

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 14th March, 2022 commencing at 7.30 p.m., held in the village hall, Barrow Close, Marcham.

Present:

Sheena Bigden, Michael Hoath (Chairman), and Suzanne Saunter.
Clerk: Linda Martin
Cllr. Catherine Webber (District Councillor) and Cllr Richard Webber (County Councillor).
Joined by Ruth Mander (7.35 p.m.)

Reference was made to the resignation of Tanya Rosenfeld from the Parish Council owing to increasing responsibilities elsewhere. The total number of members was therefore 9. A quorum for a parish council was defined as being one third of its membership, but not less than 3. As 3 members were in attendance, the meeting was declared quorate.

- 2022/26 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Tony Mackelworth (away), Mark Harvie (away), James Plumb (unwell), and Sandra Hill.
- 2022/27 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.
- 2022/28 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th January, 2022
The minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2022/29 Matters Arising from the meeting held on 10th January 2022
Oxfordshire County Council – Operation London Bridge
The Clerk had attended an advice session arranged by the County Council, on actions necessary following the death of the Sovereign.
- Vale of White Horse District Council – Planning Enforcement Statement
The Clerk had attended an information session on the District Council’s Planning Enforcement Statement. Cllr. Catherine Webber advised that the Statement would be kept under review, and if there were potential breaches or issues about which the Parish Council was unhappy, then she should be advised.
- 2022/30 Ruth Mander joined the meeting.
- 2022/31 Public Participation
There were no members of the public in attendance.
- 2022/32 Planning Matters

a) Decisions on previous applications

P21/V3185/HH Erection of wooden log stores to front (amended)
17 Parkside
Permitted 8th March 2022

P21/V3023/FUL Erection of new dwelling rear of
21 Mill Road
Withdrawn 22nd February 2022

P21/V2520/FUL Demolish buildings and erection of 6 bed
dwelling for people with highly complex disabilities
Former Baptist Church, Packhorse Lane
Permitted 9th February, 2022

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

P21/V3498/HH Single storey, flat roof, garden room comprising
sauna, changing room and toilet/shower with decking
Beechfield House, Woodside
Comments: Tree screening should remain. The use should be
ancillary to the main dwelling and no separate independent unit
should be permitted

P22/V0252 2 storey front extension and single storey rear
extension
29 Kings Avenue
Comments: Council had no objections

P22/V0159/LB Repair and restoration works to lean to roof
including rainwater goods.
Rose Cottage 44 North Street
Comments: Council had no objections

P22/V0246/FUL Erection of open fronted steel frame portal
building with walls and roof clad in steel box profile sheeting.
Land adjacent to White Hart Wood, Blackgate Lane
Comments: Council expressed concerns regarding the access along
a narrow byway, possible damage to trees and old dry stone walls,
the size of the building and impact on the public footpath, and
need for screening, and bat assessments. It requested conditions
for no reversing onto the A338, tree protection and restoration
should damage be caused to the byway, as well as the use of the
building being restricted.

P22/V0348/FUL and P22/V0351/LB Conversion of barn to new 3
bed dwelling
12 Frilford Road
Comments: Council had no objections, provided it was the same as
previously approved with access and parking off the A415

P22/V0352/HH and P22/V0353/LB Minor alterations to wall to
form new access drive and erection of 2 bay open port garage
12 Frilford Road

Comments: The plans did not show the proposed parking area for the new 3 bed dwelling. Council requested an electric charging point in the car port.

MW.0014/22 S. 73 application for the continuation of development without complying with condition 1 on MW.0119/15 for the extraction and processing of soft building sand to enable amendments to the sequencing of working in field 2

Hills Aggregates - Upwood Quarry

Comments: Concerns were expressed to the County Council regarding the impact on the Site of Special Scientific Interest, and the Cothill nature reserves. These should not be adversely affected during, or after completion of the works.

P22/V3185/HH Log store (amended plan)

17 Parkside

Comments: Council had no objection

P21/V0965/FUL Independent 20m X 15m steel portal framed external storage unit located in a service yard to the north west of the site (Additional information – Tree Survey)

Oxford Instruments

Comments: Council supported the District Council's tree officer who required replacement trees to be planted for those being felled, and tree protection for other trees during construction works

P21/V0700/FUL Demolition of existing house and garage.

Replacement detached property and replacement detached garage.

Application to discharge tree condition.

Kernanderry, Faringdon Road

Comments: Council had no objections

c) Applications considered at the meeting

P22/V0248/O Development of up to 660 (use class C3), 70 (use class C2), local centre, school, open spaces and construction of 3 arm roundabout to A 420 and 4 arm roundabout to A415

Land east of Kingston Bagpuize

Comments: Council continued to object on the grounds of traffic volumes, the Frlford traffic lights, and queues approaching the A34, all affecting the Air Quality Management Area in Marcham.

2022/33

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Catherine Webber

Climate Action Fund - £50,000 was available for grants via Parish Councils, to support climate change initiatives. Grants available were between £250 and £5,000.

Housing Support Fund – This had now been fully spent at the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Boundary Commission Review – This was closing on 4th April

Vale of White Horse District Council Tree Policy – 420 Trees had been planted in Rye Farm meadow, and others were available for the “Sustainable Wantage” Group.

Questions to Cllr. Webber

Litter – A member raised the question of litter in hedgerows along the Faringdon Road/Barrow Road area, as well as Sheepstead Road. Further information would be provided direct to Cllr. Webber.

2022/34

County Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Richard Webber

Barrow Close – Entrance to village hall

Cllr. Webber had been discussing the access off Morland Road with the County Council. Raised flat top humps, speed cushions, mirrors and coloured markings had been considered. It may be possible for his County Councillor priority fund to cover the cost of coloured markings.

Proposed Reservoir

Cllr. Webber referred to the recent Thames Water consultation. There had been local opposition, and the Group Against the Reservoir had challenged the water need figures. Thames Water had accepted the discrepancy. Members discussed the position in general terms, and referred to leakage and water transfer systems.

20 mph Zones – Cllr. Webber sought clarification as to whether Marcham had yet registered for 20 mph zones within the parish. General discussion followed and it was

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Air Quality Management Area along the A415 be registered with Oxfordshire County Council as a 20 mph zone, particularly as there had been a resident knocked down on the zebra crossing, and accidents at the Howard Cornish Road junction, and sight line difficulties leaving the Frilford Road recreation ground.
- (ii) that Howard Cornish Road from its junction with the A415 to Sheepstead Road/North Street be registered with Oxfordshire County Council as a 20 mph zone, as this was a dense residential area, walking area to the primary school and village hall, and there had been one fatality following a vehicle accident.

2022/35

Cllrs. Richard and Catherine Webber left the meeting at 8.35 p.m.

2022/36

Community Facilities

Road humps for access road

Council noted correspondence from Marcham Community Group advising that it was their intention to install 2 road humps in Barrow Close to slow traffic entering and leaving the village hall site, as there were still issues relating to vehicles travelling too fast. It was also noted that approval from the Board of Trustees was being sought, as well as approval for the costings. It was noted that interested parties may be approached in the future in regards to a contribution towards the costs. The Council had no preference for any particular location for the humps.

Bonfire in field

Concerns for safety had been raised regarding a bonfire in the field. The Clerk had received correspondence from the Field Committee advising that they had burned old fence posts and wood from the score hut. The relevant parties were aware of the terms of the Lease and Underlease, as well as dangers and safety issues. It appeared to have been a one off event. Future activities would be monitored.

RESOLVED:

that the concerns be noted, but the Parish Council take no action in the matter

Grass pile - south side of field

Council noted comments from residents about odours from rotting grass on the southern side of the field. These had been referred to Marcham Community Group to respond direct.

2022/37

Neighbourhood Plan

In the absence of key working party members it was

RESOLVED:

that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

It was noted that the working party had made enquiries of Cllr. Webber as to the advantages of undertaking a Local Placemaking Plan rather than a full Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk too would contact the District Council's Neighbourhood Planning Officer.

2022/38

Decisions made under delegated powers since the last meeting

Council noted the decisions made under delegated powers, in consultation with members, since the last meeting. These were responses to 2 consultation documents.

- a) Vale of White Horse District Council Joint Decision Guide
- b) Oxfordshire County Council – Local Transport Connectivity Plan

2022/39

Parishioner of the Year

Council considered the award for Parishioner of the Year. It was

RESOLVED:

- (i) that no new awards be allocated this year
- (ii) that previous agreed nominations continue to be progressed

2022/40

Correspondence

- a) Vale of White Horse District Council – Remuneration Panel Report into allowances.
- b) GigaClear timetable for works– circulated to members.
- c) Vale of White Horse District Council – Grants for businesses from the Omicron Grant and Leisure Fund
- d) OALC - January and February Newsletters
- e) Police and Crime Commissioner – Crime Bulletin
- f) Tidy Britain – Great British Spring Clean 25th March to 10th April
- g) Thames Water – Drop in information/discussion event regarding the Proposed reservoir Wed. 2nd March 1.30 p.m. Steventon village hall – Information sheet available at the event has been circulated. Offer to speak to the Parish Council made by Thames Water.
- h) Bridleway 17 – Marcham Mill – photographs received from resident regarding the condition of the bridleway south of the river Ock.
- i) Cllr Webber – link to Marcham real time air quality data https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk/site/latest?site_id=scsbqx666
- j) Vale of White Horse District Council – Notification of increase in car parking charges, and reduction to 1 hour for free parking.
- k) Thames Valley Police – Victims first survey.
- l) Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre – Invitation to Recorders Spring Conference (Virtual) 18th and 19th March
- m) Oxfordshire Preservation Trust Awards – Deadline for submission of entries 27th May.
- n) Wilts and Berks Canal briefing on plans and progress within Oxfordshire (plus information on activities within Wiltshire) – East Challow village hall Wed.23rd March at 3.00 p.m.
- o) Vale of White Horse District Council – Local Placemaking Plan national pilot.

2022/41

Accounts

Council noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services had reached agreement with National Employers on salary scales for staff paid under NJC terms to be backdated to 1st April, 2021. A 1.75% increase had been agreed.

The list of payments had been circulated to members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 3483 to 3497 and authorised payments in the sum of £6765.56 in respect of administration costs, play area checks, litter picking, and allotment signage.

Council received a report on the budget monitoring and bank reconciliations as at 31st December, 2021, including balances within the accounts.

Council noted the amount of CIL funds currently being held by the Vale of White Horse District Council

RESOLVED:

- a) that the revised NJC pay award figures for 2021/2022 be accepted and implemented from 1st April 2021
- b) that the budget monitoring, bank reconciliations and balances as at 31st December, 2021 be noted.
- c) that the Vale of White Horse District Council continue to hold the CIL balances on behalf of the Parish Council

2022/42 Matters Raised by Members

Ukraine Appeal

A question was asked as to whether any action was being taken and to support appeals for Ukraine. The clerk clarified the statutory powers available. The needs would be reassessed when families arrived in the UK and possibly into Marcham. It had been suggested that the empty Denman College might be suitable for temporary accommodation. The district councillor had been approached and was making enquiries.

Frilford Road Recreation Ground

It was reported that a tree had come down at the southern end of the site.

Path from Howard Cornish Road to Harding Way

It was reported that this path had loose wet leaves and was in need of sweeping.

2022/43 Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2022/44 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 11th April at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed Date