

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 commencing at 7.30 p.m. and held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

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Present:

Sheena Bigden, Michael Hoath, Ruth Mander  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
Cllr. Robert Clegg (District Councillor)  
Cllr. Peter Stevens (County Councillor) joined at 7.42 p.m.

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- 2024/164      Owing to the absence of the Chairman, and there being no appointed Vice-Chairman, it was proposed by Ruth Mander, seconded by Michael Hoath that Sheena Bigden be appointed Chairman for the duration of the meeting. Sheena Bigden took the chair.
- 2024/165      Apologies for Absence  
Apologies had been received Mark Harvie, Sandra Hill and Joe Withers
- 2024/166      Declarations of Interest  
There were no declarations of interest.
- 2024/167      Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2024  
The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2024/168      Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2024  
There were no matters arising.
- 2024/169      Public Participation  
There were no members of the public present.
- 2024/170      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.
- Parkside side road condition  
Cllr. Clegg had reminded the Vale of White Horse District Council about the repairs needed to the side road off Parkside which gave access to some properties. No response had been received.
- A415 Cycle /Pedestrian path overgrowth.  
This is cut on an annual basis, and the cut had taken place recently.
- Joint Local Plan  
The timescale for the Plan was being accelerated so that it could be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in December 2024 rather than

April 2025. Assuming the final draft was approved by full Council, it would go out for consultation in October. The Emerging Corporate Plan had been delayed as staff had been diverted to focus on the Local Plan.

#### SESRO - Reservoir

Cllr. Clegg had contributed to the Vale of White Horse District Council's response to Thames Water's consultation on the reservoir. The Secretary of State had approved Thames Water's Water Resources Management Plan, which included the provision of a new reservoir as part of managing water supply in the future. The Leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council had made a statement expressing her disappointment regarding the implicit acceptance of the reservoir. The Planning Inspectorate had consulted on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment, and the Vale of White Horse District Council's officer/member liaison group would meet and submit comments to the Planning Inspectorate before the deadline of 25<sup>th</sup> September.

#### Food Truck Licensing

Cllr. Clegg had asked a question at full Council in July regarding the licensing of food trucks at public houses being constrained by the specifics of the Joint Street Trading Policy. This policy is being re-drafted and it was expected that it would be out for consultation before the end of the year.

#### Air Quality

The District Councils had published the Air Quality Annual Status Report. The data for Marcham showed a small but consistent decrease in average Nitrous Oxide concentrations from 2022 to 2023.

2024/171

#### County Councillor's Report – Cllr. P. Stevens

Cllr. Stevens, who had been elected just prior to the Summer recess was attending his second Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September. He had been appointed to pensions committee and planning committee for which he was receiving training.

#### Discretionary Fund

The County Councillor discretionary fund would close in November. He invited suggestions for applications for small amounts of funds.

#### Points raised with Cllr Stevens

Members brought Cllr. Stevens attention to: Weed growth though the new tarmac footway surfacing, the need to clear the cycle track (although some members indicated that it had already been cleared), and the report of a drainage tanker parked across the footways. Cllr. Stevens took away 2 photos of the problem of the tanker blocking the footway.

2024/172 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P24/V1209//HH Loft conversion with addition of 6 skylights  
1 Davies Edge  
Permitted 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

P24/24/V1359/HH Single storey part side and part rear  
extension  
6 Pointer Place  
Permitted 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2024

P23/V2558/S73 Variation on landscaping and turning  
conditions of application P21/V3297/FUL  
8B The Gap  
Permitted 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2024

P24/V1299/FUL Change of use of dwelling to children's home  
Permitted 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2024

P24/V0944/LDP Replace defective porch and study flat  
roofs with pitch roofs  
11 Haines Court  
Withdrawn 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2024

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

P24/V1513/HH Erection of two storey rear extension  
13 North Street  
Comments: Council had no objection in principle, but asked that all materials be in keeping with the existing, as the property was in a conservation area. As the number of bedrooms were increasing there was the potential for more vehicles at the site. Council asked that there be adequate on site parking, and no vehicles should be left in the narrow North Street.

P24/V198/FUL Erection of temporary sales centre with access off the A415.  
Bloor Homes site, erection of 87 dwellings south of the A415  
Comments: Council acknowledged sales centres were the norm with new housing developments, but objected to the proposal on the grounds of inadequate on site parking for visitors, and queried the application form which stated that there would be no new employees on site.

c) Applications considered at the meeting

P24/V1335/FUL Erection of new dwelling  
85 Howard Cornish Road

Comments: Council queried whether the proposal was an overdevelopment of the site owing to the loss of garden ground. It asked whether the remaining ground met with design space standards as per design guidelines. The parking provision for the remaining property no. 85 was not indicated, and Council asked that the adequacy of the onsite parking as per regulations be checked. It also asked that the conservation officer be consulted as the proposal was adjacent to the curtilage of a grade II\* listed building.

South East Strategic Reservoir Option – Thames Water-  
Environmental Impact Assessment

Council considered issues that it wished to be brought to the attention of the Planning Inspectorate for inclusion in the Environmental Impact Assessment to be submitted with the application for the reservoir.

The key matters were: the impact on Marcham including during the construction phase, particularly the traffic impact, and the need for traffic management. Consideration should be given to the development of the Dalton Barracks site which was likely to be at the same time, and the need for road planning for both. Concerns were raised too regarding the flood plain, and the impact on surrounding areas, when the flood plain was lost owing to construction.

RESOLVED:

that these key matters be brought to the attention of the Planning Inspectorate.

d) Planning Correspondence  
SESRO

Council noted the comments submitted under delegated powers on the Thames Water's consultation on the South East Reservoir Option. These included road access and traffic impact on the A415, the environmental effect, water treatment works and the flood plain.

2024/173

Art Funding for project

Council received an update report, and confirmed the funding available from the Vale of White Horse District Council under s 106 Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Council noted that an online meeting with Abigail Brown, the arts officer for the District Council was due to take place on Wed 11<sup>th</sup> September to progress the art project further.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that an application be lodged with the Vale of White Horse District Council for any available s. 106 art funding towards

the art project in Marcham.

- (ii) that the clerk, and a member if required, act as signatories for the application and any subsequent acceptance form or agreement.

2024/174 Community Facilities

- a) Barrow Close access/Morland Road  
Council noted that the road audit safety report from MJA Consulting Ltd was sent to the relevant parties agreed at the last meeting, and that a response was awaited from the Anson Trust. A meeting with Marcham Community Group prior to the next Council meeting had been suggested previously by a member.

RESOLVED:

that a meeting prior to the next meeting of the Parish Council, with Marcham Community Group to discuss the road safety report be arranged.

- b) Donation from Wicksteed Leisure of one Euro size 5 football  
Council considered the donation of a football from Wicksteed Leisure, and where it would be best placed. Various suggestions were put forward for donating it to a local group.

RESOLVED:

that the Euro football be given to Marcham Colts Football Club

- c) Play Area  
Council received the quarterly inspection report and noted that a query had arisen with shackles on the swing chains, where significant wear had been found. It was suggested that these had been fitted the wrong way round. Wicksteed Leisure had supplied 4 new shackles. The play area had remained open, as the inspector had provided new temporary shackles from his own stock.

Council received the RoSPA annual play area inspection report. This had identified no safety issues, but suggested that Council might like to consider matting to help prevent erosion at the start of the log run.

Council received an update report on the new play equipment which had been planned. Installation was expected to commence in a few days.

2024/175 Vehicle Speeds since the introduction of the 20mph scheme  
Council noted that the speedwatch group had handed back the speed

gun to the Police. The scheme could commence again once more volunteers came forward. An appeal had been placed in Marcham and District News.

Council considered the change of the existing 30 mph vas to 20 mph limits, and whether the one at the Eastern side of the village should be relocated to take into account the Bloor Homes development. Council also noted that any new vehicle activated signs were not part of the 20 mph scheme, and would need a formal application, and separate assessment before agreement for installation was obtained from the County Council. All funding would be by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the appeal for volunteers continue
- (ii) That the VAS at the Eastern side of the village remain in place, and further consideration be given to its relocation once the Bloor Homes site was complete.

2024/176

A415 section from war memorial to Church Street

Council considered complaints that the footway on the south side of the A415 from the war memorial westwards had been dug up and laid to grass. The County Council indicated that they had permitted this owing to the fact that the path was not required for access to the farm. Members made comments that the former tarmac path had been regularly used by pedestrians, and they were disappointed that it had been removed. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

That the matter of the tarmac path having been removed not be pursued

2024/177

Allotments

Council considered allotment rent payable at Parkside with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025. Council noted that the rat treatment signage at the Cow Lane site had been erected. Council also noted that the Cow Lane site had been broken into overnight on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August. A horse cart from the adjacent paddock had been stolen. The matter had been reported to the Police. Council noted the sums available for allotments under s. 106 Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Four separate sums were available. Council was also reminded of the quotations received.

The chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of increasing the allotment rent at Parkside to £13 per annum.

In favour	Against	Abstain
3	0	0

The Chairman called for a show of hand for those in favour of funding up to £2000 towards the allotment fencing and clearing project

In favour	Against	Abstain
3	0	0

230

RESOLVED:

- (i) that an application be lodged with the Vale of White Horse District Council for any available s. 106 allotment funding towards the allotment project in Marcham. In particular an application for £7420 and £5312, from planning applications P14/V1976/O and P15/V0612/FUL to be used towards the costs of fencing and clearing.
- (ii) Any shortfall from the s. 106 funds received towards the allotment project be funded by the Parish Council up to the sum of £2000
- (iii) That the Clerk, together with a councillor if required, sign any documentation from the Vale of White Horse District Council should the application for s. 106 be accepted.
- (iv) That the rent at Parkside allotments be increased to £13 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025, and that the tenants be notified accordingly within the statutory requirements.

2024/178

North Street – steps leading to footpath 293/10/10 to Anson Field  
Council noted a response from the County Council's rights of way officer regarding the steps in North Street leading to the public footpath. A suggestion put forward had been to add anti slip tape to the surface to help prevent residents falling, in view of the recent incidents resulting in bone fractures. The County Council did not support the suggestion as the rights of way authority, and considered that the 2 handrails were the best that could be achieved.

RESOLVED:

that no further action be taken by the Parish Council

2024/179

Unmade path Howard Cornish Road to Cow Lane adjacent to Longfields

Council noted that the wire fence between the tarmac path leading to Harding Way and the unsurfaced permitted path had been vandalised, cut and removed in one section. Hedgerow and shrubbery had been cut back and a route between the 2 paths formed. Council also noted that the sign indicating no quad bikes on the path had disappeared.

RESOLVED:

That the situation be monitored, and the quad bike sign be re-erected if located, and that the owner of the fence not be asked to arrange a repair of the fence at the present moment in time.

2024/179

Oxfordshire County Council – Winter Salt Bins

Council noted that the County Council was offering grit/salt bins and salt at a total cost of £400.

RESOLVED:

that the Council not purchase a salt bin or salt.

2024/180

Accounts

a) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils Subscriptions

Council noted a proposal by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils to increase the membership subscriptions with effect from April 2025, as OALC had been running at a loss in recent years.

b) Insurance

Council noted the renewal sum of the insurance policy. The new play equipment had been included with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October, the renewal date. An adjustment to the cover date could be made depending when the new equipment was finally installed and handed over to the Parish Council.

Council considered an annual policy or a longer term agreement whereby the cost of the premium would remain the same, other than possibly for index linking.

The list of payments had been circulated to members and Council noted and agreed the cheques numbered 3783 to 3803 in respect of administration, grass cutting, litter bin emptying, play area checks, and allotment costs, in the sum of £13101.80

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour of supporting the increase in subscription fees of OALC with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

In favour	Against	Abstention
3	0	0

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour of the Council entering a three year agreement with Hiscox insurance for its insurance needs, other than the village hall, and multi-use games area cover with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2024.

In favour	Against	Abstention
3	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council supports the increase in membership subscriptions for OALC with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.
- (ii) That the Council enters into a 3 year agreement (1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2027), with Hiscox insurance for its policy for all matters, other than the village hall.



2024/181 Matters raised by Members for information  
A415 – Bloor Homes development  
Concerns were raised regarding mud on the A415 which came from the development site. The Clerk was asked to see what steps Bloor Homes intended to take to prevent this happening again.

2024/182 Items for Marcham and District News October edition  
It was suggested that the items include:  
A request for Parish Councillors and speedwatch volunteers to come forward.  
Council considered a request from a resident, via the editor of Marcham and District News to include information about each councillor, and photographs.

RESOLVED:

That photographs and more information about the Members not be included in future issues of Marcham and District News.

2024/183 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

2024/184 Item discussed – Access across Parish Council land. Council received an update report.

2024/185 Date of Next Meeting  
The next meeting would be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.28 p.m.

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