

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 10th March, 2025 commencing at 7.30 p.m. and held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

Present:

Mark Harvie (Chairman), Michael Hoath, Ruth Mander, Joe Withers
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Cllr. Robert Clegg (Vale of White Horse District Councillor)
Cllr. Peter Stevens (Oxfordshire County Councillor) from 8.10 p.m.
3 Members of the public

- 2025/57 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Sheena Bigden, and Sandra Hill.
- 2025/58 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.
- 2025/59 Casual Vacancy – Co-option
Council considered an application from Tanya Rosenfeld for co-option to the Parish Council.
The Chairman asked for a show of hands for those in favour of co-opting Tanya Rosefeld.

In favour	Against	Abstention
4	0	0

RESOLVED:

That Tanya Rosenfeld be co-opted on to
Marcham Parish Council

- 2025/60 Minutes of the meeting held on 10th February, 2025
The minutes of the meeting held on 10th February, 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meetings.
- 2025/61 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February, 2025

Harding Way tree work
Council received an update report, and noted that Climbing High trees had been instructed to carry out the works.
- 2025/62 Public Participation
One member of the public expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. He, however, did not live in the parish. The Chairman asked him to advise the clerk of his address and checks could then be made if he met the requirements for standing for co-option.

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Clegg

Cllr. R. Clegg gave an update report on District Council matters:

Garden Waste Collection

A new permit system was being introduced from 1st April, whereby residents would no longer pay for garden waste by direct debit but would purchase a permit sticker in advance, by credit or debit card, which would be placed on the bin.

Parkside – road condition

Cllr. Clegg had no further news on the repairs and resurfacing of this road.

Upwood Quarry

Cllr. Clegg had learned that Bucks, Berks and Oxon Nature Trust had not been a consultee in regards to the water monitoring report for the Hills Aggregates activities at the Quarry. The County Council would consult them as the application had not been determined.

Play Ground painting of fence

Details of a possible contractor had been provided to the clerk.

Purchase of temporary housing accommodation

Cllr. Clegg had been able to confirm that accommodation purchased by the District Council, if no longer required for temporary accommodation, would be reallocated to general needs social housing, but would remain in the possession of the District Council or any successor Council. He confirmed that the spending was actually around £6million of s. 106 funding. £2.2million as direct purchases, and a further £3.8 million to supplement funding received from the Local Authority Housing Fund.

Active Travel Infrastructure

Oxfordshire County Council was consulting on new pedestrian and cycling routes. The proposed Wootton Greenway would appear to join up with the northern entrance to Dalton Barracks. Cllr. Clegg had responded positively but urged the links to join sensibly, particularly the Wotton Greenway with the new Dalton Barracks site development, and encouraged them to work with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation in the planning of this. He has also asked them to consider a link across the fields to Marcham.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Negotiations around the potential geographies of new Unitary Authorities continued. A “one-Oxfordshire” model continued to appear the most likely. The leaders of the District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council had formally written to the leader of West Berkshire Council to ask him to consider submitting an interim proposal for a new unitary authority covering the combined geography of all three areas. Interim plans for the Reorganisation were due by 21st March and full plans due by 28th November.

In addition, the Local Government Boundary Commission had announced that the Electoral Changes Order for the District ward boundary review would not be put to Parliament, as it was likely, owing to the wider reorganisation and unitary authorities that the District Council would cease to exist before the changes would take effect.

Points raised by Members

Cllr. Clegg was advised to take into account in regards to the Active Travel Plan, that the cycle routes needed to link with the proposed reservoir site.

2025/64

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. P. Stevens

Cllr. Stevens report was deferred until later in the meeting following his arrival.

2025/65

Speed Reduction Request Faringdon Road/Sheepstead Road

Council received an update report. It noted that Oxfordshire County Council required a traffic survey to be undertaken. Council considered funding the application, and noted quotations provided.

Council also considered a request from residents for a “concealed entrance” sign to be sited on the western side of Sheepstead Road near the entrance to Sheepstead Park.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Oxfordshire County Council's transport monitoring section undertake a speed survey at 4 locations, north, south, east and west of St. Peter's crossroads.
- (ii) That Marcham Parish Council funds the survey at a cost of £760 plus vat.
- (iii) That consideration of the request for a “concealed entrance” sign be deferred until the traffic survey had been completed, and the results known.
- (iv) That an article be placed in Marcham and District News advising residents that the Parish Council was arranging for a traffic speed survey at St. Peter's crossroads.

2025/66

Howard Cornish Road – request for central broken white line, and electronic enforcement sign in the vicinity of Anson Close

Council considered a request for traffic calming measures for Howard Cornish Road in the vicinity of Anson Close. This was for a central white line, as vehicles approaching the bends towards Morland Road often crossed the middle of the road and were on the wrong side.

Council also considered a request for a vehicle activated speed sensing sign (smile/frown face) for Howard Cornish Road, between Anson Close and Long Barn.

Members suggested that vehicles crossing the centre of the road was perhaps not a situation unique to the southern end of Howard Cornish Road. To site a smile/frown face speed activated sign in one location (if it were possible) could set a precedent for demands elsewhere. Discussion then focused on the Bloor Homes site and the removal of the vehicle activated sign that used to be sited near the gas governor on the eastern side of Howard Cornish Road at the junction of the A415.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the request for a white line be placed on Fix My Street
- (ii) That enquiries first be made of Oxfordshire County Council as to the possibility of re-siting the old 30 mph vehicle activated sign. And whether it could be recalibrated to 20 mph.

2025/67

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P23/V1077RM Release of landscaping condition
Erection of up to 90 dwellings, A415 Marcham
Bloor Homes site
Permitted 11th February, 2025

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

No applications had been received.

c) Applications considered at the meeting

P25/V0379/HH Rear first floor extension. Minor alterations to existing elevations and minor adjustments to the internal layouts.

9 North Street

Comments: Council had no objections.

P24/V1986/FUL Change of use of the land at the rear of the Black Horse to construction material storage, and marble cutting shed & storage.

The Black Horse, Gozzards Ford

Comments: Council objected on grounds of the site being in an open green belt area, the visibility from the surrounding area, noise and dust generation, plus increased volumes of traffic on a rural countryside road.

2025/68

Community Facilities

Council noted that the Anson Trust had advised that they were progressing with the speed reduction measures at the entrance point of Barrow Close, off Morland Road. Comments were made regarding suitable days and times for installation, and it was noted that Marcham Centre was due to be closed for some redecoration works.

Councillors and clerk had met with the Arts Officer from the District Council, as well as the artist, to consider the noticeboard and bench seats. The area for the Noticeboard was measured, and work on the final design was progressing. In regards to the bench seats, the site at the junction of North Street/Howard Cornish Road and also the play area were visited. The North Street site had been discounted as it was located behind BT and broadband exchange boxes. It had been suggested that the seat for the play area be located immediately outside the play area, facing eastwards. Sandra Hill was investigating the plaque for the seat sponsored by the Anson Trust. An alternative site for the proposed North Street bench was somewhere on the village green.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Anson Trust consult with Marcham Community Group and Little Angels nursery regarding the best days and times to undertake the work.
- (ii) That the report from the meeting with the arts officer and artist be noted.
- (iii) That Council would support the location of the bench seats outside the play area, and on the village green

2025/69

Annual Meeting for Electors – 15th May, 2025

Council considered the arrangements for the Annual Meeting for Electors, and itemised the projects over the year which could be referred to in the Chairman's report. It was suggested that a formal letter be sent to Mrs. Viv Hutchinson, Head Teacher of Marcham Primary School inviting her to attend the meeting, as it was understood she was retiring from her post. The Chairman would write a personal letter of invitation.

2025/70

Allotments

Council noted that padlocks from the allotment gates frequently went missing, and considered not replacing these.

Council noted that Marcham Society, with the aid of Oxford Archaeology was undertaking digs in local trial pits in Marcham, and were looking for suitable plots of land. A suggestion had been put forward that allotment plots might be available. Council noted the terms of a rat treatment contract with Eradikil UK Ltd, and also noted the conditions required to be agreed, as part of the acceptance of the s. 106 funds for the allotment fencing and clearing works

RESOLVED:

- (i) That no replacement padlocks be purchased and that the situation be monitored
- (ii) That permission be given to use unworked, untenanted allotment plots, or plots where tenants gave their permission, for trial dig purposes provided access could be easily arranged and there were no issues caused for adjacent tenants.
- (iii) That the terms of acceptance and conditions for the s 106 funding for the allotments from the Vale of White Horse District Council be agreed.
- (iv) That the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer and a Member be authorised to sign the letter of acceptance issued by the Vale of White Horse District Council, for the s. 106 allotment funding
- (v) That the Clerk finalise the terms of the pest control contract with Eradikil UK for one year, and sign this on behalf of the Parish Council

2025/71

Footpaths Church to Cemetery

Council noted the position in regards to the footpaths through the Churchyard and alongside the Cemetery. Past quotations to prepare a sub-base and lay a path dressing on the Churchyard section of the public footpath were in the region of £7750 plus vat. Similar work, but with a slightly reduced depth of sub base owing to the existing hard core, on the western path (Churchyard to dividing point where paths go in the directions of the A415 and Frilford) would be in the region of £13500 plus vat. These figures would increase by approximately 10%. Other surfacings such as tarmac plannings, or resin bonded aggregate were more expensive.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That an application be lodged with the Vale of White Horse District Council for s. 106 funds for paths being held by them, to cover the cost of the work.
- (ii) That the Clerk contact the County Council to advise them and confirm it was in order to proceed with the works
- (iii) That Joe Withers contact the Church to continue discussions regarding pathworks in the Churchyard.
- (iv) That Aztec Plant Services were the preferred contractor.

- 2025/72 Projects identified for 24/25
Council noted projects identified for 24/25. Most had been achieved or were ongoing. The 2 outstanding were the conservation noticeboard in the Churchyard, and the war memorial improvements.
- 2025/73 Parishioner of the Year Award
Council deferred this item until later in the meeting.
- 2025/74 Finance /Accounts
Council noted budget monitoring as at 31st December, and balances available. Council considered recommendations from the Burial Committee as to an increase in Cemetery fees with effect from 1st April 2025.
- The list of payments had been circulated to Members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 3860 to 3865 and cemetery account no. 425 and authorised payments in the sum of £2789.57 in respect of administration costs, play area checks, allotment fence repair, and cemetery waste bin emptying.
- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the budget monitoring and balances be noted.
 - (ii) That Cemetery fees be increased by 10% with effect from 1st April 2025. To be rounded up if necessary.
- 2025/75 Matters raised by Members for information
Allotment Plots - Comments were made that some allotment plots were untidy.
- Pye Homes development – Temple Gate (Davies Edge, Page Meadows). It was reported that the private litter bins on this housing development were not being emptied frequently enough. Residents too were concerned that they were being charged £82 each household, by the Management Company for the emptying costs. It was rumoured that residents wanted the bins removed, although it was believed the siting of the bins were approved as part of the landscaping plan for the planning application. A member suggested that perhaps another contractor would be cheaper. Checks as to the planning requirements, and bin emptying charges, would be made in case this became an agenda item, should the Parish Council ever be asked to take them over.
- A415 – Missing 20 mph signage – removed by Bloor Homes. The Clerk would raise this with Bloor Homes.
- 2025/76 Items for Marcham and District News April edition
The Clerk would prepare an article. This would include recruitment of new councillors, the annual parish meeting, an appeal for allotment

holders to keep their plots tidy, possible archaeological trial pits on allotment plots, and the clearance of the Parkside corner.

2025/77

Parishioner of the Year

Council considered nominations. It was suggested that a citation be drafted for a possible recipient, to enable an assessment to be made as to whether to award the Certificate in 2025.

RESOLVED:

That the working party be asked to draft a citation.

2025/78

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

2025/79

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

2025/80

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 14th April, 2025 in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed Date