

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 11th July 2022, commencing at 7.30 p.m. held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

Present:

Warren Brooker, Mark Harvie, Michael Hoath, (Chairman), James Plumb, Suzanne Saunter.

One member of the public (Dr. Chitvan Amin)

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

Joined at 7.35 p.m. by Richard Webber (County Councillor), and 7.40 p.m. by Catherine Webber (District Councillor)

- 2022/112 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Sheena Bigden, Sandra Hill (away) and Ruth Mander (unwell).
- 2022/113 Declarations of Interest
Warrant Brooker declared an interest in the planning application for footpath connections, landscaping and swales by Pye Homes on the Willows housing development in that he was a director of the Management Company responsible for the public open spaces on the development.
- 2022/114 Cllr. Richard Webber (County Councillor) joined the meeting.
- 2022/115 Casual Vacancy
The Chairman welcomed Dr. Chitvan Amin who had applied to join the Parish Council, and asked questions which were duly answered. Dr. Amin left the room during discussion about her application.

RESOLVED:

that Dr. Chitvan Amin be co-opted to the Council to serve until the next election.

Ms. Amin rejoined the meeting and was advised of Council's decision. She then signed her declaration of acceptance of office.

- 2022/116 Minutes of the meeting held on 13th June, 2022
The minutes of the meeting held on 13th June, 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2022/117 Cllr. Catherine Webber (District Councillor) joined the meeting.
- 2022/118 Matters arising from the meeting held on 13th June, 2022
Development site north of Harding Way – Pye Homes
Council noted that Solicitors had been instructed in regards to the public open spaces, footpaths. s. 38 and s.104 Agreements and would consider the draft documentation from Pye Homes' solicitors, once they had given a written undertaking to pay the Council's costs.

This matter would progress over the Summer under previous delegated powers to the Clerk in consultation with the working party.

Cow Lane – Fly tipping

This had been reported to the District Council.

Howard Cornish Road – Lime Trees

Council noted that the District Council had inspected the lime trees on its wide verge which were obscuring the County Council's replacement street light columns. They were discussing the matter with the County Council in regards to lamp adjustments and also considering cutting back the lime trees outside of bird nesting season to allow the light to be better emitted.

At this point the Chairman raised a query regarding new very bright street lights in Haines Court which had been reported by a resident. Cllr. Richard Webber made a note of this.

2022/119

Public Participation

There were no other members of the public in attendance

2022/120

Planning Matters

a) Decisions on previous applications

P22/V1283/HH First floor extension
27 Anson Close
Permitted 24th June, 2022

P22/V0159/LB Discharge of materials condition – repair lean
to roof and rainwater goods
Old Rose Cottage
44 North Street
Permitted 14th June, 2022

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

No applications had been determined

c) Applications considered at the meeting

P22/V1574/HH Install a white PVCu conservatory to the rear
of the property
2 Tower Close
Comments: Council had no objections, but referred to the fact
that there were issues with cricket and other balls going outside
of the adjacent recreation ground.

P22/V1359/HH Erection of 2 storey rear extension and single storey side extension
35 Anson Close
Comment: Council had no comment

P22/V1586/HH Construction of a natural swimming pond
The Bothy, Faringdon Road
Comments: Council had no objection

P22.V1545/FUL Improvements to public open space including footpath connections, landscaping and swales
Public open space at Pointer Place, The Willows
Comments: Council supported connectivity within the village. It was disappointed that the path nearer the A415 to the west had not been included in the application, and there was a lack of connectivity to the East which had previously been requested. The Council would encourage this to be included. Council queried whether there would be a bridge on the shown path to link to the site to the West. It was unclear whether this was a culvert or a usable bridge level with the adjacent ground suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs, and also with safety railings. The link would need to tie in with the planned path on the Western side in the Monks Walk development. Queries were raised in regards to Thames Water being satisfied that the proposed drainage swales were adequate.
A 1.8 high wooden fence existed on the south side of the proposed path. This had been left following the reconstruction of the boundary wall in the correct line, on no. 8 Pointer Place. In view of the obligation to take into account s. 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and the fact that path would go through a narrow area, a question was raised about the wisdom of leaving the fence in situ.

2022/121

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Catherine Webber

Anson field – cricket - Cllr. C Webber was aware of concerns from a resident in Tower Close who had experienced a cricket ball hitting their house roof and also breaking a flower pot. She asked for consideration to be given to the provision of cricket nets. There was discussion regarding permanent or mobile nets, funding, the availability of grants and organisations working together with the residents to try and find a solution. Catherine Webber would make enquiries of the District Council as to grant funding. The Parish Council would discuss the matter with Marcham Community Group who managed the sports facility.

Litter Bug Trail – This activity event for children would run again over the Summer, finishing on 11th September.

Joint Design Guide – This design guide was adopted on 23rd and 24th June by Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council respectively. The joint guide replaces the separate guides for both Councils.

Marcham Village Hall – Opening 5th July, 2022 – Both Richard and Catherine Webber attended this event “virtually” via IT and apologised that they were unable to attend in person.

Climate Action Fund grants

The District Council had awarded £5,000 to the Church group planning the “Forest Church” in the Churchyard, which would increase the nature value of the area.

2022/122

County Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Richard Webber

A34 Lodge Hill road works – These would start in September with a new junction and slip roads. Sunningwell village may be affected as a result for the duration of the works.

Property – The County Council was reviewing its property assets as it was obliged to do on a regular basis.

Local Transport Strategy – This was out for consultation.

Highways England A34 – The A34 improvement project which was being developed by Highways England, had been slowed for the time being.

Frilford Cross Roads – The company looking into possible improvements for these junction on behalf of the County Council were still at the research stage. They may be an opportunity to use some land in the ownership of Josca’s school, as this was shown in the planning application for housing in Tubney and Fyfield parish adjacent to Kingston Bagpuize. There were no plans to prioritise bus travel.

Mill Road bridleway 17 at bridge – Works were due to start in the Summer. Cllr. Webber would shortly contact the County Council’s legal department.

Barrow Close – safety at entrance – The funding for the mirror had been approved. Cllr. Webber to enquire of the Anson Trust as to progress with the traffic hump.

Changes in Central Government – Changes in ministerial appointments had implications for all local councils. The impact would be seen in the funding for adult and children’s social care, road maintenance, the pressure to deliver growth project as the new proposed road through Sutton Courtenay KIF1 and the reservoir, as well as money being diverted from local government to provide necessary additional funding for defence. The County’s position was to halt forward planning until the national position was clearer.

2022/123

Neighbourhood Plan

Mark Harvie gave an update report. Stakeholders had been identified and approached. The Community Led Plan from 2013 had been considered and the key issues from that identified. The wish was to survey residents before the end of the year. Volunteers were needed to join the steering group.

James Plumb would contact the new member Dr. Chitvan Amin with the Neighbourhood Plan information.

2022/124

Community Facilities

The formal opening of the new facilities by Cllr. Margaret Crick, Chairman of the Vale of White Horse District Council, had taken place on 5th July. Mr. Jim Asher, Chairman of Marcham Community Group was presented with a Parishioner of the Year Certificate by Michael Hoath, Chairman of Marcham Parish Council. (A Certificate had been presented too to Neil Rowe on 5th June for his contribution to Marcham life).

The Lease provided for a ground rent of £1 per annum, to be paid by Marcham Community Group to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED:

that the ground rent for 22/23 not be claimed.

2022/125

Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – AGM

Sandra Hill had offered to attend this meeting. In her absence no report was available.

2022/126

Church – driveway

Council considered correspondence from the Church regarding maintenance of the driveway and paths within the closed Churchyard and a request to share the cost of repairs.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council will fund essential maintenance up to a sum of £5250 with the Council being invoiced directly.
- (ii) that the request to regularly set aside funding for the driveway and paths, over and above what is already set aside be reviewed when considering the budget for 23/24.

2022/127

Community Speed Watch

Council considered the setting up of a community speedwatch group, and the purchase of a radar gun. Funds for this had been allocated in the budget. The local Police, had on previous occasions offered to attend a Council meeting to discuss this, but had not managed to do so.

RESOLVED:

that James Plumb, and Warren Brooker look into the types of speed gun and the setting up of a speedwatch group.

2022/128

Grant Application Policy

The grant application policy was reviewed, as grant applications would be invited from September in readiness for consideration at the November Council meeting.

RESOLVED:

that the policy remain as that used in the 2021/22 year.

2022/129

Central Abingdon – Regeneration Review

Council considered the regeneration review which was out for consultation by the Vale of White Horse District Council. There were various proposals which would improve parts of Abingdon town.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that councillors respond to the consultation as individuals.
- (ii) that this Council would support and encourage action to be taken to progress the regeneration programme as soon as possible.

2022/130

Correspondence

- a) OALC – newsletter June
- b) YouMove – family activities for those on reduced incomes, being organised by the Vale of White Horse District Council. Referred to MCG as to the use of the field/hall.
- c) Police/Crime bulletin
- d) Zurich Municipal
Notification of internal re-organisation transferring parts of Zurich's insurance business to another Zurich company.
- e) Vale of White Horse District Council – Household support fund
Support funding to become available for those struggling with food costs and energy bills
- f) GigaClear - Cabinet now live. Residents will be able to shortly be connected.
- g) The Abingdon Bridge – AGM minutes
- h) Vale of White Horse District Council – Governance
Consultation on changes to parish boundary areas. (Marcham parish was not affected).

2022/131

Accounts

Council received the budget monitoring report as at 30th June, and which was accurate at the time it was prepared. It was noted that bank statements which covered the end of the month, were not issued until after the 6th of the following month, so slight adjustments may need to be taken into account, particularly in regards to receipts.

The list of payments had been circulated to members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 3526 to 3534 including cemetery a/c 416 and authorised payments in the sum of £3941.71 in respect of administration costs, play area inspections, litter picking and bin emptying, grass cutting, structural design of community shelter and replacement cheque for uncleared cheque previously issued for Christmas lights 2020.

2022/132 Matters Raised by Members

- The Crown Public House

A query was raised as to the future of The Crown public house, in that sometimes it had been closed.

The Clerk was asked to contact Admiral Taverns as owners of the site to make enquiries as to their plans.

2022/133 Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News. Items to be included were: assistance with the Neighbourhood Plan, the Speedwatch group, and planning the play area. The use of an infographic was suggested and adding the details for the contact person of each group. Dr. Chitvan Amin offered to design an infographic. The Clerk would supply the information.

2022/134 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 12th September, 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed Date