

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 8th July, 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
Cllr. Robert Clegg (District Councillor)
Joined by Cllr. Peter Stevens (County Councillor)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 2024/137 Apologies for Absence
No apologies had been received.
- 2024/138 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 stated he would remain in the room to answer questions, but would not participate in debate or any voting.
- 2024/139 Minutes of the meeting held on 8th June, 2024
The minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2024/140 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June, 2024
Monks Walk – link path
Council noted that the work had been completed and the gate installed. The gate had a latch on it, so it potentially it was difficult for a disabled person in a wheelchair to reach it to open the gate. This would be monitored.
- 2024/141 Public Participation
Path Harding Way to Howard Cornish Road – broken “no quad bike” sign
Robert Clegg, as a resident, drew the Council’s attention to a sign with a wooden post and metal shoe, which had broken off and rusted.
- 2024/142 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. The report was noted.
- Willow Farm / Monks Walk – footpath planning enforcement
All the work on this footpath had been completed.

Abbots Grange – street nameplate

The District Council was not regularly advised when the contractor was due to install the nameplate. A 6-8 week time was allowed. Cllr. Clegg was continuing to monitor the installation as the sign had not yet appeared.

Parkside access road repairs

No update was available on this private section of road. Cllr. Clegg would continue to monitor this.

A415/Cycle track – overgrowth

Cllr. Clegg had reported this matter on Fix My Street. The County Council was investigating.

Street Trading Licensing – The Crown public house

Cllr. Clegg was putting a question to the next District Council meeting to ask for more flexibility for Licensing within the provision of Schedule 4 Local Government Miscellaneous Act 1982, as Oak Taverns, owners of The Crown public house, had encountered issues with licensing and the planning process in regards to trading vans from the grounds of the public house.

Mike Hoath stated that the Marcham Community Group which ran the village hall, was considering allowing trade vans to park on the hall car park during events, and would also be interested in the outcome of Cllr. Clegg's question regarding licensing to the Vale of White Horse District Council.

2024/143

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P24/V0943/HH Demolish garden room and utility and form single storey rear extension. Build new two storey side extension over garage

18 Kings Avenue

Permitted

2nd July, 2024

P24/V0924/HH Single storey rear extension

13 North Street

Permitted

17th June, 2024

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

No applications had been received.

c) Applications considered at the meeting

P24/V1288/FUL Proposed change of use from residential dwelling to OFSTED registered children's residential home.
8B The Gap

Comments: Council was concerned that no information had been provided in regards to needs of any occupants such as transport so that the Council could assess traffic movements, road impact, and frequency of any ambulance visits. Similarly safeguarding issues had not been referred to, nor business plan provided, or support from the County Council indicated.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That further information about the application be sought.
- (ii) that the matter be deferred and delegated to the clerk in consultation with the Chairman to respond if a response was required before the next meeting of the Council.

P24/V1326/FUL Erection of 3 bed dwelling
Woodland Lodge, Blackgate Lane, Frilford

Members had concerns regarding its location in the open green belt, the access without vision splays off the A338 and the ground being at a much lower height, proximity to a public footpath, and vehicular movements. Parking too had not been indicated. It was thought generally to be unsuitable in an inappropriate site.

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour of objecting to the application

In favour	Against	Abstention
6	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that this Council objects to the application on grounds of impact in the green belt and on the footpath, inadequate access, increased vehicular movements, and lack of parking. The proposal was unsuitable and the site inappropriate.
- (ii) that additional comments submitted from the previous woodstore application be reviewed and included

P24/V1359/HH Single storey part side, part rear, extension
6 Pointer Place
Comments: The Council had no objections

- 2024/145 Art Funding
Council received an update. The arts officer at the Vale of White Horse District Council had drafted the specification for the noticeboard and seat, and artists were being sought. There had been a suggestion by MCG that they too have a section of the noticeboard.
- 2024/146 Community Facilities
Drainage at hall site
The meeting with Chris Brotherton had not yet taken place owing to the availability of relevant people. It was suggested that perhaps, rather than a face to face meeting, questions could be put to him in writing for a written response.
- 2024/147 Cllr. Peter Stevens (Oxfordshire County Council)
Cllr. Stevens joined the meeting at 8.10 p.m. He introduced himself as the new County Councillor, following his election on 20th June, 2024. He and Cllr. Clegg left the meeting at 8.17 p.m.
- 2024/148 Community Facilities Contd. - Play Area
Correspondence from residents in Tower Close was considered. This expressed concerns regarding the potential impact of additional children playing near residential properties.
The play area had been planned for a long time with public consultation having taken place. Concerns raised at the consultation stage had been taken into account and all possible options had been explored.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the correspondence be noted
- (ii) that the project continue to be monitored post installation and after a period of usage
- (iii) that screening be considered at a future date if required.

Barrow Close entrance

Council received the road safety report from MJA Consulting. Issues had been raised.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that consent from the author of the report be obtained to share it with key parties

- (ii) that once consent was obtained, the report be sent to the Anson Trust, Marcham Community Group, Little Angels Nursery and Marcham School.
- (iii) The focus issue would be action at the main entrance off Morland Road.

Marcham Centre Car Park – Request to site trade vans

Council as owner of the hall and car park, and landlord to Marcham Community Group considered a request from MCG for permission to site trade vans in the car park during events, and at other times. This would include food vans, dog grooming and hair dressing.

Council accepted that it could be useful for the community and

RESOLVED:

- (i) That permission be granted to Marcham Community Group to site trade vans in the car park of Marcham Centre.
- (ii) That not too many vans be sited at once in order to reduce impact, and not restrict parking areas for the hall.
- (iii) That the trades people provide copies of the Licences issued by the Vale of White Horse District Council, carry their own relevant insurance, undertake an appropriate risk assessment and comply with Bye Laws and Health and Safety legislation.
- (iv) That no waste be generated and left on site.

2024/149

Vehicle speeds since the introduction of the 20mph scheme

Council considered the community speed watch scheme, and noted the few people that were involved. It was thought best to advertise for volunteers in the next issue of the village newsletter.

Council considered a request for a vehicle activated sign in North Street. Questions were asked about the changing of the existing vehicle activated signs to 20 mph from 30 mph and the general policy regarding the signs regarding new installation and enforcement of the speed limit.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That an article be placed in Marcham and District News inviting speed watch volunteers to come forward.
- (ii) That Oxfordshire County Council be contacted and enquiries made regarding changing the limit shown on the vehicle activated signs, the general policy regarding the signage, and the enforcement of the speed limit

2024/150 Oxfordshire County Council – Traffic Sensitive Street consultation

RESOLVED:

- a) that the Council not respond to this consultation
- b) that individuals respond should they wish to do so

2024/151 Oxfordshire County Council – Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

RESOLVED:

- a) that the Council not respond to this consultation
- b) that individuals respond should they wish to do so
- c) that the profile of this consultation be raised via the Council's website.

2024/152 Allotments

Council considered quotations for fencing, and for signage for rat treatment. Council also considered a rent increase for the allotment plots, and noted that this had last increased in September 2022.

RESOLVED:

- a) that a s. 106 application be made to the Vale of White Horse District Council, as they held some funding available for allotment use.
- b) that the quotation for fencing be accepted from Oxford Exteriors, provided the funding was allocated from the District Council
- c) that authority be given to the Clerk to spend up to £375 for the purchase of warning signs to indicate rat treatment on the allotments.
- d) that allotment rents be increased to £30 per annum at the Cow Lane site, with an appropriate reduction for water at Parkside site with effect from the quarter day in September 2025.
- e) that 12 months notice be given to increase the rent.

2024/153 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.

2024/154 Fyfield and Tubney Neighbourhood Plan designated area consultation
Council noted the proposed designated area for the Fyfield and Tubney Neighbourhood Plan

RESOLVED:

that this Council had no observations to make

2024/155

South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Council noted that the consultation on the emerging proposals had commenced and would close on 28th August, 2024. Exhibitions were taking place in the area until the end of July.

RESOLVED:

that any comments from the Parish Council be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman to be submitted before the deadline.

2024/156

Lion Close – Access

Council noted the response from the residents in Lion Close that they would not permit access along the private road and path for residents to gain access to the public footpath and recreation field. The only other route was along the public footpath with its steps into North Street where residents had fallen. Anti-slip tape was suggested as a possibility.

RESOLVED:

that the rights of way officer at Oxfordshire County Council be approached to seek his opinion on putting anti-slip tape on the steps on the public footpath.

2024/157

Accounts

Council noted the budget monitoring report as at 30th June, 2024 Council. The list of payments had been circulated to Members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 3771 to 3782 totalling £9988.19 in respect of administration costs, Barrow Close survey report, play area checks, litter bin emptying, legal services, grass cutting, allotment water charges and transfer to cemetery account, which were agreed.

2024/158

Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund

Discretionary pension policies for the Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund were considered, deferred from previous meetings.

RESOLVED: as follows

Will the employer grant extra annual pension? 2013 LGPS Regulation 31	Marcham Parish Council will not grant extra annual pension
Will the employer share the cost of purchasing additional pension	Marcham Parish Council will not share the cost for

2024/159

(SCAPC) with a member? LGPS2013 Regulation 16(2) and (4)	a member's purchase for additional pension.
Will the employer permit flexible retirement? 2013 LGPS Regulation 30(6)	Marcham Parish Council will consider this on an individual basis subject to cost and business case.
Will the employer switch back on '85-year rule' protections? 2014 Transitional Provisions Regulations Sched 2	Marcham Parish Council will not switch back on 85 year rule protections
When would the employer waive actuarial reductions to benefits being drawn on early voluntary retirement? 2013 LGPS regulation 30(5)	Marcham Parish Council will not consider applications to waive actuarial reduction for early voluntary retirement from active members.

Matters raised by members for information

Weeds in verges

Comments were made regarding weed growth overhanging the A415 footway/cycle track. In addition there was weed growth within the verges in the village, and comments were made about the "Let it Bee" policy of the Vale of White Horse District Council which some people thought made the village look untidy.

The growth overhanging the cycle track would be reported to the County Council. In regards to the wide verge in Howard Cornish Road which served as the Let it Bee area, this would be monitored until the end of the season so that any impact could be assessed.

2024/160

Items for Marcham and District News September edition

It was suggested that the items include:

A request for speedwatch volunteers. A Board of people to run Marcham and District News.

2024/161

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

2024/162 Item discussed – Access across Parish Council land. Council received an update report.

2024/163 Date of Next Meeting
The next meeting would be held on Monday 9th September, 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Signed Date