

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th April, 2020 held virtually via Zoom, under powers granted by the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020

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Present:

Malcolm Denton, Caroline Garvey, Sandra Hill, Michael Hoath, Kieran O’Leary, James Plumb, Tanya Rosenfeld, Peter Steere, David Walton (Chairman)  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
Councillors Richard Webber (County Councillor), and Catherine Webber ( District Councillor)  
Joined by Ruth Mander at 7.35 p.m.

- 2020/65      Apologies for Absence  
There were no apologies for absence
- 2020/66      Declarations of Interest  
Kieran O’Leary placed on record in relation to the agenda item for Parkside allotments, and that he lived close to this site.
- 2020/67      Minutes of the meetings held on 11th March, 2020  
The Minutes were amended and approved as a true Record of the meeting. The Minutes to be signed as soon as practicable.
- 2020/68      Ruth Mander joined the meeting.
- 2020/69      Matters Arising from the minutes
- Annual Parish Meeting  
Whilst this had been arranged for Thursday 21st May 2020, the arrangements would need reviewing in the light of the COVID - 19 virus. The meeting would need to be advertised again in Marcham and District news. The likelihood of holding the annual parish meeting would be reviewed at the magazine’s copy deadline date.
- OALC – Roles and Responsibilities Training 18th March - Cancelled  
It was noted that a refund of the training fee paid for the 2 members booked on the course would be made.
- North Street – footway  
Cllr. Webber advised that he had contacted the County Council and requested that it look at of the provision of a footway, or at least a shorter footway, if the full length could not be installed.

Path – Howard Cornish Road to Harding Way - Lighting

Council noted that the County Council could not assist with lighting as the path was not adopted highway they had suggested Scottish Southern Electric install a new service and via a feeder pillar. The clerk was contacting Scottish Southern Electric to make enquiries as to this possibility.

Neighbourhood Plan

Owing to the outbreak of the Covid 19 virus work to define the designated area for the plan had not progressed.

Police – Speed Detection

A meeting had taken place with PCSO Richard Osborn. He had agreed to undertake speed checks initially with the SID (speed indication device), and then possibly the Police's traffic enforcement section on the A415 and Sheepstead Road. Comments were made that traffic currently travelled even faster than previously, owing to fewer vehicles on the road during the Covid lockdown.

For it was reported that the zebra crossing belisha on the A 415 now had LED lights.

2020/70

Public Participation

No members of the public had logged into the meeting.

2020/71

Planning Matters

a) Decisions on previous applications

P 20/V0168/HH Single storey side extension  
22 Anson Close Permitted 24th March 2020

P19V138/FUL New house 8a The Gap  
Withdrawn 31st March, 2020

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

P20/V0676/HH Demolition of existing single storey outbuilding, and erection of new single storey rear and side extension. Widening front porch and alterations  
5 The Gap

Comments: A note was made of the proximity to the conservation area, and therefore materials and appearance needed to match the existing, a construction traffic plan was needed owing to vehicle congestion in The Gap. A drainage assessment was required, or plans for additional surface water disposal provided, owing to the loss of permeable ground, and the height above North Street.

P19/V3128/FUL New 4 bed house and parking (amended information 9th March 2020)  
Land rear of 8a The Gap

Comments: Council had no additional comments on the amendments, but wished the key points of its first response to be taken into account.

P20/V0210/DIS Revised information for the Travel Plan  
Erection of 47 dwellings on land off Sheepstead Road  
For: Mactaggart Mickel

Comments: Council sought confirmation that fibre broadband was to be installed to each property as the Travel Plan indicated encouragement for home working, and a reduction in the need to travel. Confirmation was sought that as cycling was to be encouraged, that all paths provided by the developer would be suitable for cyclists and constructed of tarmac. All properties on the development, and not just the market houses, should have electric charging points.

c) Planning Applications for consideration at the meeting

None received

2020/72

Councillor's Report – Cllr. Richard Webber

Covid – 19 virus

As a District and County Councillor, Richard Webber reported that he regularly received messages that support for people was happening locally and things were well at grass roots level. The County Council had a more difficult role, but the Parish Council, in closer contact with the local people, had more responsibility. He was concerned that messages of support and information as to where to find assistance may not be reaching the most vulnerable people. He suggested a dedicated Covid-19 newspaper to all households with a paid delivery. Some volunteer deliverers of MAD News were in the vulnerable category, and hard copies of MAD News were not being currently produced, so leaflet dropping to each household was difficult. Discussion followed. This idea would be borne in mind.

2020/73

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Mrs. Catherine. Webber

Covid19 - Support

It was noted that Neil Rowe, Church warden had set up a “Marcham Cobr” group with representatives from key organisation and volunteers. Each road had allocated helpers. The part of Gozzards Ford which was in Marcham parish had been included in the support area managed by helpers in St. Helen Without parish. This was to avoid duplication of travel, and it was one residential area, even though the parish boundary divided it.

S. 106 Funds Agreement - Vale of White Horse District Council and Marcham Parish Council - Community Facilities

Cllr. C. Webber had received a copy of an email sent to the Parish Council's Solicitor outlining the current requirements of the District

Council in regards to the s. 106 funding Agreement. The Clerk confirmed this had been received and forwarded to the Council's working party, who would first meet to consider the matters raised.

Vale of White Horse District Council – Items postponed

Owing to the coronavirus, a referendum for a Neighbourhood Plan in the Vale had been postponed, as had the Police Crime Commission election scheduled for May. The Planning Committee was probably going to meet virtually to deal with major applications, and other applications were being determined by officers under delegated powers.

Next Local Plan

The District Council had put out a call for development sites for the next Local Plan. Cllr. Mrs. Webber would enquire if information as to all the sites submitted would be published.

Hardship Fund

Central Government had set aside funding for a hardship fund, and the District Council was working with businesses in regards to business rate relief. Letters had been sent to some 4500 businesses.

2020/74

Emergency Scheme of Delegation to Clerk/RFO – Covid 19

Council discussed delegated powers during the coronavirus crisis, and noted that the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panels Meetings (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 now provided for virtual online meetings. The Council therefore should be able to continue with its usual meeting cycle.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of delegating to the officer, consulting with as many members as possible, to take necessary action in emergencies.

In favour  
10

Against  
0

Abstention  
0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that during the period of restricted activity declared by the Government in respect of the Covid-19 virus, that the Council delegate to the Clerk/RFO in emergency situations, and in consultation with as many members as possible, to do anything expedient and necessary to ensure the continuous business of the Council, and to deal with mandatory undertakings in order to prevent the authority from incurring liability during the period that the delegation is applicable. Such delegation to enable the Council to fulfil its responsibilities to its residents.
- (ii) that a record of actions taken be reported to Council

- (iii) that any two members of the Council be authorised to approve the payments to be made during the period that the delegation is applicable.
- (iv) that Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be updated accordingly

2020/75

Covid 19 - Parish Support

Council noted that Neil Rowe, Church warden, had established a group comprising local organisations and volunteers. The volunteers had established a support network, collecting prescriptions, undertaking shopping, and setting up a village “community larder” where residents could donate spare food items, and those in need could collect. This would be kept under review. Contact details of those offering support had been widely advertised. The volunteers were meeting the demands as they arose, and there seemed to be no difficulties. The parish support group met weekly via Zoom.

It was suggested that where there were narrow paths, e.g. southern side of the Anson field, or path Howard Cornish Road to Harding Way, that a one way system could be introduced, with an advice notice of which way to walk to ensure social distancing. It was thought that residents would not observe the recommended route. The power of the Parish Council to close the path alongside the Anson field was queried. Parish Councils had powers to assist the County Council with maintenance, but any temporary closure would need to come from the County Council.

2020/76

Community Facilities

Council noted that owing the Covid – 19 virus the building site had closed. It had opened temporarily to allow for the lighting to the Muga to be finished by an operative. The working party was continuing to finalise the Lease/Underlease and Management Agreement. As for the Agreement with the District Council for s. 106 funding, it had reviewed the terms of the draft document as they no longer were applicable, as the ownership of the hall site, and proposed Lease arrangements of the had changed. The Parish Council’s solicitor was advising on this. Cllr. Catherine Webber, offered to arrange a virtual meeting with officers at the District Council if the Parish Council thought it necessary.

Council considered quotations for property owners insurance of new hall and muga. Clarification was sought on some points. The Clerk would refer back to the insurance companies.

RESOLVED:

that the matter be deferred to a future meeting.

Sandra Hill gave a report on a meeting she had had with Abigail Brown, arts officer at the Vale of White Horse District Council regarding the proposed youth shelter. 3 quotations would be required for the District Council to consider. One local blacksmith had long standing

connections with Marcham, so she was keen to enable him to have the opportunity to provide a quotation. A visit to meet him and to view his work had been postponed owing to the Coronavirus. Abigail Brown knew of other blacksmiths who could provide quotations. A s. 106 funding application form will be completed in due course.

Council had previously agreed at the March meeting to pay the invoice for the floodlighting at the Multi-use games area. The cheque had not been released as the works had not been completed. The works had now been finished.

Council authorised the release of the cheque, once the lighting had been tested and fully commissioned as working.

2020/77

Oxfordshire County Council – Local Transport and Connectivity Plan – Engagement Activity

Council considered a note produced by Cllr. Yvonne Constance (County Councillor for Shrivenham) in regards to the A420, and agreed with the statements made. A comment was made that a road crossing over the A420 should perhaps be a bridge for safety. Concerns were made that no plan for the A420 should direct traffic along the A415, particularly in view of the Air Quality Management Area.

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour of supporting the statements in the note prepared by Yvonne Constance

In favour	Against	Abstention
10	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that this Council supports the statements made in the note prepared by Yvonne Constance
- (ii) that she be advised that this Council supports her statements.
- (iii) that comments on the Local Transport and connectivity Plan based on those prepared by Yvonne Constance be submitted to the County Council
- (iv) that comments also be included for a bridge over the A420, and that no traffic plan, particularly one for the A420, should direct traffic along the A415 in view of the Air Quality Management Area.

2020/78

Didcot and Surrounding Area – Infrastructure Improvements

Council noted the County Council's consultation on the widening of the A4130 road from A34 Milton Interchange towards Didcot, the new Science Bridge over the A4130, a new Didcot to Culham river crossing and a new Clifton Hampden Bypass. Cllr. Richard Webber advised that the project was dependent on the HIF (Housing Infrastructure Fund) bid. South Oxfordshire District Council would have completed its Local Plan by the end of the year. Once that was in place HIF money could be released and the detailed planning started. The earliest the bridge over the River Thames would be built would be 2025.

RESOLVED:

that no comment be made to the County Council.

2020/79

Parkside Allotments rear of North St – Unauthorised Access

Council noted that following an inspection of the site, there were signs of trespass on the allotments. Council discussed possible action to prevent this, including improved fencing, and erecting a substantial gate at the entrance to the site.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a letter be written to the occupiers of the properties that backed onto the site asking for assistance in helping to ensure that trespass did not take place.
- (ii) the letter to point out that the land was private, in the ownership and control of the Parish Council, and therefore only the Council could give permission for access to the site.

2020/80

Vale of White Horse District Council – s. 106 application for sports hall funding

Council considered a request from the Vale of White Horse District Council to use £8737.10 of s. 106 sports hall contribution from the Abbots Grange development to install a disabled access at the front of the White Horse Tennis & Leisure Centre (ramp to replace steps/lift) and changing place facility within the sport hall changing area.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of agreeing to the District Council's claim for the s. 106 sport hall contribution from the Abbots Grange development.

In favour  
6

Against  
3

Abstention  
1

RESOLVED:

that this Council agrees to the Vale of White Horse District Council applying for and using £8737.10 of s. 106 funds from the Abbots Grange development for the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre

2020/81

Correspondence

- a) Tidy Britain – The National Spring Clean has been postponed
- b) Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter - March
- c) Catesby Estates – Notification of an updated masterplan for the housing site south of the A415.
- d) Vale of White Horse DC – Community Support information – Covid 19 and notification that kerbside collection of electrical items, batteries and textiles would cease temporarily.

2020/82

Accounts

Council noted list of cheques numbered 3301 to 3308 and authorised payments in the sum of £6047.37 in respect of administration costs including legal fees, and play area checks. Council noted that the bank account in the name of Marcham and Frilford Joint Burial Committee had been re-named Marcham PC Cemetery account, and the bank had issued a new cheque book and paying in book in that name. Council noted that the interest rate at Newbury Building Society had been reduced to .5%. Council considered future meetings on a temporary basis, and whether to continue to use Zoom, and if so, whether to purchase one of meeting plans available. Members agreed that this meeting had been successful.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of continuing with Zoom as a virtual meeting mechanism, and not subscribing to one of the upgrade packages.

In favour	Against	Abstention
10	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Council, continue to meet via Zoom, using the free meeting plan
- (ii) that the meeting arrangements be kept under review.

2020/83

Matters raised by members for information

Howard Cornish Road – Salvation Army Textile Bin overflowing

It was reported that the textile recycling bin was full and overflowing. Items were being left on the ground adjacent to the bin. Concerns were raised this could become a general tipping area. It was suggested that an article be placed on the village facebook page, requesting that clothes not be left for the time being.

Dog Waste Bin – Anson Field path rear of Baptist Church

It was reported that the dog waste bin rear of the Baptist Church was now behind heras fencing and was inaccessible. Residents were throwing bags containing dog faeces over the fence. These currently could not be cleared. It was suggested that a notice be positioned in the area requesting residents not to throw dog waste bags over the fence, but to take them home for disposal in the black domestic waste bin.

Noticeboard

Reference was made that at the last meeting, the member of the public had queried where he could find details of councillors, other than on the internet. A question was raised as to the location of a village noticeboard. It was noted that the Council's noticeboard was outside of

the Institute, but this was currently inaccessible owing to the redevelopment of the site. Unfortunately there was no public space to display information until the new village hall was finished.

2020/84

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2020/85

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Council would be the annual meeting to be held on Wednesday 13th May, 2020 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom unless owing to the Covid-19 virus, arrangements changed.

The meeting closed at 9.29 p.m.

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