

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Sheena Bigden, Mark Harvie, Sandra Hill, Michael Hoath, Ruth Mander, Joe Withers

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

Joined at 7.33 p.m. by Sheena Bigden, Cllr. R. Clegg (District Councillor) and Cllr. R. Webber (County Councillor)

And at 7.40 p.m. by Chitvan Amin

- 2024/7 Apologies for Absence
No apologies for absence had been received.
- 2024/8 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.
- 2024/9 Public Participation
No members of the public were in attendance.
- 2024/10 District Councillor's Report (Cllr. Robert Clegg)
Cllr. Robert Clegg gave an update report on District Council matters. Owing to the Christmas holiday period, there was less to report.
- Flooding – waste collections delayed, with a request for wheelie bins to be left out if the collection was missed.
- New Developments – sewage – A question was asked about enforcement powers for preoccupation planning conditions such as imposing a limit on occupation before drainage was resolved. The response indicated that developments had a right to connect into the sewerage system, and that any enforcement action within the powers of the Vale of White Horse District Council would be handled appropriately where it had control.
- Joint Local Plan – Consultation would commence on 10th January, 2024 for 10 weeks. Local exhibition events were Shippon village hall on 24th January, and in Pablo Lounge, Abingdon on 3rd February.
- Monks Walk/The Willows link and plans for highway grass responsibility - information was awaited
- Gigaclear Cabinet – The noise nuisance issue was being dealt with Cllr. R. Webber, as he was aware of other similar issues.

- 2024/11 County Councillor's Report (Cllr. Richard Webber)
Flooding - The District and County Councils both had responsibilities for flooding. The exact boundary division was unclear. Cllr. Webber asked that any local issues relating to flooding be referred to him.
- Oxfordshire County Council – Budget - Savings of £12-£15 million were needed to be found for the budget for 24/25.
- A415 – Accident June 2023 – Cllr. Webber would consider whether any remediation works were needed on the A415 once the inquest and legalities were complete.
- 2024/12 Cllrs. Richard Webber and Robert Clegg left the meeting at 7.45 p.m.
- 2024/13 Minutes of the meeting held on 11th December, 2023
The minutes of the meeting held on 11th December, 2023 were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2024/14 Matters arising from the meeting held on 11th December, 2023
- Oxfordshire County Council – 20 mph scheme
The County Council had advised that new illuminated poles were due to be installed in Frilford Road in January. The signage would follow.
- 2024/15 Planning Applications
- a) Decisions on previous applications
- P23/V2388/LDP Remove false chimney stack
10 Leas Lane
Confirmation that no application needed as the proposal fell within class G of the GDPO 2015
- P23/V1077/RM Approval of details relating to appearance, scale, layout on P20/V1388/O
84 houses on land south of A415
Permitted 10th December, 2023
- Members raised comments as to whether the issues relating to crossing the entrance road into the new site had been taken into account. The Clerk would check the approved drawings.
- b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting
- P23/V1880/FUL and P23/V1881/LB Change of use of Denman College to single family dwelling (amended plans to include demolition of Holly and relocation of tennis courts)
Denman College, New Road
Comments: Council had no objections, and believed that to have the tennis courts more centrally located within the plot reduced the impact on the properties in The Farthings.

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

P23/V2787/HH Install replacement PCVu conservatory to the rear of the property
16 Parkside
Comments: Council had no objections

2024/16

Correspondence

a) North Street - Parking

Council considered correspondence from a resident who asked if permit parking was going to be considered with strict enforcement, as residents were finding it difficult to park when The Crown Public House was open.

Council carefully considered the correspondence but concluded that customers of The Crown would be discouraged if on street parking were allocated solely to residents. Yellow lines in certain areas at the junction of North Street and A415 may assist with bus movements around the corner. The Clerk would investigate the possibility of double yellow lines. It appreciated that older cottages did not have on site parking, but it could not support residents only parking permits.

RESOLVED:

that a residents' parking permit area not be supported.

b) Letters of thanks

Letters of thanks for grants awarded had been received from: Marcham Community Group, South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau, Marcham Pre-School, and Marcham Parochial Church Council.

2024/17

Risk Assessment

Council noted the risk assessment as drafted. New assets had been added. Highway verge cutting, should the Parish Council take this on, should also be included. Reference was made to storage of Council documents in the cloud. This would be set up at a future date when time permitted.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the risk assessment be accepted as drafted
- (ii) that highway verge cutting be included in the risk assessment.

2024/18

Cemetery Fees

Council reviewed the fees and charges for the Cemetery.

RESOLVED:

that the cemetery fees indicated in the report attached to these minutes be charged with effect from 1st April 2024.

2024/19

Budget 2024/25

Council continued discussion about the budget for 24/25. Projects could be undertaken with the support of s. 106 funds, and with grant aid, but would not be carried out if funding was not forthcoming. The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in setting the precept in the sum of £76500

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	0	1

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of appointing Slade Estate Services Ltd as the grass cutting contractor for 2024/25

In favour	Against	Abstention
8	0	0

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of entering into a contract with Oxfordshire County Council to cut the highway verges for 2024/25 season.

In favour	Against	Abstention
8	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) any unspent sums from 2023/24 be taken into reserves
- (ii) that the precept for 2024/25 from the of White Horse District Council be set at £76500
- (iii) that the following sums be earmarked:
Play area £65,000
Cemetery £80,000
the balance of the gifted community fund, £60,000 be set aside for the benefit of the community.
- (iv) that the Clerk sign the contract with Oxfordshire County Council for acting as their agent in regards to highway verge maintenance.

2024/20

Street Names – Bloor Homes Site, land south of A415

Council noted a request from the Vale of White Horse District Council

for 4 street names for the new housing development. Members thought residents may like to provide suggestions. It was noted that a list of previous suggestions had been provided at the time of the last housing development.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a request for street names be placed on the Council's website.
- (ii) that the previous list be circulated to Members
- (iii) that the matter be deferred for discussion to the next meeting, if deadline timings allowed for this.

2024/21 Oxfordshire County Council – Draft Charter (shared County Council, District Councils, City Council, Town and Parish Councils)
Council noted that the final draft of the Charter was available for consultation.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that members review the document and provide their comments to the Clerk.
- (ii) that any response from the Parish Council be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman.

2024/22 Annual Meeting for Electors
Council considered the annual meeting for electors. It was noted that this was usually held in May. The small hall was available on certain mid week dates in May. As the Head Teacher at Marcham Primary School liked to provide a report on the school's activities, the Clerk would check her availability, and book the hall for a date in May.

2024/23 Finance /Accounts
The list of payments had been circulated to members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 3710 to 3716 and authorised payments in the sum of £4726.50 in respect of administration costs, litter picking and bin emptying, grant, and grass cutting.

2024/24 Matters raised by members for information
Christmas Tree Collection
It was reported that garden waste had unfortunately been deposited at the site where Christmas Trees were being deposited. It was suggested that this be removed at the time the Christmas Trees were collected.

Howard Cornish Road – Caravan

It was reported that a caravan was still in situ in the highway layby close to Duffield Place. This could be reported by a member via Fix My Street.

Sheepstead Road - potholes

Various potholes were in need of repair in Sheepstead Road. The area was outside of the 30 mph scheme, and could not be arranged by the “highway super user”. Photographs would be taken, a map prepared, and they would be reported separately.

Allotments

It was reported that 2 allotment tenants had encroached with their Belongings (fencing and raised tubs) onto the parking area. The Clerk and Sheena Bigden would visit the site to assess the situation.

Accident A415 – Inquest

The Chairman stated he would draft a press release once the findings of the inquest were available.

2024/25 The duration of the meeting had been 2 hours and it was

RESOLVED: to suspend standing order 3z to allow business to continue.

2024/26 Items for MAD News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News. This would include: Casual vacancies

2024/27 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 the land surveyor’s report.

2024/28 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting, to consider budget proposals would take place on Monday 12th February, 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall, Barrow Close.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Signed Date