

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th April, 2023 commencing at 8.00 p.m. held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

Present:

Chitvan Amin, Sheena Bigden, Warren Brooker, Mark Harvie, Michael Hoath (Chairman), Ruth Mander, James Plumb, Suzanne Saunter.

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

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

1 member of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the current Council. District Council elections would be taking place on 4th May, and he placed on record his, and the Council's thanks to Cllr. Catherine Webber for all her hard work on behalf of Marcham parish whilst serving as District Councillor for the past 8 years.

- 2023/67 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Sandra Hill (away from the area).
- 2023/68 Declarations of interest
There were no declarations of interest declared.
- 2023/69 Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March, 2023
The minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2023 were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2023/70 Re-ordering of agenda
The Chairman requested, and it was agreed by Council, that the agenda be re-ordered so that the reports of the District and County Councillor be received next.
- 2023/71 District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Catherine Webber
Pre-Election period – Owing to the fact that elections were taking place, there was little to report on District Council activities. She provided the deadline dates for those seeking to register to vote or apply for a postal vote, or proxy.
Great Western Railway – There were safety concerns with the Nuneham viaduct, and a bus shuttle service between Didcot and Oxford had been introduced. This was likely to be operating until the end of April.
Extra garden waste collection – Up to 3 extra black sacks of garden waste would be collected from households between 17th April and 28th April.

Great British Tidy - During Great British Tidy week, 560 sacks of litter were collected in the Vale of White Horse area. She reminded people of the District Council's service for lending litter pickers.

Energy Efficiency - Advice and grants were available from the District Council.

Safe Cycling Training sessions – The County Council's Road Safety Team were running safe cycling session in Abingdon. These were bookable via the County Council.

Electric Vehicle Car Club – Electric vehicles were available for hire. Information was on the County Council's website.

Questions – Questions were asked regarding litter avoidance and training. Cllr. Webber would make enquires as to information and talks available.

2023/72

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. Richard Webber

Traffic – There was, a significant amount of road traffic affecting the local area owing to works to the Nuneham Courtenay viaduct and the Botley bridge by Network rail which had resulted in rail and road closures.

Mill Road – Bridleway 17 - Cllr. Richard Webber provided an update on the re-opening of the bridleway. He was asking councillors standing in the forthcoming elections, not to use the bridleway as part of any campaign material.

Questions – Questions were posed on the need for a local bus service to Didcot, particularly the train station, and evidence as to extra bus use as a result of the more frequent Wantage to Oxford service which passed through Marcham. Cllr. Webber would make enquiries.

2023/73

Matters arising from the meetings held on the 13th March, 2023

Gigaclear – Parkside

Council noted that Oxfordshire County Council had given permission for a new bench seat to be located on the western corner of Parkside/New Road junction. It was also noted that the residents had requested a recycled plastic bench. Council had no objections to this.

2023/74

Public Participation

Path – Harding Way to Howard Cornish Road - Lighting

Comments were made by the member of the public attending, that the path between Harding Way and Howard Cornish Road was dark, and a request was made for lighting. The Chairman and Clerk advised that the Parish Council had considered both a powered supply and solar power previously, but costings, lack of direct sunlight for solar power, and limited electricity generated had resulted in the Council deciding

not to progress the matter at that time. The member of the public was asked to investigate how lighting could be achieved.

2023/75

Planning Matters

a) Decisions on previous applications

P22/V0246/FUL – Open sided wood store and tool shed for forestry management.

Land adjacent to White Hart Wood at Blackgate Lane, Frilford
Permitted 21st March, 2023

P23/V0233/HH Erection of 4 bay oak frame garage
Manor Farm, Mill Road

Permitted 24th March, 2023

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

P23/V0598/FUL Replacement dwelling and garage
Heathberry House, Oxford Road

Comments: Council requested:

1. That the Tree Officer ensure that the screening by trees from the main road remained intact.
2. Materials were such that they did not increase the visibility of the house from the road
3. That plans were in place to ensure the safety of turning traffic during construction.
4. That checks be made to ensure that there was no bat activity in the area.

c) Applications considered at the meeting

No applications had been received

2023/76

Bus Stop Clearway – Morland Road stops

Council discussed the consultation from the County Council. It was thought that having two clearway markings immediately opposite each other could cause obstruction if two buses happened to be stopped at the same time.

RESOLVED:

that consideration be given to off setting the markings, if possible.

2023/77

Cllrs. Richard and Catherine Webber left the meeting.

2023/78

Neighbourhood Plan

Mark Harvie gave an update report. A draft questionnaire had been prepared. Members were asked to contact him with suggested amendments. The aim was to distribute the questionnaire in May. This would be available electronically and in hard copy form.

2023/79

Community Facilities

The Chairman, just prior to the meeting, had received comments from a resident who had spoken about the play area. As the resident was unable to attend the meeting, the Chairman acted as his representative, and advised Members of the comments made.

The Clerk and Suzanne Saunter gave update reports on progress with the play area. The responses to the consultation had been analysed and feedback considered. The layout had been revised following comments received, and consideration given to siting the items outside of the fence in the best location, bearing in mind the sports pitches and housing. Sensory items and “ability” swing for disabled children had been considered. The swing had been discounted, but a smaller item, such as chimes had been put forward by some members of the working party. Not all had agreed as there was a perceived potential for noise impact. This suggestion was considered by Council.

The aim was to deliver the project in August.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that chimes be incorporated into the design.
- (ii) that a bench seat be removed to accommodate them if necessary
- (iii) that an Order be placed with Wicksteed Leisure for the items inside the fence, pending the result of planning decision on the taller items.
- (iv) that an Order be placed for the remainder once planning consent had been granted.

2023/79

Housing Development north of Harding Way – s. 104 Water Industries Act 1991 Agreement

The Council, as owner of land under which private drainage and the public sewer was sited, had been requested to join in and execute an Agreement between Pye Homes Ltd and Thames Water regarding the adoption of drainage for the new housing development,

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman and Vice Chairman execute the Deed under s. 104 Water Industries Act 1991.

2023/80

Tree work on path between Howard Cornish Road to Harding Way and in Cemetery

Council noted quotations for £2380 and £1740 respectively for essential tree works on trees between Howard Cornish Road and Harding Way, and also in the Cemetery.

RESOLVED:

that the quotations be accepted and the work progress as soon as possible.

2023/81

Correspondence

- a) Oxfordshire County Council – Increase for charges for non household waste disposal
- b) Police and Crime Commissioner’s newsletter March
- c) David Johnston MP – Health Services Survey
- d) Abingdon Carousel – 5th Birthday invitation to celebratory event Friday 21st April at 6.00 p.m.
- e) OALC – March newsletter
- f) Thames Water – Offer to attend a meeting a provide an update on the recent consultation on the Water Resources Management Plan. This offer was accepted by Council. The update to be provided after the formation of the new Council.
- g) Oxfordshire Cricket – Information about children’s cricket events, passed to the sports club.
- h) The Willows – Flooding – Notification from the Chairman of the Management Company that The Willows had flooded again, owing to inadequate drainage, and heavy rainfall.

2023/82

Minute Binding

Council considered a quotation for binding minutes.

RESOLVED:

that unbound minutes be bound at a cost of £225 per volume.

2023/83

Accounts

Council noted the bank reconciliation and the balances held. The list of payments had been circulated to Members. Since the start of the new tax year, staff employment costs had been calculated and the revised list was being circulated to Members. Council noted the cheques numbered 3614 to 3622 and authorised payments in the sum of £3807.39 in respect of administration costs, planning application fee, grass cutting, play area checks, litter collection, and allotment water costs.

2023/84

Matters Raised by Members

Cow Lane - Allotment

It was reported that one tenant had stated that he had not received confirmation of the new terms of the allotment tenancy. The Clerk stated that letters had been sent to all tenants in September 2021. A check would be made as to the particular enquiry. The terms were also on the Council’s website.

A query was made also, in regards to one tenant, whose chickens were loose, and who was also leaving the gate open.

Play Area – summary

An update report would be put in the next issue of MAD News and on the website.

Neighbourhood Plan

Information as to the Neighbourhood Plan and questionnaire would be required to be added to the website. Mark Harvie would speak with the Clerk.

New Council

The Chairman thanked all Members for their service to the community, and for standing again as candidates in the election scheduled for 4th May, 2023. 9 out of 10 seats had been filled, so being uncontested, there would be no formal ballot. The Council would co-opt to fill the vacant seat. There were several projects ongoing, so moving forward in the next Council term, would be very busy.

2023/85

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2023/86

Date of Next Meeting

The annual meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 16th May, 2023 at 7.30 pm. in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed Date