

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 8th April, 2024 commencing at 7.30 p.m. held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

Present:

Sheena Bigden, Mark Harvie, (Chairman), Michael Hoath, Ruth Mander,
James Plum, Joe Withers
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Cllr. Richard Webber
8 members of the public

- 2024/70 Apologies for Absence
Apologies had been received from Sandra Hill, and also from Cllr. Robert Clegg (District Councillor).
- 2024/71 Declarations of Interest
Mark Harvie, Mike Hoath and Ruth Mander declared interests in the agenda item relating to community facilities, in that they were Trustees of Marcham Community Group that managed the hall, multi-use games area and sports field facilities for the community. They had each submitted a request for dispensation to participate in the debate for one year from 1st April, 2024, relating to the agenda item on drainage at the community facilities, but not vote, as the number of councillors remaining could restrict the business. As Trustees, they had detailed knowledge which would assist Council.
- On a show of hands, to the granting of dispensations to Mark Harvie, Mike Hoath and Ruth Mander
- | In favour | Against | Abstention |
|-----------|---------|------------|
| 3 | 0 | 0 |
- RESOLVED:
That dispensations be granted to Mark Harvie, Mike Hoath and Ruth Mander, for one year from 1st April 2024, to participate in debate, but not vote on agenda items relating to drainage at the community facilities.
- 2024/72 Public Participation
Barrow Close – drainage issues
Jon Perry, a resident, and representative for the residents from Barrow Close, made a statement about the shared pumped drainage system used by the village hall, and 5 houses in Barrow Close. Reference was made to H₂S gas which was forming, and septicity checks undertaken by Thomas Homes, the developer of the hall and houses. Thomas Homes had been corresponding with Marcham Community Group, as Lessees of the hall in this regard. The solution proposed was a

chemical dosing unit to neutralise the H2S. The residents felt that they should not have to contribute towards any costs for any provision or maintenance of a dosing unit, as they did not believe waste from the houses contributed to the problem.

The Chairman thanked Jon Perry for his statement.

2024/73

Community Facilities – agenda order

The Chairman, with the consent of Council re-arranged the agenda, and brought forward the agenda item relating to community facilities to be the next item.

2024/74

Community Facilities

Council discussed the current issues with the shared pumped drainage system in Barrow Close. The Chairman permitted the residents attending the meeting, to answer questions from Members.

It was noted that the septicity report did indicate nutrients in waste water, and cleaning products, from the hall might contribute to H2S issues, but equally, no testing had been carried out at the houses.

Michael Hoath reported that the hall had reduced cleaning products going into the drainage system as well as reducing food debris. The bar at the hall had not put beer waste into the system for many months. To assist, it was suggested that residents too, should reduce sulphides and cleaning products into the drainage system. It was noted that the residents were required to pay a fair and reasonable contribution for the running of the pumped drainage system.

It was noted that commissioning instructions and a maintenance contract would be required for the unit, as would fencing and hedging for screening, should this be the only solution to the drainage issues experienced.

It was proposed that Marcham Community Group be requested to minimise any impact that the hall might have on the drainage system by reducing levels of products in line with the report, and that MCG should communicate with residents who shared the drainage system.

The Clerk confirmed that the Anson Trust, as owners of the land where the dosing unit was being sited, had agreed to its location.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in support of the proposal.

Michael Hoath called for a named vote.

In favour

Against

Abstention

Joe Withers
James Plumb

Michael Hoath
Mark Harvie
Ruth Mander
Sheena Bigden

RESOLVED that

- (i) the septicity report be noted
- (ii) that Marcham Community Group be requested to minimise any impact that the hall might create on the drainage system, by reducing levels of products that aid the formation of H2S
- (iii) that MCG be asked to communicate with residents.
- (iv) that residents too be requested to help by reducing products that may contribute to H2S in the drainage system
- (v) that as the chemical dosing unit was currently a fundamental requirement for the continued operation of the Marcham Centre, that the Council, as Landlord, had no objection to its installation provided all relevant regulations were complied with, particularly in regards to health and safety of users and neighbours of the Anson field.
- (vi) that MCG, as tenants, responsible for the management of the hall arrange any required maintenance contract for the unit.

Council received a report on the play area.

RESOLVED:

that any minor issues with play equipment be referred to the installer when the next phase was being undertaken

2024/75 7 members of the public left the meeting.

2024/76 District Councillor's Report (Cllr. Robert Clegg)
A written report submitted by Cllr. Clegg in advance of the meeting, had been circulated and read by members.

Willow Farm/Monks Walk footpath – Information was awaited from the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Willow Farm/Bloor Homes drainage – A meeting with the District Council's drainage officer could be arranged if Parish Councillors and Willow Farm Management Company were interested in attending.

Highway Verge Grass Cutting – Differences between the County Council's maps and those of Vale of White Horse District Council were still being resolved.

Howard Cornish Road – caravan – This had reappeared in the lay by. As the surface of the layby was the responsibility of the County Council it would be that authority that would deal with it. The caravan was moved from time to time before coming back, so was not abandoned.

Parkside access road to flats – The Vale of White Horse District Council was dealing with the private road section. Sovereign Housing Association was the owner of the path leading from the roadway to the flats.

Tree debris – Kings Avenue

This had been cleared by the Parks Department.

Interest on CIL funds – Answers to Cllr. Clegg’s questions on CIL were awaited.

Climate Action Fund – This fund would be re-opening in May.

2024/77

County Councillor’s Report (Cllr. Richard Webber)

Cllr. Webber advised that he would be ceasing as the County Councillor at the end of the month owing to health issues. He was compiling a dossier of local issues in readiness to hand over to his successor.

The Council placed on record its thanks and appreciation for what he had done for Marcham since his election, and wished him well for the future.

2024/78

Cllr. R. Webber left the meeting at 8.20 p.m.

2024/79

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March, 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March, 2024 were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

2024/80

Matters Arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2024

Howard Cornish Road – caravan

Concerns were raised that the caravan had reappeared in the layby in Howard Cornish Road. Comments from Cllr. Clegg were reiterated.

Highway Verges

Questions were asked regarding the highway verges. The Clerk confirmed that a contract existed between Oxfordshire County Council and the Parish Council, to cut these. In addition, there was a contract between the Parish Council and Slade Estate Services to undertake the work on two occasions in the year.

2024/81

Planning Matters

a) Decisions on previous applications

P24/V0326/HH Erection of conservatory to the rear
5 Longfields
Permitted 28th March 2024

P24/V164/HH Convert garage 1st floor to ancillary
accommodation
Beechfield House
Permitted 18th March, 2024

P24/V0301 N6C Pop up food operators
The Crown Public House
1 Packhorse Lane
Prior planning approval not required 5th April, 2024

P243/V2830/HH Installation of air source heat pump
97 Howard Cornish Road
Permitted 26th March, 2024

P23/V2087/HH garage conversion and fenestration alterations
3 Hyde Copse
Permitted 25th March 2024

P24/V0248/LB Installation of ventilation hood through rear
wall
21 North Street
Permitted 19th March, 2024

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

None Received

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

P24/V0609/HH Single storey infill extension and front
entrance porch
42 Harding Way
Comments: Council had no objections

P24/V0580/HH Existing vehicle access dropped kerb
extended
87 Howard Cornish Road
Comments: Council had no objections

P24/V0403/HH Demolition of existing single-storey structure to the rear
elevation and the construction of a single-storey extension and internal
alterations.

16 Fettiplace Road
Comments: Council had no objections

Section 73 application for the continuation of development approved under
Planning Permission P15/V2049/CM (MW.0119/15) (extraction and
processing of soft building sand and intermittently occurring limestone and
removal of surplus soils, the infilling with inert waste subject to prior on-
site sorting and recycling, the provision of all ancillary facilities necessary
for extraction and infilling including but not limited to office, weighbridge,
access ways, recycling plant and the restoration of the site for nature
conservation and agricultural uses), without complying with condition 1, to
enable amendments to the sequence of working in Field 2.

Hills Aggregates, A338

Comments: Council required that any water outflow should be properly monitored and reported on, to ensure protection of the nearby nature reserve.

2024/82

Public Footpath 293/14/20 Church westwards to fork to Frilford/A415

Joe Withers gave an update report on the preparation of a grant application to the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment towards work to maintain and manage the surface of the footpath.

He had met with a representative of the Church who was keen to see work carried out to the path across the Churchyard to improve access for pedestrians. Long term, the Church would like a ramped access at the Eastern Denman side instead of steps. Permission for path works would be needed from the Diocese, which could take some while.

To avoid any delay, the focus would be on the section of the path from the north west corner of the Churchyard to the fork past the cemetery entrance.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the report be noted
- (ii) that the grant application to TOE be lodged

2024/83

Allotments

Sheena Bigden gave an update report from the allotment working party. A skip had been arranged so that tenants could dispose of non compostable waste items. All tenants had been notified. A risk assessment was being undertaken. Discussions were taking place with a contractor for fencing works and a quotation being obtained. Future discussions would take place regarding improving the surface at the entrance access road.

Rats had appeared at the Cow Lane site. A quotation had been obtained previously for a one off treatment and regular contract.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the report be noted
- (ii) that a one off treatment, then regular contract be entered into with Eradikil pest control for rats

It was reported that a mole was tunnelling in the Frilford Road recreation ground.

RESOLVED:

that Eradikil be asked to deal with the issue in the recreation ground too.

2024/84

Annual Meeting for Electors

Council discussed the arrangements, order of business and advertising for the annual meeting of electors. Richard Webber had indicated he would

cease to be the county councillor at the end of the month. He would, however, be invited to attend the annual meeting for electors.

2024/85

Marcham and District News

Council noted that the editor of Marcham and District News, Paul Harwood, had sadly passed away, and that Meriel Lewis, the former editor, had stepped in to assist on a temporary basis. Council discussed the way forward, and the continued need for a village newsletter. Council noted that a team of volunteers from within the parish were progressing matters.

2024/86

Finance /Accounts

Discretionary pension policies for the Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund were due to be debated. Owing to the lateness of the hour, it was proposed that this agenda item be deferred to a future meeting.

The list of payments had been circulated to Members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 3737 to 3744 which were due to be paid. Staff salary payment for the current month would be delayed until the tax year for 23/24 had been completed, and the new tax year commenced. Payments of £5496.63 in respect of administration costs, play area checks, litter bin emptying, legal service and grass cutting were agreed.

RESOLVED:

that the review of discretionary pension policies be deferred to a future meeting.

2024/87

Matters raised by Members

Path between Willow Farm and Monks Walk, plus resurfacing of Monks Walk path

It was noted that these works were outstanding.

Gozzards Ford – Milestone

It was reported that the milestone close to the Blackhorse Public House had been hit by a vehicle and was in need of re-erecting.

Frilford Road Recreation Ground – wall

Ruth Mander had met with a contractor regarding repointing the wall, and also that at the main entrance to the cemetery. Funds had been approved in the budget for works. The Clerk would progress the matter in consultation with the relevant Chairmen.

2024/88

Standing Orders

The duration of the meeting had been 2 hours and it was

RESOLVED:

that standing order 3X be suspended to allow business to continue.

2024/89 Matter raised by Members Contd
A415 – Road Safety
Two items previously raised by Cllr. Webber were a barrier alongside the footway/cycle track to the A34, and the Coroner’s Inquest into the fatal accident in June 2023 on the A415. The Clerk was asked to ensure that sight was not lost of these items, and that they appear on a future agenda.

Barrow Close – Safety Audit
The Clerk continued to chase MJA, who had undertaken in February to do a road safety audit.

20 mph signage
It was reported that these signs were now being re-erected.

James Plumb – notification of future resignation
James Plumb advised that he would be resigning from the Council.

Community Speeding Project
Owing to insufficient volunteers, the idea of speed watch had not been very active.

Street Nameplate – Abbots Grange
The Abbots Grange street nameplate had been damaged and had fallen to the ground. It was thought to be the Biffa dustcart lorry that had hit it.

2024/90 Items for MAD News
The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2024/91 The Chairman moved that in accordance with s. 1(2) Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public’s interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

RESOLVED:

that the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following item which related to exempt information

Item discussed – Access across Parish Council land. Council considered further correspondence.

2024/92 Date of Next Meeting
The next meeting, would take place on Monday 13th May, 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall, Barrow Close.

Signed Date