

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

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Present:

Mr. M. Denton (Chairman), Mr. C. Bough, Mr. W. Cumber,  
Mrs. M. Evans, Miss. R. Mander, Mrs. C. Ricketts, Mrs. S. Turney, Mr. D. Walton  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
6 members of the public  
Mr. Colin Baird, Mr. Charles Benner and Mr. Roger O'Neill, Oxfordshire County Council.

Prior to the commencement of formal business Mr. Baird, Mr. Benner and Mr. O'Neill outlined the County Council's proposals for a new bridge over the River Thames at Newbridge. The existing bridge was the oldest complete original bridge over the Thames, being some 750 years old. It was a Scheduled Ancient Monument. An 18 tonne weight limit had been imposed, but some HGVs ignored this. Monitoring was being undertaken and prosecutions followed. The bridge had cracks which were monitored daily. Strengthening works would be very invasive. Some 9800 vehicles crossed the bridge each day. When the weight limit was lowered some 200 HGVs diverted with approximately 50% of those going through Cumnor which generated complaints. A new bridge was the only practical solution. There were two possible designs, an arch bridge or beam bridge. The bridge would have 2 lanes, but would have traffic lights, as at the moment, to control the traffic flow. Access to the Maybush PH would be from the South and to the Rose Revived PH from the North. An exhibition about the proposals would be held in The Rose Revived on 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> November with a deadline for public comment of 24<sup>th</sup> December. Questions followed. The County Council confirmed that water damage to the bridge had been taken into account in their calculations, and that the old bridge would still remain open as a cycle and pedestrian route. The officers were advised that the main issue for Marcham would be the traffic growth.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Baird, Mr. Benner and Mr. O'Neill for their presentation, and they then left the meeting at 8.00 p.m.

2009/205      Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. P. Rowe and District Councillor, Cllr. J. Hanna.

2009/206      Declarations of Interest  
Mr. Bough declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to the request by the Anson to meet with members of the Parish Council in that he was a Director of the Trust. Mr. Cumber declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the Post Office/Shop in that he was a director of a company which owned the building. The Clerk advised that although the

Members Code of Conduct did not relate to officers, and there being no Code of Conduct for officers in operation, she placed on record that one of the sites proposed by the County Council for the new bus stop markings was outside her property.

2009/207 Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2009  
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

2009/208 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2009  
North Street – Overhanging Hollyhocks  
It was reported that these had now been removed and access along the footway was much improved.

Grant to Marcham Parochial Church Council  
Council noted receipt of a letter of thanks in respect of the grant awarded for the youth worker.

2009/209 Public Participation  
Post Office/Village Shop  
Mr. Cumber, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Post Office made a statement. He advised that one further casual enquiry had been received for taking on the tenancy, but he was not hopeful of this progressing. The Chairman advised that he understood that the MacIntyre Charity had prepared a business plan and put this to Abingdon College. They were hoping to have an answer in 2 – 3 weeks.

2009/210 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/2394/10 and MAR/2394/7-LB Proposed rebuilding of former gables to the now roofless Tithe Barn at Tithe House and to reinstate the roof (resubmission)  
15 Church Street  
Permitted 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2009

MAR/2394/8 and MAR/2394/9-LB Proposed re-instatement of former roof form to the Dovecote (resubmission)  
15 Church Street  
Permitted 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2009

MAR/3793/5 Demolition of existing kitchen and conservatory  
Demolition of existing kitchen and conservatory. Internal alterations. Extensions to provide new dining area, kitchen, conservatory, bedroom and shower rooms  
Cothill farm House, Blackhorse Lane  
Permitted 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2009

MAR/20996 Extension to existing house and erection of new detached

house with associated fencing and driveways.  
7 Anson Close  
Withdrawn 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2009

MAR/10588/2 Erection of a side extension and single bay garage with alterations to existing dwelling  
Dove Cottage, Abingdon Road  
Permitted 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2009

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

No applications had been received prior to the meeting

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

MAR/5733/5 Demolition of six bedroom house. Construction of four bed house on same site (amendment to MAR/5733/3)  
The Old San, Blackhorse Lane  
For: Mr. M. Rusby  
Comments: Council had no objection

- d) Planning Correspondence – Vale of White Horse District Council – Referral of planning applications to development control committee - consultation  
Council considered this consultation document, which proposed to put fewer applications to Committee. Council had concerns that the Parish Council's role was reduced. There was provision that the District Councillor could, in consultation with the Chairman of Development Control Committee, request that a particular application goes to Committee, but the Parish Council would be reliant on a good working relationship with whoever was the District member for the ward.

It was RESOLVED:

- (i) that the following recommendation be put to the Vale of White Horse District Council.
  - a) “that applications for all household/domestic extensions (as defined by the Government’s “other” category) where the town or parish council view, if contrary to the planning officer recommendation for approval, are considered by the Development Control Committee, unless the Chairman of the Development Control Committee (or perhaps the Executive Member for planning) agrees that the town/parish council view expressed is not material to planning or is inappropriate in the circumstances. If the planning officer recommendation is for refusal, then the decision on these categories of application is delegated to the Head of Planning.

- b) that applications for all new houses and commercial development (as defined by the Government’s “Minor” or “Major” category, where the town or parish council view is contrary to the planning officer recommendation, are considered by Development Control Committee.
- (ii) that the view of this Council be shared with other Vale of White Horse parishes.

2009/211 County Councillor’s Report  
In the absence of Cllr. Brown no report was available.

2009/212 District Councillor’s Report  
In the absence of Cllr. Hanna no report was available

2009/213 Anson Trust – proposals for new village facilities – public meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October.  
Members referred to the public meeting and the variety of issues that were raised. It was noted that the Parish Council would remain independent. It appeared that the village wanted to explore other schemes. Council noted the invitation from the Trust to meet both with members of the Council and Jane Hanna’s working group. Mr. Walton reported from the meeting of Jane Hanna’s working group held earlier in the week. It wished to remain a consultation group which could undertake independent consultation at any time in the future. It was not keen to taken on a “joint role”. The group would like to meet separately with the Trustees to hear their information and to respond, but not to influence. Cllr. Hanna had placed a letter in Marcham and District News following the public meeting offering to facilitate one meeting for those who had expressed an interest in particular options, but she had not been overwhelmed with replies. The Chairman referred to the invitation from the Trust to meet with Council members to hear the Trust’s thoughts following the public meeting. Given the other roles of members within the community, and the likely conflict of interest, some members felt unable to meet with the Trustees, however, Mr. Denton, Miss. Mander, and Mrs. Turney offered to meet with them. It was hoped that Mr. Rowe too, would be able to be present.

2009/214 Post Office / Shop  
This matter had been referred to in public participation. Council noted that the Post Office was closed this week owing to illness.

2009/215 Recreation – Longfields Play Area  
Council further considered the fencing of the play area alongside the footway at the Western boundary. An estimate for wooden picket fencing had been received in the sum of £1000. This compared with £3500 for metal hoop topped fencing.

**RESOLVED:**

that wooden picket fencing be installed along the Western boundary of the Longfields play area site at a cost of £1000.

2009/216

Oxfordshire County Council – Bus Routes 31 and X30 – Formal Bus Stop Markings

The Chairman gave a report on a meeting that he, Mr. Walton and Miss Mander had had with Mr. Green from Oxfordshire County Council. In North Street the Eastbound stop had moved northwards. There may be the need to install a drain owing to possible water ingress on the wall. The Westbound stop was now proposed outside of the Post Office. Should it remain where it had been previously located, the entrance into Sweetbriar could be impeded with the raised kerb. At Duffield Place, there were difficulties Eastbound as the access to the bus was behind parked cars, the next option was outside no. 11 which involved building up part of the pavement, the preferred third option was to site the stop nearer the recycling banks. Westbound it was proposed to move the stop to the east side of Duffield Place as access for wheelchairs would be improved. At the Longfields stop, the proposal was to move the Eastbound stop further along the road to improve visibility, and Westbound to move the stop further eastwards away from the layby where cars parked. At the start of Howard Cornish Road near the A415 it had been suggested to move the Eastbound stop northwards and locate the flag on a street light thereby removing the existing post and flag. Westbound the proposal was to site the stop outside no. 90. Mrs. Turney drew attention to the fact that the occupier of that property had written to members. The Chairman advised that he would not take the letter for the time being. He stated that should the Westbound stop be sited outside of Hellensbourne, then there would need to be adequate lighting, and there was concern that there could be a build up of cars at the junction. Council noted that there would be a final round of consultation undertaken by the County Council. Council expressed concern that there would be large yellow paint markings throughout the village.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the comments as set out above be submitted to Oxfordshire County Council as the views of the Parish Council at the present time.
- (ii) that an enquiry be made to see if smaller paint markings could be applied.

2009/217

Grant Applications

Council considered grant applications from various organisations and

RESOLVED:

- (i) that under s. 137 Local Government Act 1972 the following grants be awarded where there is benefit to some or all of the community.

Marcham Senior Citizens Club	£250
Duffield Place Sunshine Club	£250
South and Vale Carers Centre	£200
Home Start Southern Oxfordshire	£100

Duffield Place Residents £150  
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal £60

- (ii) that the sum of £750 be awarded to the Anson Field Management Committee under s. 19 Local Government (Misc.Prov.) Act 1976 towards the expenses of grass cutting in the recreation ground
- (iii) that the sum of £450 be awarded under s. 142 Local Government Act 1972 to the Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau.
- (iv) that no grants be awarded to the Sue Ryder Care Nettlebed Hospice, Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, Kids Enjoy Exercise Now, Oxfordshire Association for the Blind and Central Netball Venue.
- (v) that the grant of up to £150 awarded to Duffield Place residents for clearing the communal areas, be set aside and paid on production of receipts.

2009/218

Oxfordshire County Council – Street Lights

Council noted the list of street lights now proposed to be turned off by the County Council. Mr. Walton advised that numbers 5 and 8 in The Farthings, should be left on. It was thought that walking the village after dark to see which lights should remain on would be the best course of action. Mr. Denton and Miss Mander offered to check the street lighting and report back to the Clerk.

2009/219

Churchyard – work to Trees

Council considered quotations for works to trees and clearance works in the Churchyard. Council noted that approval for the works had been granted by the Vale of White Horse District Council as the Churchyard was in a conservation area.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that S. Ringrose Tree Surgeon be appointed to carry out the works to the lime trees at the main and side entrance to the Churchyard. The works included raising the crown, removing deadwood, reducing lateral branches by 30% and removing sucker growth at a cost of £1190 plus vat.
- (ii) that Trade Services (Landscaping) Oxford be appointed to carry out the clearance works in the Churchyard at a cost of £840.
- (iii) that the work undertaken under (ii) be inspected prior to payment being made.

- 2009/220 Oxfordshire County Council – Highways – A415 Newbridge  
Council had no further comments to make following the presentation by County Council officers. It was agreed that the public should be encouraged to attend the exhibitions.
- 2009/221 A338 and Abingdon Road, Tubney – Formal consultation – speed limits  
Council noted formal consultation to reduce the speed limit along the A338 to 50 mph, and Abingdon Road Tubney to 30 mph.
- RESOLVED:**  
that Council supports this proposal
- 2009/222 War Memorial  
Council considered proposed changes to the war memorial, the removal of the gravel and installation of ramp and garden. The Chairman said he had been investigating the cost and one estimate was £14,000. He would investigate grant possibilities should Council support the suggested renovations.
- RESOLVED:**  
that the Council, in principle, supports that idea of renovation to the war memorial, removal of steps, the installation of a ramp and garden area.
- 2009/223 Correspondence
- a) Oxfordshire County Council – Changes to subsidised bus services 4B and 31  
Contracts have been awarded to commence on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2009. 4B would continue unchanged until June 2010 and service 31 continue unchanged until December 2011.
  - b) Oxfordshire County Council – Road Casualty Report 2008
  - c) Vale of White Horse District Council – Road Closure Order, Church Street, New Road, part A415 on 8th November for remembrance day parade to war memorial.
  - d) Vale of White Horse District Council – Summons and Agenda 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2009
  - e) Vale Community Safety Forum – 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2009 10.00 a.m., Guildhall, Abingdon. Mr. Denton offered to attend this forum.
  - f) Department of Communities and Local Government – Government response on reforms to byelaw procedure consultation undertaken last year.
  - g) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Winter General Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> November 7.30 p.m.
  - h) OALC – update November
  - i) ORCC Bulletin- November
  - j) Thames Valley Police – Neighbourhood Policing Monthly Update
- 2009/224 Accounts  
Council noted the list of cheques numbered 2044– 2055 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £6079.74 in respect of administration costs, play

area maintenance/litter bin, grass cutting, cemetery maintenance, allotment water, rural path maintenance, and grant awarded.

2009/225 Matters Raised by members for information

Parishioner of the Year

Nominations for this award would soon be required. The Clerk was asked to place an article in MAD News.

Cow Lane – surface

Comments were received regarding the state and condition of Cow Lane now that the agricultural research buildings at the end were being demolished and carted away. The condition of the lane had been made worse by heavy rainfall. Questions were asked as to how long the works were continuing. Mr. Denton offered to speak with the farm manager regarding this.

Vale of White Horse – Flood meeting

Two members of the Marcham flood group had attended a meeting with other flood groups in the Vale district. Approximately 25 parishes had been represented. An alliance of parishes had been formed.

Alleyways – The Gap to Fettiplace Road, Orchard Way to Haines Court

It was reported that these two paths had shrubs/trees which were overgrowing. The Clerk was asked to place an article in MAD News appealing for commonsense in keeping growth trimmed back where people had to walk.

2009/226 Items for MAD News

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

2009/227 Date of Next Meeting

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

The Chairman moved, that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

Remainder of the meeting – Staffing matters

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

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