

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th January, 2010 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, Miss. R. Mander, Mr. P. Rowe, Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

2010/1 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence had been received.

2010/2 Declarations of Interest

Mr. Bough declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to the Anson Trust in that he was a Director of the Trust, but commented that the item related only to the Council receiving an update report on the position in regard to village facilities and would not be discussing or voting on any issues. Mr. Walton declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to Oxfordshire County Council pension fund in that he had contributed in the past to the fund and would be a future recipient of benefits. Mr. Cumber mentioned that he noted Marcham By Pass was on the agenda, and that his land may be affected depending on the chosen route.

2010//3 Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December, 2009

Mr. Walton stated that in the item relating to the 31 Bus stops, he had offered to speak to the residents at the Longfields westbound stop and not to all residents adjacent to all the bus stops. The Clerk reminded members that she had offered to place an article about the bus stops in MAD News in order to undertake general consultation, but this had not been accepted by Council, and believed that the resolution in the minutes of the December meeting was correct. It was noted that the County Council was, in any event, progressing the matter to the next stage.

Mrs. Allan stated that the resident by the X15's stop on A415 next to the war memorial had had concerns regarding the proposed paint markings and damage to his wall with raising the level of the path. She was reminded that this statement did not relate to the accuracy of the minutes. Mrs. Allan suggested that the heading in the minutes "Oxfordshire County Council – Formal Bus Stop Markings – X15" be changed to "Oxfordshire County Council – Formal Bus Stop Markings – X15 and 31". Members noted that the agenda item had related to the X15, but there had been a brief mention of the 31 service under that heading.

It was agreed that the minutes be accepted as drafted and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

- 2010/4 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December, 2009
X15 Bus Stop
Mr. Walton placed on record the fact that he had not been aware at the last meeting that the X15 stops by the war memorial were being repositioned.
- Letters of thanks received for grants awarded
Council noted receipt of letters of thanks from the Anson Trust Field Management Committee, Home Start Southern Oxfordshire, Marcham Senior Citizens, Duffield Place Sunshine Club, Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau, and South and Vale Carers Centre.
- Flats – Howard Cornish Road
The Vale Housing Association had confirmed that it was working on the tenants’ parking on the highway verge.
- Duffield Place – TV Aerials
The Vale Housing Association had confirmed that they could not trace any problem with the communal aerial in Duffield Place, and that residents in the bungalows had their own private aerials and the repairs were therefore their own responsibility.
- 2010/5 Public Participation
No members of the public were in attendance
- 2010/6 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 applications had been received
- 2010/7 County Councillor’s Report
In the absence of Cllr. Brown no report was available.
- 2010/8 District Councillor’s Report
In the absence of Cllr. Hanna no report was available
- 2010/9 Anson Trust – Proposals for new village facilities
The Chairman reported that he had received a report from the Trust setting out its options for the future. This had been prepared following the public meeting

held in October. It was expected that the Trust would send a copy to the Clerk for circulation among members. This could be an item for the next meeting if appropriate.

2010/10

Oxfordshire County Council – Street Lighting

Council noted that the Chairman and Ms. Mander had not managed to check which lights could be switched off between the hours of 12.30 a.m. and 5.30 a.m. owing to the Christmas holiday break and bad weather. They would do so before the next meeting.

2010/11

Annual Meeting for Electors

Council discussed the initial arrangements for the annual meeting for electors. Council agreed that this would take place approximately the third week in May, and possible topics for guest speakers could include transport issues or the village charity event day.

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk take steps to see when the school hall was available in May to hold the annual meeting for electors.

2010/12

Parishioner of the Year Award

Council noted that at the May 2009 meeting it had appointed Mr. Hutchinson and Mrs. Ricketts to be on the shortlisting working party. Following the resignation from the Council of Mr. Hutchison, a replacement on this working party was required. Members referred to allowing sufficient time for the certificate to be prepared and possibly presented prior to the annual electors meeting.

RESOLVED:

that Mrs. Allan be appointed to the Parishioner of the Year shortlisting working party.

2010/13

Care of the Elderly in Marcham

Mrs. Evans spoke about her concerns regarding the care of the elderly in the parish, as families could find themselves in a crisis and in need of real immediate help, but with little support. Official agencies such as age concern or social services existed, but often took time to respond. Mrs. Evans gave examples of where help could be given, and suggested that the Parish Council could become involved in some way and make financial provision in the budget to fund a support scheme. She thought the Parish Council could be a supporter rather than the prime mover of a scheme. It was thought that the Church was currently considering provision for the elderly. She asked the Council to recognise the initiative and to make financial provision in the budget. Council considered the suggestion, and agreed that Mrs. Evans, Ms. Mander and other interested villagers such as Mrs. J. Creasy, Mrs. R. Gaisford and Revd. R. Zair

meet to discuss how best support could be given. The Chairman offered to write an article for MAD News on the theme of “do you know your neighbour” and the provision for the elderly.

2010/14

Grant Awarded to Duffield Place residents

Council was reminded that it had awarded a sum of £150 at the November meeting, to Duffield residents to improve the condition of the public area of the garden, to be paid on presentation of receipts. The residents had asked for advance payment of the grant to enable items to be purchased. They had arranged for the Vale Housing Association to receive and hold the cheque on their behalf.

RESOLVED:

that the grant sum of £150 be paid to the Vale Housing Association to be used for the benefit of the public garden area of Duffield Place.

2010/15

Budget 2010/2011

The Clerk explained the budget papers. Council carefully considered the current balances, the likely balances at the year end and the budget for 2010/2011

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the budget as shown on the forms annexed to these minutes be approved.
- (ii) that a precept of £35,000 be set for the year 2010/2011

2010/16

Meeting with the Vale of White Horse District Council – New Waste Collection Service

Mr. Cumber gave a report on a meeting that he had attended on 17th December. A new refuse/recycling collection service would start from 4th October, 2010. A 240 litre bin would be supplied for recycling and collected fortnightly. A 180 litre bin would be supplied for non-recyclable waste and collected fortnightly on alternate weeks, together with a 23 litre bin for kitchen food waste which would be emptied weekly. The garden waste service would continue as at present.

2010/17

Marcham By Pass

Members discussed the lack of reference to the Marcham By Pass in recent press. The project appeared to have been forgotten. The South East Regional Assembly would be assessing its priorities again in 2011. Members felt it very important to re-invigorate the village’s overall concerns and referred to a writing campaign, particularly outlining the traffic problems in Oxfordshire, of which Marcham formed a part.

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Denton, Mrs. Evans and Mr. Walton prepare of list of the relevant people and organisations to receive letters and to consider what could be stated at this stage.

2010/18 Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework – Information consultation on land won aggregates spatial strategy options
Council noted an invitation to attend a workshop at Stanford in the Vale village hall on 23rd February at 7.30 p.m. to hear the draft spatial strategy proposals for sand and gravel, soft sand and crushed rock working.

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Cumber represent the Council at this meeting.

2010/19 Vale of White Horse District Council – Your Vale Your Future: Additional Consultation
Council noted that amendments to the Core Strategy Preferred Options published in January 2009 had been made. Council noted the changes and

RESOLVED:

that it had no comment to make on the changes to the document.

2010/20 Oxfordshire County Council – Pension Fund – Funding Strategy
Council considered a letter from the County Council regarding the Pension Fund. Council considered delegating the response to the questions attached to the letter to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman. Mr. Walton asked that no increase to the recovery period be included in the response as this would lead to a worsening of the long term situation.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman respond to the questions contained in the letter from the County Council regarding the Pension Fund.
- (ii) that “no increase in the recovery period” be included in the response.

2010/21 Correspondence
a) Oxfordshire County Council – Pension Fund – Report and Accounts
b) Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – Review Autumn/Winter
c) NHS Health News
d) OALC Nov/Dec update
The Clerk drew Council’s attention to the key issues in this update document. One referred to the fact that the National Association of Local Councils

believed that the current rules on the way that local councils can make payments were an anachronism and they needed to be updated to reflect the modern age. Mr. Walton stated it was possible for banks to allow two signatories electronically. The Clerk was asked to find out exactly what NALC's intentions were.

2010/22

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 2071- 2079 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £5371.16 in respect of administration costs, play area maintenance, and items for flood protection.

2010/23

Matters Raised by members for information

Dog Waste Bin – Mill Road

Questions were asked about the possibility of siting a dog waste bin in Mill Road owing to the quantities of faeces that was being left on the roadside. The Clerk advised, that in theory, provided there was easy access for emptying, it would probably be something that the District Council would consider. Further thought would be given to this matter.

Oxfordshire County Council – Grit Bin – The Gap

Questions were asked about the lack of a grit bin in The Gap. The County Council had been asked some months ago to look at the possibility of providing a bin, and had been chased once. The Clerk would remind them again.

North Street / Sheepstead Road – condition

Complaints were made regarding the poor state of the footways in North Street and Sheepstead Road. The Clerk was asked to refer this to the County Council. The Chairman offered to supply the Clerk with photographs for submission.

Hyde Copse – works to trees

Mr. Bough stated that enquiries had been made of the Anson Trust as to why they were cutting down the trees in Hyde Copse. This site was in fact nothing to do with the Trust. Mr. Cumber advised that essential works to trees were taking place as a branch from one tree had fallen onto the garden fence belonging to an adjacent property.

2010/24

Items for MAD News

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

2010/25

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 10th February, 2010 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed Date