

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 commencing at 7.45 p.m. held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

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Present:

Chitvan Amin, Sheena Bigden, Warren Brooker, Mark Harvie, Sandra Hill, Michael Hoath, Ruth Mander, James Plumb, Suzanne Saunter, Joe Withers  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

Cllr. Robert Clegg (District Councillor)  
Cllr. Richard Webber (County Councillor)

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2023/140

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2023/141

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2023/142

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Robert Clegg

Cllr. Clegg gave a report.

Willow Farm/Monks Walk footpaths – He was corresponding with the planning enforcement, but as there were ongoing cases, detailed information was not available. Warren Brooker was Chairman of The Willows Management Company and was able to confirm that the culvert in the ditch needed to be re-installed. There would be a gate at the end of the path, and railings over the culvert to form a protected walk way.

Davies Edge / Harding Way footpath – Details were unavailable, owing to investigations by planning enforcement.

Grass Cutting Areas – A plan showing areas cut by the Vale of White Horse District Council had been provided to members. This showed areas belonging to the District Council, as well as those cut by them as agents for the County Council. The plan unfortunately, did not differentiate between the two responsibilities. In addition, some verges did not appear on the plan. This was assumed to be owing to a different road category status.

Robert Clegg would seek further clarification and would also enquire as to the frequency of cutting.

S. 106 funding for play area – He had been consulted for his views on the Parish Council's application for s. 106 funding towards the playground renovation. He had supported this.

Air Quality Action Plan – A joint (South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council) draft Action Plan was out for consultation. This indicated that NO<sub>2</sub> levels on the A415 were

reducing. The priority in the Plan for 2023-27 was to continue to reduce traffic emissions.

A comment was made to Robert Clegg, that whilst emissions were down, planning approval was being granted for housing elsewhere, so there would be no benefit for residents on the A415, as the number of vehicles was increasing.

2023/143

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. Richard Webber

Fatal Road Accident A415 - Richard Webber had spoken with the Police Crime Commissioner and encouraged him to publish statistics on road fatalities involving young people, as well as planning for educating youngsters in secondary schools, particularly those just starting to drive, regarding the dangers of travelling in excess of the speed limits, and the possible consequences.

Richard Webber would take up a query regarding partly obscured road signage (30 mph signs, white gate village entry features). These had already been reported to the County Council, but the response had been that they would be monitored.

Mill Road Bridleway 17 – This matter was progressing satisfactorily and work was due to commence shortly.

HIF Road (Didcot to Clifton Hampden)

The planning committee meetings where this road was due to be debated had been cancelled. The meeting was re-scheduled for Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2023. It was suggested that developers may look for housing sites elsewhere, should planning consent not be granted, and Marcham should consider talking to landowners in regards to the future of Marcham.

2023/144

Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

2023/145

Matters arising from the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

There were no matters arising.

2023/146

Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

2023/147

Vale of White Horse District Council – Consultation on the draft air quality action plan for the district

Council discussed the draft Air Quality Action Plan.

RESOLVED:

that the following comments be submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council.

- (i) More information should be included as to traffic volumes

- (ii) Graphs within the Plan were no later than 2019. These needed updating
- (iii) Statistics should indicate traffic and pollution before housing development takes place, and then at a later date after housing development to gauge comparisons.

Members also stated that residents should be made aware of the consultation document.

2023/148

Vale of White Horse District Council – use of s. 106 funding Manor Oak Homes, land north of Priory Lane

Council noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council was seeking to refurbish the tennis courts at the White Horse Leisure Centre, and was raising £165,500. They intended to draw down £3931 (indexed linked) from s. 106 contributions paid by Manor Oak Homes from its development for land north of Priory Lane (Abbots Grange) and earmarked for use within 5 miles of the site.

RESOLVED:

that the Council had no objections to the Vale of White Horse District Council drawing down the sum of £3931 to use for refurbishment of the tennis courts at the White Horse Leisure Centre.

2023/149

Bridleway 17 – Mill Road

Council noted that legal documentation had been finalised and repairs to the bridleway were due to start at the end of July.

Concerns were raised again regarding ensuring that the bridleway route would be fully cleared and not just the bridge repaired, as a tree had fallen a while back, and as the route had been closed for years, it was very overgrown, particularly for a distance of some 300 metres south of the bridge.

The Clerk advised that the County Council had already indicated that the route would be left accessible and that it was intended that clearance would form part of the works. Use of a share of the County Councillor's Priority Fund was discussed.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that clearance following the repairs to the bridleway bridge be monitored
- (ii) that if the works were deemed insufficient, then an application be lodged with the County Council, with the agreement of Cllr. Richard Webber, for a transfer from the priority fund to complete any works required.

2023/150 Oxfordshire County Council – Formal consultation – proposed 20 mph scheme for Marcham and relocation of 30 mph in Sheepstead Road  
Council discussed the proposal for a 20 mph scheme in the village, and extending the 30 mph from Harding Way to Cow Lane.

RESOLVED:

that the following comments be submitted to the County Council

- (i) A415 - West of village. The change from 30 mph to 20 mph was located at a point which was not easily visible when approaching from the West, nor did it include West Bow cottage. Pedestrians crossed the road from the Frilford Road recreation ground to Kiln Copse to use the public footpath. Consideration should be given to relocating the 20 mph position further West.
- (ii) the point in Sheepstead Road where 20 mph becomes 30 mph should be moved further North to include the junctions of The Farthings, Kings Avenue and Harding Way.
- (iii) that Sheepstead Road should become a 50 mph limit, and the speed could then drop straight into 20 mph, rather than 60 mph to 30 mph, then 20 mph.
- (iv) A415 – Eastern side of Marcham be extended to include the new housing development by Bloor Homes south of the A415.

2023/151 Fettiplace Road – The Gap alleyway  
Council considered a proposal by the County Council to remove the last barrier at The Gap end of the alleyway between Fettiplace Road and The Gap.

RESOLVED:

that this Council objects to the removal of the barrier, and wishes it to remain in situ.

2023/152 Priory Lane / Footpath through Abbots Grange  
Council noted correspondence from a resident regarding pedestrians leaving Abbots Grange on the public footpath and clashing with vehicles travelling, sometimes at speed, in Priory Lane. The gate on the path had been left open during Covid, and had had its spring removed. The resident had also contacted those that managed the public spaces on the Abbots Grange development. It had been reported that the gate spring was to be replaced, and signage put on both sides of the gate.

RESOLVED:

that this situation be monitored.

2023/153

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P23/V0883/HH Installation of 16 ground mounted solar PC panels  
1 Gozzards Ford  
Permitted 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

P23/V1337/LB Re-point north facing wall of the property, replacing existing degraded lime mortar with a like-for-like material  
4 North Street  
Comments: Council had no objections

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

No applications had been received

2023/154

Community Facilities

New Play Area

Council received an updated report. Just prior to the meeting, a joint letter from 3 households in Tower Close had been received, and was read out by the Chairman. This expressed concerns regarding distances from properties. The contents were noted and taken into account. Wicksteed Leisure had produced a revised layout plan, and discussions as to siting of the 2 items outside of the play area had taken place with the planning officer. Screening with landscaping could be considered.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of supporting the revised plans.

In favour	Against	Abstention
10	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council supports the revised layout plan
- (ii) that the plan be submitted to the planning officer
- (iii) that landscaping and screening be considered

Entrance / exit from Morland Road to Barrow Close and Anson Field signage

Joe Withers gave a report on a meeting that he and Chitvan Amin had attended with the Anson Trust and Marcham Community Group. The

signage for the field had been discussed, and agreed by the representatives of the 3 groups. The final draft wording was produced to the Council.

Discussion had taken place at the meeting regarding the entrance to Barrow Close from Morland Road. It had been agreed that the 2 stop signs would be moved closer to the white line, and the painted word "Stop" would be relocated closer to the actual Stop line, to emphasise that was where the vehicles were required to stop.

The Council discussed an independent safety assessment of the junction.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that the proposed wording for the signage be agreed
- (ii) that the Anson Trust, as owners of the access road, be asked to arrange for an independent safety assessment of the junction of Morland Road and Barrow Road, and the access into the hall site.

2023/155

Neighbourhood Plan

An update report was given by Mark Harvie from the Steering Group. Funding was required for form printing, and possible professional analysis of responses. Use of a MSN Licence so that MS forms could be used for the questionnaire would be helpful. Council noted that there was £5000 in the budget for Neighbourhood Plan expenses.

**RESOLVED:**

that authority be given to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman for the budgeted neighbourhood plan funds to be used for items required to progress the Plan to the next stage.

2023/156

Parish Communication

Council discussed ways of best communicating to parishioners, everything that was ongoing, and improving online presence. It noted previous resolutions of the Council. The future of Marcham and District Newsletter was unclear, as the editor was moving away from the area. Formal Council notices were currently placed in the Marcham Shop. It was suggested that the noticeboard outside the village hall could be used at appropriate times.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that a working party comprising Joe Withers, Warren Brooker and James Plumb be formed, with the terms of reference to consider ways of communicating Council issues to the

parish, and to produce recommendations for the Council, bearing in mind Council resources.

- 2023/157      Bee Keeping at allotments  
Council considered a request to keep bees at the Cow Lane allotments, and confirmed its discussion at the last meeting that bees should not be kept at the Parkside allotments.
- RESOLVED:
- (i)      that the keeping of bees not be permitted at the Cow Lane allotments
  - (ii)     that the decision at the last meeting that bees should not be kept at the Parkside allotment be ratified
- 2023/158      Grant Report  
Council received a report on the monitoring of grants allocated during 2022/23. Confirmation and proof of spending was awaited from just one organisation. This was being monitored
- 2023/159      Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils - AGM  
Council received a report from Sandra Hill who had attended this meeting. Out of 249 parishes in Oxfordshire, only 12 had sent a representative. Reference had been made to the work in progress of a new working relationship between the County Council and Parish Councils. The Society of Local Council Clerks too had given a presentation on training and qualifications for clerks.
- 2023/160      Standing Orders  
The duration of the meeting had been 2 hours and it was RESOLVED to suspend standing order 3x to allow business to continue.
- 2023/161      War Memorial  
Council noted that the Clerk, Chairman and Sheena Bigden had met with a structural engineer at the war memorial. He was prepared to assist the Parish Council by writing a report and recommendations for the war memorial, particularly as to works to ensure it was easier to maintain. His report was awaited.
- 2023/162      Correspondence  
Council noted correspondence received
- a) Police and Crime Commissioner newsletter - June
  - b) OALC Update - June
  - c) Oxfordshire County Council – Notification of consultation on Oxford United’s proposed new ground “The Triangle” between Peartree and Kidlington, Oxford.  
Consultation and survey at <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk>  
Deadline for comment 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2023
  - d) Oxfordshire Good Neighbour Scheme Co-ordinator – grants up to £500 available for the setting up of new support schemes.

e) Land north of Harding Way - Email from Solicitor acting for Pye Homes regarding their new development. As part of the development works affected land in the ownership of the Parish Council, confirmation was required that the Parish Council agreed that the Solicitor would communicate on its behalf too. Any costs to be paid by Pye Homes. Council confirmed that that be the case.

2023/163

Accounts

Council received the budget monitoring report as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023  
The list of payments had been circulated to Members. Council noted the cheques numbered 3650 to 3655 and authorised payments in the sum of £4209.21 in respect of administration costs, and grass cutting.

2023/164

Matters raised by members for information

Play Area

It was reported that 2 dogs had been seen inside the children's play area. A query was raised as to signage to restrict dogs. Checks would be made on site, and temporary notices erected if appropriate to cover the Summer period. New Signage could be considered when the new play area had been installed.

The Crown Public House

Thanks were placed on record to the Parish Council for its support in regards to the Asset of Community Value application, as whilst the application had been turned down, the public house had now been acquired by Oak Taverns to re-open as a public house. The public attention given to the building had assisted to ensuring its continuance as a facility for the parish.

2023/165

Items for MAD News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2023/166

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting would be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

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