

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 14th July, 2025 commencing at 7.30 p.m. and held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

Present:

Keely Ewart-Brookes, Mark Harvie (Chairman), Michael Hoath, Ruth Mander, Andrew Mason, Tanya Rosenfeld
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

Cllr. Robert Clegg (District Councillor)

2 Members of the public Revd Nick Weldon and Neil Rowe (Churchwarden)

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public to the meeting.

- 2025/154 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Sheena Bigden (away) and Joe Withers (work commitments). Apologies had also been received from Cllr. James Plumb (County Councillor).
- 2025/155 Declarations of Interest
Michael Hoath declared an interest in the agenda item relating to community facilities in that he was a director of Marcham Community Group which ran the Marcham Centre site. Keely Ewart-Brookes also declared an interest in the agenda item relating to community facilities in that she lived in the vicinity of the Marcham Centre.
- 2025/156 Minutes of the meeting held on 9th June, 2025
The minutes of the meeting held on 9th June, 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2025/157 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 9th June, 2025
s. 106 s funding for artificial pitch within the vicinity from Marcham developments
Council noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council had allocated these funds to Steventon Cricket Club.
- Community Led Housing Event 20th May 2025
Following attendance by Andrew Mason at this event, and his report, it had been agreed that Oxfordshire Community First should attend a future Council meeting. This had now been arranged for the September meeting. The Chairman suggested that members make themselves aware of the background of community led housing in readiness for the meeting.

2025/158

Public Participation

Revd Weldon and Neil Rowe outlined a proposal for a garden of reflection within the Churchyard. This would be a visible, quiet, contemplative space where residents could lay flowers at times of need, and be a space where residents could gather on Remembrance Sunday and important occasions. Examples of what the area could provide were a flagpole, standing stones, a cross, creative lighting and landscaping. Having such a space would complement the wayside cross which was in a difficult location on the A415. The Council was asked to take the lead in this project. The speakers were advised that the Council could place the matter on its next agenda. They then left the meeting.

2025/159

District Councillor's report – Cllr. Robert Clegg

Cllr. Clegg gave a report on District Council matters

Parkside Road Condition – the repairs to the side road had been completed with resurfacing and two new gullies and soakaways.

Air Quality Monitoring – Packhorse Lane – Evidence suggested that there was decreasing air pollution in Packhorse Lane, and levels of NO₂ were below threshold levels. In addition, the Vale of White Horse District Council was required to observe the legislation and might be compelled to recommend removing the Air Quality Management Area status if no strong evidence to the contrary emerged. It was pointed out that whilst there may have been a temporary lull, the construction of 750 dwellings at Kingston Bagpuize could easily exacerbate pollution levels. Cllr. Clegg offered to try and ensure that the diffusion tubes were to stay in place.

Caravan – Howard Cornish Road – The District Council had received contact from the owner of the caravan confirming that it was not abandoned. As it was parked in a reasonable location, not causing an obstruction, and not being abandoned, the District Council was not able to take any action.

Howard Cornish Road – Grass Cutting – The wild meadow area had been cut in June, but not by the Vale of White Horse District Council. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council's contractor too had stated he had not cut it either. The problem remained a mystery.

IT migration and planning applications

Vale of White Horse District Council had been transferring systems from an externally managed service to in house. There had been some issues and a back log of planning applications had been caused. There was a delay in processing these of about 6 weeks.

Neighbourhood Planning Support

Central Government was no longer providing grant funding towards the preparation costs of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Didcot Gateway

A planning application had been approved for the proposed new council offices in Didcot following the destruction of the former offices of South Oxfordshire District Council in 2015. Although as there were Central Government proposals for unitary authorities, the Didcot site would be considered, as well as others, for any future office needs.

2025/160

County Councillor's report – Cllr. James Plumb

Cllr. James Plumb had submitted a written report on County Council matters:

Oxford Congestion Charge

Oxfordshire County Council had announced plans to introduce a temporary £5 congestion charge for cars visiting Oxford City Centre to commence in the Autumn. Public consultation about the proposal was running until 3rd August. Council expressed concern and stated that anything which affected journeys to the Oxford hospitals should be opposed. The Clerk would advertise the consultation on the website.

Local Government Reorganisation

Oxfordshire County Council had proposed one county wide unitary authority. Consultation on this was open until 27th July.

Part Time Lighting Consultation

This scheme whereby Parish Councils could apply for reduced lighting in their parishes was currently out for consultation.

2025/161

Faringdon Road / Sheepstead Road - possible speed reduction

Council noted that this scheme had been added to list held by Oxfordshire County Council where there were 99 schemes each competing for funding. The Clerk had made enquiries of the County Council as to likely costings, and would also enquire how schemes were prioritised. The Clerk was asked to lobby the County Councillor.

2025/162

Unitary Authorities

Council noted the outlines for the different proposals. It considered Macham a semi rural parish not linked to Oxford City in any way. Andrew Mason gave a report on the meeting held by Vale of White Horse District Council to explain its proposal, that he had attended. This was to merge with South Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. Issues were that there were different municipal waste contracts, and West

Berkshire did not currently provide a fire service. Whichever scheme was selected, there would likely be a Mayor. It was suggested therefore that executive decisions would be made, and parish councils would not be heard in future.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That this Council objects to the proposal of a Greater Oxford, and expanding Oxford City area
- (ii) That further detailed information is required before a preference for the other 2 proposals for this area, is selected

2025/163

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P25/V1030/HH Single storey rear extension
1 Leas Lane
Permitted 2nd July, 2025

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

P25/V0730/HH Single storey front extension at ground, removal of existing ad-hoc porch extension, alterations to the elevations of the existing house. Changes to the driveway access, and treatment along the street frontage. Landscaping, and changes to the extent of hardstanding and material. Amendment to front boundary as shown on newly submitted drawings.

Trinafour, Abingdon Road

Comments: The Parish Council reiterated its previous comments regarding drainage, and sight lines. In addition, it did not support a gabion wall whatever size, as this was out of context with the street scene. It stated a preference again for a low fence with internal planting. It pointed out the existing street nameplate, Scottish southern networks electricity pole and road signage which could be affected by the proposed external planting.

P25/V1273/DIS Discharge of Condition no. (4) Demolition Statement and Construction Transport Management Plan. Change of Use of Denman College and curtilage from Class C2 to a single family dwelling, internal alterations, together with comprehensive landscaping of the site. The erection of ancillary garden buildings.
Denman College, New Road
Comments: The Parish Council commented on the

Construction Management Plan where the text and map were inconsistent. It reiterated previous comments that it would not wish to see the main construction access via the conservation area, and New Road.

b) Applications considered at the meeting

Notification of this application had been received after the agenda had been prepared. The clerk did have delegated powers to respond to applications in between meetings, however Council agreed to consider this item. The Council was the owner of Marcham Centre, but had not received official Notice of the application.

P25/V1215/FUL Proposed mobile horsebox pizza stall, to be positioned over two car parking spaces at the Marcham Centre on Fridays, 17:00 - 21:00, and Saturdays, 16:00 - 21:00. The horsebox is to be a fully movable catering vehicle (no fixed foundations) and will be removed outside of trading hours.

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close

Comments: Council had concerns regarding additional rubbish on site. The existing waste bins had been provided for users of the field, and not for any commercial activity. If these were full, problems would ensue as the bins could be full and overflowing for several days. Additional waste bins provided the applicant and removed by him should be provided. Terms of the Lease should be observed. Consideration should be given to including conditions the same as those imposed on mobile trading vans at The Crown public house.

2025/164

Community Facilities

Annual Lease/Management Agreement Review Meeting

Andrew Mason gave a report on the meeting held with Marcham Community Group to review the Leases and Management Agreement. It was also noted that as there were shared facilities with the residents in Barrow Close, that a meeting had been arranged with them for 21st July to provide them with an update.

Correspondence

Council noted correspondence received from the Anson Trust after the agenda had been finalised. The Trust had requested that the Parish Council serve Notice on residents in Tower Close and Orchard Way and collect payments from them in regards to gates from their rear gardens into the recreation field.

RESOLVED:

That the Anson Trust be advised that as landowner, this would be best carried out by the Trust.

2025/165 Salvation Army Textile Bank – Howard Cornish Road
Council noted comments from the Salvation Army regarding the textile bank, and the weight of textiles collected. A second bank may be possible if required, although the bank was rarely full.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That a second textile bank be requested from the Salvation Army
- (ii) That if an additional one were available, that it not be sited to obstruct the bus stop.

2025/166 Footpaths – Church to Cemetery
Joe Withers, who had been dealing with the matter, was not in attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That this matter be deferred to the next meeting.

2025/167 Allotments
Council considered a request to erect a child's rustic swing on an allotment plot. Council had previously in 2021 introduced a policy whereby children's play equipment was not permitted. Council also noted that a plastic slide was on one of the plots.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the existing policy stand, and no swing or play equipment be permitted on allotment plots
- (ii) That the tenant on any allotment plot where play equipment was sited be requested to remove it.

2025/168 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.

2025/169 Finance / Accounts
Council received the end of month budget monitoring report as at 30th June 2025. CIL funds had been received. Allotment expenses on new fencing had been incurred, but this had been offset by previous allotment s. 106 funding received.

The list of payments had been circulated to members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 3894 to 3905 and PC cemetery account 430, 431 and 432 and authorised payments in the sum of £11146.63 in respect of administration costs, play area checks, litter picking, litter bin emptying, grass and hedge cutting, allotment rat treatment, and noticeboard/bench seating artwork.

Council noticed the 6 month investment with Nationwide Building Society was about to expire, and that Tanya Rosefield had previously been a signatory to the Nationwide accounts.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the payments list be approved
- (ii) That the funds held in Nationwide Building Society be reinvested in the 6 month account
- (iii) That Tanya Rosenfeld be confirmed as a signatory to the Nationwide account.

2025/170 Matters Raised by Members for information

Parkside – grass

A member reported that the grass on Parkside verges had not been cut.

Available grants

A member requested that a list of available grant funding for parish councils should be considered at the September meeting.

2025/172 Items for Marcham and District News – September edition

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD news. This would include reference to joining a Cemetery working party and an appeal for the public to join. It would also include reference to vacancies for parish councillors.

2025/173 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

Rights of access over Parish Council land

2025/174 Date of Next Meeting
The next meeting would be held on Monday 8th September, 2025 at 7.30
p.m. in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed Date