

# MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 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:

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

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

2 members of the public

- 2020/227      Apologies for Absence  
Apologies had been received from Kieran O’Leary in anticipation of his late arrival. Apologies had also been received from Cllr. Richard Webber (County Councillor) and Cllr. Catherine Webber (District Councillor) as they were attending a meeting of the Vale of White Horse District Council.
- 2020/228      Declarations of Interest  
Michael Hoath and Ruth Mander both declared an interest in the agenda item relating to the proposed artwork and snagging list for the village hall in that they were Trustees of Marcham Community Group which leased the building and associated land from the Parish Council. They also both declared an interest in the agenda item relating to the grant application by Marcham Community Café in that the Café was to be a user of the hall.
- 2020/229      Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2020  
The draft minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting. The Minutes to be signed as soon as practicable.
- 2020/230      Matters Arising from the minutes  
Church Driveway/path  
The amount agreed to be spent by the Parish Council had been communicated to the Church. There would be a shortfall in what all the works wished for by the Church would cost. A reply was awaited as to how they wished to proceed.
- Village Green – Christmas Tree  
A tree had been donated by A D MacLean Tree Management Ltd of Frilford, and lights placed on the tree. The Clerk would thank A D MacLean. There had been numerous comments on the village facebook page in support of the tree.
- Village Hall site – Registration of Title  
It was noted that the Council’s solicitor had advised that it can take 9 –

12 months to register a complex title. The Council would be kept informed as and when the Land Registry had dealt with the matter.

2020/231

Public Participation

Tony Mackelworth and Sheena Bigden introduced themselves as residents who had applied to join the Parish Council to fill the casual vacancies that had occurred.

2020/232

Casual Vacancies

The Chairman proposed that this item be deferred to later in the meeting to allow the prospective new members a chance to listen to the meeting. Members stated a preference for dealing with items in the order they appeared on the agenda.

The Chairman asked for a show of hands for those in favour of co-opting Tony Mackelworth to the Parish Council

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	0	0

The Chairman asked for a show of hands for those in favour of co-opting Sheena Bigden to the Parish Council

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	0	0

RESOLVED:

that Tony Mackelworth and Sheena Bigden be co-opted to Marcham Parish Council

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office would be signed before the next meeting. Whilst they could not participate in the meeting as members, it was proposed that they be permitted to address Council on agenda items as appropriate.

RESOLVED:

that Council consents to Tony Mackelworth and Sheena Bigden, as members of the public, making statements as appropriate

2020/233

Planning Matters

a) Decisions on previous applications

P20/V2564/HH Erection of conservatory  
Sheepstead Lodge, Sheepstead Road  
Permitted 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020

P20/V0769/FUL Demolition of garage, replacement parking, amenity space and erection of new dwelling  
Land off The Farthings  
Appeal dismissed by Planning Inspectorate 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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

P18/V2791/O Revised air quality assessment  
Erection of 660 houses and 70 care units on land at Kingston Bagpuize  
Comments: Traffic will still pass through Marcham. These plans appear to conflict with the Local Plan Part 2 concerning the need to alleviate traffic flows through the AQMA.

P20/V1388/O Erection of 90 houses – revised air quality assessment and revised highway plans  
Land south of the A415  
Comments: The poor design of the access would maximise interference with traffic flows. The highway plan did not improve the situation in Marcham. The air quality assessment was unable to confirm zero impact by the proposal.

c) Applications considered at the meeting

No applications had been received

d) Planning Enforcement

Council noted queries in regards to possible unauthorised building works:

14 Orchard Way – conversion of garage into living accommodation

50 Howard Cornish Road – front extension using materials different from those on the approved planning drawings

60 Howard Cornish Road – front porch extension/infill

17 Parkside – shed type storage containers in front garden

RESOLVED:

that these be referred to the Vale of White Horse District Council to check if planning consent was required.

2020/234

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. Richard Webber

Cllr. Richard Webber had provided a written report which had been circulated to members.

Covid- Regular updates were posted on the County Council's website.

Streetlights – Concern around light pollution caused by new street lamps. Warmer, less bright bulbs to be installed where needed. Request to write to the County Council if in support.

Vegetation Cutback – Paths and pavements narrowed by encroaching vegetation making them unsafe for users.

County Council Motion – It was the County Council’s ambition to make all built up areas in Oxford City, towns and villages 20 mph zones.

Meeting with Highways officer – Cllr. Webber requested a full summary of meeting with the highways officer to discuss Morland Road safety, North Street footway and crossing Howard Cornish Road.

County Council – Finances – The County Council’s financial position was reasonable, and it was thought that the Member’s priority fund would continue.

2020/235

District Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Catherine Webber

Cllr. Catherine Webber had provided a written report which had been circulated to members.

Covid – Information regarding business and emergency grants issued by the District Council

Planning Items:

The Farthings – New House – Confirmation that this was dismissed on appeal.

90 dwellings south of the A415 – The County Council had objected to the proposed development owing to the area being an Air Quality Management Area and due to the amount of traffic it would generate.

River Pollution – Cllr. Catherine Webber was speaking on a motion criticising Thames Water for pumping sewage in to the River Thames, and calling for a serious clean-up of rivers so that they were safe for the public to use.

Carbon Tax- She, along with Cllr. Richard Webber were working on a way to require the government to set up a carbon tax. She encouraged councils and other interested groups to speak with one voice to persuade the government, and conglomerates to reduce carbon footprint.

2020/236

Footpaths between Monks Walk (Matthew Homes) and The Willows (Pye Homes)

Council noted the current position in regards to the creation of footpath links between these two sites. The District Council had advised that Matthew Homes would construct the link paths on their side of the boundary at the same time as resurfacing their hoggin paths with tarmac. The District Council was also pursuing the removal of the fence and garden extension on the Willow Homes side and gave assurance that they would serve notice to require the paths to be built in accordance with the approved plans if needs required it. There was still a bridge required to link the paths. The Parish Council may be approached to assist with the provision of this.

2020/237

North Street Footway and Howard Cornish Road Safety

Ruth Mander gave a report on a site meeting with the County Council that she had attended. In regards to a path in North Street, this would be looked at further. The width of the road, drainage and walls were issues discussed.

In regards to a zebra crossing over Howard Cornish Road, the cost was likely to be £30,000 - £40,000. There were no accident statistics, and there seemed to be plenty of places to cross safely with clear vision in both directions. Ruth Mander would speak to the resident who raised this.

RESOLVED

that no further action be taken in regards to a Zebra Crossing in Howard Cornish Road

2020/238 Community Facilities

Morland Road – Traffic Congestion

Ruth Mnader gave a report on a site meeting with the County Council that she had attended. The entrance into the Anson field was discussed in terms of road safety, and vehicle speeding. The County Council had no funds for major alterations but was able to provide white paint for the footway to indicate to pedestrians to “stop and look both ways”. This would be carried out. Other measures such as signage for vehicles to drive slowly, taking car registration details, writing to the users of the access road were considered.

RESOLVED:

that a letter be sent to the Nursery, the Village Hall and the adjacent 5 houses in Barrow Close, all of whom used the access road off Morland Road, advising of concerns relating to speeding traffic and the consequent dangers owing to pedestrians in the area.

Proposed Artwork

Council discussed the proposed artwork for the hall site, as arranged by Marcham Community Group. This was a rectangular stainless steel structure approximately 3m wide and 2m high including legs, laser cut and containing scenes representing aspects of village life. Concerns were expressed that the Council had not had sight of the proposal at a much earlier stage, nor had it been consulted. There were general feelings among some members that the artwork was excessively and unnecessarily detailed and in the wrong colour.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those who considered the artwork too busy

In favour  
4

Against  
3

Abstention  
0

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those who were content with what was proposed

In favour  
3

Against  
4

Abstention  
0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council considers the artwork too busy.
- (ii) that the Council is concerned that it did not see the proposed artwork at an early stage before matters had progressed too far.
- (iii) that the Council wishes to be consulted in regards to the health and safety aspect, the location and siting of the artwork as it will need to give approval as the owner of the site.

Hall - Snagging list

Council noted the list of items of issues which the developer needed to rectify. The list had an original date of October, but had been amended. The timetable for resolving the issues was referred to, as was the date of the next update.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Marcham Community Group be asked to advise when the next update on the snagging list was expected.
- (ii) that Marcham Community Group be asked what the timetable was for fully resolving the issues identified.

2020/239

Play Area Inspection Report

Council received the quarterly inspection on the play area. There were some small gaps in the safety tiles, and small split in the swing seats, which were being monitored. All equipment was considered to be in a satisfactory condition.

As part of the budget setting process, the play area would need to be considered. The Clerk advised that the play area working party had met with 2 different manufacturing firms to discuss new equipment. The area that they had to work with was required. This was difficult to ascertain given that Heras fencing had been erected around the pitches to allow for grass growth. The working party would continue to consider the village's requirements and plan for the future play area. It was reported that Notices regarding not taking dogs into the play area had been re-done and affixed to the site.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the play area report be noted
- (ii) that Council continues to monitor the site

- (iii) that the play area be included as a project as part of the budget planning process.

2020/240

Grant Applications

Council received a report that the items for which a grant to Marcham Community Café had been agreed, had already been purchased. The Council's policy was not to award grants retrospectively. The intention of the Café was to provide for the community, and it was trying to begin trading. It was noted that the Café's bank balances were £1343. After some discussion the Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of continuing to award a grant of £200 to Marcham Community Group as resolved at the last meeting.

In favour  
6

Against  
0

Abstention  
1

RESOLVED:

that the grant of £200 still be awarded to Marcham Community Café

2020/241

Harding Way public open space – Arboricultural Report

Council noted the consultant's arboricultural report. This recommended the removal of ivy from the trees, together with some minor pruning works. The Clerk was updating a quotation for similar works which had been received previously. It was noted that a resident had contacted the Clerk in regards to likely works.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to spend up to £3500 in carrying out the works that were recommended to be carried out within a short timeframe.
- (ii) that the arboricultural report be placed on the Council's website

2020/242

Allotment Working Party Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

Ruth Mander provided a report on a meeting of the allotment working party. Only 4 people had expressed an interest in forming an allotment association. The working party would continue to meet to monitor the allotment sites. The working party made several recommendations and it was

RESOLVED: that

- (i) no allotment association be set up for the time being
- (ii) Reminder Notices be placed in Marcham and District News and on

- site advising that there is a waiting list, and tenants not working their plot could lose them by being served with a Notice to Quit
- (iii) Any tenants who provided email addresses should receive general correspondence via email
  - (iv) The Cow Lane site be regularly monitored by a Member and a report as to the state and condition be given to the Clerk for cross checking purposes with the financial register

2020/243      Correspondence

- a) Oxfordshire County Council – Bridge over rive Ock – Bridleway 17  
The Clerk had received correspondence from the County Council providing an update. This had been published in Marcham and District News.
- b) Vale of White Horse District Council – Christmas Tree Collections  
Residents who did not take part in the brown bin garden waste recycling scheme, could leave real Christmas trees by the Salvation Army Bank in Howard Cornish Road by Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and they would be collected for recycling.
- c) Fyfield and Tubney Parish Council – A420  
David Johnston MP had raised an adjournment debate in the Commons regarding the A420.
- d) Parochial Church Council – Church Artwork  
Confirmation received that the PCC was picking up their artwork project again, and they would be contacting the Parish Council in due course regarding support for a s. 106 application for art funding, to the District Council.
- e) Thames Water / Affinity Water – Forum – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 at 10.00 a.m.  
A forum meeting providing an update on water resources south east, developing a best value plan and the options.

2020/244      Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 3368 to 3380 and authorised payments in the sum of £12709.27 in respect of administration costs, play area inspections, litter pick, grass cutting, arboricultural report, and grants awarded

Council noted that the audit for the 19/20 year had been completed and that the information contained within sections 1 and 2 of the annual governance and accountability return accounts was in accordance with

proper practices and no matters came to their attention which gave cause for concern. The Notice of Completion of the Audit, and the report from the External Auditor had been placed on the website on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 to supplement parts 1 and 2 already displayed. Reference had been made in a supplementary note that the Council should have reviewed the Code of Conduct during the year, and that the internal auditor should proactively verify that the Notice of Completion of the Audit is displayed.

Council noted that the Code of Conduct was that recommended by the District Council and in force for parishes throughout the county. The Clerk would contact the internal auditor so that they could check the Notice of Completion, and also check with the District Council as to a possible review of the Code of Conduct for parishes within its area. The Chairman asked Members to let the Clerk know if any topics for future consideration that may need to be taken into account in the budget.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the external auditor's report be noted.
- (ii) that the display on the website, of the Notice of Completion of Audit and the complete Annual Governance and Accountability Return on 27<sup>th</sup> November be noted.

2020/245

Matters raised by members for information

Harding Way – tarmac path in public open space and trees

Reference was made to a whats app group of Harding Way residents who had been speaking in defence of keeping the tarmac path in the public open space opposite 2-8 Harding Way.

Harding Way – path to Howard Cornish Road

A resident who was part of the Harding Way whats app group had also expressed disappointment at the fact that there was no immediate plan for lighting of the path from Howard Cornish Road to Harding Way.

Budget 21/22

It was suggested that bus shelters at all bus stops should be considered for the budget, as well as cleaning of the one on the northern side of Howard Cornish Road at Longfields.

Parking – 82 Howard Cornish Road

Obstruction of sight lines in the vicinity of 82 Howard Cornish Road was raised. This was due to vehicles parking and the bend in the road. A member referred to a road rage incident as a result. Parents sometimes parked there at school times. Building works were being undertaken at 82 so there were additional vehicles in the area. Past efforts involving investigating double yellow lines, and the use of the Police Community Support Officer were mentioned. Reference was made to vehicle movements in front of the first house in

Barrow Close where there was encroachment onto the garden.  
The Members would continue to monitor the situation.

2020/246     Items for Marcham and District News  
The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2020/247     Date of Next Meeting  
The next scheduled meeting of the Council would be held on  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom unless owing  
to the Covid-19 virus, arrangements changed.

The meeting closed at 9.08 p.m.

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