

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th March, 2021, commencing at 7.33 p.m. 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:

Sheena Bigden, Caroline Garvey, Sandra Hill, Michael Hoath, (Chairman),
Tony Mackelworth, Ruth Mander, James Plumb, Tanya Rosenfeld
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Cllr. Catherine Webber (District Councillor)
Cllr. Richard Webber (County Councillor)
One member of the public

- 2021/41 Apologies for Absence
No apologies had been received.
- 2021/42 Declarations of Interest
Michael Hoath and Ruth Mander both declared an interest in the agenda item relating to Community Facilities in that they were Trustees of Marcham Community Group, the tenant of the facilities.
- 2021/43 Resignation of Kieran O’Leary
Following the resignation of Kieran O’Leary from the Parish Council, a casual vacancy had been declared.
It was suggested that a poster regarding the vacancy be placed in the village shop, as well as a notice in Marcham and District News.
- 2021/44 Minutes of the meeting held on 10th February, 2021
The draft minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting.
The Minutes to be signed as soon as practicable.
- 2021/45 Matters Arising from the minutes
Re-debate of request of litter/dog waste bin for Arboretum
The Clerk explained the position in regards to Standing Orders and rebating items within 6 months of a resolution. The Council had passed a valid resolution in October 2020 not to purchase a litter/dog waste bin and to review the situation in approximately 12 months time. General comments were made regarding litter problems in Cow Lane. It was suggested that the item be placed on the agenda again for the June meeting.
- 2021/46 Public Participation
Cow Lane Allotments
The member of the public made a statement requesting the Parish Council to consider the sharing of allotment plots, and stated that other

Parish Councils' tenancy agreements allowed visitors and helpers to their allotment sites, provided the visitor had the consent of the allotment holder.

2021/47

Planning Matters

a) Decisions on previous applications

P21/V3185/HH Conservatory
10 Plantation Avenue
Permitted 12th February 2021

P18/V2791/O 660 dwellings and 70 extra care units
Land east of Kingston Bagpuize (parish of Fyfield and
Tubney)
Refused 11th February, 2021

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

P21/V0271/FUL Variation of condition 6 of permission
P19/V2137/FUL to vary the timing of submission of a
European Protected Species Licence (conversion of existing
listed barn to new 3 bed dwelling)
12 Frilford Road
Comments: Council had no comment to make, as it was of the
opinion that it did not have the relevant expertise in bat habits,
to judge whether the proposed works would affect them.

c) Applications considered at the meeting

P20/V1388/) Erection of up to 90 dwellings including means of
access into the site and associated highway works, with all
other matters reserved (amendment highway access)
Land south of the A415 for Catesby Land Promotions Ltd
Council considered the highway amendments and the
application in general.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of
repeating the Council's initial concerns regarding connectivity,
air quality, access, flooding, drainage and sustainability.

In favour	Against	Abstention
8	0	0

RESOLVED:

that this Council continues to
object to the whole scheme, on
the grounds of air quality,
flooding and drainage issues,
sustainability, connectivity to
other areas and access.

d) Planning Correspondence

Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan

The draft plan was out for consultation. The Clerk summarised the key items. There were no substantial comments.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that as the draft plan was out for consultation until 7th April, members submit any comments to the Clerk
- (ii) that the matter of determining Council's comments be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman, should members have issues they wished to raise.

2021/48

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. Richard Webber
Marcham By Pass

There was no real immediate prospect of the By Pass, as there were no funds to pay for it. Available s. 106 or CIL funding still left a considerable shortfall.

Covid - 19

The number of cases were declining, although the rate of decline was reducing. A poster had been produced outlining what residents could do when, and it was suggested that this be circulated to the public.

Bridleway 17 – Mill Road bridge

Cllr. Webber read out an email he had received from the County Council. Repair works to the bridge were expected later in the year, and pre-application work was continuing with a planning application expected shortly.

Cllr. Webber was asked to ensure that the County Council's footpaths officer visited the paths on the Drayton side.

Oxfordshire County Council - Local Transport and Connectivity Plan

This document was out for consultation until 29th March, 2021

Thames Water – flooding

The MP had been helpful in dealing with Thames Water regarding The Willows flooding.

Questions were put to Cllr. Webber including whether the County Council could undertake improvements to the roads in Marcham. There were significant needs throughout the county and more central government funding would be required. Cllr Webber had a large number of highway issues throughout his whole division.

2021/49

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Catherine Webber
Litter Picking

The Vale of White Horse District Council was not encouraging

collective litter picking groups, but if a resident was out and wished to pick up litter, then taking it back and putting it in the black wheelie waste bin would be permitted.

Water Resources South East

The regional water resources plan continued to be developed. The County Council and Vale of White Horse District Council did not think that the reservoir was a necessity. Concerns had been expressed regarding climate issues that the reservoir would bring.

National Planning Policy Framework

Changes were proposed to the Framework. These dealt with future housing.

Lodge Hill, Abingdon – A34 junction

An online exhibition of the new northbound exit, and southbound entry slip roads hosted by the County Council had commenced. Live sessions with officers were being held during March for those who wanted to ask questions.

2021/50

Community Facilities

Updated snagging list

Council noted the updated snagging list. The area immediately between the rear terrace of the hall and start of cricket area was to be cleared, levelled and re-seeded this week. Other more minor points were being discussed with the developer and monitored.

Council noted the proposal, to relocate the heras fencing around the seeded field areas during the first week of March, and to remove it completely by 12th April.

Council noted the position in regards to the financial grant awarded to the Anson Trust towards the cost of the community facilities.

Discussion took place as to the Parish Council having sight of confirmation from the developer that the Anson Trust has passed over the grant funding, and sight of the invoice from the sports pitch provider to the developer, as well as confirmation from the Anson Trust as to the receipt of s. 106 funding from the Vale of White Horse District Council. The Clerk stated that the Anson Trust had already been approached in regards to producing their documentation.

A sum of £20,000 had been retained from the grant to the Anson Trust which would be released in due course. The Clerk had approached STRI for a quotation to provide a final inspection of the playing field.

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman be authorised to spend up to £2000 to arrange a final inspection of the playing field before any balance of grant funds were released.

Council considered as landlord of the hall site, and as provided for in the terms of the lease to Marcham Community Group, the artwork

signage to be installed. It also considered any further information it may require.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of the Council, as Landlord, agreeing to the installation of the artwork signage.

In favour	Against	Abstention
4	1	3

RESOLVED:

that as Landlord, this Council gives approval to the installation of the artwork/signage

Mr. Mackelworth stated that MCG had contacted the houses in the vicinity of the hall to arrange a meeting with them. Reference had been made to ball netting at the end of the football pitch to stop balls leaving the area and possibly impacting on the houses.

2021/51

Cow Lane Allotments

Ruth Mander gave a report on a meeting of the working party. The state and condition of the allotments had been inspected by Sandra Hill, and it was thought that there had been a concerted effort to keep them tidy but there were breaches of tenancies that had been noticed, and household items on the plots. It was recommended that a skip be provided by the Council so that allotment tenants could clear their plots. A letter was being planned to send to tenants to advise of the process for clearing that was being considered.

Some tenants had erected greenhouses or sheds, without the express consent of the Council. It was suggested that Council member Sheena Bigden join the working party as she was an allotment tenant.

Discussion took place on the unauthorised greenhouses, and it was thought preferable, in the first instance, to defer this to the working party. The agenda for the next meeting of the working party included consideration of the clauses in the tenancy agreement. The statement made during the public participation section of the meeting, would be considered.

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour of allowing a sum of £1000 to be spent on tidying the Cow Lane allotment site.

In favour	Against	Abstention
8	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the working party report be noted
- (ii) that authority be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the

- (iii) working party to spend up to £1000 to progress the tidying up of the Cow Lane allotment site that Sheena Bigden join the existing members on the allotment working party

2021/52 Oxfordshire County Council – Local Transport and Connectivity Plan
Council noted the vision plan.

RESOLVED:

that no comment be made

2021/53

Climate Change

Council considered correspondence from a resident in regards to climate change seeking a view on the Parish Council's actions in relation to climate change. Members commented that initiatives such as energy saving, electric charging points had been recommended in new construction projects in the parish and for housing developments. Council considered setting up a working party to further consider climate change. James Plumb undertook to investigate this, and to come back to the Parish Council with suggested terms of reference and details of possible members.

RESOLVED:

that the setting up of a working party to consider climate change be explored

2021/54

Vale of White Horse District Council – Community Infrastructure Payments

Council noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council were due to collect the sum of £1232.86 in developer funding, and sought clarification as to whether it should be handed over to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED:

that any CIL funds for the parish remain with the District Council until further notice.

2021/55

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, the swing seats were at their minimum recommended height. All these items were being monitored. All equipment was considered to be in a satisfactory condition.

RESOLVED:

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

2021/56

Code of Conduct

Council reviewed the Code of Conduct for members. The Code was the one used by most parish and town councils in Oxfordshire, and set initially following discussions between the 5 District Councils and the County Council's monitoring officers as well as the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils. The Code of Conduct was under general review at national level, and it was therefore proposed that the Code as currently adopted by Marcham Parish Council remain the same.

RESOLVED:

that no changes be made to the Code of Conduct for members.

2021/57

Correspondence

- a) OALC – Census Poster and February newsletter
- b) Vale of White Horse District Council – Street Cleansing Team in Marcham in early March (priority areas for cleaning identified by members had been notified to the District Council)
- c) Highways England – Notification of commencement of a project on the A34 to understand how local roads and the A34 interact so that potential improvements could be explored.
- d) Police Crime Commissioner – Bulletin
- e) Thames Water and Affinity - Joint Water Resources Forum 25th March at 10.00 a.m.
- f) Vale of White Horse District Council – Proposal for Joint Local Plan being considered with South Oxfordshire District Council
- g) Oxfordshire County Council – Update on Bridleway 17 Mill Road Negotiations with the landowner's agent continued, and plans were in progress for a planning application to be lodged in the near future, with repair works scheduled for later in the year.
- h) Traffic Calming – Village entrance feature – Frilford Road Email from visitor to the parish advising that the village entrance gateway obstructed vision for those leaving the Frilford Road recreation car in a vehicle. Tony Mackelworth offered to visit it to check the situation.
- i) Oxfordshire County Council – A34/Lodge Hill junction, Abingdon slip roads Consultation

2021/58

The duration of the meeting had been 2 hours and it was

RESOLVED:

that standing order 3x be suspended to allow business to continue.

2021/59

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 3391 to 3398 and an invoice funded from the cemetery account and authorised payments in the sum of £4567.89 in respect of administration costs, play area inspections, and litter pick, subscriptions, reimbursement of Christmas tree expenses, and tree works in cemetery.

Council considered accounts for the commuted sum received from the Vale of White Horse District Council in respect of maintenance for the public open spaces on Harding Way.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a commercial account currently offered at a fixed interest rate of .3% be opened with Nationwide Building Society.
- (ii) that a sum of £50,000 be deposited the remaining balance from the commuted sum to remain in the current account.
- (iii) that Sheena Bigden and Tanya Rosenfeld act as signatories to the Nationwide Building Society account and also be added to the Nat West Bank accounts.

2021/60

Matters Raised by Members

Litter Pick

The Chairman advised that he had been contacted by a resident who had suggested that a village litter pick be organised. Owing to the rules relating to Covid litter picks were not permitted, but consideration would be given to organising one at a future date.

Path linking Monks Walk to The Willows

An update was requested on the linking path between these two developments. The Clerk reported that there had been no further information received from the Vale of White Horse District Council since the report at the December 2020 meeting.

Contractors costs

The updated position in regards to seeking estimates or quotations for a contractor to undertake most or all tasks in the parish had been included in the Clerk's notes. Figures had been requested, and were awaited.

2021/61

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2021/62

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 14th April, 2021 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom unless owing to the Covid-19 virus, arrangements changed.

The meeting closed at 9.42 p.m.

Signed Date