

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 14th September, 2026 commencing at 7.30 p.m. and held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

Present:

Sheena Bigden, Michael Hoath, Ruth Mander, Andrew Mason, Tanya Rosenfeld, Joe Withers
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Cllr. Robert Clegg (District Councillor)
Cllr. James Plumb (County Councillor)
4 members of the public, including Duncan Smith, and Richard Pain, 2 members of the allotment working party.

- 2026/167 Appointment of Chairman
Mark Harvie, elected Chairman of the Council, had offered apologies for absence from the meeting. It was therefore proposed by Sheena Bigden and seconded by Andrew Mason that Michael Hoath be appointed Chairman for the duration of the meeting. Michael Hoath took the chair.
- 2026/168 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Mark Harvie (Chairman), and Keely Ewart-Brookes.
- 2026/169 Declarations of Interest

Sheena Bigden declared an interest in the agenda item relating to allotments in that she had an allotment tenancy agreement with the Council. As a member of the allotment working party, she made factual statements, but took no part in the Council's debate on allotment matters.
- 2026/170 Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July, 2026
The minutes of the meeting held on 13th July, 2026 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2026/171 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July, 2026

s. 106 - Indoor Sport provision
Correspondence in support of Marcham Community Trading's application has been issued.

Church Path – wall
It was noted that from a recent site visit, it would be many weeks before the stonework was completed.

Frilford Road Recreation Ground
The soil has been levelled.

2026/172

Public Participation

Temple Gate – Pye development

A member of the public raised queries regarding a letter of practical completion, s. 106 funding, and the state of boundaries in the new development. Some clarification was given to some points, and Cllr, Clegg was going to take up the other issues.

Another member of the public raised a query regarding a path to link the south east corner of the site into the Harding Way development. He did not wish the non provision of the path to delay the adoption of roads.

Also raised was the sloping path from the north west corner into Sheepstead road, and queries were raised as to the possible need for a barrier as the drop was considered quite steep.

Bloor Homes – A415

Reference was made to the Bloor Homes site and the fact that the Council should carefully observe that site to ensure that all required works were complete before the developer left the area.

2026/173

The Chairman proposed, and Council agreed that the agenda order be re-arranged to take the item relating to the allotments as the next item.

2026/174

Allotments

Mr. Duncan Smith, a member of the Allotment Working Party addressed Council regarding the longer term aims at the Cow Lane allotment site, over a 4 year plan. The aim was for engagement with the tenants to seek their support, find volunteers to carry out work at the site, and move gradually to self management by finding an appropriate model to carry the idea forward. He made reference to uncultivated plots, general rubbish on site, marking plots, and path areas, a new noticeboard and current rents which were considered low. Funding of around £6500 was required to kick start the plan. Council noted comments in the Clerk's notes accompanying the agenda, and referenced the powers of working parties, availability of s. 106 funding, viring Council funds, data protection for tenants' details, Lease or Management Agreement requirements for a new group, and suggested way forward. Council also considered inviting a tenant from the Parkside allotment site to join the group.

Council also considered draft rules and regulations relating to bonfires on the allotments as drafted by the working party, following complaints from residents in Davies Edge regarding smoke in Summer.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that consultation as to becoming more self managing be undertaken at the time of sending out rent request in the Autumn

- (ii) that the working party be expanded to include a representative from the Parkside allotment site.
- (iii) that tenants at Parkside be asked if one of them wished to join the Allotment Working Party.
- (iv) that the rules relating bonfires be agreed, and communicated to tenants when issuing rental letters.
- (v) that the rules relating to bonfires apply to the Parkside site as well as Cow Lane site.
- (vi) that the new conditions relating to bonfire burning be advertised.

2026/175 Cllr. James Plumb (County Councillor) joined the meeting. 7.55 p.m.

2026/176 Thames Water – Whitehorse Reservoir
 Slides prepared by Thames Water had been circulated to all members. Michael Hoath gave a report on a briefing given by Thames Water, that he had attended on 23rd July 2026. Issues of concern to Marcham included flooding, local house building increasing water table, traffic during construction, Dalton Barracks development needing to link with Thames Water's plans, a link to Farmoor reservoir that needed to be constructed. In addition it was not known who the contractor would be who undertook the construction. There was a further briefing planned for 24th September, 2026.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the date for the submission of the Development Control Order be checked.
- (ii) that enquiries be made as to whether revisiting a joint approach with other nearby Parish Councils was a possibility.

2026/177 District Councillor's report – Cllr. Robert Clegg
 Cllr. Clegg had previously submitted a written report and provided update comments on the following:

Local Government Reorganisation

Central Government had paused the decision for Local Government Reorganisation in Oxfordshire and Berkshire. A review was underway, triggered in part by the legal and judicial reviews. Owing to the LGR the Vale of White Horse District Council had paused its own ward boundary review. Elections in May 2027 would continue with the old boundaries.

Alongside that Central Government had clarified that the pause in the LGR would not impact on the route to Devolution and discussion were continuing over a Mayoral Strategic Authority for the Thames Valley. The exact area and geography was to be determined.

Joint Local Plan

A summary of the hearings on 7-9th July was provided. This included the twin tracking of the Joint Local Plans 1 and 2, the categorisation of plan policies into strategic and non-strategic policies, changing the plan period to 2021-2043, or 2025-2043 (previously 2021 to 2041), and the impact on housing requirements, and link between projected job and labour force growth, memorandum of understanding with Oxford City regarding its unmet housing need, so discussion was focused on monitoring and delivery arrangements, cross boundary infrastructure with mention of Reading and Cowley Branch line, focus on methodology used to define settlements into tiers, and strategies for Didcot, Thame and Wallingford,

Further hearings were held on 9th September.

Separately, the Scoping Consultation for the JLP2 had launched and ran until the end of September

Howard Cornish Road Trees

Tree work had been carried out to one rotten tree at the eastern end of the wide grass verge, Further work to the remaining trees was expected in the Autumn.

Questions

Cllr. Clegg would look into the issue regarding the s.106 payments on the Pye Homes Temple Gate development.

2026/178

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. James Plumb

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

Local Government Reorganisation

Confirmation that the review of the Government's decision to re-organise local government across Oxfordshire was taking place. The review was to ensure that the process had been robustly followed.

Cearn Solar Farm

Cllr Plumb was engaging with the project team from Telis Energy Ltd who were planning a new solar farm covering 2800 acres in the area, with one of the sites being south of Garford. Public consultation would take place in early 2027.

Bus Services

Oxfordshire County Council had advised that the new X35 Wantage bus would not service the village but would travel along the A415. Residents had raised concerns. The narrowness of North Street, too many buses meeting, and the effect on timetabling and commercial viability prevented the X35 from servicing the village. The County Council was investigating the possibility of a bus shelter at the war memorial stop, and reinstating the Hyde Farm Nursery stop. The

timetable would be reviewed in January 2027. Cllr. Plumb was meeting with the bus companies and would keep the Parish Council informed.

Concerns were raised with Cllr. Plumb that school children did not have places on the school buses for the secondary schools in Abingdon owing to them being full.

20 mph speed limit review

Oxfordshire County Council was reconsulting the Parish Councils who had participated in the 20 mph speed limit programme seeking feedback on how effective it had been.

Oxford Traffic Filters

A new traffic filter system was commencing on 28th September. This was the same as the current congestion charge area, but instead of the option of paying the £5 congestion charge, instead only vehicles with a valid permit will be permitted to use the routes during operating hours. No action would be required for those with an existing congestion charge area permit. Residents and business would be invited to give feedback in due course.

Traffic Management for events at Dalton Barracks

The impact of traffic on local villages had been a concern for events being held at Dalton Barracks. Cllr. Plumb had raised a question with the Cabinet Member for Transport, and he had agreed to consider this issue.

Household Waste Recycling Centres

The County Council was seeking feedback from local residents regarding the booking system for visiting the recycling centres. This included comments from those who had not used the centres, and therefore why they had been discouraged from using them. Comments received would be used to assess customer satisfaction, and identify potential improvements to the booking process.

2026/179

Oxfordshire County Council – Meeting with Highways Engagement Team 1st September 2026

Keely Ewart-Brookes and the Clerk had met with Trevor Hulin from Oxfordshire County Council and showed him the issues that had been raised by members and some residents. He took photographs and undertook to investigate these further and report back. The Clerk had sent Cllr. Plumb the list, and would advise him of the County Council's responses to the issues raised.

2026/180

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on Planning Applications

P26/V2234/LB Replace existing timber and glazed front door with new panelled door

Marcham Park (formerly Denman College) New Road

Permitted

3rd September, 2026

P26/V0815/HH Trellis canopy to rear
42 Harding Way
Permitted 24th July, 2026

b) Planning Applications considered prior to the meeting

P26/V3106/HH Single and two storey extensions
23 Packhorse Lane

Comments: The Council had no objections, but commented that the increased accommodation may result in additional parking requirements

P26/V2234/LB Replacement of existing timber and glazed front door with a new wood panelled door.

Marcham Park, (formerly Denman College) New Road
Comments: Council had no objections

P26/V2232/HH

Single storey front extension and two storey side extension to the existing dwelling following demolition of the existing outbuilding and existing side extension, together with alterations to the existing vehicular access and new boundary treatments

10 The Gap

Comments: Council reiterated previous comments. Access was off a shared drive with inline parking. Problems could result if cars were already parked on the drive. Vehicles would have to be moved to access the EV charging point.

It was unclear whether the width of the parking spaces had reduced. There was no tracking shown. Vehicles could reverse into The Gap causing issues or pedestrians owing to the fact that there was no footway.

c) Applications considered at the meeting

No applications had been received.

2026/181 Play Area Inspection – RoSPA

Council noted the RoSPA inspection report. Minor items had been raised, such as worn ground, and these had been referred to MRH Services for action.

2026/182 Community Facilities

New Waste Bins in Anson Field

Council noted that a site visit had taken place with Marcham Community Group in regards to the location of new waste bins. The suggestions had been at the south east corner of the field, and the entrance point into the path leading to Tower Close. A subsequent Notice and plan had been displayed on the noticeboard, and advance Notice to residents included in the September issues of Marcham and District News. As no comments had been received, these were about

to be ordered. Consideration would be given to the requirements of the new Simpler Recycling Regulations which came into effect on 31st March 2025.

2026/183

War Memorial

Discussion took place on tidying the war memorial garden area by replacing sleepers, and creating new planting areas in readiness for Remembrance Sunday. A more major project of installing a bench seat, and other tributes could be part of a new project at a later date. Quotations were considered.

Concerns were raised as to whether the tidying could be completed by Remembrance Sunday.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of undertaking tidying, installing sleepers and raised beds, provided it could be achieved by the end of October 2026.

In favour
3

Against
3

Abstention
0

As the vote was tied, the Chairman used his casting vote in favour of having the works carried out.

RESOLVED:

That the quotation from Tactical Facilities Management Ltd be accepted, provided the work was completed in time for Remembrance Sunday.

2026/184

Harding Way – tree survey report

Council noted the tree survey report prepared by arboriculturists Sylva Consultancy.

RESOLVED:

That contractors be approached for quotations to carry out the recommended works.

2026/185

Dalton Barracks – redevelopment briefing

Michael Hoath gave a report from a briefing meeting which he had attended. This had been given by WSP, consultants for the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, on 18th August, 2026. Traffic studies were complete, checks would be made as to the extent of the data modelling. The reservoir was a key issue and the junction to both developments was being considered by all parties including Oxfordshire County Council and the Vale of White Horse District Council. The strategic stakeholder group had held its first meeting, and the Parish Council would be invited to participate in a sub group. The scoping for the environmental assessment had not yet been carried out. Questions were asked as to routes for water supply, cemetery provision and the effect of changes caused by the new unitary authority proposals.

2026/186

Finance /Accounts

Council received a report on the bank reconciliation as at 30th June, 2026. Balances of £598565.75 were shown. Council noted that October 26-September 27 was the last year of a 3 year agreement for its insurance provision.

Council noted that the external audit for the 25/26 year had been completed and that the information contained within sections 1 and 2 of the annual governance and accountability return accounts was in accordance with proper practices and no matters came to their attention which gave cause for concern.

Council noted that the Notice of Completion of the Audit and the report from the External Auditor had been placed on the website and on the Noticeboard with effect from 4th August, 2026 as well as the audited partes 1 and 2 of the annual Return already displayed.

The clerk was employed on the National Joint Council for Local Government Services salary scales. The recommendation from NALC had been for a 3.3% cost of living increase backdated to 1st April 2026. A query was raised in regards to the staff review being undertaken. It was noted that a report had been issued to staff working party members in July.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the bank reconciliation as at 30th June 2026, monitoring, and reserves as at that date be noted.
- b) that the figure for insurance premium from Hiscox Ltd be accepted in the sum of £2808.05 for the year 1st October 2026 – 30th September 2027.
- c) that the Clerk's remuneration be adjusted in accordance with the NJC recommendations for 26/27 for spinal point 22 for 19.25 hours per week as set in 2004, backdated to 1st April 2026.
- d) that a report from the staff working party be presented to the next meeting.

The list of payments had been circulated to members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 4023 to 4040 and PC cemetery account 448, 449 and 450 and authorised payments in the sum of £ 15810.53 in respect of administration costs, grass cutting, waste bin emptying, works to trees, and play area inspections.

2026/187

Matters Raised by Members

Oxfordshire County Council Recycling Centres

Owing to changes at the recycling centres, there appeared to be less pressure on those visiting.

Cemetery path wall

It was noted that the wall was being rebuilt very well. Joe Withers would liaise with Aztec Plant regarding the works to the path.

War Memorial

It was suggested that the “green working party” may be able to assist with the War Memorial project.

Fettiplace ~Road to Haines Court – grass cutting

A query was raised regarding the grass between Fettiplace Road and Haines Court. The clerk advised that this was part of the area cut by the Vale of White Horse District Council, and they cut it twice a year. Research would be done as to whether the alley way rear of 6-11 Haines Court had been cleared.

Cow Lane Pony Paddocks

As per a previous resolution, the grass keep on the paddocks had been advised. Council was advised that the current holder of the Licence had raised concerns that he was not automatically going to be the Licensee in the future.

War Memorial

It was thought that some of the stonework could be cleaned in readiness for Remembrance Sunday. A volunteer group was suggested. Access for Tactical Facilities Management Ltd would be via the new farm entrance off the A415.

Anson Field – Dog Faeces

It was report that there was an increase in dog fouling in the Anson Field. It was hoped that this would improve once the new litter bins had been installed.

Puy du Fou

The Clerk was asked to include the Puy du Fou planning application for the amusement park near Bicester as a discussion item on the next agenda, as various pieces of correspondence has been received from the North Oxfordshire Residents Action group.

Bloor Homes development south of A415

Owing to difficulties with outstanding works on Pye Homes new housing developments, the Chairman suggested that Members visit the Bloor Homes development to see if there were any issues that needed to be raised before the developer left the site.

2026/188

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for the next issue of MAD news in October. This would include an appeal for more councillors, bearing in mind elections in 2027. The Council was trying to deal with many projects, and more councillors were needed to help.

2026/189

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

Item discussed – Access across Parish Council land.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the blockages caused to the access across Parish Council land be checked by members.
- (ii) that the matter be discussed at the next meeting.

2026/190

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 12th October, 2026 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m..

Signed Date