

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Thursday 15th July, 2021, commencing at 7.30 p.m., held in the village hall, Barrow Close, Marcham.

Present:

Sheena Bigden, Mark Harvie, Michael Hoath, (Chairman), Ruth Mander, James Plumb.

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

1 member of the public

The Chairman welcomed councillors and the member of the public to the meeting.

- 2021/113 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Sandra Hill and Tanya Rosenfeld.
Apologies had also been received from Cllrs. Richard and Catherine Webber.
- 2021/114 Declarations of Interest
The Chairman explained the declarations of interest requirement and the process for declaring.
Michael Hoath declared an interest in the agenda item relating to the Community Facilities in that he was a Trustee of Marcham Community Group.
- 2021/115 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th June, 2021
The minutes of the meeting held on 16th June, 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2021/116 Matters Arising from the meeting held on 16th June, 2021
There were no matters arising from those minutes.
- 2021/117 Casual Vacancies
The Chairman referred to the casual vacancies on the Council and stated that, the interest expressed by the member of the public attending, would be considered at the September meeting.
- 2021/118 Public Participation
There were no issues raised.
- 2021/119 Planning Matters
- a) Decisions on previous applications
- P21/V0837/A Erection of free standing sign and sign on hall building
 The Village Hall, Barrow Close
 Permitted 23rd June, 2021

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

P21/V1303/LB Structural repair and conservation of Grade 2 listed two arch masonry bridge including provision of a structural capping to spread load and reduce risk of future failure

Marcham Mill bridge – Bridleway 17. 50m south of Marcham Mill, Mill Road

Comments: Council had no objections and supported the work to conserve the bridge.

c) Applications considered at the meeting

P21/V1806/HH Front and side extension. Garage conversion. associated external and internal alterations inclusive of replacing an existing flat roof along the southern elevation
5 Hyde Copse

Comments: the proposal appeared to be overdevelopment of the plot. It resulted in loss of on site parking. Concerns were expressed regarding vehicles being left on the street.

P21/V0564/FUL widening existing access and creation of track to Manor Farm off A415 (additional information)

Manor Farm, Mill Road

Comments: Council supported the conservation officer with the suggestion that the access if permitted, be more rural in appearance such as bound gravel. Council had concerns regarding vehicles turning straight into the A415 and requested a condition to restrict the access to agricultural machinery only.

P21/V1238/FUL Proposed single storey rear extension.

Increase in the number of children from 46 to 50. Enlargement of outdoor space to include erecting a low timber fence around an area of land located to the front of the site (Amended plans)

The Nursery, 1 Barrow Close

Comments: Council reiterated its earlier responses already submitted to the District Council, and expressed concern regarding parking and access to the site, given the proximity of the primary school and pedestrian movements.

P21/V1708/LDP Single storey extension across the rear to form swimming pool room

3 Barrow Close

Comments: Council noted that it was a certificate of lawful development application. However, should a formal planning application result, it had no objections

- 2021/120 District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Catherine Webber
Cllr. Catherine Webber had provided a written report on District Council matters which the Chairman summarised. The Clerk would circulate this.
- 2021/121 County Councillor's Report – Cllr. Richard Webber
Cllr. Richard Webber had provided a written report on County Council matters, which the Chairman summarised. The Clerk would circulate this.
- The Chairman invited members to submit comments or questions on the reports, to the Clerk.
- 2021/122 Neighbourhood Plan
As Tony Mackelworth who had prepared a report was not in attendance at the meeting, it was suggested that the item be deferred to a future meeting. The Chairman invited members to consider if they personally would like to be involved in a steering group should the Council resolve to undertake a plan.

RESOLVED:

that the agenda item relating to Neighbourhood planning be deferred to the next meeting.

- 2021/123 Community Facilities
Council received the snagging list on outstanding items. The Chairman highlighted the key issues. Local residents had raised issues concerning odours from drainage. Marcham Community Group was assisting with this. The Council would offer support if appropriate. The Council's working party was arranging a meeting with MCG to discuss issues raised at the last meeting, when all parties were available.

Council had previously resolved to purchase 2 litter bins for the Anson field, and to fund the emptying for one year. Marcham Community Group had advised its preferences as to litter bins.

Council considered correspondence from a resident regarding safety for pedestrians when in the vicinity of the access to the Anson field owing to the speed at which vehicles exited and joined Morland Road. Members put forward suggestions as to drop down bollards, barriers and road humps.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of spending up to £2000 on 2 permanent litter bins, and emptying for one year.

In favour	Against	Abstention
4	0	1

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Clerk be authorised to spend up to £2000 to purchase 2 litter bins, and for emptying costs
- (ii) that Mark Francis, Senior Traffic Technician, Oxfordshire County Council be asked for further advice.
- (iii) that Mike Hoath and Ruth Mander as Trustees of MCG raise this again at a meeting of the Trust.

2021/124

Footpaths

Council received an update report on the footpaths in Hitchcopse. St. Helen Without Parish Council had suggested an approach to Cothill School who accessed the woods regularly, and jointly funding additional signage. Natural England, which managed the adjacent Ruskin Reserve, had referred the matter to their local representative to investigate the trespass to and from their land.

Subject to the landowner permitting additional signage, and St. Helen Without Council making a contribution

RESOLVED:

that up to £500 be spent on signage to indicate the rights of way.

Lion Close Development

The Chairman summarised the current situation. The first planning application for the Institute site, had had a s.106 Agreement for a new public footpath through the site to join the public footpath that runs alongside the Anson field. This had not been brought forward in the latest s. 106 Agreement. The steps from the end of the public footpath into North Street were difficult for elderly, disabled and pushchairs to negotiate. Thomas Homes, the developer of the Institute site, had agreed to consider individual applications for use of the new path.

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, continue negotiations for access with Thomas Homes,

2021/125

Allotments

Sheena Bigden gave a report from the allotment working party meeting. A new draft form of tenancy agreement had been prepared, as well as guidance notes to support the Agreement. Notice would be given to tenants as to the proposed alterations for new Agreements, and rent alterations before the quarter day in September. Reference was made to signage which was needed for the gates, and parking.

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour of the new Agreement and for spending of up to £1000 on signage. The Parkside allotment site would need to be considered separately.

In favour
5

Against
0

Abstention
0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the draft allotment agreement be accepted
- (ii) that the new terms come into force as soon as practicably possible
- (iii) that a sum of up to £1000 be set aside for the cost of signage
- (iv) that the clerk be authorised to progress the required signage

2021/126

Pony Paddocks – Cow Lane

Council noted that the current holder of the grazing licence wished to renew it for a further period of 364 days.

RESOLVED:

that the grazing licence for the pony paddocks be renewed for a further period of 364 days in the sum of £750.

2021/127

War Memorial

Council noted receipt of a grant in the sum of £1080 from the War Memorial Trust towards the cost of stone conservation work.

Council discussed weed growth in the garden area around the war memorial and considered general maintenance, in view of the fact that previous volunteers had retired. One volunteer had prepared the war memorial in readiness for Remembrance Sunday, and it was suggested that he be approached again to enquire whether he would undertake the task once more in November. For general tidying in the interim a local gardener was suggested

it was

RESOLVED:

- a) that the handyman be asked whether he could undertake the task
- b) that a local gardener be approached if the handyman was unavailable
- c) that the sum of £250 be set aside for the costs involved
- d) that painted stones placed at the War Memorial by Marcham Guides, be located to the rear of the site.
- e) that if options a/b did not produce anyone who was able to assist, then an advertisement be placed in the September issue of Marcham and District News.

2021/128 Howard Cornish Road/ North Street junction – Bench seat
Council noted that the wooden bench seat at the junction of Howard Cornish Road and North Street was in need of replacement. Discussion took place as to it being a memorial bench, and etiquette if a bench had been sited for some considerable time, whether the location should be offered to another family.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the bench be removed
- (ii) an article be placed in the parish newsletter, and on the village facebook page advising of its removal.
- (iii) that public reaction to its removal be gauged, and the bench not currently be replaced.

2021/129 Grant to Marcham Pre-School
Council noted that a grant to Marcham Pre-School in the sum of £765 had been awarded in November 2020. The Pre-School, had originally planned for a chicken hatching experience, but had now requested to divert those funds, of £230, to purchase outdoor equipment. The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of permitting a diversion of up to £230 of grant funding to be spent on outdoor equipment.

In favour	Against	Abstention
5	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that this Council approves the diversion of up to £230 the grant funding to be spent on outdoor equipment: polydron sphere, car roadways, drag race track and mixed surface guttering channels
- (ii) that receipts to the full value of the sum originally stated was going to be spent, continue to be provided to the Council.

2021/130 Correspondence

- a) Oxfordshire County Council – Notice of Road Closure Order for North Street
A road closure Order, to permit water connection works to the new houses on the Institute site, would come into effect from 9th August. The works were expected to last 8 days. James Plumb offered to add this information to the village facebook book. The Clerk would include it on the Council’s website, and Marcham and District News’ website.
- b) War Memorial Trust
Notification from the Trust that a grant of £1080 had been paid to the Council towards conservation works.
- c) OALC – Newsletter June
- d) Police & Crime Bulletin – June

2021/131

Accounts

Council received a report on budget monitoring and the accounts as at 30th June 2021.

The list of payments had been circulated to members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 3422 to 3432 and authorised payments in the sum of £6275.27 in respect of administration costs, play area inspections, grass cutting and cemetery maintenance.

RESOLVED:

that the budget monitoring report and balances in the Council's accounts as at 30th June 2021 be noted.

2021/132

Matters Raised by Members

Harding Way

The Chairman commented on Harding Way paths, possible parking on the public open space and the ringing of ivy around trees.

Frilford Road Recreation Ground-trees

The tree area needed surveying. A quotation in the sum of £998 had been received for clearing ivy in the first instance. A survey could then take place. It was suggested that Council would need up to £2000 for the works.

A415 – gateway entrance feature on western side of the village

A question was asked regarding the white painted gateway. This had been removed, but not replaced. Enquiries would be made of the County Council.

2021/133

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2021/134

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be on Monday 13th September, 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall, Barrow Close.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Signed Date