

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 13th July, 2026
commencing at 7.30 p.m. and held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

Present:

Sheena Bigden, Mark Harvie (Chairman), Michael Hoath, Ruth Mander,
Andrew Mason, Tanya Rosenfeld, Joe Withers
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Cllr. Robert Clegg (District Councillor)
Cllr. James Plumb (County Councillor)
3 members of the public

- 2026/147 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Keely Ewart-Brookes.
- 2026/148 Declarations of Interest

Michael Hoath and Ruth Mander declared an interest in the agenda item relating to community facilities at Marcham village hall, as they were Trustees of Marcham Community Group which ran the hall. Michael Hoath also declared an interest in the agenda item relating to the request for Parish Council support in regards to the application to the Vale of White Horse District Council for s. 106 indoor sport funding, by Marcham Community Trading Ltd in that he helped that company with its accounts.
- 2026/149 Minutes of the meeting held on 8th June, 2026
The minutes of the meeting held on 8th June, 2026 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2026/150 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June, 2026

Tree works on path Howard Cornish Rd to Harding Way
These works had now been completed. Ruth Mander confirmed that all the ivy at the base of trees alongside the Harding Way open space had been cleared.

Howard Cornish Road – tree at rear of 2 Hyde Copse.
During discussion on Trees, it was brought to the Council's attention that there was an unhealthy tree dropping branches on the wide grass verge belonging to the Vale of White Horse District Council. Cllr. Rob Clegg as District member would deal with this.

S. 106 Art Funds
The District Council was dealing with numerous s. 106 applications, and it was noted that it would be a few weeks before a decision as to the additional draw down would be made.

- 2026/151 Public Participation
Davies Edge – outstanding issues from new development
 A resident spoke about the frustration on the part of residents in trying to have outstanding developer issues resolved. Matters were being passed from the developer to management companies with no one taking responsibility, and no action being taken. The MP Layla Moran had become involved and she was holding a local surgery on 17th July where residents would speak to her. It was noted that the Parish Council too, had previously written to the management company and developer regarding outstanding issues with no responses received.
- 2026/152 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 update
- Davies Edge Biodiversity – The District Council had confirmed to Cllr. Clegg that progress had been made with the developer regarding outstanding matters, and it was hoped the issues would be resolved by the end of the Summer.
- Davies Edge – maintenance of public open spaces – The District Council had confirmed that although there appeared to have been a suggestion that the land could be transferred to Marcham Parish Council, the public open spaces were the responsibility of the Management Company.
- Planning Committees – The Government’s upcoming National Scheme of Delegation of Planning Functions would change the way planning decisions were made. There were 2 rounds of consultation and the Vale of White Horse District Council had objected to the proposed changes. The intention was that the changes would come into force from 31st October 2026. The proposal would be to permit officers to determine application. Minor applications in Schedule 1 would always be delegated. Applications in Schedule 2 would be mostly determined by officers but could go to Committee where certain Statutory Criteria were met. The Criteria were where applications raised an economic, social or environmental issue of significance or where it raised issues in regards to the development plan. If introduced as drafted, the District Council would need to align its constitution with the national scheme of delegation.
- Joint Local Plan – Examination hearings of the Joint Local Plan took place between 7th – 9th July. Recordings were available on you tube.
- White Horse Reservoir – Water Resources South East had published an updated South East Regional Plan Cost Sensitivity Modelling Report, which concluded that the 150 billion litres design continued to provide the best option. An interim Cost Report on the Severn-Thames Transfer had also been published.

Questions – A question was raised regarding when central government would announce their decision on unitary authorities in the Oxfordshire area. The announcement was expected on 14th July and before the Parliamentary summer recess.

2026/153

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. James Plumb

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

Gozzards Ford – White gate entry feature

The County Council's highways maintenance team had agreed to replace the white gates and the task was in the programme of works, with a date to be given.

Vision Zero – Road Safety Programme

The County Council had produced a list of recommendations for road improvements, including speed reductions on the A415 and A338. Consultation was being undertaken. Cllr. Plumb had asked for the Faringdon Road and the Sheepstead Road to be included in this scheme.

Electric Vehicle Charging

The County Council was requesting help in identifying suitable locations for the installation of the electric vehicle charging points. The aim was to install 1500 by mid 2028.

Questions / Comments: -

Sheepstead Road/Faringdon Road Traffic survey – Traffic survey findings would be sent to Cllr. Plumb.

Quiet Lanes programme – Mill Road, where residents cycle and walk could be a possible quiet lane.

20 mph areas – vehicles were not keeping to 20 mph and it was suggested that the Police be invited to undertake speed checks

Zebra crossing – It had been suggested that the crossing point be moved further west along the A415.

2026/154

Oxfordshire County Council - Vision Zero Road Safety Programme

Council noted the proposal of the County Council to reduce the speed limit on the A415 between the village eastwards and the Marcham A34 Interchange, and westwards to the A338 at Frilford from 50 mph to 40 mph. In addition there were proposals for sections of the A338 to be reduced too to 40 mph.

Council agreed to defer discussion until later in the meeting.

RESOLVED:

that the matter of Oxfordshire County Council's Vision Zero Road Safety Programme be deferred to later in the meeting.

2026/155

Oxfordshire County Council – Abingdon and East Vale Movement and Place Plan

Oxfordshire County Council had undertaken an online event on the Movement and Place Plan and had emailed a copy to all councillors separately.

Council discussed the Plan proposals and considered that it had various omissions.

RESOLVED:

That the following points be brought to the attention of the County Council:

- a)** The lack of reference to the reasons for travel, as it was thought that these were crucial to the eventual planning.
- b)** The lack of reference to through traffic. The origins and destinations impacted on the local traffic.
- c)** The lack of reference to travel needs outside of the immediate area
- d)** The lack of reference to housing developments having to confirm to active travel and the need to link new developments with paths /cycle routes to connect residents to essential services, open green spaces etc.
- e)** The lack of reference to the impact of increasing EV charging on the planning layouts of new developments
- f)** The proposals appeared to discriminate against disadvantaged residents, elderly, infirm and those who work commitments did not coincide with public transport times, or those in the care profession who travelled between sites.
- g)** The area may be “healthier” but that was at the expense of a reduced “travel to” area. The document did not set out actions that would improve the quality of life for inhabitants, but appeared to define outcomes in such a way as to deliver actions that the authors wished to achieve.
- h)** Reference to a net-zero transport network was not achievable if fuel (electricity) was generated outside of Oxfordshire.
- i)** It was difficult to fully understand what had been considered for “final destinations”. Marcham to employment areas such as Harwell and Milton Park currently required a bus change in Abingdon. In addition Traffic Filters existed in Oxford. The document was

based on policy, and did not reference existing issues that people encountered.

j) Maximising transport links between places of employment and rural villages, with a genuine ticket management system needed to be fully considered.

k) The Marcham Movement Corridor (formerly Marcham ByPass) needed to be a project moved up the list in terms of priority as it had been first mentioned 100 years ago.

l) The proposal to re-open walking, and cycling routes along the Wilts and Berks Canal, with forethought could be linked to Marcham, Drayton and Steventon, if the true aim was to reduce overall traffic and to support 4500 new homes.

2026/156 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P26/V0663/HH Single storey rear extension

17 Pointer Place

Permitted

12th June, 2026

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

None received

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

P26/V2391/LB – Widening of opening at entrance by carefully taking down existing piers and pineapple finials, providing new foundations and reconstruction the piers with the same and matching bath stone. New automatic opening mechanism, and new wrought iron gates

Marcham Park, New Road

Comments: Council had no objections

P26/V1682/HH Single storey side extension

13 Chancel Way

Comments: The Council had significant concerns as follows:

1. The property had already been extended, and the additional structure could represent overdevelopment of the site.

2. The extension reduced the remaining amenity space which contradicted design principles.

3. Bringing the wall to the back edge of the footway was inappropriate and harmful to the street scene.

4. Sight lines for the neighbour to the rear of the property would be obstructed, presenting a safety risk, particularly for vehicles, and pedestrians using the footway.
5. The garden wall in that location was obtrusive and would impact on the neighbours.
6. The scale of the extension raised concerns in that it may facilitate a home-based business or commercial activity. Should permission be granted, it was requested that the District Council impose strict conditions prohibiting commercial use, increased traffic, or any activity that would intensify use of the site beyond normal residential purposes.

2026/157

Community Facilities

a) Drainage

Council noted correspondence from the residents who shared the drainage system, which indicated that they were considering a letter from the Parish Council dated 18th May, in regards to shared drainage. Marcham Community Group had not submitted invoices since April 2024 when the equipment was handed back by Thomas Homes. The MCG charity had funded all costs which had a negative effect on the community. The charity, nor the Parish Council should have to fund the residents' share of the private drainage.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a reasonable period of further time be allowed so that the residents could respond to the Council's letter of 18th May.
- (ii) that MCG continue to invoice the residents, as an interim measure, on the basis of what the residents paid previously, pending final agreement with the residents as to what their contribution to total costs should be.

b) Anson Field – litter bins

Council considered a proposal to install further litter/dog waste bins in the Anson field. It noted that these could be provided by and installed by Tactical Facilities Management Ltd, or just installed by them. Marcham Community Group's preferred locations for new bins was in the south east corner of the field, and near the garage storage site on the northern boundary. The Parish Council had a preference for a bin near the access point into Tower Close.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that 3 waste bins be provided
- (ii) that the Parish Council fund the bins, installation and emptying costs
- (iii) that a sum of £3000 be set aside for this purpose.

2026/158

Application by Marcham Community Trading Ltd to Vale of White Horse District Council to draw down s.106 money for indoor sport provision.

Council noted that Marcham Community Trading Ltd was applying to the Vale of White Horse District Council for s. 106 funding in the sum of £5835 for a pool table, dart board and accessories, from monies identified for indoor sport in s.106 Planning Agreements.

Marcham Community Trading 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.

It was

RESOLVED:

- (i) That this Council supports the application by Marcham Community Trading Ltd to the Vale of White Horse District Council to use up to £6000 of s. 106 funds previously identified within planning Agreements for indoor sport purposes.
- (ii) That Marcham Community Trading Ltd identify the specific Agreements and obtain detailed quotations for their application to the District Council.

2026/159

Grass Cutting

Council received a report from members who had attended a face to face meeting with the grass cutting contractor Tactical Facilities Management. It was noted that the contractor's performance fell short of what was expected. The firm had introduced new electronic systems whereby real time information, access to grass cutting plans, reports and audit trails would be available, together with photographic evidence of work carried out. Areas had been missed in the recent cuts, and they had returned to cut these, including the cemetery.

Unfortunately only the cemetery extension area had been completed. The contractor would be advised. A new central email address had been provided for all contact. A member suggested that each member could take a section of the village for grass cutting monitoring, and report direct to Tactical any missed areas. The Clerk advised that members could not speak on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the work undertaken by Tactical Facilities Management Ltd be closely monitored
- (ii) that the war memorial weed treatment/tidying be undertaken monthly during the growing season.
- (iii) that graves be trimmed when the burial areas were cut

- (iv) that the sum of £200 for a one off clearance of the long grass area cut in July in the Churchyard be accepted

2026/160

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.

2026/161

Communications with residents

The Chairman referred to the possible deferment of this item owing to remaining business and the lateness of the hour.

RESOLVED:

That the agenda item relating to communications with residents be deferred to a future meeting.

2026/162

Finance /Accounts

The list of payments had been circulated to members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 4016 to 4022 and PC cemetery account 447 and authorised payments in the sum of £ 5175.33 in respect of administration costs, grass cutting and works to trees. Council also noted that invoices were awaited for the RoSPA play area safety inspection, and hedge cutting/clearance works within the cemetery.

2026/163

Matters Raised by Members

Morland Road – abandoned vehicles

Two vehicles which seemed abandoned, one of which had been involved in an accident were located in Morland Road. Joe Withers would report these to the District Council.

Allotments

Sheena Bigden would speaking to allotment tenants regarding possible works and a clause regarding bonfires for the new tenancy agreement. She asked for a list of tenants, those who had not paid, where notices to quit had been served, and information as to the waiting list. The clerk advised that certain information was data protected. The clerk would release information as to the plots which had tenants, and vacant plots, plus information as to the numbers of people on the waiting list, but not names, addresses and contact details.

Litter Stations

These would be ordered.

Repairs to stone wall along Church path

A query was raised as to when the works might be finished by the neighbouring landowner. The Clerk would speak to the workmen

Frilford Road Recreation Ground car park - soil

It was reported that there was a pile of soil dumped in the car park. Members would check this and possibly see if it could be spread.

It was also reported that a tent which had appeared in the recreation ground had now been moved.

A415 – Lorries and sirens

It was reported that there were a significant increase in lorries. These appeared to be Earthline vehicles. It was also mentioned that Police seemed to have sirens on going around the bends on the A415 even when there was no other traffic.

Richard Webber – former County Councillor for the Sutton Courtenay and Marcham Division

The funeral of the former County Councillor for the area, Richard Webber, would take place on Friday 17th July at 11.00 a.m. in All Saints Church, Marcham.

2026/164 Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for the next issue of MAD news in September.

2026/165 Oxfordshire County Council - Vision Zero Road Safety Programme
Council revisited this item deferred from earlier in the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that members be asked outside of the meeting to provide comments to the clerk and to confirm whether they were in support of the measures that affected the area.
- (ii) that delegated authority be given to the clerk to respond to Oxfordshire County Council by the deadline

2026/166 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 14th September, 2026 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

Signed Date