

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 commencing at 7.30 p.m. held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

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Present:

Sheena Bigden, Warren Brooker, Mark Harvie, Michael Hoath (Chairman), Sandra Hill, Ruth Mander, James Plumb.

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

Cllrs. Richard Webber (County Councillor) and Catherine Webber (District Councillor).

1 member of the public

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The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and advised that Cllrs. Richard and Catherine Webber would give their reports early on the agenda, owing to commitments elsewhere. Council agreed to re-order the agenda.

- 2023/45      Apologies for Absence  
No apologies had been received.
- 2023/46      Declarations of interest  
There were no declarations of interest declared.
- 2023/47      District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Catherine Webber  
Elections - The period of sensitivity, formerly known as purdah commenced on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.  
Garden Waste Collection – This had been reinstated following the break over Christmas and New Year.  
Waste – A new waste contract was being negotiated for the municipal waste.  
Neighbourhood Disputes – South and Vale Councils were helping to fund Mediation Bucks, a service providing mediation for parties involved in disputes.  
Free on line training for food business – Training as to hygiene and food handling was being provided. Contact [env.health@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:env.health@southandvale.gov.uk)  
A415 – Air Quality Management Area – Cllr. Webber was about to attend a meeting with officers of the District Council, who had been considering the AQMA in Marcham and its effects.  
Let it Bee – Nature recovery project – 9 sites within the Vale district had been selected, for biodiversity and increasing wildflowers and wildlife.
- 2023/48      County Councillor's Report – Cllr. Richard Webber  
The Crown Public House – Application for Asset of Community Value  
A letter in support of The Crown being registered as an Asset of Community Value had been sent to the Vale of White Horse District Council.

A 338 – Reduction in speed limit 50 mph to 40 mph - Cllr Webber had approached the County Council in regards to speed reduction. Cllr. Webber would check the facts again, as there seemed to be some confusion between the A338 and the A415 where the speed limit had been reduced some 4 years ago.

Entrance to Barrow Close – Mirror – This had been installed by the County Council. Members commented on the beneficial effect it was having.

Howard Cornish Road - Bus Stop Clearway – Cllr. Webber advised of the consultation which had commenced in regards to a bus stop clearway. The Clerk, since the publication of the agenda, had received information from the County Council, which had been circulated to members. An extension of time for the Parish Council to submit comments had been obtained. This would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Mill Road – Bridleway 17 – Bridge - A meeting was being arranged with Hugh Potter, Acting Head of Environment at Oxfordshire County Council so that an update could be provided for residents.

2023/49 Cllrs. Richard and Catherine Webber left the meeting at 7.55 p.m.

2023/50 Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2023  
Minute 2023/34 – Community Facilities – Anson Field Signage was queried. It was proposed that Council had not agreed to “dogs being kept on leads” being included in the signage wording. Members recalled much discussion including this suggestion. It was proposed that the resolution 2023/34 (i) “dogs must be kept under control”, be changed to “dogs must be kept on leads” be deleted, and be substituted with “ that Marcham Community Group be asked to consider whether dogs should be kept on leads”

In all other respects, the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record

2023/51 Matters arising from the meetings held on the 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

There were no matters arising.

2023/52 Public Participation  
There were no matters raised by the member of the public attending.

2023/53 Planning Matters

a) Decisions on previous applications

P22/V2988/LDP Change existing front door from timber to UPVC 4 Mill Road  
Certificate of Lawful Development issued 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

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

No applications had been received

d) Applications considered at the meeting

P23/V0374/HH Extension of dropped kerb  
75 Howard Cornish Road  
Comments: Council had no objections

2023/54

Neighbourhood Plan

Mark Harvie gave an update report. He outlined the key sections for the plan, and spoke about the survey. A further working party meeting would be held early April to finalise the survey for circulation in the local area.

2023/55

Community Facilities

Sandra Hill gave an update report. There had been successful consultation with a display of the proposals in the village shop widow, and also in Marcham Centre. The deadline for consultation responses was 14<sup>th</sup> March. She outlined some of the comments received so far. All responses would be fully analysed. Reference was made to installation at the end of the Summer when ground conditions were at their best, and to avoid impact on the sports pitches and activities.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that authority be given to the Clerk in consultation with the working party, to progress the design as drafted, provided minor alterations, if required, be undertaken within the fence line, and subject to the overall budget.
- (iii) that checks be made with Wicksteed Leisure to confirm that the target date could still be met.

2023/56

Anson Field – Bird Boxes

Council considered a request from Marcham Guides, who had made 4 bird boxes, to erect them in the Anson field. Council noted that it had leased some of the land it owned to Marcham Community Group, and had sub-let to them, other land that the Council leased from the Anson Trust.

RESOLVED:

that, in so far as the Parish Council, could grant permission, that permission be granted to Marcham Guides to erect 4 bird boxes.

2023/57 Brize Norton – Air Space  
Council considered the air space change proposals draft design principles. Members did not wish to add items, or make comment.

RESOLVED:

that no comments be submitted on the design principles for the air space change proposals for RAF Brize Norton

2023/58 War Memorial Working Party  
Mark Harvie gave a report on the meeting of the working party held on 9th March. The next steps were for a structural integrity assessment to be carried out on the existing war memorial, consideration of alternative sites, consideration of a complimentary site as a parish memorial or garden of reflection, followed by consultation with residents.

2023/59 Gigaclear – Funding for restoration, Parkside  
Council noted that an application for funding as offered by Gigaclear had been lodged with them. Also noted was the residents' preference for a new bench seat on the western side of the entrance to Parkside, and if funds permitted a shrub planted on the eastern side. Costings for installing a concrete base, and new seat exceeded the funding offered by Gigaclear, it was suggested by a member that Gigaclear be asked to pay 50% of the total cost.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Gigaclear be asked to increase their offer once costings were known
- (ii) that an application be made to Oxfordshire County Council for permission to site street furniture in New Road on the western side of the entrance to Parkside
- (iii) that the required declarations, particularly as to insurance and maintenance responsibilities be given to Oxfordshire County Council
- (iv) that authority be given to spend up to £2000 for the provision and installation of a new bench seat at the western side of the entrance to Parkside.

2023/60 Thames Water – Strategic Plan for future water supply  
Council discussed the consultation document. Reference was made by members of the fact that Oxfordshire floods during periods of heavy rainfall and therefore any new reservoir should take account of that. In the opinion of the members, there were conflicting opinions circulating, statistics were inconsistent, and it was therefore extremely difficult to comment.

RESOLVED:

that should the reservoir be constructed that a proper assessment of the infrastructure during the build phase be undertaken. In addition any proposals for development should include objectives to help flood management.

2023/61

Community Infrastructure Levy

Council noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council was Holding £6164.30 which it could pass to the Parish Council, and was in the process of identifying any other funds received between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

RESOLVED:

that the Vale of White Horse District Council continue to hold these funds on behalf of the Parish Council.

2023/62

Correspondence

- a) Oxfordshire County Council – Tree Planting  
An Ulmus New Horizon tree is being planted in Fettiplace Road close to where the previous wind damaged tree had to be removed. (Opposite no. 22).
- b) Oxfordshire County Council – Temporary Road Closure and No waiting Order 3rd – 5<sup>th</sup> April 8.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m. on A420 between Kingston Bagpuize and Longworth turn to allow for highway re-patching works.
- c) Oxfordshire County Council – Community Emergency Planning information to encourage local communities to plan ahead for any emergencies that may occur.
- d) Oxfordshire County Council – Minerals and Waste Plan for Oxfordshire – Call for Sites to be considered for inclusion in the next Plan up to 2042.
- e) Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre – Spring recorders Conference, 18<sup>th</sup> March at Hill End.
- f) Keep Britain Tidy – Great British Spring Clean – 17<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- g) Enrych (Charity supporting physically disabled) is holding information Zoom sessions 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March.
- h) Thames Valley Police Crime Commissioner – Bulletin February
- i) CPRE – Oxford Green Belt overspill event 16<sup>th</sup> March/Housing Need Consultation
- j) Oxfordshire Preservation Trust – Award Scheme information. Deadline for nominations 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023
- k) Community First Oxfordshire – Winter Newsletter -
- l) Vale of White Horse District Council – Pre Election Candidate Briefing
- m) NHS – Request for assistance with advertising Oxford Health School Aged Immunisation Programme. Brief article and advertisements to go in newsletter on website etc. at the start of each vaccination programme.

- n) OALC Circular - February
- o) Oxfordshire County Council – Mill Road Bridleway 17  
Pre-work meetings had commenced with anticipation of a start date for repairs later in the Spring.
- p) MRH Services – Play Area inspection. The latest report was as expected with gaps in the tiles to be filled when the weather permitted.

2023/63

Accounts

Council noted the bank reconciliation and the balances held. The list of payments had been circulated to Members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 3606 to 3613 and authorised payments in the sum of £2568.36 in respect of administration costs including membership subscriptions, and play area inspection.

Council considered the purchase of a laptop computer for use by the Clerk.

RESOLVED:

that the clerk be authorised to spend up to £1200 on the purchase of a laptop computer and licence for software.

2023/64

Matters Raised by Members

Cow Lane - Allotment

A padlock was missing on the pedestrian gate. A chain was needed so that the padlock could be accessed from both sides of the gate. Breakins had taken place in the wooden sheds in February. A trespasser had been seen and spoken to in the allotments.

Howard Cornish Road – street nameplate at junction with North Street

This road nameplate had been damaged, and had been reported to the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Anson Trust – availability of grants

An Anson Trustee had mentioned to Ruth Mander, the availability of grant funding for the new play area. The Clerk would investigate this.

Oxfordshire County Council – Pothole repairs

James Plumb reminded members that he was the appointed “super user” for the area with authority from the County Council to identify potholes, within certain criteria, and issue works orders. He asked to be informed of any potholes that were in need of repair.

North Street – Post Office area – parishioner who fell

A member had received a letter from a resident who had fallen on the pavement near the Post Office, and broken her arm. Advice was given that she should contact Oxfordshire County Council.

Meeting with Pye Homes – Harding Way phase II development

The Chairman mentioned the note in the Clerk’s report, that he and the Clerk had met with representatives from Pye Homes regarding the path which comes from their development site through the Council’s public open space, and matters in Sheepstead Road.

Howard Cornish Road – path to Harding Way, public open space

It was suggested that these trees be checked for any necessary works before they came into leaf.

Anson Field Signage

As the minute of the last meeting had been queried, discussion took place as to whether dogs should be kept under control in the Anson Field and what that might mean, or whether they should be kept on a lead. Note was made of the children’s play area, sports pitches and dangers from toxocarriasis, as well as the impact on dog owners, should they be banned or have to be kept on a lead. It was generally thought that the final decision should be made by Marcham Community Group, as the tenant of most of the area and who had management responsibility for the sports pitches. They would need to bear in mind minimum mess and distraction to field users, and avoid disturbance to users. However, the decision should be enforceable. The Parish Council would support with parish education.

This item to appear on the next agenda for ratification.

The Crown Public House

Mark Harvie confirmed that an application to have The Crown Public House registered as an Asset of Community Value had been lodged with the Vale of White Horse District Council.

2023/65

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2023/66

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at 7.30 pm. in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

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