

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 11th November, 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

Present:

Caroline Garvey, Sandra Hill, Michael Hoath, (Chairman), Kieran O’Leary, Ruth Mander, James Plumb, Tanya Rosenfeld, Peter Steere.

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

Cllr. Catherine Webber (District Councillor)

Cllr. Richard Webber (County Councillor)

- 2020/200 Apologies for Absence
There were no apologies for absence
- 2020/201 Declarations of Interest
Michael Hoath declared an interest in the agenda item relating to the grant application from Marcham Community Group, in that he was a Trustee of the Group. He also declared an interest in the grant application from Thirsty Café, as the Café was a future user of the hall managed by Marcham Community Group.
Sandra Hill declared an interest in the agenda item relating to the grant application from Marcham Colts Football Club in that her son in law was the applicant.
Ruth Mander declared an interest in the agenda item relating to the grant application from Marcham Community Group, in that she was a Trustee of the Group. She also declared an interest in the grant application from Thirsty Café, as the Café was a future user of the hall managed by Marcham Community Group.
- 2020/202 Minutes of the meeting held on 14th October, 2020
The draft minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting.
The Minutes to be signed as soon as practicable.
Cllr. Catherine Webber (District Councillor commented that in minute 2020/187 her report on Electric Charging and Civil Enforcement implied that civil enforcement would commence immediately. She clarified that this would not commence until the end of 2021.
- 2020/203 Matters Arising from the minutes
Hall – Direction Sign
Council noted that it would be possible to affix only one sign to an existing pole, the other two, would require separate poles. The County Council had asked for a design of a sign to be submitted to them so that accurate quotations could be obtained. Ruth Mander had considered designs. General discussion followed. Members were of the opinion that a standard highway finger pointer sign would suffice.

2020/204 Public Participation
No members of the public had logged into the meeting.

2020/205 Casual Vacancies
Council noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council had confirmed that an election had not been demanded in regards to the vacant seat created following the resignation of David Walton, and that the Parish Council could proceed to co-opt.
Council noted that there had been several enquiries and one applicant for the previous vacancy, and he had been invited to attend the October and November meetings, as well as having reminders. Unfortunately he was not in attendance.

RESOLVED:

that co-option be deferred until the applicant was in a position to attend a meeting and Members had had the opportunity to meet and speak to him.

2020/206 Planning Matters

a) Decisions on previous applications

P20/V2155/HH Alteration to detached garage to form guest bedroom/playroom. Enlarge first floor by the provision of 2 gables.

Pinetops, Oxford Road, Frilford

Permitted 19th October, 2020

(subject to a condition that it was to be used ancillary to and incidental to the main dwelling)

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

P20/V2564/HH Edwardian style conservatory to be installed at the rear of the property

Sheepstead Lodge, Sheepstead Road

Comments: Council had no objections providing the materials, and colour of windows matched the existing.

c) Applications considered at the meeting

P20/V2702/HH Roof extension to form additional habitable space at first floor level

Trinafour, Abingdon Road

Comments: Council had no objections or comments to make

d) Planning Correspondence – CIL

Council noted correspondence from the Vale of White Horse District Council advising that it had not received the expected CIL payment (£1232.86) as at 1st September from Mactaggart Mickel. An application from the developer to delay payment owing to Covid 19 had been agreed by the District Council. The sum would become due in March 2021.

Covid 19 - All Council leaders had requested that the whole county be moved into Tier 2 (High alert) of the Government's Covid Alert levels. Oxfordshire's MPs had requested that only Oxford City itself be moved up a tier. Government had accepted the view of the MPs. A national lockdown was then introduced from 5th December. Concerns had been raised by the Director of Health regarding the cost of food when the transition period for Brexit came to an end. There was also thinking that if the lockdown did not work in Oxfordshire, then schools may not get through to the end of term.

Howard Cornish Road – Safety - Cllr, Webber was aware of concerns raised by a resident regarding the safety of crossing Howard Cornish Road in order to access the school with children. This was particularly owing to traffic speed. If anything could be achieved it would be a very long project involving much consultation. Cllr. Webber referred to the local councillor's priority fund which possibly could contribute towards the costs should anything such as traffic calming 20mph limit be possible. A member reminded him about a footway in North Street which too could benefit from the priority fund. Discussion followed on likely costings for a footway. Comments from the Parish Council would be invited in due course on any use of the priority fund. These items could be included in discussions with the County Council highways officer when he attended the site meeting in Marcham.

Bridleway 17 – Bridge over river Ock - Mill Road

Discussions were ongoing between the County Council and the landowner regarding the repair of the bridge.

Morland Road – Entrance to Anson Field

Cllr. Webber was arranging a site meeting with County Council officers to discuss the field access and road issues. Officers had been seconded to other areas owing to Covid and were under pressure.

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Catherine Webber

Covid 19 update - Cllr. Catherine Webber provided an update report. Officers at the District Council were very much involved in the support required to deal with the Covid epidemic, and other projects were slow to start. Central Government had amended the contact restrictions from 5th November. There were 9500 extremely vulnerable people within the Vale of White Horse district. Cllr. Webber advised as to which departments of the District Council were operating, and provided information as to emergency assistance grants. New cases of Covid within Oxfordshire had amounted to 900, with many in the over 60 age group but not necessarily connected to care homes.

Remuneration Panel

Cllr. Webber advised that she had attended a meeting of the District Council's remuneration panel, and had learned that Parish Councillors could be paid. The Clerk confirmed that legislation provided for allowances to be paid to elected Parish Councillors. This was generally

a small sum to offset expenses, and any payment had to be made in accordance with the Remuneration Panel's recommendations.

A question was asked by a member, as to what happened to the money if it were not paid. Clarification was provided that any payment would come from the precept, so the precept requested from the District Council would be adjusted accordingly depending on whether an allowance was paid or not.

2020/209 Howard Cornish Road – crossing
Council discussed correspondence regarding a resident's difficulties crossing Howard Cornish Road accompanied by several children on her way to and from the primary school, owing to speeding traffic. It was noted that cars parked along different lengths of the road causing difficulties. Possible ideas included a 20 mph limit, double yellow lines, or a zebra crossing, although it was noted that siting this outside residential property may be problematical. Other suggestions included progressing the purchase of a speed gun, children designing road signs, or 30mph stickers on the side of wheelie bins. In the first instance Cllr. Richard Webber would check the accident statistics held by the County Council, and Cllr. Catherine Webber would check with the District Council in regards to placing 30 mph sticky signs on the side of wheelie bins.

2020/210 Vale of White Horse District Council – Consultation on car parking
The Vale of White Horse District Council was undertaking consultation in regards to amendments to their car parking policy. Items included the installation of electric car charging points, and the gradual withdrawal of residents parking permits. Marcham was not directly affected. Council discussed this and

RESOLVED:

- (i) that it supported the installation of charging points.
- (ii) that no comment be submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council.

2020/211 Cllrs. Catherine and Richard Webber left the meeting

2020/212 Howard Cornish Road – Correspondence regarding the inability to cross in safety
This item had been considered as part of the report by Cllr. Richard Webber (County Councillor).

2020/213 Community Facilities
Council noted that the hall was closed owing to the Government's lockdown. It was unlikely that the bar would be open before Christmas. Apparently there were some minor snagging items identified by the tenant who was raising these issues with the developer. It had been noted from the village newsletter, Marcham and District News, that consultation was going to commence in regards to art work on the hall site. Groups, as well as individuals would be consulted. As

landowner, and also as the Parish Council, the Council should be included.

A letter from resident, sent to Marcham Community Group, and also to the Parish Council had been received. This related, inter alia, to car parking at the hall site. Members noted that it had been left to MCG as the organisation responsible for the hall site to respond.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that MCG be asked to provide a copy of any snagging list they had created
- (ii) that MCG be reminded that the Parish Council should be consulted in regards to the artwork project

2020/214

Harding Way – path in public open space

Council noted comments from Vanderbilt, the developers of Harding Way properties in regards to the public open space footpath. Discussion followed on the removal of the path owing to the poor installation. Council noted that Mactaggart Mickel, developers of the adjacent site, had rights to connect into the public sewer which ran under the public open space. The path may be impacted by works at a future date.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the path be reviewed at budget setting time
- (ii) that the state of the path be monitored
- (iii) that an article be included in Marcham and District News indicating that consideration was being given to the removal of the path.

2020/215

Churchyard driveway/path update

Council noted that further information had been supplied by the Church in regards to their request for the Parish Council to assist with the levelling and repair of the footpath from Denman steps and driveway. The Church was now seeking a considerably higher amount as they wished to install a soakaway and widen the driveway. The Clerk advised on the obligations of a Parish Council in regards to a closed Churchyard.

Caroline Garvey referred to the fact that she had received a request from someone who wished a flagpole to be erected in the Churchyard. It was confirmed that this was a matter for the Parochial Church Council and not the Parish Council.

Queries were raised in regards to grass cutting in the Churchyard, and why the grass had been left to grow long in areas, it was thought not to be mown properly. The Clerk explained the conservation area plan, restricted cutting in certain areas, and the tri-partite agreement between the Parochial Church Council, the Parish Council and Marcham Society as to long term management. Comments were made regarding possible changes to the arrangements, and different cutting schedules.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that no additional works be funded by the Parish Council
- (ii) that the Parish Council maintain its available funding at £2250 as resolved at the last meeting.
- (iii) that the Clerk establish the facts in regards to each organisation's views on the current arrangements for grass cutting within the Churchyard.

2020/216

Grant Applications

Council considered grant applications from Marcham and Garford Parochial Church Council, Be Free Carers, Marcham Colts Football Club, South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau, Marcham Pre-School, Home Start Southern Oxfordshire, Marcham Thirsty Café, and Marcham Community Group. The Chairman outlined the total amount of the applications, and the amount in the budget. The Clerk explained statutory spending, and general spending powers under s. 137 Local Government Act 1972.

Marcham Parochial Church Council

Chairman called for a show of hands in relation to the grant application from the Marcham Parochial Church towards maintenance of the public clock. It was proposed that no grant be awarded.

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	1	0

Be Free

Chairman called for a show of hands in relation to the grant application from the Be Free Carers towards their running costs. It was proposed that the sum of £150 be awarded. Consideration was given to amending the amount. No formal amendment was put forward.

In favour	Against	Abstention
6	1	1

Marcham Colts Football Club

Chairman called for a show of hands in relation to the grant application from the Marcham Colts Football Club towards the purchase of shelters. It was proposed that the sum of £300 be awarded.

In favour	Against	Abstention
8	0	0

South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau

The Chairman called for a show of hands in relation to the grant application from the South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau toward running costs. It was proposed that £1000 be awarded. Consideration was given to reducing the amount. An amendment to reduce the sum was put forward.

In favour of reducing the amount	Against	Abstention
2	6	0

In favour of awarding £1000	Against	Abstention
6	1	1

Marcham Pre-School

The Chairman called for a show of hands in relation to the grant application from Marcham Pre-School towards the cost of purchase of equipment. It was proposed that £765 be awarded. Consideration was given to reducing the amount. An amendment to reduce the sum was put forward.

In favour of reducing the amount	Against	Abstention
2	6	0

In favour of awarding £765	Against	Abstention
6	1	1

Home Start

The application had not been lodged on the application form as required. There did not appear to be any residents of Marcham who were supported by the charity.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for not awarding a grant to Home Start

In favour	Against	Abstention
8	0	0

Marcham Community Cafe

Discussion took place on the items to be purchased, and the fact that it was not currently operating as the village hall was closed.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of awarding a grant

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	1	0

It was proposed that £100 be awarded. An amendment was put forward that this be increased to £200

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of a grant of £200

In favour	Against	Abstention
5	3	0

As the Chairman was a Trustee of Marcham Community Group, it was proposed that Peter Steere act as Chairman for the next item. The Chairman took no part in the discussion.

Peter Steere took the chair.

Marcham Community Group

Council discussed the application. Peter Steere called for a show of hands in relation to the grant application from Marcham Community Group towards acoustic panels in the hall, picket fencing for the patio area, and sports pitch maintenance. It was proposed that £6800 be awarded. (£4400 for the hall and £2400 for fencing and outside pitch maintenance).

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	0	0

Michael Hoath resumed as Chairman. It was proposed that as there was a small sum left in the grant budget, that consideration be given to a grant for the Church clock. This application had already been determined and consideration was given to the fact that a new emergency application could be lodged before the end of the financial year.

In favour	Against	Abstention
2	6	0

RESOLVED:

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

Be Free	£150
Marcham Pre- School	£765
Marcham Community Café	£200
Marcham Colts Football Club	£300

- (ii) that under s. 142 Local Government Act 1972 a grant of £1000 be awarded to the South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau
- (ii) that under s. 19 Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1976 a grant in the sum of £6800 be awarded to Marcham Community
- (iii) that no grant be awarded to Marcham with Garford Parochial Church Council
- (iv) that no grant be awarded to Home Start

2020/217

Vale of White Horse District Council – Licensing

Council noted that the Happy Plaice, mobile fish/ship van, had applied to the Vale of White Horse District Council for a Licence to trade in the

sale of hot food, at the junction of Orchard Way/Elwes Road. This was between 4.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

RESOLVED:

that the Council had no objections

2020/218

Remembrance Sunday

The Chairman gave a report on the Remembrance Sunday event at the war memorial. Mark Newman, Chaplain, had been in attendance, as were representatives from the Church and Army, as well as the Parish Council Chairman who had laid a wreath. The event had been much scaled down owing to the Covid 19 outbreak.

2020/219

Village Green – Christmas tree with solar lighting

Council considered a suggestion to site a Christmas tree with solar lights on the village green. There was £400 for projects in the budget

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a sum of £200 be set aside for the cost.
- (ii) that Ruth Mander and Sandra Hill progress the matter

2020/220

The Pound, Mill Road

Council considered a suggestion that The Pound in Mill Road be cleared and a seat installed. Various issues, both positive and negative were raised. Building works were ongoing at the Mill, and the road adjacent to The Pound was very muddy. It was thought that seat too would soon become muddy given traffic movements.

RESOLVED:

that the matter be deferred for further consideration at budget time.

2020/221

The duration of the meeting had been 2 hours and it was resolved to suspend standing order no. 3x to allow business to continue.

2020/222

Correspondence

a) Fettiplace Road – Barrier at entrance to The Gap

Council noted that a vehicle had reversed into and damaged the barrier at the end of the pedestrian/cycle way through to The Gap. Oxfordshire County Council had agreed to replace this.

b) Vale of White Horse District Council – 3 Mill Road – garage. The garage which had been converted to a dwelling had been allocated the separate address of 3A Mill Road.

c) Vale of White Horse District Council – Christmas Tree Collection Arrangements had been made with the Vale of White Horse District Council to collect, and recycle real Christmas trees from the hardstanding adjacent to the textile bank in Howard Cornish Road. A date for collection was awaited.

d) NALC – Invitation to submit information as to Parish Councillors undertaking exemplary work.

- e) OALC – Newsletter October.
- f) Wantage Independent Advice Centre – AGM 12th November,2020 at noon (electronic meeting)

2020/223

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 3360 to 3367 and authorised payments in the sum of £3854.33 in respect of administration costs, play area inspections, allotment water, litter pick, grass cutting and grant to Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Council considered signatories for the Cambridge Building Society accounts, as David Walton, one of the signatories had resigned from the Council. Sandra Hill offered to be the replacement signatory. The Chairman called for a show of hand for those in favour of Sandra Hill being a signatory on the Cambridge Building Society account to replace David Walton

In favour	Against	Abstention
8	0	0

Council received a report on the budget monitoring as at 30th September 2020, and on the bank reconciliation as at that date, including balances within the accounts.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that David Walton be removed as a signatory on the two Cambridge Building Society accounts, and be replaced by Sandra Hill
- (ii) that the report on the Council’s financial position be noted.

2020/224

Matters raised by members for information

Tanya Rosenfeld advised that she had taken photographs of the areas in Abbots Grange/Monks Walk where there were obstructions. She would let the Clerk have sight of these.

2020/225

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2020/226

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 9th December, 2020 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom unless owing to the Covid-19 virus, arrangements changed.

The meeting closed at 9.48 p.m.

Signed Date