



- 2020/157 Caroline Garvey joined the meeting.
- 2020/158 Declarations of Interest  
Michael Hoath declared an interest in the agenda item relating to Community Facilities as he served on the Finance Committee of the Marcham Community Group.
- 2020/159 Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July, 2020  
The draft minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting. The Minutes to be signed as soon as practicable.
- 2020/160 Matters Arising from the minutes  
Village Green trees  
Council noted that works to these trees had been undertaken and completed on 27 July.
- 2020/161 Public Participation  
No members of the public had logged into the meeting.
- 2020/162 Planning Matters

a) Decisions on previous applications

P20/V1502/LDP Use of existing dwelling for people with learning difficulties  
70 Howard Cornish Road  
Certificate of Lawful Development granted 10 August, 2020

P20/V1480/MPO modification of S52 Agreement to permit the property to be leased to a registered provider  
70 Howard Cornish Road  
Permitted 6th July 2020

P20/V1500 LDP use of existing dwelling as accommodation for persons with learning difficulties  
82 Howard Cornish Road  
Certificate of lawful Development granted 10 August, 2020

P20/V1469/FUL Removal of condition 2 of P05/V0995 which permitted the use of the garage for parking only  
82 Howard Cornish Road  
Permitted 13th August, 2020

P20/V1101/FUL To regularise as buff material / hoggin, the paths as built  
Monks Walk  
Withdrawn 17th August

The planning enforcement officer had confirmed that the developer would install tarmac paths as per the planning

approval, in lieu of the gravel currently in situ. The officer had also confirmed that the paths linking the site to the adjacent willows development too would be installed as per the approved planning application drawings.

P20/V0660/HH move dining room window forward in line with garage and porch. Remove flat roof and replace with pitched roof. Internal alterations.

86 Howard Cornish Road

Permitted 10th July, 2020

b) Applications dealt with under delegated powers prior to the meeting

P20/V1820/HH oak timber-framed with tiled roof 2.5m height to eaves, garden shed/office sat on saddle stones. Floor space 3m x 3.5m

3 Mill Road

Comments: the Council objected as there was conflict between the location and block plans as to where the building was to be sited. There was no information as to the overall height, and no assessment of the impact on the adjacent listed building

P20/V1849/LB taking of core samples from the arch barrels of Noah's Ark bridge

A338 Wantage Road, Garford

Comments: Council had no objections

c) Applications considered at the meeting

None received

d) Planning Correspondence – Appeals

Notification of appeals:

(i) 19 Mill Road – The clerk had written to the Planning Inspector regarding process.

(ii) Land off The Farthings (adjacent to no. 13). No additional comments had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

2020/163

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Catherine Webber

Climate and Environmental

Catherine Webber reported that the District Council was changing specific "portfolio" responsibility to "themes". This would reduce the silo effect and members would have greater knowledge of what each other was doing She was going to have responsibility for climate and environmental issues.

### Government Proposals to relax Planning

Catherine Webber had written an article on the government's proposals to relax planning. There was an expectation that housing number requirements would be doubled. Building Regulations were also being updated.

### Covid grants

Emergency Covid grants were available. The total available was in the region of £50,000 - £70,000. Monies would be distributed via vouchers.

### Thames Water- Reservoir

Catherine Webber had corresponded with a local resident concerned about the proposed reservoir. The general situation changed constantly. Thames water was working with Affinity Water in planning for the original sized large reservoir.

2020/164 Cllr. Richard Webber joined the meeting at 19.55 p.m.

2020/165 County Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Webber

### South Oxfordshire District Council – Local Plan

An online hearing had taken place in regards to the examination of the Local Plan. The inspector had appeared unwilling to change items.

Fyfield Planning Application – It was hoped that this planning application in due course, would address the traffic light issue at Frilford and take into account the air quality management area in Marcham by not increasing traffic volume.

Covid Update – Oxfordshire's Director of Public Health had advised of an increase in Covid within Oxfordshire, which was developing into a new serious spike in the number of cases.

Reorganisation of local government – it was difficult to understand the government's intentions in this regard as currently there were so many on going issues on different fronts. Robert Jenrick, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government was focusing on Planning and Building rather than on local government structure. It was, however, likely that unitary authorities would be considered.

2020/166 Community Facilities

#### a) Footway adjacent to entrance to Anson Field off Morland Road

Council noted comments from a resident to a Parish Councillor, regarding the entrance into the Anson Field since the new hall and Nursery had been built. The traffic using the entrance was thought to be travelling too fast and the area was dangerous as there were several pedestrians and young children attending the nearby primary school. The resident had been asked to keep a record of incidents. It was noted that Marcham Primary School and Little Angels Nursery had written to parents regarding traffic speeds and movements in the area.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Cllr. Richard Webber be asked to arrange a site meeting with the County Council's highway department.
- (ii) that 2 parish councillors from Sandra Hill, Ruth Mander, and Peter Steere attend.

b) Litter Bins

Council considered a request from Marcham Community Group to install 3 litter bins in the Anson field near the hall. It was also noted that the litter bin on the highway verge in Morland Road, near the entrance to the site was broken and in need of replacing. Council noted the Clerk's comments on the responsibilities for the provision of, and emptying of, the litter bins. Cllr. Catherine Webber offered to contact the Vale of White Horse District Council regarding a replacement bin on the highway and advice in regards to bins in public recreation areas.

RESOLVED:

that this matter be deferred to a future meeting, when advice from the Vale of White Horse District Council via Cllr. Catherine Webber would be available.

c) Valuation of hall

Council noted correspondence from the district valuer confirming that the rateable value of the new village hall was £13,000.

d) Naming of one hall in memory of Christine Ricketts

Council considered, as landowner, a suggestion that one of the halls in the new facility be named in memory of Christine Ricketts and in recognition of the work she had done in the village. A plaque to be erected.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Council agrees to the naming of the small hall in memory of Christine Ricketts
- (ii) that an offer being made, in principle, to contribute 50% of the cost of a plaque, provided costing information was put to the Parish Council for consideration in the first instance.

e) Direction signage for hall

Council considered direction signage for the new community facilities including a brown tourist sign. It also discussed any costs, any additional administration costs, imposed by the County Council and contributions from Marcham Community Group.

RESOLVED:

that the County Council be approached

in regards to direction signage.

f) Hall bookings for future Parish Council meetings

Council had previously resolved to move to the new hall for meetings in due course, on a Monday night if no other night were available. Council noted that the larger hall was available at £15.00 per hour, and the smaller office area at £5.00 per hour. Questions were asked regarding the availability of the smaller hall, and the costs quoted for the other rooms were disputed. A member advised that the larger hall was only being let to increase spacing available owing to social distancing rules, and that the smaller hall would be available.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Marcham Community Group be advised that the Parish Council fully intended to move to the hall for its meetings, at a future date.
- (ii) for the time being, owing to social distancing requirements under Covid, and advice from NALC that virtual meetings of the Parish Council continue.

2020/167

Community Facilities – Risk Assessment

The Review of Internal Audit / Risk Assessment working party had prepared a risk assessment in regards to the new Community Facilities site. This was considered by Council.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the risk assessment for the new community facilities be adopted as drafted
- (ii) that this risk assessment be reviewed early in 2021 when the next annual review of all risks takes place by the working party.

2020/168

Play Area

Council noted that the play area had been re-opened on 29th July. Michael Hoath and Caroline Garvey gave a report on a meeting that they had attended with a contractor to discuss possible works referred to in the RoSPA report. The RoSPA report had identified gaps in the safety tiles under the play equipment, which were deemed to be low risk. Vehicular access to the site was currently difficult owing to the Heras fencing erected around the sports pitches. The fencing was likely to be removed in a few months, once the new grass seeding for the pitches had taken.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the matter of gaps in the tiles, identified as low risk, be deferred to the January agenda

- (ii) that the handyman continue to check the tile safety surfacing each visit, and to report immediately any changes.

2020/169 Harding Way – footpath around first public open space area, and trees at the eastern public open space/ path to Howard Cornish Road  
Council noted that the application for the s. 106 commuted sum being held by the Vale of White Horse District Council for maintenance costs of the public open spaces within Harding Way had been lodged.

The edging of the circular tarmac footpath located within the public open space adjacent to 29 Harding Way had been reported as beginning to break up. It was noted that currently there was no safety issue. It was suggested that a professional survey of the path be undertaken to establish likely causes, and recommendations for rectification.

Advice from the Arboricultural Officer at the Vale of White Horse District Council was for the Parish Council to have a tree survey undertaken on the trees along the path from Howard Cornish Road to Harding Way, including the public open space at the Eastern end. Council considered 3 quotations for this.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that quotations be sought for a professional survey of the circular tarmac path in the public open space adjacent to 29 Harding Way
- (ii) that the quotation for a survey of the trees be accepted from Sylva Consultancy and the sum of £1700 be set aside for the purpose.

2020/170 Vale of White Horse District Council CIL contributions  
Council noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council had identified CIL monies from the new development off Sheepstead Road to be constructed by Mactaggart Mickel which could be paid to the parish in October 2020. There was a sum of £1282.86 with two further sums due in January and July 2021. Once claimed, the parish had 5 years in which to spend it. If not claimed, the funds remained with the District Council until the Parish Council lodged a claim.

RESOLVED:

that the CIL monies in the sum of £1282.86 remain with the Vale of White Horse District Council for the time being.

2020/171 Allotments  
Council received a report from the working party. As face to face allotment rent collection was unlikely to take place owing to Covid restrictions, and letters to allotment holders were to be sent out regarding rent, the recommendation was to include references in the

letter inviting tenants to comment on the way the allotments could be managed in the future, and to raise any issues with the Council.

RESOLVED:

that this suggestion be accepted by Council, and that the working party continue to review the operation of the allotment management.

2020/172

Churchyard Driveway/path

Caroline Garvey gave a report on a meeting she had had with one possible contractor to repair the driveway and footpath. A quotation was awaited. A member provided the name of another firm which might be interested in providing a quotation. The Clerk would contact them.

2020/173

Correspondence

a) Oxfordshire County Council - Footpath no 5 Diversion Order (Hills Aggregates site).

This Diversion order had been withdrawn owing to the fact that it contained incorrect grid references. The route, however, was still the same. Re-consultation had commenced.

b) Bus Service X15 Abingdon to Witney from 1st September was being run by Pulmans Coaches and not Stagecoach.

c) OALC August circular

d) SSE supply pole – Entrance to lane leading to Hyde Farm Nurseries

The Clerk had been contacted by a resident concerned regarding the stability of the pole as it had been damaged by a vehicle. Sandra Hill had reported this to SSE.

e) Information Commissioner Office – Data Protection Renewal requirement from 11th October, 2020.

f) Abingdon Bridge – Newsletter August

g) OALC – Deadline for consultation on proposed new Code of Conduct, extended to 28th August. No comments had been submitted by the Parish Council.

2020/174

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 3336 to 3352 and authorised payments in the sum of £7498.68 in respect of administration costs, works to trees, play area inspections, litter pick and grass cutting. Council considered the internal auditors observations for the 2019/20 audit. There were 5 points: Financial Regulations, the budget for grants being exceeded, a specific minute being required for the approval of the budget, review of asset register, and the Clerk's contract. Members noted the Financial Regulations and asset register had been reviewed during the 19/20 year, the matter regarding the review of the Clerk's contract had been referred to Personnel Committee. Other points regarding a specific minute concerning the budget and grants would be taken into account in future years.

Council considered the signatories for the Nat West Bank account. Council considered the renewal of the insurance both on an annual and three yearly agreement, and looked at quotations from 3 providers

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the audit observations be noted and appropriate action taken where required.
- (ii) that Ruth Mander, Kieran O’Leary, Sandra Hill, Peter Steere and Michael Hoath act as signatories on the Nat West bank accounts, along with Linda Martin as Responsible Financial Officer
- (iii) that a 3 year agreement be entered into with Ecclesiastical Insurers for insurance purposes commencing 1st October 2020.

2020/175 Matters raised by members for information

Zebra Crossing – Belisha Beacon

It was reported that the beacon at the top of the pole on the northern side of the zebra crossing had been hit by a vehicle. The Clerk would report this to the County Council.

Hoggin paths

There was general reference to hoggin paths, and whether the hoggin in the paths in Monks Walk could be re-used in the Churchyard. It was thought that this would be the base for the tarmac surface, and not removed. Paths near the new village hall were hoggin and it was thought that they should be tarmac. Michael Hoath would raise this with Marcham Community Group.

A415 – exit from Marcham Recreation Ground

It was reported that the exit from the Recreation Ground onto the A415 was difficult as there was limited view. It was suggested that there be a mirror opposite, and that the vegetation on the verge to the west be cut back.

The member would be provided with the details of Fix my Street, to report the vegetation growth to the County Council. The Clerk would investigate road mirrors.

2020/176 Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2020/177 Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 14th October, 2020 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom unless owing to the Covid-19 virus, arrangements changed.

The meeting closed at 9.18 p.m.

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