

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Mr. M. Denton (Chairman), Mrs. M. Evans, Miss. R. Mander, Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
3 members of the public

- 2009/228 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. C. Bough, Mr. W. Cumber, Mrs. C. Ricketts, Mr. P. Rowe, Mrs. S. Turney and District Councillor, Cllr. J. Hanna.
- 2009/229 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.
- 2009/230 Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November, 2009
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings, subject in minute 2009/216 to changing the words "... and Westbound to move the stop further westwards away from the layby where cars parked" to "...and Westbound to move the stop further eastwards away from the layby where cars parked".
- 2009/231 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November., 2009
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
Council noted receipt of a letter of thanks from the Royal British Legion for the grant awarded.
- Oxfordshire Association for the Blind
Council noted receipt of a letter from the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind commenting on its disappointment that the Parish Council was not able to support the Association financially this year, even though it helped 8 residents in the parish.
- Vale of White Horse District Council – Consultation on referral of planning applications to committee
Council noted that numerous Parish Councils had lodged objections to the proposals to change the way planning applications were decided. Council noted receipt of a letter from Cllr. Tony de Vere, Leader of the District Council confirming that the matter was under review and was no longer going to its Executive Committee on 4th December.
- Oxfordshire County Council – Bus Stop markings
The Clerk was asked whether any comments had been received from the County Council regarding the possible reduction in size of the yellow markings on the

road. The Clerk had included this in past correspondence with the County Council, but had not received a specific reply to the question. The Clerk was asked to continue to request the County Council for the information.

2009/232

Public Participation

Duffield Place – Parking

Mr. Horler drew the Council's attention to problems with on street parking in Duffield Place. This was an elderly persons accommodation area with a designated warden. Residents were finding it difficult to park their cars in the evening as spaces were being taken by others in the village. It was noted that this was not an easy situation, as the parking was not exclusively for the residents in Duffield Place, but Council appreciated the concerns as those less mobile needed to park near their homes. The Chairman, who was also involved with the Neighbourhood Action Group offered to speak with the local Police Community Support Officer about the matter.

Marcham Society – Publication of "Marcham Remembered"

Mr. Buckingham placed on record his congratulations to Marcham Society for its recent publication of village photographs and for the exhibition in the School. Council supported his opinion and asked the Clerk to write to Marcham Society congratulating it on a first class professional publication.

Duffield Place – T.V. Aerial

Mr. Horler reported that the elderly residents in Duffield Place could not receive a T.V. signal. This was known by the Housing Association that owned the properties, but the problem was still outstanding after some time. The Chairman said the Council would see what could be done to improve matters.

2009/233

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

No decisions had been received

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

No applications had been received prior to the meeting

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

No application had been received

2009/234

County Councillor's Report

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

2009/235

District Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr. Hanna no report was available

2009/236

Anson Trust – proposals for new village facilities

The Chairman gave a report on a meeting which some members of the Council had had with the Trustees following the public meeting. The Trust was considering options and business plans and it appeared difficult to know what the Parish Council should or could do next until firm proposals were available. The idea of the Council checking the final proposal and possibly acting as an intermediary body in the position regarding the Lease between the Ex-Servicemen and the Trust had been raised. These issues were outside of the role of the Council. Mr. Walton gave a report on the meeting between Jane Hanna's working group and the Trustees. It had been made clear to the Trust that the role of the group was to manage the consultation and not become involved with the viability of any project. A developer would be lodging any planning application and the group had thought it very important to be aware of timescales, as to undertake proper consultation within a short time frame would be difficult. It had asked the Trust to be advised of any planned developer and to be able to liaise with any developer regarding timescales for consultation. The question of the Council setting up its own working party had been raised previously. It was thought that the Council could not take on any active role.

RESOLVED:

that no Council working party be established.

2009/237

Grant Applications

Council considered grant application from:

a) Independent Advice Centre in Wantage

Council noted that 24 Marcham residents had been helped in recent years. Council asked whether there could be an annual break down of these figures, and also wondered whether there was a branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau in Wantage.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the request be deferred for consideration until the next meeting
- (ii) that the Clerk obtain the annual break down of residents from Marcham that had been supported and also to find out whether there was a Citizens Advice Bureau in Wantage.

2009/238

Marcham Big Event 2010 – Meeting 27th November., 2009

Council received a report from Mrs. Evans who attended a meeting to discuss the organisation of the village event to raise funds for charities, particularly Moldova. The meeting had been attended by 8 people representing various organisations. This group would form a steering committee whilst each village organisation would organise its own contribution to the event. The weekend of 12th/13th June had been chosen which coincided with the Manor Farm open day. The event would probably take place in a range of venues around the village and could include a mad hatter's tea party, open gardens, ghost walk, silver band, barn dance, morris dancers, sports fixtures, various stalls, tours and

village festival. The next meeting of the group would be held on 14th December, 2009.

RESOLVED:

that Mrs. Marjorie Evans represent the Council at the meeting of the “Big Event” steering committee

2009/239

Oxfordshire County Council – Formal Bus Stop Markings – X15

Council considered the proposed bus stop markings for the X15 stop on the A415, both sides of the road, by the war memorial. The Clerk read out a letter from the County Council regarding the Parish Council undertaking consultation on the proposed siting of stops for the 31 in North Street and Howard Cornish Road. Members commented that the County Council had undertaken its own consultation a few weeks ago on the original proposals and wondered why the Parish Council was now being asked to ask those affected by the revised proposals for their views. The Clerk would check the position and provide a copy of the letter to Mr. Walton. The lack of timetables at all stops was mentioned, as was the fact of no response from the County Council on the concerns raised by the Parish Council on the quantity of proposed yellow markings.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Mr. Walton, as public transport representative, make enquiries about the fitting of bus timetables at all stops.
- (ii) that Mr. Walton speak to residents affected by the bus stop proposals.

2009/240

Vale Community Safety Partnership Forum – 1st December, 2009

Council received a report from Mr. Denton who attended this meeting. There were new initiatives within the Police and better responses to residents were being achieved. Within the communities steps were being made to ensure that no one was left out and those attending had been advised of who to contact regarding various issues. Miss Mander mentioned that the Police did not seem to patrol Mill Road. Mr. Denton would speak to the PCSO and ask if this area of the village could be checked.

2009/241

A415 - Newbridge – proposals for new bridge

Council noted correspondence received from several people expressing concern about the impact on the A415 should the new bridge go ahead. The potential for additional traffic flows, and particularly the effect of HGVs of up to 44 tonnes. Council noted comments that there appeared to be no overall strategy for the A415. Council also noted receipt of the summary, prepared by the County Council, of the questions and answers put forward during the presentation at the previous meeting. The A34 was over populated with

vehicles and it was recognised that the A415 was an “A” road. It was felt important that the Marcham By Pass should still have high priority on any agenda, as it would be impossible to upgrade the A415 without an adequate by pass around the bottle neck.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the question of maintaining the pressure for a by pass for Marcham be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- (ii) that the importance of looking at the A415 as a whole, as the main East/West route, be stressed to the County Council
- (iii) that the County Council be offered a précis of the points made at the last meeting for circulation around other parishes if it so wished.

2009/242

Local Transport Plan Consultation 3

Council considered the list of schemes submitted by the County Council.

RESOLVED:

that the County Council be asked to include in its list of schemes a proposal for a footway on the Southern side of the A415 from the entrance to the Priory to link with the existing footway.

2009/243

Risk Assessment

Council carried out a risk assessment as outlined in the National Association of Local Councils Guide on Governance and Accountability. Council considered risks to its assets and liabilities on an individual basis. It was noted that the contractor who supplied the bench seats had retired and replacement parts would no longer be available. Council considered increasing the insurance for these as the cost of replacement with a different type of bench would be higher.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the risk assessment as presented be adopted, but if members subsequently thought of additional items, to advise the clerk.
- (ii) that the insurance cover on the bench seats not be increased

2009/244

Correspondence

a) Vale of White Horse District Council – Register of Interests

Council noted a reminder from the District Council that homes addresses should be included in the register of Member’s interests.

b) Vale of White Horse District Council – Planning evening for Parish Councils

Slides and presentation material from the evening held for Parish Councils had been received.

c) Vale of White Horse District Council – Chairman’s Community Awards Lunch 2010

Council noted that the Chairman of the District Council was hosting a Community Awards Lunch on 6th March 2010. The theme was unsung heroes of the Vale. Nominations were being invited.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the members of Marcham Society who had worked hard putting together the publication of village photographs “Marcham Remembered” be nominated
- (ii) that a copy of the book be sent to the Chairman of the Vale of White Horse District Council.

d) Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – Annual Report

e) Crimestoppers – Information about this organisation and how to report crimes anonymously

f) Vale of White Horse District Council – Summons and Agenda 9th December

g) O.R.C.C. – Community Transport Directory

h) Thames Valley Police – Report for December (Rural Area).

i) Vale of White Horse District Council – New Waste Collection

Council noted that a meeting to explain the new proposals that would be introduced next year would be held on Thursday 17th December 2009 at 5.30 p.m. in the Abbey room, Guildhall, Abingdon. Mr. Denton offered to attend this meeting.

2009/245

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 2056– 2070 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £4640.21 in respect of administration costs, play area maintenance, grass cutting, cemetery maintenance, workwear coats, grants awarded.

2009/246

Matters Raised by members for information

Open Space area adjacent to the flats – Howard Cornish Road/North Street

Concerns were raised about parking on the grassed public open space at this junction. The grass was being churned up and tyre marks left. In addition one of the tenant’s garden needed attention. The Clerk was asked to write to the Landlord of these flats pointing out these concerns.

Parking in New Road – Denman College

Concerns were raised about parking from staff at Denman College, who left their vehicles in New Road on the verges, destroying the verge. A previous telephone call to the College had established that the vehicles belonged to staff employed there and that staff had been circulated with an email about parking. The Clerk was asked to write formally to the College concerning the continued parking in New Road.

2009/247

Items for MAD News

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

The Chairman reminded members that an additional item of correspondence had been received from Sovereign Vale regarding the allocation of a property at Longfields, which was a rural exception site. Council agreed to take an additional item on the agenda.

2009/248

Longfields

Council had been asked by the Housing Association which owned most of the Longfields properties for its views on a proposed swap between tenants. Council was aware of the terms of the s. 106 agreement which laid down the provisions for occupying these properties. Council regarded that the conditions should apply to all incoming tenants whether on allocation by the District Council/Housing Association or when swaps took place. The Clerk reminded members that when another property on this site became vacant a few months ago the Council had been approached by 3 local families who had enquired how they could be considered for the vacant house. There did appear, therefore, families who could meet the necessary criteria waiting to occupy these properties. Members felt that agreeing to an exception would set a precedent for the future.

RESOLVED:

that this Council could not support the allocation or swapping of any of the Longfields properties to anyone who did not meet the local connection need established when these houses were constructed.

2009/249

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 13th January, 2010 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Signed Date

