

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, commencing at 7.30 p.m., held in the village hall, Barrow Close, Marcham.

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Present:

Sheena Bigden, Keely Ewart-Brookes, Ruth Mander, James Plumb, Tony Mackelworth,  
Clerk: Linda Martin  
Cllr. Catherine Webber (District Councillor)  
Cllr. Richard Webber (County Councillor)  
1 member of the public

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- 2021/160      Chairman  
In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Ruth Mander, took the chair for the duration of the meeting.
- 2021/161      Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for absence had been received from Mark Harvie, Sandra Hill and Michael Hoath (Chairman).
- 2021/162      Declarations of Interest  
James Plumb declared an interest in the agenda item relating GigaClear and provision of fibre to the premises, as he was employed by Ofcom, the communications regulator.
- 2021/163      Minutes of the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2021/164      Matters Arising from the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2021
- Dog Fouling – Plantation Avenue  
Adhesive penalty notices had been obtained by the Clerk. These could be affixed in appropriate locations around the village. The Chairman asked members to advise the clerk of areas that would benefit from a notice.
- Hyde Copse wood – fallen tree towards Howard Cornish Road  
The landowner was aware of the fallen tree and was dealing with it within the next few weeks.
- 2021/165      Casual Vacancy  
The Chairman referred to the application from Suzanne Saunter expressing an interest in joining the Council. She gave a precis of her background to support written information previously provided. Council considered the application and it was

RESOLVED:

that Suzanne Saunter be co-opted to the Council

Suzanne Saunter signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Council noted that the new member Keely Ewart-Brookes had expressed an interest in joining the green working party and being involved in any neighbourhood plan group.

RESOLVED:

that Keely Ewart-Brookes join the “green” working party, and also join the initial neighbourhood plan group that was investigating the possibility of undertaking a neighbourhood plan

2021/166

Public Participation

There were no members of the public, other than Suzanne Saunter, present.

2021/167

Planning Matters

a) Decisions on previous applications

The Vale of White Horse District Council had not determined any planning applications in Marcham parish since the last meeting.

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

P21/V2541/LDP Replace garage with a garden office /storage building

11 North St

Comments: Council wished to see where the replacement parking was proposed.

c) Applications considered at the meeting

P21/V2651/LB Retrospective application for damp proofing and new partition works. Repair and restoration works to the rear lean-to roof, including replacement rainwater goods

44 North Street

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of supporting the application

In favour  
5

Against  
0

Abstention  
0

RESOLVED:

that the Council supports the essential repair works to this listed building, and had no objections.

Tony Mackelworth placed on record that he lived in an adjacent house, and would therefore not comment on the application.

P21/V2597/PDH Single storey rear extension Depth 4.5m., height 2.7m

3 Barrow Close

Members referenced recent drainage issues in regards to the drainage system from the new Barrow Close dwellings and nursery. Queries were raised as to an adverse effect on the drainage when emptying the swimming pool

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour of the application

In favour

0

RESOLVED:

that this council needs to have demonstrated to it, that the proposal would not have an adverse effect on drainage of nearby properties

P21/V23520/Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 6 bed dwelling for people with highly complex difficulties (planning use class C3b), revised access. Parking and ancillary works

Baptist Church, Packhorse Lane

There was much discussion about the proposal. Of particular concern was the relocation of the access, the lack of adequate onsite parking, the access to the footpath network, inadequate drainage, materials not inkeeping and proximity of the accommodation to the road and Air Quality Management Area. Discussion took place on relocating the access through The Croft.

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those objecting to the current proposal.

In favour

4

Against

0

Abstention

1

RESOLVED:

that the Council, whilst not objecting to the principle of the change of use of the site, requests that the access off the A415, the Air Quality Management Area and its effects, access to the footpath network, on site parking, materials and drainage be reconsidered.

2021/168

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Catherine Webber

Particulate Monitor - the District Council was looking at the air quality management area and had particulate monitors for installation one of which might go in Marcham.

EV charging points – These were to be installed in 5 car parks within the Vale district between November 2021 – February 2022.

Neighbourhood Plans - Following the formation of the new department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities, more emphasis was being placed on neighbourhood planning. She encouraged the Parish Council to consider undertaking a neighbourhood plan.

Tree Planting Policy – this policy had now been adopted and the Carbon Cutters Group had trees available for planting on District Council land. She encouraged the Council to consider any land within the parish owned by the District Council and suitable for tree planting.

Donations – 3 further families from Afghanistan were being located within the Vale of White Horse District. The County Council had set up an Amazon wish list to allow people to donate specific items for items to support them.

Kit Out a Nation scheme was collecting sports clothing and equipment for youngsters in need of sports items. Collection points were local leisure centres.

South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) - The Regulators Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development had extended its deadline for consultation on its “gate 1” draft decision for a further 3 weeks.

Vale of White Horse District Council – Planning Committee 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 - It was confirmed that the planning application for 90 houses south of the A415 and east of The Willows, would be considered at Planning Committee on Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.

2021/169

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. Richard Webber

Highway issues – Cllr. R. Webber had held a follow up briefing with the researchers undertaking possible highway improvements in the area. 3 options would be put out for consultation in due course.

Mill Road bridge – Bridleway 17 - The re-opening of this bridge had been delayed until Spring 2022.

A34 Marcham junction roundabout – Potholes had been filled.

2021/170

Neighbourhood Plan

A report was received from Tony Mackelworth, on the steps involved in preparing a neighbourhood plan. An initial meeting with the Neighbourhood Plan officer at the Vale of White Horse District Council was being held on Tues 12<sup>th</sup> October via Teams.

2021/171 Community Facilities  
Council noted that Marcham Community Group had installed a defibrillator on the outside wall of the hall near the main entrance. Council noted the latest snagging list some items had been resolved and action was being taken on the remainder. Monitoring would follow. Council noted correspondence from the District Council's community safety officer Lewis Vaughan, who had offered assistance as he had heard about possible damage within the multi-use games area. The Clerk had contacted the Church's youth worker and the details of Lewis Vaughan had been given to MCG.

2021/172 Cllrs. Catherine and Richard Webber left the meeting at 9.10 p.m.

2021/173 Remembrance Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>, November 2021  
Council noted that an application had been made to the Vale of White Horse District Council for a road closure order for New Road, Church Street and the section of the A 415 between Church Street and North Street to allow for a service at the war memorial if one were being arranged. A new Priest in Charge, Nick Weldon, for All Saints Church was being licensed on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, and any arrangements for services would be handled after that date. The Church had offered assistance to put out the road closure signs if the service were at the War Memorial on the A415.

Council discussed the amount of grant to be given to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal as they were supplying a wreath for Remembrance Sunday. It was proposed that a sum of £120 be donated. The chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of donating £120.

In favour - 5

RESOLVED:

that the sum of £120 be donated  
to the Royal British Legion  
Poppy Appeal

2021/174 Village Green - Christmas Tree with solar lighting  
Council noted that ADM Trees had offered to provide a Christmas tree free of charge. It was suggested that a tree could be planted on the Village Green rather than supplied each year. It was noted that the additional lighting would be required.

RESOLVED: that

- (i) advice be sought from ADM trees as to whether rooted trees were available as one that could be planted in readiness for 2022.
- (ii) in any event the offer of a cut tree for 2021 be accepted
- (iii) additional battery powered lights be purchased.

2021/175 Speeding Traffic  
Council discussed speeding traffic in general terms. In particular,

noted that the two Vehicle Activated Signs on the A415 did not function (one showed a part display, and the other did not work at all). Another area which caused concern was the entrance to the Barrow Close off Morland Road, and parts of Howard Cornish Road.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that costings for the repair of the vehicle activated signs be obtained
- (ii) that enquiries be made as to whether a “smiling face” sign could be included when drivers obey the speed limit.
- (iii) that enquiries be made of the Police Community Support Officer as to the latest position in regards to Community Speedwatch.

2021/176

Standing Orders

The duration of the meeting had been 2 hours and it was RESOLVED to suspend standing order 3x to allow business to continue.

2021/177

Mill Road bridleway 17 – bridge

Council considered a request from a resident that the County Council should be asked to

- a) undertake a further risk assessment to see whether the bridge could be opened to pedestrians pending its repair and
- b) investigate with the landowner, the possibility of extending the restricted byway that is to the west of the bridge, as a temporary measure pending bridge repairs.

It was noted that the County Council had closed the bridge as it was in a poor state and condition. Had it been safe to keep the bridge open and it would have been left available to pedestrians. It was understood that a temporary alternative route had already been investigated with adjacent landowners. As the repair works were scheduled for spring 2022, whilst unfortunate, it was considered better to wait a further five months.

RESOLVED: that

- a) the County Council not be asked to undertake a further risk assessment to see whether the bridge could be opened to pedestrians pending repairs next year
- b) the County Council not be asked to investigate with the landowner the possibility of extending the byway to the west of the bridge as a temporary measure pending bridge repairs

2021/178

GigaClear Networks

Council received a report on the GigaClear presentation on 28<sup>th</sup> September. The company would be starting trenching works later in the month in New Road, Parkside and Church Street, to install ultra fast fibre broadband to most parts of the village. An online meeting open to

the public, to explain the proposals, was being planned by GigaClear for later in October. The company had requested to trench through the village green. It had referred to the Electronic Communications Act 2003 which conferred rights to install communications apparatus. This appeared to conflict with legislation which sought to protect village greens from interference. A revised plan for the village green area, which showed trenching along the road, with minimal disruption (3m) to the green had been produced

RESOLVED: that as it was unclear whether village green legislation or the Code took priority, and as the trench line was in the road

- (i) that no express consent be granted to GigaClear to trench through the village green, and that no Agreement be signed.
- (ii) that no poles or chambers or other apparatus be sited on the Green.

2021/179

Oxfordshire County Council – Volunteers supporting highways

Council noted that the County Council had been trialling a system in parts of the county whereby a “super user” could raise works orders for fixing potholes and kerbing issues, on unclassified roads within a 30 mph area. An appointed volunteer, after training, would assist highway officers by being the eyes and ears locally. This scheme had been extended to other parts of the county and was now available for Marcham. Council considered appointing a” super user”.

RESOLVED:

that James Plumb be nominated “super user” for Marcham parish.

2021/180

Correspondence

a) Vale of White Horse District Council – Garden Waste Collection

Garden waste collection had recommenced on a 4 weekly cycle, within the Vale DC area from 27<sup>th</sup> September, with Marcham parish being divided into 2 and collected on different weeks.

b) South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau – AGM Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30 p.m. (Hybrid meeting whereby guests attending join via Zoom).

c) Oxfordshire County Council – Public Transport Representatives meeting 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 at 1.30 p.m. (held virtually).

d) Police Crime Commissioner – September update

e) Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – AGM Tues 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 at Exeter Hall, Kidlington at 7.30 p.m.

f) Oxfordshire County Council – Civil Parking Enforcement will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.

g) Oxfordshire County Council – A417 road closure at West Challow overnight 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> October.

h) Oxfordshire County Council – Workshop sessions to explore the nine new priorities of the County Council. Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 7.00 p.m. and Thurs. 21<sup>st</sup> Oc. 2.00 p.m.

i) Thames Water – Meeting via Teams on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November at

10.00 to provide update on the South East Regional Pan.

j) Oxfordshire Community First AGM – 1<sup>st</sup> November at 2.00 p.m. via Zoom.

k) Vale of White Horse District Council – Viability Assessment  
Thomas Homes.

2021/181

Accounts

The list of payments had been circulated to members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 3450 to 3456 and authorised payments in the sum of £3189.33 in respect of administration costs, play area checks, and grass cutting.

Council noted that the external audit for the 20/21 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> September 2021 to supplement parts 1 and 2 of the Annual Return already displayed

2021/182

Matters Raised by Members

Sheepstead Road – Footway

A query was raised in regards to the installation of a new footway between the pedestrian gate into the allotments and Cow Lane. It was confirmed that this was part of the planning approval for the new housing development between Harding Way and Cow Lane, and should be installed when that development was done.

A415 Frilford Road – gateway entry feature

A question was raised as to whether this was to be re-installed following removal of the old gate. Tony Mackelworth would make enquiries.

Allotment signage

A question was asked as to when signage was to be installed on the allotment site. The Clerk would make enquiries.

2021/183

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2021/184

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall, Barrow Close.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

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