

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 9th January, 2023 commencing at 7.30 p.m. held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

Present:

Sheena Bigden, Warren Brooker, Mark Harvie, Sandra Hill, Ruth Mander (Vice-Chairman), James Plumb, Suzanne Saunter.

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Richard Webber (County Councillor)
Catherine Webber (District Councillor)
1 member of the public

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- 2023/1 Chairman
In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Ruth Mander took the chair for the duration of the meeting,
- 2023/2 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Michael Hoath (Chairman) who was unwell.
- 2023/3 Declarations of interest
There were no declarations of interest declared.
- 2023/4 Minutes of the meetings held on 12th and 15th December, 2022
The minutes of the meeting held on 12th December, 2022 and the finance meeting held on 15th December, 2022 were approved and signed as correct records.
- 2023/5 Matters arising from the meetings held on the 12th December 2022 and 15th December 2022
There were no matters arising.
- 2023/6 Public Participation
There were no matters raised.
- 2023/7 Planning Matters
- a) Decisions on previous applications
No decisions had been received
- b) Applications dealt with under delegated powers prior to the meeting
No applications had been determined.
- c) Applications considered at the meeting
No applications had been received

2023/8

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Catherine Webber

Car Parking – Car parking costs in District Council car parks were increasing by 10% in line with inflation. There was still 1 hour of free parking. Questions were asked as to the impact of reducing the free 2 hours to 1 hour, and whether traders had lost income, and whether the District Council had experienced increased income. Cllr. Webber offered to find the answers.

Support Fund – A £500 one off discretionary support sum for Ukraine host families was available. This was paid through the community hub.

Thames Water Reservoir – The Group Against the Reservoir Development had challenged DEFRA regarding the redaction in Thames Water's documentation on Water Resources in the South East. The cost of GARD's preferred option of water transfer had been removed. The MP David Johnston was also raising queries regarding the redacted items.

Particulate monitoring A415 – Cllr. Webber would liaise with Tim Williams, Senior Environmental Health Officer at the District Council, regarding the results from the diffusion tubes that had been located along the A415. Developers for housing locally had indicated that pollution would not increase as a result of developments taking place.

2023/9

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. Richard Webber

County Council Budget – The County Council's budget was looking healthier than previously anticipated.

Road networks – traffic – The new HIF funded road from Didcot to Clifton Hampden was complex with a planning committee meeting likely to be over 3 days. Traffic in this area did not directly affect Marcham, however a planning application for 700 dwellings in Fyfield and Tubney parish close to Kingston Bagpuize would affect Marcham as the developer had anticipated a total of 18,000 vehicles a day through the village. The developer had stated that the additional impact would be negligible. Members referred to existing traffic queues at peak times which stretched from the A34 back to Frilford, and questions as to whether the S bend on the A415 would cope, and whether a ban on HGVs could be imposed, were asked. The District Councillor, Cllr. Catherine Webber was writing a statement for the planning committee, and the Parish Council Chairman, Michael Hoath too may address committee if possible.

2023/10

Neighbourhood Plan

The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan group would be on 16th January. Dates to meet with the school were being arranged.

2023/11

Community Facilities

Sandra Hill gave an update report. Owing to Christmas and New Year no further working party meeting had been held. There had been a slight delay with one company in producing a detailed 3D drawing, and they had offered to prepare a 2D document instead. This should be with the clerk by the 3rd week in January. Discussion took place as to the budget, and it was noted that there was some s. 106 funding available to add to the total. The clerk, at the outset had investigated the requirements for applying for the s. 106 funds, and would do so again.

2023/12

90 dwellings south of the A415 – Bloor Homes site

Council considered the drawings produced by Bloor Homes, and the idea of possibly taking on the public open space(s). There was much discussion, and mixed views. Questions were raised regarding the central island on the A415 and a second crossing point. Council noted the offer of Bloor Homes to meet with members on 17th January.

RESOLVED:

- a) that members meet with Bloor Homes on 17th January, 2023
- b) that questions be raised direct with Bloor Homes at the meeting.

2023/13

The Crown Public House – Registration as an asset of community value

Mark Harvie gave a report. A meeting had taken place in December 2022 to save The Crown public house. There was to be a further meeting later in January. A press article had appeared in the Oxford Mail. Support from Marcham Community Group and the Church had been given. Council considered a request that it, should be the appropriate body to apply to register The Crown as an asset of community value, on behalf of the community.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of the Parish Council acting as the applicant for an application to the Vale of White Horse District Council to register The Crown as an asset of community value.

In favour	Against	Abstention
5	0	2

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Marcham Parish Council, on behalf of the community, be the applicant to the Vale of White Horse District Council to register The Crown Public House as an asset of community value, if requested to do so.
- (ii) that the application proceed on the basis that there was no obligation on the Council to provide future funding at any time.

2023/14

Frilford, Garford and Marcham War Memorial

Council considered the establishment of a working party to consider the war memorial, its location on the A415, any need for improvements or new location, consultations required, and funding requirements. The clerk had drafted Terms of Reference for a working party.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the Council set up a working party to progress investigations into the war memorial and any need for works, or relocation to a new site
- b) that the working party comprise up to 10 people, with at least one councillor from Marcham, and a representatives from Frilford and Garford parishes.
- c) that Mark Harvie and Sheena Bigden be the initial representatives from Marcham to start the group
- d) that the terms of reference as drafted be adopted.

2023/15 Cllrs. Richard and Catherine Webber left the meeting at 9.00 p.m.

2023/16 Risk Assessment

Council considered the risk assessment. Comments were made that The Anson field (sports pitches) itself should be included as an item. These were leased to Marcham Community Group, and the Council had no immediate responsibility. The pitches, could however be included A query was raised as to whether there was an item missing at line 62 in the excel sheet. It was believed that there was not, but the clerk would check the records.

RESOLVED:

that the risk assessment be adopted subject to adding the Anson field

2023/17 Budget 2023/24

Council carefully considered the current balances, the likely balances at the year end, and the draft budget for 2023/2024, as prepared at the finance meeting on 15th December.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those who supported setting the precept at £71,500. This was the same figure as last year.

In favour
7

Against
0

Abstention
0

RESOLVED:

- (i) any unspent sums from 2022/23 be taken into reserves

- (ii) that the budget for 2023/24 as set out in the appendices to these minutes be approved
- (iii) that the precept for 2023/24 from the Vale of White Horse District Council be set at £71500.
- (iv) that a sum of £130,000 of the £180000 remaining from previous gifts be earmarked for play area provision.
- (v) that the remaining £60,000 continue to be set aside for the purpose of community facilities and benefit.
- (vi) that a sum of £70,000 from reserves continued to be earmarked for new cemetery provision.
- (vii) that the former funds held by Marcham and Frilford Joint Burial Committee and now part of the Parish Council's accounts, held in the PC Cemetery account be set aside for Cemetery purposes.

2023/18

Allotments

Council considered a request from an existing allotment tenant to take on a second allotment plot. This required a review of Council's policy as only one plot was permitted currently. Members were in agreement that the policy could be amended to allow for a second plot provided it was let on a rolling annual tenancy as at present, and that the tenant was required to surrender it if there happened to be a long waiting list.

RESOLVED:

that the allotment policy be amended to permit a second plot to be rented by the same tenant, provided there was a requirement to surrender the plot should there be a long waiting list.

2023/19

Correspondence

- a) Letters of thanks for grants awarded have been received from Marcham Community Group, Vale of White Horse & Ridgeway Archaeological and Historical Trust and Marcham Parochial Church Council.
- b) Oxfordshire County Council – Parish Transport Representative's meeting 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday 21st February, 2023
- c) Vale of White Horse District Council – 17 Parkside, log stores. Planning enforcement was not proceeding as the log stores had been reduced in size.
- d) Oxfordshire County Council – Tree Planting – The County Council was going to plant a tree on highway land. Members did not have any specific preference for a site. One suggestion was possibly outside of The Farthings, as a chestnut tree in that location had been felled some years ago.

- e) Oxfordshire County Council – Oxfordshire Water Supply Summit slides and note had been received.
- f) Thames Water – Launch of public consultation on Water Resources Management Plan 2024, and notification of Forum Meeting 31st January, in London, to discuss the WRMP
- g) Thames Valley Police Crime Commissioner – December update

2023/20

Accounts

The list of payments had been circulated to Members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 3589 to 3595 and authorised payments in the sum of 8261.81 in respect of administration costs, play area checks, and Churchyard path works.

2023/21

Matters Raised by Members

Christmas Tree – village green

James Plumb offered to assist with the disposal of the Christmas tree on the village green. This would be taken to the tree recycling point by the Salvation Army textile bank in Howard Cornish Road. Any lights remaining would first be removed and handed Sandra Hill for safe keeping. He would liaise with Ruth Mander regarding the tree’s base.

A415 – Vehicle Activated Sign

It was reported that the VAS on the Eastern side of the village appeared to mal function. This would be checked.

Fettiplace Road – Keeping of Commercial vehicle

The Licence for a commercial vehicle kept in Fettiplace Road was due for renewal in February 2023. It was suggested that residents, who may be affected should the licence be renewed be advised, in case they wished to write to the Traffic Commissioner. Members generally thought that the commercial vehicle was no longer kept in that location. Checks would be made.

Kings Field phase II - road names

Road names on the new development had been selected from past local residents involved with the parish. The families had been notified.

2023/22

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2023/23

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 13th February, 2023 at 7.30 pm. in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed Date