

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 12th January 2026 commencing at 7.30 p.m. and held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

Present:

Sheena Bigden, Keely Ewart-Brookes, Mark Harvie (Chairman), Michael Hoath, Ruth Mander, Andrew Mason (7.37 p.m.), Tanya Rosenfeld, Joe Withers

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

Cllr. James Plumb (County Councillor)

Joined by Andrew Mason at 7.37 p.m. and by Cllr. Rob Clegg (District Councillor) at 7.42 p.m.

1 member of the public

- 2026/1 Apologies for Absence
Apologies had been received from Cllr. Robert Clegg in anticipation of his late arrival as he was attending another Parish Council meeting elsewhere.
- 2026/2 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.
- 2026/3 Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December, 2025
The minutes of the meeting held on 8th December, 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting, subject to correcting typos in 2025/260 changing Cllr to Cllr, and in 2025/277 changing the word “date” to “dated”
- 2026/4 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December, 2025
The Clerk had produced a progress report on key issues. The proposal to install a bus shelter at the East bound Duffield Place bus stop would be tracked by Cllr. Clegg. It was noted that the new Noticeboard at the village hall had been installed. A question was raised as to whether Marcham Community Group was going to have a key and be able to access half of it. The Clerk stated that the board replaced the Council’s previous board outside of the Institute. It was full with Council notices. No formal request had been received. Any request should go to the Clerk and be an agenda item for future discussion.
- 2026/5 Public Participation
There were no points raised by the public in attendance.
- 2026/6 Parish Councillor Andrew Mason joined the meeting.

- 2026/7 District Councillor's report – Cllr. Robert Clegg
Cllr. Clegg's report was deferred until later in the meeting and would be received on his arrival.
- 2026/8 County Councillor's report – Cllr. James Plumb
Cllr. Plumb had produced a written report on District Council matters which had been circulated to members.
Cllr. Plumb reported on:
- Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
Consultation on revisions to this service was open until 20th January. The overall plan was for improvements to service, but some residents had expressed concern regarding station closures.
- Waste Recycling Centres - changes
From 14th January, residents would need to book a visit in advance, and include details of the type of waste being deposited. ID on arrival at the Centre would need to be produced, otherwise there would be a £15 charge.
- Flooding on the A415
Cllr. Plumb had contacted officers regarding the clearance of the culvert on the A415 west of the Church Street junction. He would advise the Parish Council when he received further information.
- South East Strategic Reservoir Option
Cllr. Plumb had supported a motion raising concerns that there was no proposal to create an emergency plan until after construction, despite the requirement for equipment that was capable of releasing water at around three times the Thames' normal flow rate. The motion called on the County Council to write to the Secretary of State seeking clarity on how emergencies would be managed, and sought an assurance that the necessary protections for communities were in place before any Development Consent Order was considered.
- Potholes/Road Maintenance
Cllr. Plumb requested that residents continue to report matters via Fix My Street.
- Members raised queries directly with Cllr. Plumb including potholes close to 24 Tower Close, and requesting that the Parish Council be advised in good time should works to the A415 culvert near to Church Street junction be cleared.
- 2026/9 Cllr. Robert Clegg joined the meeting.
- 2026/10 District Councillor's Report - Cllr. Robert Clegg
Cllr. Clegg had produced a written report on District Council matters which had been circulated to members.

Pig Odours

Cllr. Clegg had given assistance to a resident regarding diary keeping. A further report from the Vale of White Horse District Council was awaited.

Davies Edge Biodiversity

There was no news to report.

Joint Local Plan

The Planning Inspectorate were willing to resume discussions over the Joint Local Plan. A procedural meeting would take place in public on a date to be determined to discuss the practical arrangements for recommencing the examination.

Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

The Air Quality Management Area along the A415 in the centre of the village was due for revocation owing to the continued reduction of Nox. The decision would be taken at the General Licensing Committee on 15th January. Cllr. Clegg would address the Committee. Pollution monitoring would continue even though the AQMA was being revoked.

Cllr. Clegg agreed to assist with monitoring the request made to the District Council's property department for permission to erect a bus shelter at the eastbound Duffield Place bus stop.

2026/11

Planning Applications

- a) Decisions on previous applications
P25/V2463/AG New agricultural track
Manor Farm, Mill Road
No formal application was required just for an agricultural track at the farm. 12th December, 2025
- b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

None received
- c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

P25/V2571/HH and P25/V2732/LB - Erection of a single storey part oak framed flat roof extension with rooflights
3 Mill Road
Comments: The Council had no objections

2026/12

Footpaths – Church to Cemetery

Council received an update report regarding the footpaths. The s. 106 funds available for paths and held by the Vale of White Horse District Council, had been approved by Committee for Marcham Parish Council. Owing to the amount involved, the District Council

would usually require a legal agreement to be completed, but were in the process of changing the constitution to allow Parish Councils to agree to terms via a letter rather than a detailed more involved legal agreement. The Community Infrastructure team were seeing whether this latter option was currently possible. Joe Withers offered to contact the contractor to provide him with an update. Cllr. Clegg would assist with progress in monitoring this.

2026/13

SESRO (South East Strategic Reservoir Option) – Thames Water
Council considered correspondence drafted by the Chairman, by way of comment to Thames Water as the response to the consultation. It also considered joining with other local parishes in regards to a draft joint letter prepared by East Hanney Parish Council.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those supporting the draft letter being sent to Thames Water

In favour	Against	Abstention
8	0	0

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those wishing to add the name of Marcham Parish Council to the joint letter drafted by East Hanney Parish Council

In favour	Against	Abstention
8	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that draft letter prepared for Marcham Parish Council be submitted to Thames Water
- (ii) that Marcham Parish Council be a joint signatory to the letter prepared by East Hanney Parish Council

2026/14

Budget / Precept 2026-2027

Council discussed the budget for 26/27, and the appointment of contractors for the next financial year. A query was raised regarding undertaking war memorial clearance on a more regular basis, and the selected contractor would be approached, as the cost overall may be slightly reduced.

It noted the s. 106 funding that was available for the footpath planned project, and that those funds had been allocated in principle to the Parish Council.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in setting the precept in the sum of £82,008.

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	1	0

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of appointing Tactical Facilities Management as the contractor for 2026/27 for all the Parish Council's grass cutting, including the highway verges, routine play area checks, litter bin emptying, and war memorial clearance.

In favour	Against	Abstention
8	0	0

It was RESOLVED:

- (i) any unspent sums from 2025/26 be taken into reserves
- (ii) that the precept for 2026/27 from the of White Horse District Council be set at £82,008
- (iii) that the following sums be ringfenced:
Cemetery maintenance £48545.66
Harding Way maintenance £70000
- (iv) that the following sums be earmarked from existing funds:
Allotment improvements 10000
Improvements/new burial area in Cemetery 85000
Repairs to wall at Frilford Road Recreation Ground 10000
War Memorial new gravel base 5000
Bus Shelter 8000
Surfacing works to footpaths 35,000
the balance of the gifted community fund, £125000 be set aside for the benefit of the community to include final improvements to the play area.
- (v) that the budget sheets attached to these minutes be approved
- (vi) that the newly acquired noticeboard be added to the insurance policy, together with 2 new bench seats when they were installed.

2026/15

Vale of White Horse District Council – s.106 request from Marcham Road Health Centre

Council considered a request to use s. 106 public health funds from the land north of Priory Lane development, (13/V77)for Marcham Road health centre.

RESOLVED:

That Council agrees that the sum of £1032.44 could be taken from the S. 106 funds being held by the Vale of White Horse District Council from the development on land north of Priory Lane to be allocated to the Marcham Road Health Centre.

2026/16

Finance / Accounts

The list of payments had been circulated to Members. Council noted the cheques numbered 3960 to 3968 and cemetery account 439 and authorised payments in the sum of £3793.05 in respect of administration costs, grass cutting, , litter bin emptying, and grant awarded.

Council considered the reinvestment of balances (£55446) with the Nationwide Building Society.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of reinvesting the funds held in the Nationwide Building Society for a six month period.

RESOLVED:

That the funds in this account be re-invested for a further 6 months.

2026/17

Items for Marcham and District News – February 2026 edition

The Clerk would prepare an article for inclusion in the February issue of Marcham and District News. Members suggested including advertising the cleared allotment plot in Parkside, the proposed bus shelter at Duffield Place eastbound bus stop, fly tipping at the Salvation Army textile bank, and a reminder as to the changes at the Drayton recycling centre, where pre-booking and proof of ID were now needed.

2026/18

Matters Raised by Members for information

Cemetery – Shears

A member reported that shears had been left in the cemetery probably by a member of the public.

Oxford Exteriors – picnic table base

Sheena Bigden referred to Oxford Exteriors and possible restructuring. Enquiries would be made regarding the installation of the base for the picnic table in the play area.

Bright lights

A property on the A415 (The Croft) with garden facing the Anson Field, used motion sensor lighting. This shone directly into the windows at the village hall. It was understood that an approach was being made by a neighbour to request the lighting be reduced.

The Pound, Mill Road

Queries were raised regarding the possible restoration of The Pound, which had previously been discounted. Council had put some funds into the budget for 26/27 to clear the weed growth from the area. This would then provide an opportunity for the state and condition of the stone wall to be viewed.

Trees rear and side of 23 Kings Avenue adjacent to footway to Howard Cornish Road

It was reported that the Vale of White Horse District Council had felled these trees, leaving the logs.

2026/19

The Chairman moved that in accordance with s. 1(2) Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public's interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

RESOLVED:

that the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following item which related to exempt information

Item discussed

Rights of access over Parish Council land and boundary position

RESOLVED:

that the landowner be requested to mark out the location of his expected boundary.

2026/20

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 9th February 2026 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed Date