

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 8th June, 2026
commencing at 7.45 p.m. and held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

Present:

Sheena Bigden, Keely Ewart-Brookes, Mark Harvie (Chairman), Michael Hoath, Ruth Mander, Andrew Mason, Tanya Rosenfeld
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Cllr. Robert Clegg (District Councillor)

- 2026/122 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Joe Withers.
- 2026/123 Declarations of Interest

Michael Hoath, Ruth Mander and Keely Ewart-Brookes declared an interest in the agenda item relating to shared drainage at Marcham village hall, as they were Trustees of Marcham Community Group which ran the hall.
- 2026/124 Minutes of the annual meeting held on 11th May, 2026
The minutes of the annual meeting held on 11th May, 2026 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2026/125 Matters arising from the minutes of the annual meeting held on 11th May, 2026

Tree works on path Howard Cornish Rd to Harding Way
Council noted that the date for completion of these works was 23rd June.
- Anson Field – litter/dog waste bins
Council noted that Marcham Community Group was considering the Parish Council's suggestion for more litter/dog waste bins in the Anson field. A response was awaited.
- 2026/126 Public Participation
There were no members of the public present
- 2026/127 District Councillor's report – Cllr. Robert Clegg
Cllr. Clegg had previously submitted a written report and provided update comments on the following:
- Pig Smells
No recent updates.

Davies Edge Biodiversity

A minor update from Planning Enforcement indicated that Pye Homes were sourcing an update from the commercial team. Delays appeared to be owing to staff absences.

Barrow Road visibility

Cllr. Clegg had raised queries about vehicles outside 3 Morland Road, causing visibility issues to those entering/leaving Barrow Close.

Whilst the land was owned by the District Council, as part of the highway any issues should be reported to the County Council.

A member suggested that the clerk should prepare an article for MAD News regarding parking and loss of visibility.

S106 funding for MCG

Cllr. Clegg had reported that he was waiting for a response from the District Council on a query raised regarding s. 106 being needed after the expiration of the time limit for spending. He had just received a reply.

Mike Hoath, as a Trustee, commented that advice from the District Council confirmed that s. 106 for the village hall, could not be automatically applied to the recreation field. However, depending on the need for the funds, further consideration could be given as the deadline for spending approached. No major expenditure was expected immediately on the hall, but the fields did require investment.

Joint Local Plan

The next round of JLP examination hearings had been announced. These would commence on Tuesday 7th July.

In addition, central Government required the District Council to commence working on a new Local Plan under its new plan making regulations. The Vale of White Horse District Council was working again with South Oxfordshire District Council to prepare a joint plan. The current Joint Local Plan however, was currently under examination, and the boundary area for any new unitary authority not yet determined.

Dalton Barracks site redevelopment

Recent press coverage of “forever chemicals” in the soil at the former RAF base at Upper Heyford had prompted questions regarding similar potential issues at Dalton Barracks. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation was conducting a Land Quality Assessment and had already completed the first phase, with the second phase including chemicals to follow. Anyone with historic knowledge about the site and chemical use was invited to contact Cllr. Clegg. A member commented that Cllr. Clegg should include an article in Marcham and District News requesting information and also ask Marcham Society, as a recent speaker at one of their meetings had referred to Abingdon airfield.

2026/129

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. James Plumb

Cllr. Plumb had previously submitted a written report which had been read by Members. This included:

2027/28 Highway Maintenance Programme

The division members had been asked for suggestions for inclusion in the 27/28 highway maintenance programme. Cllr. Plumb welcomed any suggestions for minor works that he could put forward.

Members suggested highway surfacing in North Street and Sheepstead Road, the A415 near the junction with Church Street, and the area near the pedestrian lights at The Croft.

A415 Speed Limit Consultation

The County Council had launched a speed limit consultation for the section of the A415 between Frilford and Kingston Bagpuize.

Update – Vision Zero Programme

The Vision Zero team at Oxfordshire County Council had recently confirmed their intention to begin consulting on potential speed limit reductions on all A and B roads across Oxfordshire. Information on the A415 and A338 should follow.

Mill Road Bridleway Clearance

The Countryside Access Team had confirmed that the overgrown bridleway beyond Mill Road has been added to the ongoing maintenance programme to be mown. However, given the limited resource for summer mowing, a date had not been set, but would be carried out as soon as possible.

A415 Shared footway/cycle route

Concerns had been raised with Cllr. Plumb regarding the removal of a barrier at the edge of the footpath/cycle route near the layby at the Marcham interchange. An update was expected from the Highways Maintenance Team.

2026/130

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P26/V0464/FUL Formation of tennis court within residential curtilage
Upwood Park, Besselsleigh
Permitted 13th May, 2026

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

None received

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

P26/V0815/HH Trellis canopy to rear elevation
42 Harding Way
Comments: Council had no objections.

2026/131 Community Facilities

a) Drainage

Council noted that correspondence and drainage report had been sent on 18th May, to the residents who shared the drainage system.

RESOLVED:

That a reminder be sent to them in due course, advising that a response was awaited, and that the matter would be discussed again at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

b) Play Area signage

Council considered draft signage for the play area, and also discussed the smoke free zone signage supported by Oxfordshire County Council. Council considered a quotation from Falcon signs for the production of signage. General discussion followed regarding grass cutting and fence washing. A meeting with Tactical Facilities Management was expected soon. Enquiries would be made of MCG as to when they were cutting the grass.

RESOLVED:

That 3 signs be purchased. One for each pedestrian gate and the other for the existing pole.

2026/132 Annual Parish Meeting

Council reviewed the annual parish meeting held on 14th May, 2026 and discussed points to be actioned by the Parish Council. A request to put more detailed accounts on the website and to undertake detailed financial presenting at the annual parish meeting was noted. This could be actioned and considered for the meeting next year. There was a general lack of participation from residents at the meeting. The Chairman placed on record his thanks to members who had participated in the meeting, and had prepared presentations.

2026/133 Allotments

Council considered comments from residents regarding bonfires on the allotments at Cow Lane, and considered comments from the working party. The residents had referred to constant bonfires, yet only two had been identified. The allotment working group were working on an update to the allotment agreement to include restrictions on bonfires. Reference was made to terminating allotment agreements if the tenant was not fully working the plot. The Clerk would check the precise wording in the tenancy agreement.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the complainant be notified that the allotment working group was working on an update to the rules, to ensure that bonfires were not going to cause a risk.
- (ii) that an email be sent to allotment holders advising on burning allotment waste at the site.

2026/134 Review of Grant Policy for awards under s. 137 Local Government Act 1972, and Application Form

Council considered its grant policy under s. 137 Local Government Act 1972. It discussed extending this to grants and other statutory spending where there were requests from the public.

RESOLVED:

that the new grant policy and new application form as drafted and dated June 26 be adopted with immediate effect.

2026/135 Review of grass cutting arrangements for 26/27

Council noted the cutting schedule for 26/27. It appeared that many areas had not been cut. The contractor had revisited on 2 occasions, but had still not completed all areas. Council noted that the invoice for work undertaken in April, as a result, had not been paid. The contractor, Tactical Facilities Management had agreed to attend a meeting at the end of the week.

2026/136 Finance /Accounts

Accounts 25/26

Council received the balances and financial statement for the year end 31st March 2026.

2026/137 Internal Audit Report 25/26 and accompanying letter

The internal audit report, and accompanying letter confirming that there were no actionable observations, had been circulated to members, and these documents were considered by Council.

2026/138 Governance and Accountability Statement

The Governance and Accountability Statement for the year ended 31st March 2026 was considered. Each point was put separately to the Council.

It was

RESOLVED:

- a) that the Internal audit report, and letter be accepted by Council

b) that Section 1 the Governance Statement, of the AGAR for the year ending 31st March 2026 be approved with positive responses.

2026/139

Accounting Statement

Council then considered the accounting statement which formed part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Statement

It was

RESOLVED:

that Section 2 the Accounting Statement, of the AGAR for the year ending 31st March 2026 showing balances carried forward of £581610 and assets of £201290 be approved.

2026/140

Public Access to Accounts

Council considered the dates for public access to the accounts

It was

RESOLVED:

that public access to the accounts be advertised as 12th June, 2026 to 23rd July, 2026 (30 days), or as soon as possible thereafter.

2026/141

Payments

The list of payments had been circulated to members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 4003 to 4015 and PC cemetery accounts 445 and 446 and authorised payments in the sum of £23145.91 in respect of administration costs, hall construction valuation survey, grave digging, allotment water, drainage consultant costs, and replacement cheque for noticeboard/bench seat completion.

2026/142

Matters Raised by Members

Constables Ham field

A member had received a query regarding the rental of Constables Ham field. There was a Grazing Licence in existence which would come to an end in Spring 2027. The field could be advertised then to see whether there were other people interested, rather than automatically offer it to the existing licensee.

Layby adjacent to A34 Marcham Interchange -missing post/rail barrier

It was reported that the newly installed post and rail barrier, installed as part of highway improvement works on the A415 near the Marcham Interchange has parts missing. A van selling burgers had occupied the area where parts had been removed. The footway/cycleway had been blocked as a result. The missing fencing issues had been raised in the report from Cllr. James Plumb. The clerk was asked to bring it specifically to the attention of Cllr. Plumb and Cllr. Clegg. Questions were raised as to whether it should be reported, also to the Police.

Weed Spraying

It was reported that weed spraying would take place on Wednesday 10th June. The Clerk would draft something for inclusion on the village Facebook page. The article would be added by Keely Ewart-Brookes.

2026/143

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD news.

This would include paragraphs on bonfires and bearing in mind proximity to neighbours, appropriate parking so as to not cause obstruction, the accounts for the year end 31st March, 2026, and the new grant policy.

2026/144

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

2025145

Item discussed – Access across Parish Council land.

Council received correspondence addressed to the Chairman. The Chairman would draft a reply and circulate to all members and Clerk. The Clerk would send out on behalf of the Council.

2026/146

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 13th July, 2026 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Signed Date