

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 13th October, 2025 commencing at 7.30 p.m. and held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

Present:

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

Cllr. Robert Clegg (District Councillor)
Cllr. James Plumb (County Councillor)
16 Members of the public

- 2025/196 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Parish Councillors Joe Withers, owing to work commitments, and Mike Hoath (away)
- 2025/197 Declarations of Interest
Mark Harvie and Ruth Mander both declared interests in the agenda item relating to community facilities in that they were both Trustees of Marcham Community Group that ran the facilities at Marcham Centre.
- 2025/198 Minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2025
The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September, 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2025/199 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September, 2025

Churchyard – Remembrance Garden / Tree
Council noted that the Parochial Church Council were further discussing the plans for a Remembrance Garden in the Churchyard. Council noted that works to the American oak at the entrance off Church Street would be carried out on 7th November.
- 2025/200 Public Participation
Pig Odours – Mill Road area
A resident made a statement regarding smells and noise coming from the area where pigs were kept off Mill Road. Pigs had been moved from open fields to the north of the village, to enclosed pens. Residents were being kept awake at night and were troubled by foul odours.

Davies Edge - trees

A resident made a statement that in recent high winds the trees had become dangerous and there were outstanding works to be carried out. A second resident referred to the original tree survey which was now out of date. Residents had found themselves caught between Pye Homes the developer and its Management Company who had taken over responsibility for the site.

A third resident referred to a right of way which was not complete.

2025/201 Council agreed to bring the report from the District Councillor, Cllr. Robert Clegg, forward on the agenda to the next item.

2025/202 District Councillor's report – Cllr. Robert Clegg
Cllr. Clegg gave a report on District Council matters.

Pig Smells

Odours and noise from pigs which were now being kept at Manor Farm had been referred to Environmental Health for investigation. A reply was awaited.

Davies Edge Biodiversity

A question was being put to Cabinet regarding the District Council's Planning Enforcement Statement which had not kept pace with Biodiversity Net Gain legislation. A revision to the Planning Enforcement Statement could result. An arboricultural report for Davies Edge indicated that some trees should be replaced with native species, however these were not shown on the plans for the site. The weight awarded to approved plans, and any accompanying reports differed. Cllr. Clegg would keep in contact with the District Council regarding the matter.

Tree Felling – Howard Cornish Road

Following queries from residents regarding tree felling at Hydes Copse, Cllr. Clegg had been able to confirm that there were no tree preservation orders in place, but the land had been identified as Ancient Woodland in the Local Plan 2031. This designation referred to the fact that there had been trees on the site in excess of 400 years. There were no planning applications decided or pending, nor was the area within the conservation area. There was a felling licence in existence which has been granted by the Forestry Commission.

Howard Cornish Parking

Cllr. Clegg had persuaded the District Council to remove 2 vehicles that had been parked in the lay by for long periods of time without being moved.

Joint Local Plan

Correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate had been received by the District Council requesting that the Local Plan be withdrawn and

that the “duty to cooperate” with Oxford City Council be more closely reviewed. Oxford City Council too had been asked to withdraw its own Local Plan on the same issue. Correspondence was being exchanged between the District Council and the Planning Inspectorate, and the District Council was assessing its options. The Secretary of State had recently issued correspondence stating his concern regarding the numbers of Plans being withdrawn.

Garden Waste Collection

Residents who had purchased a permit for the brown bin garden waste collection service would be able to have extra garden waste collected on Wed. 5th November.

Food and Warmth Grant

This grant, previously known as the Household Support Fund was open for applications. Voluntary and community organisations as well as Parish Councils could apply for funding to help those who need support this Winter.

Licensing System Reform

Central Government had announced a call for evidence on the topic of reforming the licensing system. Outdoor trading (food vans at The Crown) was included.

A question was raised of Cllr. Clegg regarding the possibility of replanting of Hyde Copse. He felt that as it was ancient woodland, there was a possibility of replanting.

2025/203

Mill Road area / south of the A415 – complaints regarding offensive odours

Council noted the comments from the resident who spoke during public participation and the action undertaken by Cllr. Clegg, and considered any further steps that could be taken. Questions were asked regarding the intensity of the farming and permits from the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That a letter be sent to the Vale of White Horse District Council in support of the actions taken by Cllr. Clegg, owing to the severe nuisance and intensive nature of the pig farming.
- (ii) That a letter be sent to the farmer to advise him that the Parish Council was going to be in correspondence with the District Council regarding the concerns raised by residents.

- 2025//204 Davies Edge – Biodiversity matters
Council noted receipt of an acknowledgement from planning enforcement in regards to the matters referred to them. It was noted that the situation had fallen between 2 parts of legislation.
RESOLVED:
 (i) That a letter be sent to the Management Company regarding outstanding biodiversity matters
 (ii) That the Parish Council continue to press the Vale of White Horse District Council and the Management Company for a resolution.
- 2025/205 Howard Cornish Road – Hyde Copse trees
Council considered comments from residents in regards to the sudden felling of the copse. It was noted that it was private land, there were no Tree Preservation Orders in place and that a felling licence was in existence. Concerns had been raised regarding the loss of biodiversity and habitats for wildlife.

RESOLVED: that a letter raising the matter of the loss of biodiversity be raised with the Vale of White Horse District Council.
- 2025/206 County Councillor’s report – Cllr. James Plumb

Congestion Charge Permits
Congestion charging would come into effect from 29th October. Residents residing in the Oxfordshire permit area could apply for a free permit that gave users 25 day passes through congestion charge zones. Other types of permit were available.

Oxfordshire Care system given “good” rating
The Care Quality Commission assessing adult social care had awarded a “good” rating, praising Oxfordshire’s collaborative approach, highlighting the “Oxfordshire Way” which encouraged a partnership of NHS, local care providers and voluntary and community sectors.

Gulley Cleaning
Teams were clearing all the drainage gullies across Oxfordshire. Marcham’s had been cleaned. Those that had not should be reported to Cllr. Plumb or via Fix My Street.

North Street – potholes/resurfacing/Junction Markings
Most of the potholes in North Street had been filled, and some resurfacing had taken place at the junction of North Street and Howard

Cornish Road. The junction markings for North Street and the A415 were due to be installed within the next 2 weeks.

HGVs through village – Cabinet member for highways

Cllr. Plumb was meeting with the Cabinet member for highways the following week, and he invited members to join them.

2025/207

Sheepstead Road /Faringdon Road – Speed reductions

Council noted comments from the Vale of White Horse District Council in regards to the spending of Community Infrastructure Levy money. The advice was to consult the provider of those funds and to undertake consultation as to the spending of them to ensure residents did not raise any objections.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Bloor Homes, as provider of the CIL funds, be asked if they had any objections and consented to the use of the funds towards speed reduction in the north of the parish.
- (ii) That the matter of how to undertake consultation with the parish be an agenda item for the next meeting

2025/208

Marcham Society – “Marcham Uncovered” Event Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th October.

Reference to parish councillors and times of assisting at the stand was discussed. The Chairman had made contact with the District Council’s planning policy team leader and was meeting with him and the District Councillor. Material to be exhibited by the Parish Council was considered as well as a recruitment poster. Council agreed that the printing of items for display would be funded by Council.

2025/209

Salvation Army Textile Bank

Council noted that the second textile bank had not yet arrived, and that bags with textiles and other items were still being dumped on the ground in the area.

Council also noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council was planning Christmas tree recycling and was looking for collection point locations. It was noted that they would be collected on Wednesday 14th January, 2026.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That further enquiries be made of Salvation Army trading Ltd in regards to the promised textile bank
- (ii) That a further request be put into MAD News to encourage residents not to leave

- bags of clothes on the ground
- (iii) That any changes to signage be left until the new year
- (iv) That the former recycling bank site, adjacent to the Salvation Army textile bank in Howard Cornish Road, be agreed as far as the Parish Council was able to, as a possible site for Christmas tree recycling.

2025/210 Harding Way – trees/hedge
 Council noted correspondence from residents at the eastern end of Kings Avenue regarding branches coming off the trees on the path from Howard Cornish Road to Harding Way, and also correspondence from a resident regarding overhanging hedge off Harding Way, from the public open space. The Clerk had obtained a quotation for necessary works to the trees and the hedging. (The quotation also included works to trees in the play area off Barrow Close)

RESOLVED:

That the quotation in the sum of £1850 be accepted to undertake works to the Harding Way trees and hedging, and play area trees.

2025/211 Howard Cornish Road / Kings Avenue trees
 Council agreed to accept an item of correspondence which had been received after the agenda had been published, relating to trees on land in the ownership of the Vale of White Horse District Council. This indicated that the trees were overshadowing and dropping leaves and seeds causing issues for his property. Cllr. Clegg had previously raised this issue with the Vale of White Horse District Council, and was doing so again.

RESOLVED:

That this item be placed on an agenda for future discussion.

2025/212 Planning Applications

- a) Decisions on previous applications
 P25/V1846/AG Prior notification for agricultural track and removal of single bay from barn.
 Manor Farm, Mill Road
 Prior notification was insufficient, and a formal planning application was required
 24th September, 2025

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

None received

c) Applications considered at the meeting

None were received

- d) Street Trading Licence – pizza sales from village hall car park
Council noted comments from the Vale of White Horse District Council that indicated any Trading Licence issued would be for the same hours as granted by the planning permission. The applicant had stated that a waste bin would be provided and the site would be tidied and any waste from the immediate area removed. The applicant, however, did not think he could be held liable for the way in which residents disposed of their rubbish, particularly away from the site.

2025/213

Community Facilities

As the Chairman had declared an interest in the agenda item relating to Community Facilities, he stepped down, and Council appointed Sheena Bigden to chair this item.

Shared Facilities with adjacent residents

Council noted that a letter had been sent to the residents regarding shared costings on 11th September. They had responded on 3rd October, after being reminded, indicating that a reply to the content of the letter would be sent, and requested that invoices for the shared drainage not be issued for the time being.

Council considered a request from Marcham Community Group to advise them how to proceed in regards to servicing and provision of new chemicals for the shared dosing unit. It was thought that MCG should continue with full management of the drainage until the matter relating to the expected contribution from the residents had been clarified.

The Chairman called for a show of hands that Marcham Community Group continue with the management of the dosing unit and drainage

In favour	Against	Abstention
5	0	0

RESOLVED:

that Marcham Community Group
continue to manage the shared drainage
system.

Play Area / Noticeboard/seating

An update report was received. Meetings had taken place with the artist and installer. Colours of the base under the benches was

discussed. Quotations for the installation of a concrete base under a new picnic bench in the play area had been received. Council considered these figures.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of spending up to £2000 on a base for the picnic table.

In favour	Against	Abstention
5	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the resin colour of Staffordshire pink be put under the bench in the recreation ground
- (ii) That the resin colour of Golden Pea be put under the bench on the village green
- (iii) That the clerk be authorised to spend up to £2000 on arranging the base for under the new picnic bench.

Mark Harvie resumed as Chairman.

2025/214

Meeting Attendance

Mark Harvie, Chairman indicated that he had moved away from the area, but he would continue as a Parish Councillor. He was also the Council's nominated Trustee on Marcham Community Group, and he was resigning from that position. The Annual General Meeting of Marcham Community Group was going to be held on 16th October, and the Council, in future, would need a new nominee.

RESOLVED:

that a request for a person interested in being considered as the Council's nominated Trustee on Marcham Community Group be placed in the next issue of Marcham and District News.

2025/215

Footpaths – Church to Cemetery

Council received an update report. It noted that the s. 106 application had been lodged with the Vale of White Horse District Council, for funding for the path works. The Chairman had approached the site manager at Marcham Park regarding any possible works which could interfere with a new footpath surfacing alongside the Park's boundary, and a reply was awaited.

2025/216

Remembrance Sunday – 9th November, 2025

Council noted that the Clerk had applied for the road closure order between 10.45 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. for Sunday 9th November for a section of the A415 between North Street, and Church Street, plus

Church Street, and New Road to allow for wreath laying at the war memorial. An order had been placed for the wreath.
Council considered a donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and

RESOLVED

That a sum of £180 be awarded to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in addition to a £20 payment to Royal British Legion Trading Ltd for the wreath

2025/217

Cemetery Records

Council received a report from Tanya Rosenfeld in regards to digitising the cemetery records. Registers went back over 100 years, and some writing was difficult to read. It was therefore suggested that the records be scanned. In addition to the old completed Registers, there were the current ones, and going forwards the system could perhaps be changed to a completely digital one.

RESOLVED:

That a quotation for scanning the Registers be obtained.

2025/218

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.

2025/219

Allotments

Council received a report from Sheena Bigden. There were 11 bait boxes around the allotment site. None recently had attracted rats but there was evidence of mice. Recommendations had been made by the pest control company to remove large compost heaps and other areas where vermin would gather. Chickens were kept at the site so feed areas would always attract vermin.

Council noted comments from the contractor that allotment holders were telephoning the firm direct rather than going through the Council. Rents were due to be collected from tenants, so they could be reminded about various issues when receiving their correspondence.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the pest control agreement with the contractor not be renewed when it came to an end.
- (ii) That allotment tenants be asked to contact the members of the allotment working

- group or clerk with any issues.
- (iii) That allotment tenants be asked to clear rubbish areas.

2025/220

Finance / Accounts

The list of payments had been circulated to Members. Council noted the cheques numbered 3928 to 3935 and cemetery account 435 and 436 and authorised payments in the sum of £3628.78 in respect of administration costs, grass cutting, play area safety checks, grave digging, and purchase of wreath for Remembrance Sunday. In addition it was agreed to sign the cheque for the donation to Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in the sum of £180.

2025/221

Matters Raised by Members for information

Poster – Appeal for volunteers

It was noted that posters from village organisations were due to be displayed at the Marcham Society event at the weekend. Council would display a poster.

Housing Needs Assessment

A member requested that the Council discuss, at a future meeting, the community led housing provision, and housing needs assessment as outlined by the guest speaker at the last meeting.

Monks Walk – invoicing to residents

A member raised the fact that Matthew Homes Ltd, developer of Monks Walk estate south of the A415 had just issued invoices to residents for various aspects on the development for last year, and that this year's invoices too were due. He wished to bring this to the attention of the Council. The Chairman commented that the Parish Council would not usually involve itself in aspects of estate management.

Staff Committee

Consideration as to moving forwards with staff committee items was required.

Street Cleaning

A questionnaire had been received from the Vale of White Horse District Council in regards to general street cleaning, and the deep cleaning sessions. Members would respond with their views to the Clerk to enable a collective view to be submitted.

2025/222

Items for Marcham and District News – November edition

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD news. This would include a request for a nominee for Marcham Community Group, Remembrance Sunday Road Closure information, Oxfordshire

Congestion Charge and fly tipping at the Salvation Army textile bank, plus a request to cut back overhanging trees/hedging from footways.

- 2025/223 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 and installation of footpath by Pye Homes.

- 2025/224 Date of Next Meeting
The next meeting would be held on Monday 10th November, 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Signed Date