

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 commencing at 7.30 p.m. and held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

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Present:

Sheena Bigden, Mark Harvie (Chairman), Sandra Hill, Michael Hoath, Ruth Mander, Joe Withers  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
PCSO Rich Osborn  
Cllr. Robert Clegg (Vale of White Horse District Councillor)  
Joined by Cllr. Peter Stevens (Oxfordshire County Councillor) at 8.30 p.m.

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Prior to the commencement of formal business, PCSO Rich Osborn updated Council on Police action following an incident at the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> January where pre-mixed building material plaster had been poured down the slide in the play area, and thrown at items of play equipment. Graffiti too had been written on the wetpour matting.

An article thanking those who helped clean the area would be put in Marcham and District News.

PCSO Osborn left the meeting.

- 2025/1      Apologies for Absence  
No apologies had been received.
- 2025/2      Declarations of Interest  
Declarations of interest were made by Mike Hoath, Ruth Mander, Sheena Bigden and Sandra Hill, in relation to the agenda item relating to the request by Marcham Village Shop, for the Parish Council's support for its application to the Vale of White Horse District Council, for s. 106 funding. Mike Hoath stated he was a volunteer within the shop, and Ruth Mander, Sheena Bigden and Sandra Hill were members of the Management Committee of the shop.
- 2025/3      Minutes of the meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 and 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2024  
The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 and 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meetings.
- 2025/4      Matters arising from the minutes of the meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 and 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2024  
There were no matters arising.
- 2025/5      Public Participation  
There were no members of the public in attendance.
- 2025/6      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.  
The report referred to:

### Parkside – Road Condition

No update since the last report.

### Bloor Homes – 87 dwellings south of the A415, sewage scheme

Information to a previous reference to “minor works at the manhole connection” had been sought from the Local Planning Authority. As Thames Water would carry out any works required, it was not necessary for the Vale of White Horse District Council to have that information. In addition, Thames Water’s response to the development could be considered that the system had the capacity to serve the new housing. The capacity of the sewage system on other developments within the District had been raised, and this was a topic within the Joint Scrutiny Committee work plan. Any decisions, however, would be unlikely to be in time to impact the Bloor Homes development in Marcham.

### Upwood Quarry

Cllr. Clegg had contacted the County Council’s planning officer regarding water monitoring at the quarry, but no response had been received.

### Dalton Barracks Site redevelopment

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation had confirmed that they had established contact with Thames Water regarding the accesses off the A415 to the Dalton Barracks site and the proposed new reservoir. Agreement had been reached for regular joint meetings. County Council’s highways were due to meet with the Highways Agency later in January. Historic England had visited the site in preparation for a report on the potential listing of some buildings, and areas of archaeological interest which would have existed prior to military use. A local meeting arranged for January was being postponed until a date in February

### Joint Local Plan

Inspectors have been appointed to undertake the independent examination of the Joint Local Plan. The BBC’s home building tracker, showed that the Vale of White Horse District Council was already delivering more homes per year than the Government’s target for the area.

### Local Government Reorganisation

Central Government had announced an invitation for all two tier local authority areas to restructure into unitary authorities. The Leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council, Cllr, Bethany Thomas, had written to Cllr. Liz Leffman, Leader of Oxfordshire County Council, to encourage her to move quickly on the matter. The County Council had noted the devolution white paper and the emerging impacts for the County Council, and had agreed to request Government to place Oxfordshire into a “fast track” programme to progress local government reorganisation.

### Electrical Supply – Gozzards Ford

The electricity supply at Gozzards Ford was being interrupted by a tree which required regular cutting back. Owing to difficulties in contacting the landowner, Secretary of State consent was needed by SSEN every time work was required. A request was lodged for assistance from the Parish Council/Councillors to help with the issue. Members suggested placing an article in MAD News to raise public awareness regarding power cuts, their causes and how to deal with them.

2025/7

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

At this stage, Cllr. Stevens had not joined the meeting. His report would be received when he arrived at the meeting.

2025/8

### Planning Applications

#### a) Decisions on previous applications

P24/V2061/HH Replacement of defective flat roofs to porch (front elevation) and study/garden room (rear elevation) with pitched, tiled and insulated roofs

11 Haines Court

Permitted

11<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

P24/V2098/LDP Application for lawful development certificate for part single storey rear extension and internal alterations

13 The Farthings

Lawful Development Certificate refused 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 (Proposed works did not comply with the requirements of the General Permitted Development Order 2015, and formal planning consent would be required).

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

No applications had been received.

#### c) Applications considered at the meeting

No applications had been received

2025/9

### Community Facilities

Council received an update report on the Noticeboard and play area benches. The District Council had confirmed that planning consent was not required for benches or seating, provided they were in conjunction with a parish building or land. As some funding for a planning application fee had been included in the s. 106 application, any surplus element would need to be set aside and earmarked for future art funding. The arts officer and designer would progress the design of the bench seats and noticeboard.

In regards to the signage and repainting of play area, quotations were being sought. Once finalised, a formal opening could be arranged.

2025/10

Marcham Fair

Council considered the holding of a Fair to promote local organisations, the Parish Council, and to advertise the local opportunities available for volunteering and supporting the community. It was suggested that this could take place at some point during the Marcham Weekend of 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> May. Sheena Bigden agreed to speak to the Weekend's organisers and Mike Hoath would check the hire costs for the hall which could be used for display stands.

2025/11

Request for financial Support – Towards village entertainment – Showing of Yellow Peril film

Council considered acceptance of a late request from Bankbuster Productions for financial support towards the screening of a remaster of Yellow Peril, a local film originally produced in 1989.

It was proposed that the Council accept the late application for financial support.

In favour	Against	Abstention
4	1	1

RESOLVED:

that the late application for financial support be accepted and considered by Council.

Council then considered the application and, and possible conditions if awarded.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that under s. 145 Local Government Act 1972 a payment of £400 be awarded towards the costs of screening a remaster of the film Yellow Peril.
- (ii) that the sum be paid subject to production of confirmation that a temporary event Licence and alcohol Licence were obtained from the Vale of White Horse District Council, or confirmation obtained from the Vale of White Horse District Council that Licences were not required.
- (iii) that when the relevant confirmations were received, that payment be made to Clear Productions Ltd towards the cost of equipment hire.

2025/12

Cllr. P. Stevens (County Councillor) joined the meeting.

He reported that issues such as the HIF Road nearer Didcot, the reservoir, flood issues and Joint Local Plan were ongoing. He had referred the question of clearing the pedestrian/cycle route to Abingdon, to the County Council. Members advised that the clearing works to the cycle track had not been carried out. Cyclists were being caught by overhanging branches. Cllr. Stevens would check the situation in regards to his request for the works to be done.

Unitary Authorities – Government may invite councils to submit a proposal to restructure themselves. There were various models that could be adopted in order to provide better services and efficiencies. The County Council was preparing a response for central government.

Budget – The budget for 25/26 was about to be considered. Inflation bit into the statutory obligations.

Questions were put to Cllr. Stevens: An update on the Hanny Flood group, planned works for the culvert under the A415 near the Church Street junction where flooding occurred, if there were any plans by the County Council for changes to the road near the end of Church Street, or slowing traffic, since the fatal road accident at that point, e.g. whether Marcham could be considered for proposals similar to the A338 in Hanney, where there were countdown markers and an island in the middle. Scottish Southern were carried out works on the A415 near McDonalds in Abingdon. Owing to road works elsewhere there were 3 sets of traffic lights within close proximity which caused traffic problems. It was suggested that there be future planning.

2025/14

Budget Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 – projects previously identified for 24/25 year.

Council considered projects previously considered for the 24/25 year. Members asked for the proposed tree work in Harding Way to be brought into the 24/25 year if possible. Mark Harvie would speak to Marcham Society in regards to the possible replacement of the conservation information noticeboard in the Churchyard.

2025/15

Marcham Village Shop – Application for s. 106 funding from Vale of White Horse District Council

Council noted that Marcham Village Shop was applying to the Vale of White Horse District Council for s. 106 funding for a new chiller unit, from monies previously identified in a Planning Agreement, 15/V46 under P14/V17960/O, for Community Shop purposes. The shop was required to provide written evidence of endorsement for the project from the Parish Council.

Council considered the request for support. Those who had declared an interest did not participate in the agenda item nor vote.

It was

RESOLVED:

That this Council supports the application by Marcham Village Shop to

the Vale of White Horse District Council to use £2000 of s. 106 funds previously identified within planning Agreement 15/V46 for Marcham Community Shop purposes.

2025/16      Accounts

The list of payments had been circulated to Members. Council noted the cheques numbered 3840 to 3848 and 423 cemetery account, and authorised payments in the sum of £7340.85 in respect of administration costs, tree and fence work, litter bin and cemetery bin emptying, and play area checks.

Investment

Council noted that the fixed term investment of £51664.41 plus interest with the Nationwide Building Society matured on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

RESOLVED:

that the sum available at maturity, together with any further interest accrued, be re-invested for 6 months in the fixed interest business savings account with Nationwide Building Society.

2025/17      Matters raised by Members for information

Christmas tree collection – the last day for placing trees was Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January. A reminder would be put on the village facebook page.

Funding for the showing of the “Yellow Peril” film – A member raised concerns about the Council’s funding decision. Enquiries would be made.

Grass Cutting 2025 – A query was raised in regards to the contract for grass cutting for the next season. The Clerk confirmed that the contractor was aware.

Churchyard – land ownership – A query as to the ownership of the Churchyard was raised. The Clerk confirmed that whilst a Parish Council can maintain a closed Churchyard, the ownership remains with the Church.

Allotment water leak

Sheena Bigden confirmed that the leak in the water pipe at the Cow Lane allotment site had been repaired. The invoice was being sent to the Clerk.

Mention was made of issues with a standpipe in the Arboretum. This would be checked.

S.106 application for allotment funding

A question was asked as to the progress of the application, as costs could well increase.

2025/18 Cllr. Robert Clegg left the meeting at 9.28 p.m.

2025/19 Items for Marcham and District News February edition  
The Clerk would prepare an article.

2025/20 Suspension of Standing Orders  
The duration of the meeting had been 2 hours, and Council

RESOLVED:

That standing order 3z be suspended to allow business to continue.

2025/21 The Chairman moved that in accordance with s. 1(2) Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings) Act 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

2025/22 Item discussed – Access across Parish Council land. Council received an update report.

2025/23 Date of Next Meeting  
The next meeting would be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

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