

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 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, Tanya Rosenfeld.

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

Cllr. Robert Clegg (District Councillor)

Joined by Cllr. James Plumb (County Councillor) 7.50 p.m.

5 members of the public

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- 2026/71      Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for absence had been received from Joe Withers who was away from the area.
- 2026/72      Declarations of Interest  
Michael Hoath declared an interest in the agenda item relating to a revaluation for insurance purposes of Marcham Centre, as he was a Trustee of the Centre. Michael Hoath, Ruth Mander and Tanya Rosenfeld declared an interest in the agenda item relating to the grant application for Marcham Society in that they were members of Marcham Society. Mark Harvie placed on record that he was a former member of Marcham Society, but was not currently the case in that his membership had lapsed.
- 2026/73      Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2026  
The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2026/74      Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2026  
Cow Lane allotments  
Council noted that clearance had taken place at the Cow Lane allotments and new plots had been created. Sheena Bigden advised that the skip used for clearance was still in place, and this would be removed shortly. She also indicated that it would be helpful if plots were partitioned when re-let. It was thought that pegs and string would suffice. Sheena Bigden would investigate and arrange.
- 2026/75      Public Participation  
Trees – on Path from Howard Cornish Road to Harding Way  
A member of the public advised that they needed maintaining to acceptable standards, and that they were untidy and the top third

needed removing. Ivy was growing again up the trunks. The trees blocked light from her property. The Chairman advised that a tree surgeon was co-incidentally undertaking works to those trees on 15<sup>th</sup> April. The Council would review the position after that date.

2026/76 Cllr. James Plumb joined the meeting.

2026/77 Public Participation continued

Barrow Close - drainage

A query was raised about the situation regarding the shared drainage. The Chairman advised that a report had been received and was being considered internally. It was the Council's intention to be fully transparent, and the residents would be contacted as soon as possible.

Barrow Close – entrance off Morland Road

A statement was made that a safety barrier from the entrance towards Morland Road was a good idea on the northern side of the entrance, but pointed out that cars parked on the southern side obscured vision of children and dogs which were off leads. The Chairman acknowledged the statement and stated that the Council recognised the partial improvement to the access, and if it could make it more secure it would do so.

Davies Edge – Pye development

It was reported that some issues had gone to the Ombudsman, and that the Vale of White Horse District Council was continuing to pursue planning enforcement matters. A letter from the Vale of White Horse District Council to Pye Homes Ltd had been handed to the clerk at the last meeting, and scanned and circulated to Members. This indicated that the public open space in Davies Edge was going to be transferred to the Parish Council. The Council, however, was puzzled like the resident as they had not had any discussion at all regarding its acquisition. The land in question was managed by a Management Company.

Biodiversity Nature Targets

A question was asked as to whether the Parish Council was going to be involved in the Biodiversity Nature Recovery if there were land owned by the Parish Council.

2026/78 District Councillor's report – Cllr. Robert Clegg

Cllr. Clegg had produced a written report on District Council matters which had been circulated to members. This included:

Pig Smells - No further report was expected until warmer weather.

Davies Edge Biodiversity – No further report. Cllr. Clegg was continuing to raise this with the District Council.

Joint Local Plan - Permission had been given by the Planning Inspectors for publication of the remaining responses which could now be viewed on the District Council's website in the Examination Library sub heading 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026. The Flood Risk assessment was significant and deserving of close scrutiny.

Greater Oxford Development Corporation - Central Government had announced its desire to set up a Greater Oxford Development Corporation to unlock new development and accelerate growth across Oxford and the surrounding area. Existing Local Plans were likely to remain in effect but the "Local Planning Authority" would transfer to the new body of GODC. The announcement explicitly denied impact on the proposals for government reorganisation. It was noted that central government had the same proposal for the Cambridge area.

Local Government Reorganisation – The central government decision on the proposed new boundaries was expected in July. It was noted, however, that the pattern of the areas which had already been determined focused on small Unitary Authorities, and this could be an indication of what might be expected in the Oxfordshire area.

Biodiversity Report – The first biodiversity report by the Vale of White Horse District Council had been published. Nature reserves around Cothill were highlighted as important and valuable.

2026/79

County Councillor's report – Cllr. James Plumb

Frilford and Marcham Transport Study

Cllr. Plumb had met with officers to discuss the Frilford & Marcham Transport Study. Improvements at the Frilford lights junction were proposed to help traffic move more efficiently and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. These works included a new left turn lane on the A338 Oxford Road for traffic turning towards Frilford, upgraded traffic signals and a new pedestrian crossing on the A415. He had asked for consideration to be given to a pedestrian crossing over the A338. Unfortunately mitigation measures to reduce HGVs through Marcham were less forthcoming.

Re-introduction of highway weed clearance

A report was being prepared for the Cabinet Member for Finance in regards to reintroducing routine weed clearance. This would be considered at the next round of budget setting.

Flood Mitigation Funding

The County Council had launched another round of grant-funded flood mitigation projects for 2026/27, supporting small community-led schemes that reduce flooding from surface water, ordinary watercourses and groundwater. Expressions of interest were due by Monday 4th May 2026.

2026/80

Frilford and Marcham transport study

Council considered the transport study and noted that the management of HGVs was not specifically considered. In addition traffic management owing to Dalton Barracks redevelopment and the proposed reservoir had not been included. This needed to be part of the project plan. There was a need to look at what worked, and what was lacking e.g. a footway from the end of Ford to the junction of the A415 and A338 at the garage. It was also thought that a clearer diagram of what was proposed would be appreciated.

RESOLVED:

- That the following comments be submitted to the County Council:
- (i) the management of HGVs had not been specifically considered
  - (ii) the redevelopment of Dalton Barracks and the construction of the White Horse reservoir had not been included in the study. These projects would impact on the area and should be part of the traffic management plan.
  - (iii) A request be lodged for a clearer diagram of the selected option to be provided
  - (iv) that areas which did not work well such be given further consideration. These included the need for a path from Ford Lane southwards to the garage, and the requirement for a crossing over the A338 so that pedestrians could safely cross from the East side of the A338 to the West side to access places such as Millets Farm retail area.

2026/81

Oxfordshire County Council – Priority Action Flood Projects

Council noted and considered available funding for Flood Projects from the County Council. The two areas which flooded were on the A415 west of Church Street, and by the entrance to The Croft. The terms of the grant were noted.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the area west of Church Street, and the area at the junction of The Croft with the A415 be put forward as areas which required jetting or clearing.
- (ii) that investigation be made as to how this could be achieved, particularly with the use of the flood prevention grant funding.

2026/82

Oxfordshire County Council – Review of Financially supported bus services

Council noted the X15 bus service was financially supported by Oxfordshire County Council and the funding was undergoing review. Points that were raised were the possible increase in bus usage since the Oxford congestion charge was introduced, the lack of litter bins at some bus stops, and the fact that Abingdon College provided shuttle buses between their Abingdon and Witney sites.

RESOLVED:

- that
- (i) Marcham Parish Council supported the retention of the subsidy and the continuation of the X15 service in its present form.
  - (ii) that the attention of Oxfordshire County Council be drawn to the fact that there may be some duplication in service in that Abingdon College also ran a shuttle bus between their sites.

2026/83

Oxfordshire County Council - Smoke Free play areas – grants

Council noted that Oxfordshire County Council had some funds available for supporting smoke free communities, and considered whether an application should be submitted.

RESOLVED:

that an application be lodged for a grant to cover the cost of relevant signage at the play area.

2026/84

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P26/V0385/HH Installation of 22 ground mounted PV panels  
Bluebell House, Frilford Heath  
Permitted 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2026

P26/V4017/LDP Certificate of Lawful development  
Removal of false chimney to solve leaking roof  
7 Greenwood Grove  
Permitted 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

P26/V0369/FUL – Demolition of existing buildings and erection of a six bedroom dwelling for children’s care C3 use.  
Baptist Church, Packhorse Lane

Comments: The Council expressed great concerns regarding: relocation of entrance, inadequate onsite parking, delivery vehicle/dustcart vehicle movements and reversing onto the A415, loss of access to the Anson Field path from the site, impact on drainage, siting of bedrooms close to the A415, impact on properties to the rear, proposed materials did not match those nearby, and noise generation from siting laundry facilities on the first floor.

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

P26/V0663/HH Single storey rear extension  
17 Pointer Place

Comments: The Council had no objections

P25/V2404/HH Erection of two out buildings in garden : –  
Outbuilding One to be used as a single storey annexe for the incidental use of the property owner  
Outbuilding Two to be used for storage, garage and a workshop  
Mill Cottage, 33 Mill Road

Comments: The Council had concerns that there was no design and access statement with the application. It was therefore difficult to fully understand the proposal, and how it fitted into that location, and planning policies. It was assumed that the access and vehicle crossing was to be over a raised bank which formed part of the highway. Council also expressed concern regarding the potential for the garage and storage block to become habitable in its own right.

P26/V0777/HH Alteration and conversion of existing outbuilding including raised roof and associated external alterations to provide ancillary gym, games room, shower room and storage accommodation incidental to the enjoyment of the main dwellinghouse.

Marcham Priory 34 Packhorse Lane

Owing to different views within the members the Chairman called for a show of hands of those who wished the Council not to make any comment on the application

In favour	Against	Abstention
2	4	1

RESOLVED: that the Council express concern

Regarding

- (i) the lack of a design and access statement or heritage statement
- (ii) the proposed materials were not in keeping with those at The Priory
- (iii) the potential for overlooking of neighbouring property.

2026/85 Footpaths  
Council received an update report on maintenance works on the Cemetery path and Anson field path. A contractor was likely to commence the second week in May on the Anson field path. There would be a requirement to site some items at the edge of the car park. Some areas of hedge would need cutting back. The rebuilding of the cemetery wall would be undertaken first in regards to the cemetery path, and it was understood that a contractor was likely to be doing this towards the end of April. S. 106 funding for path works had now been transferred to the Parish Council.

2026/86 Community Facilities  
In regards to additional measures to improve safety at the entrance to Barrow Close, it was noted that the County Council first intended to monitor the installation and use of the new path to assess whether any further measures were required.  
Council noted that the concrete for the bench seat bases had now been installed. Once set, the bench seats would be fitted, followed by the resin surface.  
Council considered the quotations for undertaking a revaluation of the hall building/muga for insurance purposes.

It was RESOLVED:

That a quotation from Carter Jonas to include a site visit for the valuation be accepted

Litter Station – this project remained to be progressed

2026/87 Neighbourhood Plan  
Andrew Mason gave an update, and Council considered the position in regards to the progression of Neighbourhood Plan. The lack of volunteers was a problem. In addition, given the likelihood of a new unitary authority in 2 years time, if the Plan was not progressed soon, there may not be the relevant District Council support as at present. The Chairman indicated that he held various documents from the start of the Neighbourhood Plan process, and he would circulate these. Consideration would be given again after consideration of these documents.

2026/88 Churchyard/Cemetery Memorial Testing  
Council noted a report from the Clerk. There had been difficulties in obtaining a further quotation, despite reminders to the firm. If not forthcoming immediately for comparison purposes, the Clerk would proceed with the firm that had submitted its figure.

2026/89

Marcham Society – Welcome Pack

Council considered a request from Marcham Society to financially support an online parish welcome pack. The application was for £550 towards total costs of £562.18. It was proposed that the total cost be awarded to Marcham Society. The online site would provide information about the villages organisations for the benefit of all.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of awarding the sum of £562.00

In favour	Against	Abstention
4	0	3

RESOLVED:

That Marcham Society be awarded a grant of £562.00 for the total cost of providing an online parish welcome pack.

2026/90

Volunteering meeting

Council received a report from Andrew Mason who had attended a village meeting to encourage volunteers to become involved in parish organisations. A leaflet was going to be prepared which would be circulated. The leaflet would also go with the welcome pack on line. It had been suggested that the leaflet was going to be prepared hopefully in time of the annual meeting of electors. This could be handed out at events. A poster too was going to be prepared.

2026/91

Annual Meeting of Electors - 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2026

Council considered the arrangements for the annual parish meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2026, and noted guest speakers.

2026/92

Suspension of Standing Orders

The duration of the meeting had been 2 hours, and Council

RESOLVED:

That standing order 3z be suspended to allow business to continue.

2026/93

Accounts

The list of payments had been circulated to Members. Changes to the employer contribution rate to the LGPS was noted. Council noted the cheques numbered 3985 to 3992 and cemetery account 442 and authorised payments in the sum of £10842.13 in respect of administration costs including subscriptions, grass cutting, (annualised sum), litter bin emptying, consultants reports and work to create allotment spaces.

- 2026/94      Items for Marcham and District News – May 2026 edition  
The Clerk would prepare an article for inclusion in the May issue of Marcham and District News. This would include the Public Notice for the annual parish meeting, availability of allotments, and highway superuser vacancies.
- 2026/95      Matters Raised by Members for information  
Litter Pick  
It was reported that this event arranged by residents for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April, had gone well. Items which were not removed had been a child's bicycle, suitcase, sandpit lid which were in the vicinity of Monks Walk. This area was the responsibility of Matthew Homes / Management Company, and Tanya Rosenfeld would report these items to them.
- A415 - Sandbags  
Sandbags which were used to weigh down road signs had been seen left alongside the A415. These would be reported to the County Councillor.
- Frilford Road Recreation Ground car park  
It was reported that a bonnet from a car had been left in the car park area.
- Howard Cornish Road / Kings Avenue access - trees  
It was reported that the way the trees stumps had been left was not satisfactory. Cllr. Rob Clegg would take this up with the District Council whose land it was, and who had arranged for the work to be carried out.
- Packhorse Lane – Baptist Church – rubbish  
It had been noted that rubbish was placed within the grounds of the Baptist Church, and a question was raised as to who cleared it. It was thought to be wheelie bins from a nearby property, and these were emptied by the District Council.
- Marcham Churchyard  
It was reported that a resident had raised with a member what was perceived to be an untidy state of the Churchyard with wooden pallets, a tent, BBQ pit left in situ. It was suggested that the resident be advised to raised any concerns directly with the Church.
- Incidents with mischievous youngsters  
It was reported that there had been incidents of children causing issues within the village. A request was made that if anyone became aware of a problem, then the PCSO should be kept informed.
- Litter Bins – bus stops  
It was reported that rubbish was being dropped at bus stops, and these

would benefit from litter bin installation. This would be an item for debate at the next meeting.

It was reported that the litter bin in the play area was full. A question was raised as to whether the contractor would produce a report after working for the Council for several months, as to the need for more regular emptying.

#### Hyde Copse – Trees

A comment was made that the landowner when felling the trees on his land received much adverse comment, but no one had thanked him for the replanting that had been undertaken. Dangerous/illegal items reportable to the Police, had been found when clearing the woodland. It was therefore important to report to the Police any such items if found subsequently.

#### OALC - Newsletter

The Chairman encouraged members to read the latest issue of OALC Newsletter.

#### Next Meeting of the Council

The Clerk reminded members that the next meeting of the Council on 11<sup>th</sup> May, would be the annual meeting, when the Chairman was appointed. The new Chairman would be expected to chair the annual assembly of electors on 14<sup>th</sup> May if present at that meeting.

2026/96

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:

- (i) That a local resident be asked yet again, as previously agreed by Council, to mark on site where he believed his boundary to be.

- (ii) that rights of access be further considered once the boundary line had been agreed and set.

2026/97

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall. This would be the annual Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

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