

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th July, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. M. Denton (Chairman), Mr. C. Bough, Mr. I. Charles, Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson, Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Joined by Cllr. I. Brown (County Councillor)
4 members of the public

2009/141 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs. J. Allan, (holiday), Mr. W. Cumber, (attendance at Royal Show) and Mrs. S. Turney (recovering from hospital surgery).

2009/142 Declarations of Interest
Mr. Bough declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the grant request by the Anson Trust in that he was a Director of the Trust.

2009/143 Minutes of the meeting held on 10th June, 2009
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

2009/144 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th June, 2009

Best Kept Garden Competition

Council noted that the deputy manager from Millets Farm Garden Centre had agreed to be the final round judge. Judging would take place in July. Mr. Bough placed on record his thanks to all members who helped find judges for the first round of judging and who accompanied them around the village.

Howard Cornish Road – Recycling Banks

Council noted that the bottle banks had been relocated back to their original position, but now located on the hardstanding. The area was much tidier. Unfortunately sacks containing non recyclables had been left alongside the banks again. It was suggested that a notice be put on the bottle banks advising that objects other than recyclables were not to be left and all litter to be placed in the litter bin which was adjacent.

Letter of thanks – Parochial Church Council

Council noted receipt of a letter of thanks from Marcham Parochial Church Council for the grant awarded as a result of the parishioner of the year nomination.

2009/145 Public Participation

Post Office

A resident, who had been critical of the owner of the Post Office, and Parish Council at the April meeting, wished to publicly apologise for what he had said. He advised that he had visited the owner of the Post Office premises and had had discussions with him. He now better understood the situation regarding the closure of the shop and appreciated the circumstances involved.

North Street – Garage - large pothole

It was reported that there was effectively a sunken trench which had appeared again in North Street outside the garage. The Chairman commented that this had already been reported to the County Council, but that it would be drawn to its attention again.

Anson Trust – Development Proposals / Ex-Servicemen’s Club

A resident stated concern that should the Anson Trust’s proposals proceed then the Ex-Servicemen’s Club would be without a base from which to operate. He asked that the Parish Council do something for the Ex-Servicemen’s Club. The Chairman stated that this was an issue that could be considered at a later date. Mr. Bough, as an Anson Trustee, responded and advised that the Trust had invited the Club to be part of the new proposals, but that the officers of the club had declined to be involved.

Cllr. Brown joined the meeting.

Pavements - Condition

A resident complained about the state and condition of the pavements. She had tried pushing a wheelchair along and the pavements were like rollercoasters. This point was noted by Cllr. Brown. The Chairman stated that owing to the County’s limited budget it was unlikely that action would be taken by the County Council unless the situation was dangerous.

2009/146

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/20825 Erection of a two storey side extension
8 Longfields
Permitted 10th June, 2009

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

MAR/1841/38 Erection of two storey boarding accommodation block and associated car parking (amended plan)
Cothill School
For: The Cothill Trust
Comments: Council re-iterated its earlier objections to the details in the that the amended location was still unsympathetic to the adjacent listed buildings.

Council's earlier concerns regarding vehicle movements and public footpath still remained and the loss of trees and hedging would impact on the area. Council was of the opinion that not enough had been done about the revisions.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that he had received a request from a resident adjacent to the site for the Council to send its planning response letter not only to the officer dealing with the application, but to all members of the development control committee. Council considered this request.

RESOLVED:

that the Parish Council's letter sent to the planning officer dealing with the application be sent to all members of the District Council's development control committee

MAR/20889 Alterations to existing dwelling including the creation of a first floor and new garages

Hyde Farm Bungalow, Abingdon Road

For: Mr. P. Collet

Comments: Council had concerns regarding the height as it was similar to the CotSDale properties where the Council had lodged an objection, the impact at the start of the village, and the large garage block adjacent to the A415. Council pointed out errors on the drawing and asked that if the District Council were minded to approve the application then a condition be imposed so that the garage block could not be converted to living accommodation.

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

MAR/2394/4-LB Proposed reinstatement of the former roof form to the dovecote

Tithe House, 15 Church Street

For: Mr. J. Duffield

Council noted comments submitted by Mrs. Tierney, Clerk of Works for the Parochial Church Council expressing concern in case building works affected the Churchyard which was adjacent to the site. Council suggested that the Parochial Church Council contact the agent to clarify the situation.

Comments: Council had no objections, but was unsure how the works would be carried out and asked that any trees, including those in the adjacent Churchyard which may be affected, be protected.

MAR/2394/3-LB Proposed rebuilding of the former gables to the now roofless Tithe Barn at Tithe House and to reinstate roof.

Tithe House, Church Street

For: Mr. J. Duffield

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the Churchyard which was adjacent to the site. Council suggested that the Parochial Church Council contact the agent to clarify the situation.

Comments: Council had no objections, but was unsure how the works would be carried out and asked that any trees, including those in the adjacent Churchyard which may be affected, be protected.

MAR/20909 Erection of two storey extension
19 Kings Avenue
For: Mr. H. Johnson
Comments: Council had no objections

MAR/20687/1 Demolition of existing garage. Erection of new garage
(amendment to approval MAR/20687)
The Barn, Oakley Park, Frilford Heath
For: Mr. C. Agger
Comments: Council had no objections

2009/147 District Councillor's Report
In the absence of Cllr. Hanna no report was available.

2009/148 County Councillor's Report
The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Brown to his first meeting since re-election.
Cllr. Brown raised the following issues:

- Devolved budget for weed spraying – he had chased this funding.
- Pavements – He would raise this matter and submit photographs to the County Council if they could be provided.
- Reservoir – He had attended a meeting with the Environment Agency, the M.P. and Group Against the Reservoir Development. It appeared that Thames Water had to look more carefully at the alternatives. Before the Water Management Plan could be finalised the matter had to go to the Secretary of State.
- Anson Trust – Cllr. Brown and Ed. Vaizey M.P had met with 2 members of the Anson Trust on the sports field to discuss Anson Trust matters. Ed. Vaizey had offered to chair a public meeting if required.
- County Council – There would be 10% reduction in staff levels of the next 4-5 years. £60 million had to be saved. A review would go to Cabinet and then to full County Council meeting in September. Front line services would not be cut.
- Frilford – At the annual meeting of electors, Mr. Tony Carter and Mr. Nigel Carter of Garford had announced that they were in negotiations with Hills Aggregates for sand extraction on a 50 acre site off the A338 south of the Frilford Road and Kingston Road staggered junction. This was unlikely to come to fruition for some years.

Cllr. Brown then left the meeting.

Mr. Bough left the room

2009/149

Grant Request for games wall – The Anson Trust

Two out of the four members nominated at the last meeting had visited the Tilsley Park games wall. A brick games wall had also been viewed. Mixed feelings about the scheme had resulted. A wooden wall appeared “rough” with some graffiti, the brick wall was covered in graffiti. Concerns were raised that this type of structure would not be in wide open space and would be very large in the corner of the Anson Trust field. There were fears that it would be difficult to see youngsters should they choose to hide behind it. It was acknowledged that the Parish Council had supported the installation of play equipment for younger children, and that it should possibly assist the older children. There was no evidence that the youngsters had been consulted about the games wall. It was noted that plastic guttering on the pavilion buildings was being damaged as a result of kicking a ball against the wall of the building. The Clerk advised that the Trust had been asked to provide a plan of the proposed location for the games wall, but the Trust had informed her that it would consult with the users of the field first and would forward a plan in due course. Given that reports from two members on their visit to Tilsley Park were still awaited, and the location plan for the site not received it was

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Trust be advised that the Parish Council was not prepared to offer a grant at this stage
- (ii) that the Trust be asked to provide evidence of consultation with the youngsters as to what they would like
- (iii) that the Trust be advised that the Council would consider the grant request again when further information was available including what ways, other than a games wall, had been considered to solve the problem of kicking balls against the pavilion.

Mr. Bough rejoined the meeting

2009/150

Village Green

Council discussed vehicle damage to the edge of the village green. Council noted comments from Mr. G. Ayres that owing to the heavy wear sustained, grid blocks may become loose and cause a trip hazard. Council was concerned about minimising the impact to the Green. Council discussed possible action and discounted double yellow lines or bollards for the time being. The Chairman offered to speak with Mr. Cumber to ask for the edge to be levelled and re-seeded. Large trade vehicles and companies using Mill Road too should be advised not to encroach on the Green.

2009/151

Longfields Play Area

Council noted estimates for providing a new swing and safety surfacing in the Longfields play area. Depending on the number of swing seats, these ranged from £3500 to £4600. Council noted also the need for planning consent for a change of use should the erection of play equipment take place. Given the sums involved members suggested a Longfields fund raising event.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the matter be deferred to a future meeting
- (ii) that a fund raising event to support the costs involved be suggested to Mrs. Turney and Mrs. Ricketts who had initiated the idea of play equipment in Longfields.

2009/152

Flood Grant

Council noted receipt of £1000 grant from the Vale of White Horse District Council for flood defences. Council received an update report from the working party. This outlined several items which required purchasing such as a flood gauge, torches, beacons, fluorescent coats, sand bags, sand, and aquasacks. In addition to the grant, costs of up to £1500 were expected. A location to store these items would be required. It was suggested that the working party should consider flooding from the South and the river Ock in addition to that from the North West of the village.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the working party report be adopted
- (ii) that a sum of £1500 be agreed to spend on items required for flood protection
- (iii) that a letter be sent to Mr. Cumber to ask whether permission could be obtained to store the items at Manor Farm

2009/153

Vale of White Horse District Council – Statement of Community Involvement
Council noted the revised Statement of Community Involvement.

RESOLVED:

that no comment be submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council

2009/154

Vale of White Horse District Council – Supplementary Planning Document – Sustainable Construction and Resource Efficient Buildings
Council noted the planning documents.

RESOLVED:

That no comment be submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council

2009/155

Correspondence

- a) Vale of White Horse District Council – Standard Committee Agenda 3rd July and 14th July.
- b) Environment Agency – Press Release – notification of request for further information in support of an Environmental Permit application for an energy from waste plant at Sutton Courtenay.
- c) Oxfordshire County Council – Community Support Fund – Notification of a fund for small grants from community groups or voluntary organisations developing services or who have limited funds.
- d) Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – Invitation to attend information and training event on Rural Affordable Housing in the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire. Thursday 17th September 12.00 noon - 3.00 p.m. (lunch included).
- e) Vale of White Horse District Council – Revocation of Tree Preservation Order. Notification received that a Tree Preservation Order preserving 11 elm trees at the entrance to Denman College has been revoked. This is owing to the fact that the trees no longer exist and probably died as a result of Dutch elm disease some years ago.
- f) South East Partnership Board – Formal submission of partial review to the South East RSS – Planning for gypsies, travellers and showpeople – recommendations for new policy .
- g) Oxfordshire County Council – Bus Strategy (sent to Public Transport Representative)
- h) Vale of White Horse District Council – “Get Active” information
Information regarding appointment of new “Get Oxfordshire Active” officer.
A project to encourage and support adults to lead more active lifestyles.
- i) OALC – June update.
- j) ORCC – Spring/Summer review

2009/158

Accounts

Council reviewed the financial regulations following the internal audit report, and discussed reinstating the imprest petty cash system. Council considered the method of account keeping and discussed changing from the manual system to a computerised system. Council also noted that the Bank of Ireland interest rate on its investments had dropped to .0001%. It considered alternative investments in fixed term deposits. Council noted the list of cheques to be signed.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the following clause be added to the financial regulations
“6.6 As an alternative to 6.5 the RFO may provide petty cash to officers for the purpose of defraying operational and other expenses. Vouchers for payments made shall be forwarded to the RFO with a claim for reimbursement:
 - a) The RFO shall maintain a petty cash float for the

purpose of defraying operational and other expenses. Vouchers for payments made from petty cash shall be kept to substantiate the payment.

b) Income received must not be paid into the petty cash float but must be separately banked, as provided elsewhere in these regulations.

c) Payments to maintain the petty cash float shall be shown separately on the schedule of payments presented to Council under 5.2 above.

- (ii) that a computerised accounting system from RBS be purchased in the sum of £297 plus vat
- (iii) that sums of £79 per annum be set aside for the annual payment and £390 be set aside to cover the cost of any possible training.
- (iv) that further investigation into investment options be undertaken
- (v) that the Clerk be authorised to change the investment account in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- (vi) that cheques totalling £2176.37 and numbered 2008-2012 be authorised covering administration, grass cutting and arboretum padlock

2009/159

Matters Raised by members for information

New Road - Denman College overhanging branches

Overhanging branches were reported. The Clerk was asked to contact the College to arrange for them to be cut back.

Churchyard – Denman College steps entrance

A tree was reported as overhanging the road. The Clerk was asked to contact the handyman to arrange for this to be cut back.

North Street - Weeds

It was reported that weeds were growing in North Street. It was understood that the village volunteer group were planning another day of tidying.

Churchyard

Concerns were raised that the path from the main gate West of the Church damaged by tractor vehicles when repairs were carried out to the wall abutting the path to the Cemetery still had not been satisfactorily restored. As well as tracks a channel had formed in the main path, and the path was being washed away in periods of heavy rain. It was noted that a planning application for works to the dovecote and Tithe Barn had been received, and it may therefore be preferable to wait to request full restoration in case further access to these buildings from the Churchyard was required. It was also noted that the elder tree reported last meeting still required cutting down.

Antisocial Behaviour

It was reported that there was an increase in antisocial behaviour in the village. The attention of the Police had been drawn to several instances of vehicle damage, outdoor drinking, a motorcycle rider without a crash helmet riding around causing disturbance at 2.00 a.m. and a car being driven around the Anson field. Members were encouraged to call 999 should they become aware of problems.

2009/160

Items for MAD News

Council noted the list of items for inclusion in the village newsletter.

2009/161

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 9th September, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Signed Date