MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 12th October, 2026 commencing at 7.30 p.m. and held in the village hall, Barrow Close Marcham

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Present:

Keely Ewart-Brookes, Mark Harvie (Chairman), Ruth Mander, Andrew Mason, Tanya Rosenfeld, Joe Withers.
Joined by Sheena Bigden (7.35 p.m.)

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
4 members of the public
Joined by Cllr. Robert Clegg (District Councillor)

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

2026/191 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Michael Hoath, and also from Cllr. Robert Clegg in anticipation of his late arrival as he was attending a District Council meeting.

2026/192 Declarations of Interest

Ruth Mander declared an interest in the agenda item relating to Community Facilities and the village hall, as she was a Trustee of Marcham Community Group.

2026/193 Casual Vacancy

Council considered an application to join the Council from Eileen Langley.
The Chairman asked for a show of hands of those in favour of co-opting Eileen Langley to the Council

In favour	Against	Abstention
6	0	0

RESOLVED:
that Eileen Langley be co-opted to the Council until the next election.

Eileen Langley signed a Declaration of Acceptance and moved to sit with councillors.

2026/194 Sheena Bigden joined the meeting.

2026/195 Minutes of the meeting held on 14th September, 2026

Sheena Bigden stated she had a query regarding the minute entry relating to the allotments. As she had only just joined the meeting, and wanted to check references it was

RESOLVED:

That the agenda item relating to the approval of the minutes be deferred to later in the meeting.

2026/196 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September, 2026

The Chairman made reference to 2 items arising since the last meeting.

Howard Cornish Road – Bus Shelter for Duffield Place eastbound bus stop

Consent was still awaited from the Vale of White Horse District Council as landowner for permission to site a bus shelter. Cllr. Robert Clegg had raised this again with the District Council.

Bonfire – Eastern side of Marcham

The Clerk had been contacted by an Environmental Health Officer at the Vale of White Horse District Council investigating smoke nuisance at the Eastern side of Marcham. The likely source had been located, and the relevant person spoken to, without the need for formal Notices or action.

2026/197 Cllr. Robert Clegg (District Councillor) joined the meeting.

2026/198 Public Participation

Paths - Linking Davies Edge to Harding Way

A member of the public produced photographs and raised concerns that there were 3 areas in a barbed wire fence off a nearby permissive path where it had been broken through, as residents tried to connect paths. Reference was made to creating a pathway in the trees. A gateway between the 2 housing developments had been blocked by branches. Queries were made was a probable route through, and also to land ownership. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council owned the public open space land at the eastern end of Harding Way, and that the Council was aware that the fence had been broken through. The Council had always supported connected paths, and recognised that there had been challenges. The resident was asked to email the photographs to the clerk. The chairman confirmed that the Council had not forgotten about the desire to find a solution to the connecting the two housing developments.

Barrow Close – Shared Drainage

A resident from Barrow Close made reference to correspondence regarding the shared drainage system with the village hall, which had been sent to the Council. It was appreciated that there was substantial information lodged, but commented that a resolution as to cost apportionment needed to be found as soon as possible.

2026/199 Whitehorse Reservoir – Update briefing 24th September 2026

Council noted that Michel Hoath had attended this briefing. He had reported that there appeared to be no new concerns for the immediate area. The application was expected to be lodged in a few weeks, and finer details would then be available in the near year. The slides from Thames Water 's presentation had been circulated to members.

The Chairman had received an email from Cllr. Sally Whiteman at the Vale of White Horse District Council requesting a motion that the Parish Council approves a budget of up to £1000 to design, print and distribute a resident questionnaire, with delegated authority to the Clerk and Chairmen to finalise questions. In the absence of a formal motion, and the fact that Cllr. Sally Whiteman had launched the online survey, the Council considered the request in general terms. It had been generally thought by Cllr. Whiteman that the view of local residents towards the reservoir should be obtained, as Thames Water had undertaken reginal consultation within the South East.

RESOLVED:

that the Council promotes the survey, by placing information on its website, noticeboard, in the Post Office, Church, and School. Members could also add a note to the village Facebook page.

2026/200 District Councillor's report – Cllr. Robert Clegg

Cllr. Clegg had previously submitted a written report and provided update comments on the following:

Temple Gate estate

Issues concerning the green space around the Temple Gate estate (Davies Edge and Page Meadow) had been subject of discussion between Cllr. Clegg and Layla Moran MP. She was planning to visit the site soon to meet with Cllr. Clegg and resident Mr. Richard Pain. The District Council's planning enforcement team too had provided additional information. Questions around the transfer of s. 106 funds from Pye Homes to Pinnacle Management Company were being pursued with District Council officers.

Haines Court

The District Council had recently cleaned the area in front of the former shops, from overgrown weeds. A loose paving slab was being pursued. This would be affixed by an in house team, or as part of an external contract.

S106 request for public artwork

Cllr. Clegg had been asked by the District Council and given his support to the Parish Council's draw down of further s.106 art funding to cover an overspend on the noticeboard and bench seats.

Fly Tipping

Cllr. Clegg had become aware of an individual from Bicester being served with a fixed penalty notice for fly tipping in Marcham. Cllr. Clegg was seeking further information, as to the date and location of the incident.

Cllr. Clegg was asked to include reference to the fly tipping in the article for the village newsletter.

2026/201 County Councillor's Report – Cllr. James Plumb

Cllr. Plumb was not present at the meeting, however he had previously submitted a written report which had been circulated and read by Members. This included:

X15 and X35 Bus Services – alterations to services.

Councillor Plumb had been in contact with the bus companies in regards to the changes to the route and timetabling, particularly reduced evening service from Abingdon, following concerns from residents. The operator had confirmed that the issues would be reviewed shortly ahead of the scheduled review in January 2027.

On Street Parking and Junction Safety

Cllr. Plumb requested assistance from the Parish Council in helping to identify locations where on street parking was causing issues such as obstruction to vision or hazards. Problems identified and reported to him with evidence, would be investigated.

Members discussed areas and concluded that the vicinity of the primary school, and The Crown public house could be improved. It was suggested that the school could be asked to remind parent to park sensibly. An article too could be placed in Marcham and District News.

2026/202 Public Transport

Council received a report from Andrew Mason who had attended a meeting of parish transport representatives. Issues included the Quiet Lanes programme, a cross bus company ticket so return journeys could be taken using different companies, new Park and Ride buses direct to the Oxford hospitals, and a new Wantage and District bus.

Council noted further correspondence from a resident expressing concern regarding the changes to the bus services in Marcham and the route of the X35 along the A415.

Oxon4Buses was about to commence consultation on how bus services should develop over the next 14 years. It was suggested that Members send any comments to the Clerk and a draft response to the consultation would be prepared in consultation with Andrew Mason, and reviewed at the next Council meeting.

2026/203 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on Planning Applications

P23/V3106/HH Single storey and 2 storey extensions
23 Packhorse Lane
Permitted 16th September, 2026

P25/V2404/HH Erection of 2 outbuildings, one a single storey annexe, the other for storage, garage and workshop use.
33 Mill Road
Permitted 18th September, 2026

P26/V2232/HH Single storey front, 2 storey side extensions
10 The Gap
Permitted 2nd October, 2026

b) Planning Applications considered prior to the meeting
No applications had been received

c) Applications considered at the meeting

P26/V3639/FUL Change of use from Military operations to Military operations and sui generis uses comprising a car boot sale, Airsoft games, bicycle race days, electric vehicle testing & engineering, flying model aircraft, autonomous vehicle testing, and testing of laser and radar systems (as undertaken by Formula E, Oxbotica, MDA Space and Robotics, and Navtech Radar Ltd or their successors) and an area for the storage of vehicles and plant equipment associated with highway and road maintenance activities for a temporary period of 3 years.
Council noted an existing traffic congestion problems when firework displays were held.
Comments: that consideration be given to traffic routes and the impact on local areas. Similar consideration should be given to noise impact on nearby residents from the proposed activities.

d) Vale of White Horse District Council / South Oxfordshire District Council – Joint Local Plan 2045 – scoping
Council confirmed action by the clerk following email exchanges that it wished comments to be submitted as part of the scoping that the future Local Plan should include a provision of burial space.

e) Cearn Solar Farm – Proposals for land west of A338
The Council noted the solar farm proposals and had no comment to make at this stage.

f) Le Puy du Fou planning application, Bicester

This item had been placed on the agenda at the request of Tanya Rosenfeld. Council considered the proposal for construction a Puy du Fou amusement park near Bicester and the possibility of traffic implications of cross country traffic through Marcham aiming for the A34.

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour of the Parish Council submitting comments to Cherwell District Council

In favour	Against	Abstention
1	5	2

RESOLVED:

That the Council not submit any comments to Cherwell District Council in regards to Le Puy du Fou planning application.

2026/204 Community Facilities

New Waste Bins in Anson Field

Council noted that 2 new waste collection bins with recycling and waste sections had been ordered.

Head Lessee Consent – Anson Field

Marcham Community Group, as under tenant of the field, had requested the Parish Council, as head lessee, to give permission to carrying out essential playing surface remediation and overseeding works across the field.

RESOLVED:

that as head lessee, the Council gives consent to Marcham Community Group to carry out playing surface remediation and overseeding works in the Anson field.

Drainage Contributions

Council noted an offer by residents to pay a contribution towards the costs of the dosing tank required for the shared drainage system. The Council was grateful to the residents for their proposal. The Council's position was that the dosing tank was part of whole drainage system, and the Council would need to liaise with Marcham Community Group who ran the facilities. The Chairman asked for understanding that the Councillors were volunteers and that it could take a little while to fully consider matters, but that the Council would work towards a resolution by the date the residents had specified.

The Chairman asked for questions on the residents' documentation, or any other documentation, to be sent to the clerk. He asked the residents whether they had contacted the insurers who had guaranteed their new houses. They confirmed they had not.

2026/205 Grant Applications

The Clerk had advised on the relevant criteria for spending under s. 137 Local Government Act 1972 and other legislation.

a) Council considered an application from Marcham Community Group to divert unspent funds in the sum of £3797 from a previous grant award, to cover works needed to restore the playing field to a more usable condition, and therefore to extend the period in which the grant should be spent to 30th November 2027.

Council noted that under the new grant policy effective from June 26, there was an intention that the applicant should spend the funds within 12 months.

RESOLVED:

(i) that consent not be granted to divert funding

(ii) further clarification be sought from the applicant

b) Council considered an application from Marcham Community group for funding towards the costs of wheelie bin hire for the Marcham Big Weekend event in May 2027

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour of a grant award of £500.

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	0	1

RESOLVED:

(i) that under s. 19 Local Government Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 a grant of £500 be awarded to Marcham Community Group towards the cost of wheelie bin hire and playing field cleaning for the Marcham Big Weekend event in May 2027.

(ii) that the sum be paid in April 2027.

c) Council considered an application from Marcham Community group for funding towards routine grass cutting, surround maintenance, and strimming.

RESOLVED:

(i) that the application be considered at an appropriate time of year, as the funding would be required for works during the grass cutting season, approximately from April 2027 onwards

(ii) that the request to divert funding from previous years be taken into account as part of any future grant application

d) Council considered a grant application from Marcham Community Fridge, a registered Community Interest Company, for a grant in the sum of £933.71 for the purchase of tables and gazebo to assist with the running of the Community Fridge.

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour of awarding a grant in the sum of £933.71

In favour	Against	Abstention
8	0	0

RESOLVED:

(i) that under s. 137 Local Government Act 1972 a grant in the sum of £933.71 be awarded to Marcham Community Fridge towards costs in connection with the purchase of tables and gazebo

(ii) that words to recognise the Council's support be printed on the gazebo and/or signage.

e) Council considered a grant application from Clean Slate, a counselling and mental heath support charity.

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in support of a grant award of £250?

In favaour	Against	Abstention
8	0	0

RESOLVED:

that under s. 137 Local Government Act 1972 a grant in the sum of £250 be awarded to Clean Slate to support running costs.

f) Council considered a donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Sheena Bigden proposed, and Keely Ewart-Brookes seconded the sum of £200 be awarded.

The Chairman called for show of hands for those in favour of donating the sum of £200

In favour	Against	Abstention
8	0	0

RESOLVED:
that under s. 137 Local Government Act 1972 a grant in the sum of £200 be donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

2026/206 War Memorial

Council noted that tidying works were due to commence on 19th October. Council considered whether, as part of those work, if the raised shrub beds were just at the lower section on the west side, or on the raised section too.

RESOLVED: that the sleepers be placed across the full width of the war memorial garden and that the stone path be relaid.

Remembrance Sunday

Council noted that a risk assessment had been completed, an application lodged with the Vale of White Horse District Council for a road closure order, road signage ordered, wreath obtained, and the Army, Police, and MP, invited to attend. The Army would be sending soldiers, and the Police were seeing if the local PCSO was available.

Information had been sent to the Vicar at All Saints Church.

2026/207 Keely Ewart-Brookes left the meeting.

2026/208 Communication with residents

In view of the lateness of the hour, this item was deferred to a future agenda.

2026/207 Suspension of Standing Orders

The duration of the meeting had been 2 hours, and Council

RESOLVED:

That standing order 3x be suspended to allow business to continue.

2026/208 Land off Mill Road – Scottish Southern Electric

Council considered an application by Scottish Southern Electric to grant permission for them to install an underground cable on land owned by the Parish Council. Council noted the terms of the Wayleave, and that £2 per annum would be payable to the Council.

RESOLVED:

(i) That consent be granted for Scottish Southern Electric to lay a cable under the grass area close to the entrance to Sharrards Farm

(ii) that Mark Harive, the Chairman, sign the wayleave agreement

2026/209 Cow Lane Pony Paddocks

Council noted that the grazing licence for the paddocks off Cow Lane was expiring at the end of the month. Council considered a tender in the sum of £750 for both paddocks for the period 1st November 2026 to 30th October 2027

RESOLVED:

That the tender be accepted.

2026/210 Christmas Tree Recycling

Council considered an enquiry from the Vale of White Horse District Council to provide a collection point in the parish for recycling real Christmas trees.

RESOLVED:

that the area of land west of the Duffield Place bus stop on the northern side of Howard Cornish Road, which was in the ownership of the Vale of White Horse District Council be suggested to them. This had been used in previous years

2026/211 Finance/Accounts

The list of payments had been circulated to members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 4041 to 4046 and PC cemetery account 451 and authorised payments in the sum of £4685.23 in respect of administration costs, grass cutting, and waste bin emptying.

2026/212 Staff Working Party

Council received an update report from the Staff Working Party.

2026/213 Matters Raised by Members

Parkside allotment – archaeological dig

It was reported that Marcham Society was undertaking an archaeological dig on an allotment plot at Parkside. The Clerk advised that the matter of archaeological digging had been approved at a previous meeting of the Council.

Litter Station

A query was raised as to the progress regarding litter stations. The clerk confirmed that an approach had been made to Marcham Community Group who were considering a suitable location.

Reconstruction of Parkside allotment wall

It was noted that the reconstruction of the allotment wall at Parkside was required. An estimate of costings had been obtained. Going forwards there may be a representative of the Parkside site on the working party. Discussion would be an agenda item in due course.

Oxford City Congestion Charge

It was reported that there had been technical issues in changing from the Congestion Charge to the Traffic Filter system. Some penalty letters had been issued in error. Residents should be advised that if they received such a letter in error, then they should contact the County Council.

2026/214 Minutes of the meeting held on 14th September, 2026

Sheena Bigden commented that in minute 2026/174 relating to allotments that the aim was to engage tenants to obtain a mandate for the working party's plan. It was proposed that the words "The aim was for engagement with the tenants to seek their support" be deleted and "The aim was for engagement with tenants to obtain a mandate for the Plan" be substituted.

RESOLVED:

That subject to that amendment the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2026 be approved subject in minute 2026/174 the words "The aim was for engagement with the tenants to seek their support" being removed and substituted with the words "The aim Was for engagement with tenants to obtain a mandate for the Plan".

The minutes were otherwise signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

2026/215 Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for the next issue of MAD news in November. This would include reference to Oxford Congestion charge penalty letters, a residents' questionnaire relating to the reservoir put forward by the District Councillor for East Hendred, dog fouling in the Anson field, overhanging growth which was particularly troublesome on dark nights, car parking issues relating to obstruction to vision. To include pictures of where to park as shown in the Highway Code.

2026/216 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:

That Pye Homes be asked again to complete the unfinished path on their development side of the shared boundary.

2026/214 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 9th November, 2026 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Signed …… Date …….