

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 10th June, 2024 commencing at 7.30 p.m. and held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

Present:

Sheena Bigden, Mark Harvie (Chairman), Sandra Hill, Michael Hoath, Ruth Mander, Joe Withers
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
3 members of the public
Cllr. Robert Clegg (District Councillor) at 7.34 p.m.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 2024/118 Apologies for Absence
No apologies for absence had been received.
- 2024/119 Declarations of Interest
Mike Hoath, Ruth Mander, and Mark Harvie declared an interest in the agenda item relating to community facilities in that they were Trustees of Marcham Community Group which ran the village hall and facilities.
- Mike Hoath declared an interest in the agenda item relating to the planning application at 18 Kings Avenue in that he lived in the same street. The Clerk also advised that she was related to the agent for the applicant for the planning application at 18 Kings Avenue, and would ensure any Council response to the District Council was circulated and agreed by all members before being sent.
- It was also noted that the Parish Council was the owner of land to the rear of 18 Kings Avenue.
- 2024/120 Minutes of the annual meeting held on 13th May, 2024
The minutes of the annual meeting held on 13th May, 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2024/121 Matters arising from the minutes of the annual meeting held on 13th May, 2024
- 2024/122 Public Participation
A member of the public, Mr. Aidan Reilly, introduced himself as the election candidate for the green party in the forthcoming County Council election.
- 2024/123 Council agreed to bring the item relating to Community Facilities drainage, forward on the agenda, whilst members of the public were in attendance.

Community Facilities - Hall drainage

Council referred to arranging a meeting with the developer of the hall, Thomas Homes, to be provided with a direct update on the drainage situation at the hall. The Parish Council, as owner of the building, needed assurances, and information such as costings, before the drainage system was formally complete and handed over

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a meeting be arranged with Thomas Homes to discuss drainage.
- (ii) that Marcham Community Group and the residents be kept informed.

2024/124

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. 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 planning enforcement

The path works had commenced, with hoggin removed, and tarmac awaited. The link at the north as well as the southern end of the site had been constructed. There remained approximately 2m between the end of the southern link at the adjacent Pye site which was the subject of a bird breeding survey. Once this had been completed the joining of the paths would be done.

Highway Verge Grass Cutting

The area on the southern side of New Road had been cut, and it was assumed that the work had been carried out by the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Tree debris

The County Council had cleared the debris on Sheepstead Road by The Farthings.

Abbots Grange – Street nameplate

The lead time for the replacement street nameplate was 6-8 weeks, therefore the installation of the new nameplate was imminent.

Parkside - Road Condition

The property team had inspected the service road, and carried out a risk assessment and were in the process of setting out the remedial scope. Cost implications and timelines were being estimated.

Thames Water consultation - Reservoir

Consultation regarding the reservoir was running until 28th August, with a community information event on 18th July in Marcham Centre.

2024/125 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P24/V0580/HH Existing vehicle access dropped kerb extended
87 Howard Cornish Road
Permitted 15th May, 2024

P23/V1881/LB Demolition of ground floor refectory on
western elevation, replacement with single storey side
extension. Internal & external alterations.

Denman College
Permitted 24th May, 2024

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

No applications had been received.

c) Applications considered at the meeting

P24/V043/HH Demolish existing garden room and utility and
form single storey rear extension. Build a new two storey side
extension over the garage.

18 Kings Avenue

Comments: Council had no objections

Ruth Mander declared an interest in the following item as she
lived in the vicinity of 11 Haines Court

P24/V0944/LDP Replace defective flat roofs on front porch
and study/garden room to rear with pitched tiled roofs.

11 Haines Court

Comments: Council had no objections

P24/V1209/HH Loft conversion and installation of 6 sky lights
1 Davies Edge

Comments: In view of the increase in number of bedrooms,
adequate on site parking should be provided. Checks should be
made to ensure that there was no overlooking and loss of
amenity for neighbouring properties from the additional higher
level windows. Sill heights should be adjusted accordingly.

2024/126 Annual Meeting of Electors

Members referred to the annual meeting of electors. It was thought
that there was a good attendance. It was suggested that a further
training session for CPR and use of the defibrillators should be
arranged. Also a report from the school could be obtained to be placed
on the Council's website.

2024/127

Art Funding s. 106

Council considered possible art projects. Listed were, lighting, war memorial, noticeboard, and information boards for a trail. Councillors would contact known local people to see if they could assist.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the list of items be put to Abigail Brown, arts officer at the Vale of White Horse District Council, for her to advise as to the preferred project.
- (ii) That Abigail Brown also be asked to apply for an extension of time for the art funds.

2024/128

Community Facilities – Play Area

Sandra Hill gave an update report. Council noted and carefully considered, a letter from residents of Tower Close who expressed concern regarding siting the play equipment close to their properties. A suggestion to site in on the new Bloor Homes development had been made by the residents. However, it was noted that Bloor Homes were already providing equipment themselves, and encouraging children to cross the busy A415 would not be ideal. All earlier concerns from residents as to the height of the equipment, overlooking and noise impact had been taken into account, and a revised proposal arrived at. A quotation for the fury play equipment and hurricane swing, bench and picnic tables, had been received in the sum of £56,000. Checks were being made as to when installation could take place.

It was proposed that the Council proceed with an order for the play area items from Wicksteed Leisure for installation as proposed in the Anson Field.

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour

In favour	Against	Abstention
6	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) That an order be placed with Wicksteed Leisure for the fury, hurricane swing, picnic tables and bench seat.
- (ii) That the Anson Trust be approached in regards to their grant sum.

2024/129

Mill Road

Council considered concerns from a resident that more and more cars were parking in Mill Road, particularly since The Crown public house had re-opened. This, in turn made Mill Road narrower and two vehicles could not pass each other. As a result vehicles were going over the grass “village green”, eroding the grass and leaving mud. It had been suggested that part of the grass area be dedicated to the highway to widen the road. Alternatively it was suggested that part of

the grass verge on the eastern side of Mill Road, close to the junction with Priory Lane could be used for road widening. Council considered the legal position, who would fund any alterations, should it be possible, and noted drainage gulleys that would impact any construction. There appeared to be no easy cost effective solution. It was unanimously agreed that no action be taken.

RESOLVED:

That no action be taken to investigate the widening of Mill Road.

2024/130 Accounts

2024/130.1 Council received the financial statement for the year end 31st March 2024 showing balances of £412016.89.

2024/130.2 The Internal Auditor's report, and accompanying letter confirming that there were no actionable observations, had been circulated to members, and these were considered.

2024/130.3 The Governance and Accountability Statement for the year ended 31st March 2024 was considered. Each point was put separately to the Council.

It was

RESOLVED:

a) that the Internal audit report, and letter be accepted by Council

b) that Section 1 the Governance Statement, of the AGAR for the year ending 31st March 2024 be approved with positive responses.

2024/130.4 Council then considered the accounting statement which formed part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Statement

It was

RESOLVED:

that Section 2 the Accounting Statement, of the AGAR for the year ending 31st March 2024 be approved.

2024/130.5 Council considered the dates for public access to the accounts
It was

RESOLVED:

that public access to the accounts be advertised as 17th June 2024 to 26th July, 2024 (30 days), or as soon as possible thereafter.

- 2024/130.6 Council noted that the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance had made slight administrative changes to the requirements going forwards from 1st April 2024.
- 2024/130.7 The list of payments had been circulated to members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 3758 to 3770 and authorised payments in the sum of £9146.03 in respect of administration costs, play area checks and litter clearance, grass cutting, printing and framing of the certificate for the Parishioner of the Year, and allotment expenses for skip hire and pest control.
- 2024/130.8 Council considered the revised Financial Regulations, as issued by the National Association of Local Councils.

RESOLVED:

that the Financial Regulations Ref: 2024/1 be adopted with immediate effect.

- 2024/131 Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund (deferred from last meeting)

RESOLVED:

that the matter of discretionary policies be deferred again to a future meeting.

- 2024/132 Matters Raised by Members

Village Hall – Litter Bins

It was reported that these bins were full and overflowing. This matter would be on an agenda for Marcham Community Group, as it was their contractor who emptied them.

Allotments

Sheena Bigden gave an update report. A third quotation for fencing was awaited. It was reported that the fence between the allotments and the new Pye housing site had been damaged as children were building dens, and wire had been cut. Council requested that Pye Homes be advised that the fence be brought into a proper state before the public open space areas were handed to the Management Company. The allotment tenants were grateful for the skips provided.

North Street path to A415

This path was overgrown particularly near the North Street end, with trees overhanging and enclosing the area. It was noted that this had been reported on Fix My Street.

Haines Court to Orchard Way – footway

This path too was in need of cutting back.

Path - Churchyard to Frilford Road Recreation Ground

It was reported that the grant application to TOE had been unsuccessful. The green working party would meet again to consider funding, and the options for a different scheme.

2024/133

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD news. This would include reference to the Parishioner of the Year, art funding ideas and an appeal for assistance, as well as casual vacancies on the Parish Council, accounts and slides from the annual meeting of electors, as well as an appeal for residents to cut back overhanging hedges.

2024/134

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

2024/135

The members of the public present, left the meeting at 8.55 p.m.

Item discussed – Access across Parish Council land. Council received an update report.

2024/136

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 8th July, 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Signed Date