is located at the top of Turners Lane, called Three Ways Cross, which was last renovated by our late chairman, David Hitchcock in 2017. After battling with the weather, wildlife, vegetation and attacks by the hedge cutter, the post was in need of some attention

Three Ways Cross – May 2026

In May, the board agreed to fund the refurbishment with the addition of purchasing new letters for the other side of the arm for Lyme Regis / Axminster. Our secretary, Samantha Martin, wishing to maintain her father's work and the rural posts for the future, decided to tackle the project.

On completion of research and consultation with Dorset fingerpost champion Tim Beer & CPRE (Countryside Charity) with the support of Turners Lane residents, we were ready to start the project.



July 2026 Three Ways Cross

After a lot of hard work and lessons learnt along the way, the Three ways Cross is looking great and with a trim to the hedge surrounding the post, its finished.

Missing Rondel

Three Ways Cross – July 2026

Marshwood School Fingerpost



At the end of July, the Board approved the refurbishment of 2nd fingerpost, located on B3165, opposite the Marshwood School / entrance to Colmer.

The post required, 60 new letters, a new board and paint, after a few setbacks, the post was finally finished and was re-assembled in time for the Vintage Wedding Celebration held at the church in August.

A new rondel for top of the post was been made which was kindly organised by Tim Beer & donated by Dorset National landscape

July 2025 – Marshwood School

Sadly, in December, something stuck the board, which caused the metal bracket to break away from the post.

Following investigation, it requires a new pole, metal bracket, we are hoping that UMPCC will fund the replacement, in meantime the wooden board is stored for safe keeping.



August 2025 – Marshwood School

Fishpond Fingerpost

After having a scout around the local area, the CLT was looking for fingerposts which needed partial refurbishment rather than full. A full refurbishment involves a new pole, brackets, wooden boards, letters and cap/rondel which cost £1,000 upwards which puts it out of CLT budget.

Tim Beer was in the process of fully refurbishing 4 fingerposts funded by UMVPC (Shave Cross, Poorhouse Lane, Venn Lane & Stoke Manderville & Olshay Farm)

We looked at Bettiscombe, (fully plastic), Hawkmoor Cross - Lamberts Castle (Plastic) & Pilsdon Pen (Full refurbishment required).

B3165 Fishpond Fingerpost



September 2025 – Fishpond

September - We identified the post on B3165. Lyme Regis to Crewkerne, near to Lambert Castle, which lies on the border of UMVPC & Char Valley.

After approaching Char Valley, who were pleased to give their permission and were happy to donate £50 towards materials.

The post required rubbing down and re-painting of pole, brackets, letters, rondel (pre-war) and tidy up of the surrounding area.

The refurbishment started, this was the first post with a rondel, so a few more lessons to learn……

October – the post was resembled and finished.



Paddocks Cross Fingerpost

In November - Char Valley Parish Council approached the CLT Board and asked if we would consider renovating the fingerpost located in Marshwood Vale, just past Shave Cross on the way to Bridport. The Board agreed to dismantle & assess how much work & money it would need.



After dismantling and a lot of hard work to remove the letters and remove layers & layers of old paint. The letters are 3" which were originally used for trunk roads and are difficult to come by.

The CLT provided a quotation to Char Valley PC, to see if they would have available funds in their budget,

The post requires 86 new letters 21/2, 2 new wooden boards and paint & misc. materials.

In November, Char Valley PC agreed to support the refurbishment with a kind donation to CLT of £350.



After a delay for Christmas, the letters arrived and painting commenced. New wooden boards were kindly donated but we were still missing 6 letters to complete the post.

Finally, by April, with some spring weather the post was completed.

The rondel is missing but as these cost approx. £250, there is a possibility of approaching Dorset national landscape to fund.

May 2026 – Paddocks Cross

Marshwood School

In October 2024, we donated a sum of £1,000 to go towards 3 projects, which were as follows_Science Equipment, Reading Books & Picnic Benches.



June 2025

Marshwood School - With the support of our PFA, ***Marshwood Community Land Trust****, Tesco, Nisa and Dorset Council grant, we have also begun the revamped school garden and have lovely new benches for eating lunch outside to enjoy our beautiful view.*

September 2025 – Crowdfunding for PFA Playground - £500

In July, Marshwood School started a crowdfunding project for the PFA playground where they were aiming to raise £4,500.

Following the September board meeting, we agreed to donate £500, which Palmers Brewery were matching donations, this gave the PFA £1,000 towards their goal. We were pleased to be notified that they met their target and were able to move forward with purchasing new play equipment.

Marshwood Church - PCC

The PCC planned a number of events throughout the year to raise funds to support the maintaining of the church, plant sales (May) a very interesting Vintage Wedding Celebration weekend held in August. A number of local people loaned their wedding dress from 1920 to 2020 with supporting photographs, unfortunately the weather was miserable.

October – Harvest festival with an auction hosted by Jamie to raise funds. In November – people were asked to knit / croquet poppies. Wonderful events were held in neighbouring Hawkchurch & Whitchurch. A service was held at our own war memorial opposite Marshwood church. A 2026 Marshwood calendar was produced led by Marie.

In December, a Christmas Tree & decorations were requested & donated to enable them to put up a super festive display. Wreath making, Christingle Service with music from Marshwood School.

Community Events & Upper Marshwood Parish Council,

During the past year, we took an active interest & support for local concerns, where we could, led by Charles & Samantha and to mention a few:

May - October 2025 - King Charles Coronation Bench



Upper Marshwood Parish Council, purchased 4 benches, one who each ward (Pilsdon, Stoke Abbot, Bettiscombe and Marshwood.

The site for Marshwood bench had not been agreed since its purchase in 2023.

A consultation with local residents and result of which was presented back to UMVPC and the site was finally decided and installed at the War memorial in October 2026, in time for Remembrance.

Bottle Inn

June Nettle Competition returned to the Bottle and festive weekend. Congratulations to Tessa & Julian, which was a very well attended event.



Christmas Tractor Trundle Definitely worth a mention was the 7th December 2025 – the friends of St Andrews C of E Primary. Everyone really enjoyed watching the tractor trundle pass by through Marshwood with their festive lights & music. Huge number of people waved and watched them

pass by and posted numerous clips on social media. We are hoping & looking forward to it again this year.

Christmas Get-Together, with mulled wine & mince pies which we held for 2nd year running at the Bottle Inn this was a great opportunity to meet up with members, their friends & family. Thank you to Julian & Tessa Blundy for allowing us to hold the event at the Bottle

Dorset Highways Our Local Roads

Throughout the year we supported members & residents by attending parish council meetings and raising our concerns & direct to Simon Christopher for the following long-term issues affecting our community:

- **Water constantly running down the B3165** from above Bramblehay causing flooding, ice and damaging the road. Finally in February, highways improved the drainage and since then the problem appears to be solved (fingers crossed!)
- **Pot holes/Temporary surface** A stretch of road running from Bramblehay down to the Garage. A meeting was held in June with highways in conjunction with Thorncombe in effort to move this forward. As of today there is no scheduled of works planned on the Dorset highway website.
- Marshwood Sign – 'Narshwood'