

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. M. Denton (Chairman), Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. C. Bough, Mr. W. Cumber,  
Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson, Mrs. C. Ricketts, Mrs. S. Turney, Mr. D. Walton  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
20 members of the public  
Cllr. A. Rooke – Chairman of the Vale of White Horse District Council

The Chairman commenced the meeting by welcoming and introducing Cllr. Rooke, the Chairman of the Vale of White Horse District Council who was in attendance to present the prizes for the best kept garden competition. He placed on record his thanks to Mr. Bough and other Councillors who had helped with the organising and first round judging of the competition. Cllr. Rooke then presented the prizes to the winners of the competition. Local press photographs were taken. After the presentation Cllr. Rooke and 16 members of the public left the meeting.

2009/160

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2009/161

Declarations of Interest

Mr. Walton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the setting of the amount of the water charge for 2009/10 in that his wife was an allotment holder.

2009/162

Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2009

These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

2009/163

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2009

Devolved Budget – Oxfordshire County Council

Council noted that the agreement relating to weed spraying on the highways was in the course of preparation. Council noted that in addition to spraying the County Council had undertaken some weed clearing works.

Flood Working Party

Council noted that W. Cumber & Son (Theale) Ltd had agreed to store the items required in case of flood. These were being acquired. It was suggested that via the MAD News, a request for volunteers to join a list of helpers prepared to move furniture to high level in times of anticipated flood could be made.

The Anson Field – open space area

Council noted a response from the Anson Trust that it would welcome the

involvement of the Parish Council in regards to the management of remaining open space should proposals for the development of part of the field proceed.

2009/164

Resignations

Council noted that Mr. I. Charles resigned from the Council with effect from 17<sup>th</sup> August. A casual vacancy had been declared. A letter of resignation from Mr. D. Hutchinson too had been received to take effect from 10<sup>th</sup> September. A second casual vacancy would be declared. The Chairman placed on record the Council's grateful thanks for their work within the community over the past few years. Mr. Hutchinson responded and wished the Council success in the future. Council considered the appointments to the working parties and groups on which they served. It was noted that both Mr. Charles and Mr. Hutchinson, whilst originally being Council representatives on the working party established by Cllr. Hanna (District Councillor) to consider village consultation on the Anson Trust proposals, would remain on the working party as co-opted members. Cllr. Hanna's working party would probably therefore remain constant.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Mrs. Ricketts be appointed to be the Council's representative on the Anson Field Management Committee
- (ii) that Mr. Cumber be appointed to serve on the Council's planning working group
- (iii) that Mr. Denton be appointed to serve on the Churchyard working group
- (iv) that should Cllr. Hanna not co-opt Mr. Charles and Mr. Hutchinson to her working group, then Council appoints Mrs. Turney as a third Parish Council representative.

2009/165

Public Participation

Demolition of wall

A resident referred to the demolition of a section of wall in the old part of the village and enquired whether planning consent was needed. The Clerk advised that demolition in a conservation area may need consent. The details of the location would be provided so that further checks could be made.

North Street – Cottages opposite New Road

A resident referred to the flowers that were growing at the front of the cottages at the back edge of the footway. The pavement was narrow at this point, and with parked vehicles one side and overhanging buddleia and foxgloves the other, there was no way through, particularly after rainfall when the flowers were wet. The Chairman advised that this would be investigated.

2009/166

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/20889 Alterations to existing dwelling including the creation of a first floor and new garage  
Hyde Farm Bungalow  
Withdrawn 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2009

MAR/2394/5 and MAR/2394/3-LB Proposed rebuilding for former gables to the now roofless Tithe Barn at Tithe House and to reinstate roof  
15 Church Street  
Withdrawn 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2009

MAR/2394/6 and MAR/2394/4-LB Proposed re-instatement of the former roof form to the Dovecote  
15 Church Street  
Withdrawn 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2009

MAR/20909 Erection of two storey extension  
19 Kings Avenue  
Permitted 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2009

MAR/20687/1 Demolition of existing garage. Erection of new garage  
The Barn, Oakley Park  
Permitted 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2009

MAR/20916 Change of use from open space to garden  
Land between 18 and 20 Howard Cornish Road  
Permitted 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2009

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

MAR/20916 Change of use of open space to garden.  
Land between 18-20 Howard Cornish Road  
For: Mrs. W. Didcock  
Comments: Council had no objections

MAR/294/5 Proposed rebuilding of the former gables to the now roofless Tithe Barn at Tithe House and to reinstate roof.  
Tithe House, 15 Church Street  
For: Mr. J. Duffield  
Comments: Council had no objections, but asked that trees be protected if access was required from the Churchyard

MAR/2394/6 Proposed reinstatement of the former roof form to the dovecote  
Tithe House, 15 Church Street  
For: Mr. J. Duffield  
Comments: Council had no objections, but asked that trees be protected if access was required from the Churchyard.

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

No applications had been received

d) Report from Mr Hutchinson on Development Control Meeting 2nd September

Mr. Hutchinson had attended the District Council's Development Control meeting and addressed committee in regard to the planning application for the boarding accommodation block at Cothill School and associated car parking. Planning consent had been refused with the reasons for refusal being deferred to a future committee meeting.

2009/167

District Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr. Hanna no report was available. Council was advised that as far as her working group was concerned, it had received a letter from the Anson Trust advising that it in turn had received a letter from Neighbours Around the Field inviting the Trust to attend a meeting on the topic of the Anson field. The Trust had accepted the invitation and had asked whether Jane's group wished to speak at the meeting or be involved in preparing a list of groups who should attend. Jane Hanna's working party was considering its position and deciding on an appropriate response.

Mr. Denton commented that he was surprised at the recent advertisement regarding a meeting as he had thought the Anson Trust had called the meeting, and not the Neighbours Around the Field group. As an individual he had personally queried the position with Mr. Ed. Vaizey MP as it was understood that the M.P. was to chair the meeting. Mr. Bough, as a Trustee of the Anson Trust asked to speak on the matter. He confirmed that the Trust had met with Mr. Vaizey and had agreed to an open meeting which they would arrange in due course, but that an invitation to the Trust to attend a meeting organised by the Neighbours Around the Field group had been received by the Trust after the group's advertisement for the meeting had appeared in MAD News. The situation was muddled. Mr. Denton stated he, as an individual, would speak to Cllr. Hanna about the matter on her return from holiday. The Clerk advised on the Council's position which was to remain independent, and stated that any interest group was entitled to arrange whatever meetings it wished.

2009/168

County Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr. Brown no report was available.

2009/169

Recreation  
Longfields Play Area

Council discussed the provision of play equipment at this site, the need for planning consent for change of use should play equipment be installed. Council noted a seminar on play area design, health and safety and grant funding to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> September at Barton. Mrs. Ricketts offered to attend on behalf of the Council. Fund raising possibly undertaken by the residents of Longfields was referred to. This was thought generally difficult owing to the personal circumstances of some families. Only 5 or 6 families in the vicinity had

children under 10, so it was thought, in the first instance that one swing was all that was required. Council noted that the fencing was chain link fencing held at the top and bottom between two half rounds of timber which easily came apart. New fencing, gates, litter bin and probably a seat would be needed in the future. Council noted the RoSPA safety report for this area which confirmed there were no problems with fencing, but did recommend, a seat, litter bin and a road sign.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the RoSPA report be noted
- (ii) that quotations be sought for new fencing and a litter bin
- (iii) that Mrs. Ricketts represents the Council at the play seminar on 26<sup>th</sup> September.
- (iv) that an application for planning consent be reviewed at a later date once a firm decision to install play equipment had been made.

Council then noted the RoSPA safety inspection report for the play area in the Anson Field. This had identified trip hazards at the edge of the rubber safety surfacing where it joined the grass. This had been noted by the swings, roundabout and springies. In addition the ground was slightly eroded under the roller barrel. Council had noted that the Clerk had already asked S.T. Grounds Maintenance to level and make good the ground as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:

that the RoSPA safety inspection be noted.

2009/170

Direct Information Service

Council considered whether to subscribe to this National Association of Local Councils publication at a cost of £90 per annum.

RESOLVED:

that Council does not subscribe to the Direct Information Service.

2009/171

Consultation on Consolidation of Council Tax – Demand Notice Regulations including efficiency information

Council considered this consultation document.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council does not submit any comments
- (ii) that individual members submit comments as individuals should they wish to do so.

2009/172

Thames Water – Water Resources Management Plan

Council noted that the Secretary of State had called for a public inquiry into the Plan. Council noted a press release by the Vale of White Horse District

Council welcoming the call for an inquiry. Council considered any further part in the inquiry, such as written representations, or joining with other parishes in speaking at the hearing.

RESOLVED:

that no further action be taken on the public inquiry aspect to the water resources management plan

2009/173

War Memorial

Council was made aware of the War Memorials Trust which awarded grants for repair and restoration of war memorials. Council had previously resolved to undertake repair works to the steps. It was noted that it may therefore be possible to obtain grant funding towards the work. It was suggested that a sloped pathway to the memorial rather than steps might be preferable. Also a standing area around the site, and the re-instatement of the base at the rear of the memorial would help during the Remembrance Day services. Reference was made to a flagstaff which also used to exist in the village, which possibly could be included in restoration plans/new work. The Clerk confirmed that an application for a road closure order had already been made to the District Council in readiness for the Remembrance Day service.

RESOLVED:

that a firm proposal for the revised restoration works to the war memorial be prepared and submitted to Council for consideration.

2009/174

Neighbourhood Action Group - Report

Mr. Denton gave a report on the recent activities of the group. Speeding in the village had been a concern and the Police had been out checking this. In view of the speeds detected enforcement action would follow soon. There had been issues with anti-social behaviour and a meeting had taken place with the Vale Housing Association, Police and local residents. An anti-social behaviour contract had been signed. A further meeting with the Housing Association to discuss problems in other areas had been planned. Council noted that the Police had also visited the local Wednesday café to talk with the elderly residents who met there. Mr. Denton agreed to speed to the Police Community Support Officer for Marcham regarding youth activities as it was reported that some youngsters, were bored over the Summer holidays and were asking for a Youth Club to be set up again.

2009/175

Cow Lane Allotments – Water Charge

Council considered the charges for the water for the 2009/10 year based on consumption and costs for 2008/2009. The Clerk mentioned that although a tenancy agreement had been prepared for the new tenant of the adjacent paddocks, the signed agreement had not been returned or the rent paid. A reminder had been sent. It appeared therefore that the prospective tenant did not wish to take on the tenancy as the paddocks were not occupied.

RESOLVED:

that the water charge for a whole plot be set at £13 for 2009/2010

2009/176

Grant Request

Council noted a grant request from residents of the Duffield Place complex requesting funding towards maintaining the common areas which were visible to the public. It was anticipated that work would be required before the usual grant meeting in November.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that this application be deferred to the November meeting of Council
- (ii) that Council would encourage the residents and support in principle this type of request

2009/177

Staff Working Party

Council noted that the staff working party had met and had prepared the suggested Terms of Reference for its operation. Council considered these.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Terms of Reference for the Staff Working Party as attached to these minutes be approved.
- (ii) that the Council's grievance procedure go on the Council's website.

2009/178

Correspondence

- a) Oxfordshire County Council – Countryside Service Annual Report 2009
- b) Oxfordshire County Council – Highways Annual report 2009
- c) Oxford Green Belt network – newsletter August 2009
- d) Vale of White Horse District Council – Parish Information Sheet
- e) Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau – annual Report 2008/2009
- f) Oxfordshire County Council – Local Transport Plan (LTP3) Timetable of the Plan objectives
- g) OALC – update August
- h) Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum – Local Environment Groups Conference Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> September, Wootton by Woodstock at 8.15 a.m.
- i) Marcham Society – Confirmation of grant awarded by Awards for All for the picture publication of the history of Marcham
- j) Vale of White Horse District Council – Voluntary Sector and Community Forum meeting information to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> October at the Guildhall, Abingdon at 5.15 p.m.

2009/179

Accounts

Council noted receipt of a street cleansing grant in the sum of £125 from the

Vale of White Horse District Council. Council noted the list of cheques numbered 2013 – 2034 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £7206.84 in respect of administration costs, play area/maintenance, grass cutting, allotment water expenses, best kept garden competition, weed spraying, and Chairman's allowance.

2009/180 Matters Raised by members for information

Neighbourhood Action Group Survey

The Chairman reported he was completing a NAG Survey form in regards to Drug and Alcohol treatment in Oxfordshire. He asked members if they were aware of any such problems locally. They confirmed they were not.

Pothole repairs

It was reported that the potholes at the junction of New Road/North Street and in North Street outside of the garage had been repaired. The pothole in Morland Road at its junction with Howard Cornish Road was still outstanding.

64 Howard Cornish Road - extension

It was reported that the sight line had been reduced since this building works had taken place. Cars from the site were now parking in the road on the bends causing hazards. Council was reminded that there was a condition in the planning permission that prior to the use or occupation of the building that a scheme for the parking of 2 vehicles should be submitted for approval by the District Council.

Drainage/Sewerage System – blockages

It was reported that there had been blockages in the sewerage system in Anson Close, this was probably due to residents flushing inappropriate items such as nappies into the system. A request for residents' co-operation could be placed in MAD News.

Youth

It was raised that the youngsters in the village had nothing to do since the youth club closed. This was being raised by NAG with the local Police Community Support Officer.

Churchyard

Mrs. Allan, as a member of the Churchyard working party reported that works required doing in the Churchyard. She would meet with Mr. A. MacLean, who was undertaking works in the Cemetery, in order to go through and list the items and ask for a quotation to be sent to the Clerk in time for the budget meeting.

2009/181 Items for MAD News

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

2009/182

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Signed ..... Date .....