

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

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Present:

Mr. W. Cumber (Chairman), Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. C. Bough, Mr. I. Charles,  
Mr. M. Denton, Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson, Mrs. C. Ricketts, Mr. P. Rowe,  
Mrs. S. Turney  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
12 members of the public  
Cllr. J. Hanna (District Councillor), Cllr. I. Brown (County Councillor)

The Chairman welcomed all members and parishioners to the meeting.

- 2007/1            Apologies for Absence  
No apologies had been received.
- 2007/2            Declarations of Interest  
Mr. Cumber declared a personal interest in the planning application relating to the planning application MAR/19789 Siting of portable toilet. Change of use from agricultural to use for outdoor activities for schools and young people on land adjacent to Cothill Farmhouse, Blackhorse Lane in that he was a director of a company which owned land in the vicinity.
- 2007/3            Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2006  
The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2006 were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings, subject to correcting two typing errors. In minute 2006/269 the word "hated" to be changed to "hatted" and in minute 2006/274 the word "peroperty" being changed to "property". Cllr. Hanna placed on record that she had left an answerphone message with the Clerk offering her apologies for her non attendance at the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December owing to attendance at a District Council meeting. Although Council noted that this message had not been heard until after the meeting.
- 2007/4            Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2006  
Play Area  
Council noted that Wren had revised their previous statement on the grant conditions and had agreed to prepare a contract on the basis that the Anson Trust undertake to leave the equipment in place for a period of at least 5 years, or fully reimburse the grant funders or fully reinstate the equipment elsewhere on another site at the Trust's own expense should the play site be required for other purposes.
- Street Lights obscured by overhanging trees  
Council noted that although the Parish Council had thought it would be able to resolve this problem itself, the County Council had undertaken to deal with the matter jointly with the utility companies owing to the proximity of overhead cables and the dangers involved.

Council adjourned the meeting to allow for public participation

2007/5

Public Participation

Planning Application MAR/19789 Blackhorse Lane

Mr. Mark Rusby, resident of Blackhorse Lane addressed the Council regarding this application expressing concern about the adverse environmental impact, noise and traffic that the proposal would generate.

Mrs. Marge Hoek, resident of Blackhorse Lane addressed the Council regarding this application and supplied documents from the District Council's file which outlined the applicants' detailed proposals, and left photographs with the members. She expressed concerned about health and safety issues, the standing water in ditches and proximity of Sandford Brook.

Mr. Lyn Hutchings, Veterinary Surgeon, from Cothill Road addressed the Council regarding the application. He expressed concern about the fields being a source of infection should the soil be disturbed as he had treated cattle in the field in the past for "black leg". The infection was carried by spores which lived in the ground.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

2007/6

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/7651/3 Erection of single storey extension to front and rear  
50 Howard Cornish Road  
Withdrawn 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2006

b) Applications dealt with under delegated powers prior to the meeting

No applications had been received

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

Council had already considered the following application, however it had received substantial representations from parishioners and additional information which was not available at the time of the decision.

RESOLVED:

that standing order no. 40 which restricts reversal of decisions within 6 months be suspended.

MAR/19789 Siting of portable toilet. Change of use to outdoor activities for schools and young people  
Land adjacent to and opposite Cothill Farmhouse, Blackhorse Lane

For: Mr. Pointin and Ms. Riaz

Comments: Council discussed this application again in the light of new information provided. It expressed concern about the alleged defects in the district council's consultation process and that not everyone had had all information. Cllr. Hanna agreed to take up the question of the administration process with the District Council. Council, now being more aware of the proposed activities on the site and the suitability of the site, and the fact that it was to be a commercial operation rather than a small recreational activity

**RESOLVED:**

that this Council now objects to the application on the grounds of increased traffic and consequent dangers, the loss of hedgerows, the suitability of the site from the health and safety point of view and the potential nuisance and noise and of a commercial operation adjacent to dwellings.

MAR/3312/26 Erection of accommodation block with 12 ensuite bedrooms

Denman College, New Road

For: National Federation of Womens' Institutes

Council adjourned the meeting to allow questions to be asked of the owners of the adjacent property who were present at the meeting. Council reconvened the meeting.

Council discussed the application. It was felt that the proposal was out of proportion to the area where it was to be sited and somewhat overbearing. The Chairman asked for a show of hands for those in favour of those of not objecting, but thought that there may be a better place for the building. One member raised a hand. The Chairman asked for a show of hands for those in favour of objecting to the application's siting, but who might not object if it were sited elsewhere within the grounds. 6 members raised their hands.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that the Council objects to the application owing to the dominant impact that the proposed building would have on the neighbouring property no. 29 North Street.
- (ii) that the Vale of White Horse

District Council be advised that the council may be more favourably inclined to accept a lower height design of less impact not overlooking the adjacent property in the location identified in the application

- (iii) that the Vale of White Horse District Council be advised that the Parish Council may be more favourably inclined to accept the design proposed in another less intrusive location within the grounds of Denman College.

MAR/3312/25 New lecture room attached to existing teaching block  
Denman College, New Road

For: National Federation of Womens' Institutes.

Comments: Council supported this application as this made a positive improvement to the area which currently appeared untidy.

MAR/8819/4 Erection of two storey extension to provide garage and utility room with bedroom and ensuite over. Provision of replacement parking area.

54 North Street

For: Mr Morton

Comments: Council supported the application.

2007/7

d) Planning Correspondence

Council noted that Try Homes Ltd had appealed against the refusal by the Vale of White Horse District Council to permit homes on the timberyard.

RESOLVED:

that no additional comments be submitted to the planning inspector

2007/8

District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Hanna reported as follows:

Haines Court – Shop and flat

The Vale of White Horse District Council had offered a social housing grant to the Housing Associations on their list and it was hoped that offers to purchase the units would now be received.

Cllr. Hanna left the meeting.



RESOLVED:

that the Clerk investigate the ownership of and possible repairs / improvements to the path and report to the next meeting.

2007/14

Oxfordshire Rural Community Councils / Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Notice of County Council Review of Primary Schools

Council noted that the County Council was carrying out a first stage consultation on its review of Primary School provision. ORCC and OALC had expressed concern that parishes were not included as stakeholders in the consultation. Council considered information from ORCC and OALC and

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk in consultation with Mrs. Evans draft a response for the County Council.

2007/15

Village Action Plan

Council noted correspondence from a parishioner who encouraged the Council to undertake a village action plan. The Chairman summarised the history and the efforts of the Council in the past to start such a plan. Council discussed the possibility of preparing a plan again, and how it would be broken down into sections.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Clerk prepare a list of topics to be included in a plan
- (ii) that village action plan be a regular agenda item

2007/16

Annual meeting for electors

Council considered its arrangements for the annual meeting of electors. It appreciated that elections were due to be held at the beginning of May and preferred the end of May for the annual assembly. Council discussed possible speakers for the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Clerk arrange the annual meeting for electors on either Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> May, to be held in the school hall.
- (ii) that Mr. Craig Woolhouse from the Environment Agency be invited to address the meeting on the topic of the Upper Thames Reservoir Development.

2007/17

Cow Lane Paddocks / new gate off Sheepstead Road to allotments

Council considered the fencing of the paddocks and the new gate. Mr. Cumber offered to obtain other quotations from his agricultural fencing contractors.

RESOLVED:

that this matter be deferred until the next meeting.

2007/18

County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Brown gave a report on County Council matters including:

County Council's budget

The County's budget was expected to rise by 4% and the District Council's budget by 4.99%.

Composting plant

The County Council was considered a composting plant for contract and kitchen waste which would deal with 30,000 tonnes per year.

Reservoir Affected Parishes Group

A meeting of this group would take place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January in East Hendred.

Review of Primary School Provision

Reference was made to the closure of schools in the 1970s and 80s, and that some of the best performing schools were now the rural ones.

2007/19

Correspondence

- a) Vale of White Horse District Council – Statement of Community Involvement – adopted 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006.
- b) Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework – Statement of Community Involvement (now adopted).
- c) Oxfordshire Rural Community Council News – Winter 2006.
- d) Oxfordshire Rural Housing Partnership – Providing housing in rural communities leaflet.
- e) Oxfordshire County Council – Street Lighting Plan for Longfields.
- f) Oxfordshire County Council – School Travel Survey results.

2007/20

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques to be signed and authorised payments totalling £2555.40 in respect of administration costs, play area maintenance, and grants.

2007/21

Matters Raised by members for information

Proposed Meeting with the Anson Trust

Mrs. Ricketts enquired whether she would be able to attend the proposed meeting the Anson Trust in view of the fact that she had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item when it appeared on the Council's agenda, and had always left the room. The Clerk agreed to consider this and advise appropriately.

Vale Amenity Land in front of 40 Howard Cornish Road

It was reported that the wide grass verge belonging to the District Council had had a skip and its delivery lorry on it and it had been left churned up.

Sheepstead Road - pothole

It was reported that a pothole in Sheepstead Road, north of Kings Avenue had appeared.

North Street – Drainage

It was reported that 2 drains in North Street outside no. 29 and 62 had become blocked with leaves and required clearing.

North Street – Graffiti on road signs

It was reported that graffiti had appeared on the pedestrian signs in North Street.

Overhanging foliage – The Gap / Fettiplace Road footpath

It was reported that overhanging foliage was a nuisance for users of this footpath. The Clerk was asked to refer the matter to the village handyman to have a look at.

Barrier – The Gap / Fettiplace Road footpath

Council noted comments that bicycles could not be taken under the barrier at The Gap end of this footpath. Council appreciated that the barrier was there for the benefit of pedestrians and to stop children running into the road. It was possible to negotiate a bicycle around the barrier. Council instructed the Clerk to take no action in this matter.

2007/22

Items for MAD News

Council noted the list of items for inclusion in the village newsletter.

2007/23

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

Signed ..... Date .....

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

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Present:

Mr. W. Cumber (Chairman), Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. C. Bough, Mr. I. Charles,  
Mr. M. Denton, Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson, Mrs. C. Ricketts, Mr. P. Rowe,  
Mrs. S. Turney  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
2 members of the public  
Cllr. J. Hanna (District Councillor), Joined by Cllr. I. Brown (County Councillor)

- 2007/24      Apologies for Absence  
No apologies had been received. Cllr. I. Brown (County Councillor) had, however, indicated that he would be late.
- 2007/25      Declarations of Interest  
Mr. Bough, and Mr. Denton declared personal and prejudicial interests in the agenda item relating to The Anson Trust in that they were directors of the Trust. Mr. Hutchinson declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to the Anson Trust in that he was involved with the Youth Club which would be affected by the Anson Trust's proposals. Mrs. Ricketts declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the Anson Trust in she served on the Committees of various organisations which would be affected by the Trust's proposals and felt that she could not represent the interests of one organisation over and above that of any other or the public at large. Mrs. Allan declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to the Anson Trust in that she was married to one of the Trustees. Mr. Cumber declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda items relating to the Anson Trust and Thames Water Reservoir in that he was a director of a W. Cumber and Son (Theale) Ltd which owned land which could be affected should these proposals go ahead.
- 2007/26      Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January, 2007  
The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.
- 2007/27      Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2007  
Affordable Housing – S. 106 Planning Agreement  
The Clerk summarised a letter received from the District Council regarding the lack of consultation with the Parish Council on the content of the planning agreement. This indicated that it was not normal practice to involve Parish Council as this would set a precedent for all other groups and associations to be involved. Involvement by too many parties would introduce delays. In addition Central Government required planning decisions to be made within a reasonable time frame and s.106 agreements were completed before planning consent was

granted. Again delays would be involved if third parties were included.

Council was disappointed and totally dissatisfied at such a response, given its earlier request to be involved and no explanations at an earlier stage as to why it would not be included. Council commented that the Vale of White Horse District Council had a statement of Community Involvement and had carried out consultation on how to consult.

**RESOLVED:**

that the Clerk in consultation with Mr. Bough draft a further letter to be sent to the planning officer copied to the Chief Executive and Strategic Director expressing the Council's dissatisfaction.

Grants

Council noted receipt of letters of thanks for the grants awarded from: Marcham Senior Citizens Club, Duffield Sunshine Club, Marcham Society, Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau, Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust, Home Start Southern Oxfordshire and South and Vale Carers Centre.

40 Howard Cornish Road – Churned Verge

Council noted that the verge had been inspected by the Vale of White Horse District Council who were quite happy with its state and condition.

Annual Meeting for Electors in the Parish

Council noted that this meeting would take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May in the school hall at 7.30 p.m. The Environment Agency had confirmed that they would attend as guest speakers and would address the meeting on the topic of the proposed Thames Water reservoir.

Council adjourned the meeting to allow for public participation

2007/28

Public Participation

Mr. L. Mitchell spoke regarding the reservoir. He had attended the exhibition held in the village and workshops run by Thames Water. He was concerned with the overall cost of the reservoir project and the impact on the road network. He sought assurances that the Parish Council was pursuing the road issue.

Mr. R. Anderson representing the Neighbours Around the Field spoke regarding the Anson Trust proposals for new community facilities. He outlined the content of a survey undertaken of residents who lived close to the field. He suggested a wider village survey should be undertaken. At the moment the user groups had people who did not come from the village. He had already produced paperwork on his ideas which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.  
Mr. Cumber, Mr. Denton, Mr. Bough and Mrs. Ricketts left the room

2007/29

The Anson Trust – New Community Facilities

Council discussed the answers provided by the Trust to the questions posed by the Council on behalf of the village. It was generally felt that there was little further information made available in the Trust's answers over and above what the Trust had already published. The following points were made: (i) It was incumbent on the Parish Council to investigate other possibilities further (ii) what would happen if the village voted against the Trust's proposals (iii) What would happen to the Trust's assets if it went bankrupt (iv) What could the Parish Council do to help salvage such a situation (v) Why sight of the advice from professionals had not been made public (vi) Why the Council had not had sight of the public's comments written in the book which was available at the Trust's exhibition (vii) Why other alternatives that had been investigated had not been disclosed. Council recognised the sequence of events that the Trust had outlined, but some members felt that the benefits of a new community centre had not been spelt out. Council also felt that those making the decision should be accountable to the village. Concerns were expressed if the proposals were driven by outside professionals or developers.

Council discussed a) obtaining an authoritative view from the charity Commissioners b) seeking from the Trust a detailed revelation of its finances which could be made public, which would enable a better understanding of its position regarding the Institute and other buildings c) seeking full details of the reasons why the Trust had rejected all other schemes. Council also felt that it was important to have the views of all villagers, including an analysis of the comments on the "Neighbours Around the Field" Questionnaire.

Council received a letter from the Neighbours Around the Field group confirming its aims and objectives. It also received correspondence from the group as to the results of its questionnaire.

It was proposed by Mr. Hutchinson, seconded by Mr. Charles and

**RESOLVED** nem con:

- (i) that the Charity Commissioners be approached for their comments and if possible that a meeting be arranged with them.
- (ii) that a letter be sent to the Anson Trust requesting full sight of all its accounts and a detailed revelation of its financial position
- (iii) that the letter also ask for a detailed explanation of all the other schemes that the Trust had considered and the reasons why these had been rejected.

Mr. Cumber, Mr. Denton, Mr. Bough and Mrs. Ricketts rejoined the meeting.

- 2007/30 Junction of Mill Road/A415  
Council noted that the problem of obstruction by vehicles parking on the junction corner now that the wall had been pushed back, was being dealt with by the County Council.
- 2007/31 Parishioner of the Year 2006  
Council agreed to take this item later on the agenda.
- 2007/32 Police Community Support Officer Funding  
Council received a report from Mr. Denton who had attended a meeting in Banbury on 24th January. Councils would be expected to find 50% of the cost of a PCSO which would amount to £15000. The person appointed would be available 50% of the time. Cumnor parish was prepared to commit £7500 i.e. 50% of the cost for a period of 2 years. They were looking to share the cost with another parish or parishes. A 25% share would cost the parish £3750 per annum. Council noted that the PCSOs were not provided with cars, so travel between the parishes may prove difficult. In some parts of the country transport had been sponsored by a local garage. Council discussed the merits of the scheme, although noted that the village's crime statistics were not as bad as other areas.

RESOLVED:

that this Council supports the scheme in principle, but would not firmly commit at this stage.

- 2007/33 Police Neighbourhood Action Group Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> February  
Mr. Denton gave a report on this meeting which he had attended. The 3 main topics were speeding, antisocial behaviour and parking. He advised that as far as speeding was concerned, it was important to collect the data i.e. the number of vehicles speeding, the locations and times, so that this could then be passed to the Police who could target certain areas.  
Council placed on record its thanks to Mr. Denton for his efforts.
- 2007/34 Public Footpath no. 14 – Church to Cemetery  
The Clerk gave a report on the advice obtained from the County Council. Council noted a letter from Mrs. Frere who had taken it upon herself to arrange for her gardener to clear the path of mud and leaves. Council discussed what action it could take to maintain a better surface on this path. It noted the improvements since Denman College had cut back trees on their side.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Mrs. Frere be thanked for her efforts
- (ii) that the village handyman be asked to help in clearing the surface now and again in the Autumn.
- (iii) that a letter be sent to Mr. J. Duffield asking

whether the trees on the Southern side of the path could be cut back.

Mr. Cumber left the room.

2007/35

Thames Water Proposed Reservoir

Council discussed phase II of the consultation. It continued to be concerned about the potential impact on the village with additional traffic.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Thames Water be advised that the impact of traffic on Marcham remained a major concern.
- (ii) that the Council's comments also be sent to Mr. David Robertson, County Council cabinet member for transport.
- (iii) that further copies of Thames Water's reply questionnaire be obtained.

Mr. Cumber rejoined the meeting.

The two members of the public left the meeting.

2007/36

Village Action Plan

Council discussed undertaking a village action plan at this time, and the first topic which could be considered. A relevant topic would be community facilities. Owing to the elections in May it was

RESOLVED:

that this matter be postponed until the May meeting.

2007/37

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. J. Hanna  
Timberyard, Packhorse Lane

Cllr. Hanna stated that although the appeal had been lodged by Try Homes against the refusal by the Vale of White Horse District to grant consent for further homes, no date for the site visit had been arranged.

Cllr. Hanna continued by advising that she was aware that pre-application consultation had taken place between the planning officer and Try Homes and that another application for 10 dwellings was expected.

2007/38

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. I. Brown  
Packhorse Lane

Cllr. Brown reported that the County Council was going to install temporary traffic lights near pinch point at the A415 on a trial basis. The date of installation was yet unknown. Feedback on the advantages, disadvantages would be required

### Reservoir

Cllr. Brown referred to a lively meeting held in Steventon on 6<sup>th</sup> February, when the guest speakers had been representatives from the Environment Agency.

### Oxfordshire County Council Budget

Cllr. Brown indicated that there was to be a 4% rise in the county's element of the council tax for the next financial year.

### Potholes

Cllr. Brown suggested that it would be worth submitting a list of potholes and minor problems to the county council in order for them to be repaired out of funds allocated for the current financial year.

Both Councillors Hanna and Brown left the meeting.

2007/39

### Cow Lane Paddocks / New gate off Sheepstead Road to allotments

Unfortunately Mr. Cumber had not been able to obtain the quotations for the fencing and gate in time for meeting.

#### RESOLVED:

that the matter be deferred to the next meeting.

2007/40

### Oxfordshire County Council – Bus Service Review X15 Abingdon-Southmoor-Witney

Council noted correspondence from the County Council which indicated that this bus service was under review and from Cllr. Brenda Smith the District Councillor for Standlake. Cllr Smith had invited the Council to join a joint campaign to prevent a reduction in the service. Council considered questions put by the County Council, Could the service be reduced to 2 hourly, could it be off peak, or could early and late journeys be withdrawn.

#### RESOLVED:

- (i) that this Council would not support any reduction in service.
- (ii) that this Council supports Cllr. Smith in her campaign.

2007/41

### Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service – The Junior Citizen Trust

Council noted to details of an independent partnership trust which provided essential safety education to young children in Oxfordshire, and its grant request. Members were aware of how the children who attended the village primary school had benefited from the scheme.

#### RESOLVED:

that a grant of £50 be awarded to the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service Junior Citizens Trust

2007/42 Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group  
Council considered a request for financial support, by way of subscription, towards the work of this group.

RESOLVED:

that Council does not join the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

2007/43 Farmoor Reservoir Pontoon Project  
Council considered a request by the administrators to give a presentation at a Council meeting about the project, and to discuss their fund raising. Members felt that the project was too remote from Marcham and

RESOLVED:

that Council did not support the project administrators attending a meeting.

2007/44 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/19854 Erection of a two storey side extension  
13 Anson Close  
Permitted 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2007

MAR/3312/26 Erection of accommodation block with 12 ensuite rooms  
Denman College, New Road  
Withdrawn 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2007

b) Applications dealt with under delegated powers prior to the meeting

MAR/7529/1 Conversion of existing garages to sauna, gym, games room and guest room  
Brushwood, Woodside  
For: Mr and Mrs A. Reedman  
Comments: Council had no objections

MAR/4881/9 Change of Use from storage building to day nursery use  
Cothill Kindergarten, 68 Cothill  
For: Abingdon Kindergarten  
Comments: Council had no objections

MAR/19914 Erection of Summer House  
2 The Green  
For: H. and J. Johnson  
Comments: Council had no objections

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

MAR/6213/3 Erection of first floor extension over garage  
1 – 3 New Road  
For: Mr and Mrs. Carling  
Comments: Council supported the application

d) Planning Correspondence

Vale of White Horse District Council – Letter from Monitoring Officer

Council noted receipt of a letter from the Monitoring Officer at the Vale of White Horse District Council. Council had been advised that comments on planning applications should either be determined by full Council or delegated to the Clerk to collate comments and respond. This practice was already in use by this Council. The letter continued to remind those members who dealt with applications under the delegated procedure system, that they should still declare personal and or personal/prejudicial interests if relevant, and if the latter, take no part in the delegated procedure. Any such declarations should be recorded in the minutes. Members were reminded too, that should they comment as individuals on an application to the District Council, then any personal interest should be referred to in the letter.

2007/45

Correspondence

- a) Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – The Playing Field Magazine
- b) Vale of White Horse District Council – Carbon Savers Action Day 10<sup>th</sup> March - Information about this event.
- c) Vale of White Horse District Council – Election timetable information.

2007/46

Parishioner of the Year

Mr. Bough gave a report on the numbers of nominations and presented the short list to Council. Council selected the recipient of the award for 2006.

2007/47

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques to be signed and authorised payments totalling £2324.36 in respect of administration costs, play area maintenance, tennis courts and arboretum.

2007/48

Matters Raised by members for information  
Stagecoach Bus Service

It was reported that villagers were again being left behind by an overfull bus in the morning. There was a bus to Oxford at 8.26 then not until over 1 hour later,

however the 8.26 was often full of students who got off in Abingdon. The Clerk was asked to write to Stagecoach.

Dumping of Car Tyres/Refrigerator

It was reported that car tyres had been dumped in Sheepstead Road. This was assumed to be because of the environmental charges now made for disposal. It was also reported that a refrigerator had been left near the entrance to the former landfill site in the Cothill Road.

Potholes

It was suggested that the idea from the County Councillor be taken up and that potholes in Kings Avenue and Howard Cornish Road be reported to the County Council.

Posting of Notices

The Clerk was asked to ensure that an article was placed in MAD News requesting that people who put up notices, take them down after the event.

Longfields - Affordable Housing

Comments were made regarding the development and Council noted that these houses were being constructed quite quickly.

Leylandii trees between Duffield Place and North Street

The Clerk had received telephone calls from residents in Duffield Place who asked the Parish Council to solve the problem of very tall leylandii and other trees at the bottom of the gardens which were blocking out light, preventing the growth of plants and lawns and which had shed twigs during recent high winds. Whilst appreciating this to be a private matter, the Clerk was asked to contact the owner of the property in North Street to see if they cut be cut back.

2007/49

Items for MAD News

Council noted the list of items for inclusion in the village newsletter.

2007/50

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

Signed ..... Date .....

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

-----  
Present:

Mr. W. Cumber (Chairman), Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. C. Bough, Mr. M. Denton,  
Mrs. M. Evans, Mrs. C. Ricketts, Mr. P. Rowe, Mrs. S. Turney  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
5 members of the public  
Cllr. J. Hanna (District Councillor), Cllr. I. Brown (County Councillor)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2007/51

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. I. Charles, and Mr. D. Hutchinson

2007/52

Declarations of Interest

Mr. Bough, and Mr. Denton declared personal and prejudicial interests in the agenda item relating to The Anson Trust in that they were directors of the Trust. Mrs. Ricketts declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the Anson Trust in that she served on the Committees of various organisations which would be affected by the Trust's proposals and felt that she could not represent the interests of one organisation over and above that of any other or the public at large. Mrs. Allan declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to the Anson Trust in that she was married to one of the Trustees. Mr. Cumber declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda items relating to the Anson Trust in that he was a director of a W. Cumber and Son (Theale) Ltd which owned land which could be affected should these proposals go ahead.

Mr. Bough queried the Code of Conduct. He suggested that some members should remain in the room to be available to answer questions, as this may help the Council's discussions on certain topics. The Clerk clarified the provisions of the current Code which required all members with a personal and prejudicial interest in an item to leave the room during discussion of that item. The proposed revisions to the Code planned by central government could alter that position by allowing members to take part more frequently in council meetings in which their communities expected them to participate.

2007/53

Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

2007/54

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2007

There were no matters arising.

With consent of Council the Chairman adjourned the meeting of the Council.

2007/55

Public Participation

The Anson Trust – Proposed new community facilities

Mr. R. Anderson indicated that he had been in discussion with the Charity Commission. He had been advised that land and property of a failing charity still had to remain available for the use of the village. This appeared to contradict comments from a Trustee at a meeting between the Neighbours Around the Field group and the Anson Trust when he had been advised that the land would have to be sold off to the highest bidder and the proceeds given to the next living relative of the founders of the Trust.

Parish Council Elections

Mrs. S. Timberlake asked questions regarding the process for the Parish Council elections which were answered by the Clerk.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

2007/56

A415 Packhorse Lane

At the last meeting Cllr. Brown indicated that the County Council had planned temporary traffic lights at the pinch point on the A415. Council members had attended a meeting with representatives of the County Council to hear what was planned. Mr. Cumber explained what was proposed. This would be a short term trial over 2 – 4 weeks, installing traffic lights over the shortest possible section to minimise the problems for those with driveway accesses and to shorten the queue of traffic. A footway for pedestrians would be marked out with barriers. The trial would go ahead if the Parish Council supported the project. If it became a permanent feature consideration would be given to a “yellow hatched box” on the road at the Mill Road/North Street cross roads. Council noted that a bid for finance had been put in for the 2007/08 year to implement a more permanent scheme, should the trial be successful. Council discussed the proposal and

RESOLVED nem con

- (i) that this council supports the temporary traffic light and footway trial on the A415 at the pinch point.
- (ii) that Mr. Steven Howell, Head of Transport at Oxfordshire County Council be advised of this decision.

2007/57

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/7529/1 Conversion of existing garages to sauna, gym, games room and guest room

Brushwood, Woodside, Frilford Heath  
Permitted 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2007-03-19

MAR/8819/4 Erection of a two storey extension to provide garage and utility room with bedroom and ensuite over. Provision of replacement parking area.

54 North Street  
Permitted 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2007

MAR/19914 Erection of a summer house

2 The Green  
Permitted 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2007

MAR/6783/5 Conversion of loft to bedroom and bathroom including installation of 3 dormer windows and 4 rooflights

Nought The Farthings  
Permitted 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2007

MAR/4881/9 Change of use of storage building to day nursery use in association with the existing day nursery use in the main building.

Increase in numbers from 30 to 40 children.  
Refused 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2007

b) Applications dealt with under delegated powers prior to the meeting

MAR/10061 Erection of garden shed  
4 The Green  
For: Mr. and Mrs. D. Harding  
Comments: Council had no objections

MAR/19601/1 Demolition of existing bungalow and farm buildings.

Erection of 3 bed dwelling  
Rushey, Mill Road  
For: Mr. J. Duffield  
Comments: Council had no objections

MAR/4851/9 Change of use of storage building to day nursery use in association with existing day nursery use in main building. Increase number of children from 30 to 40.

Cothill Kindergarten, Cothill Road  
For: Abingdon Kindergarten  
Comments: Council had no objections

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

MAR/1976/1 Proposed residential development of 10 dwellings with associated access

Timber Yard, Packhorse Lane

For: Try Homes Ltd

Comments: It was imperative that a piece of land be provided from the northern boundary of the site alongside the A415 to be given to the County Council, for use for mitigation measures at some time in the future. Council believed that the density of 10 mostly 3 storey houses were out of character with the area. Council preferred to see the properties turned round. Reference was made also to rear access to properties 8 and 10 Packhorse Lane.

MAR/15060/2 Erection of a single storey front extension

30 Parkside

For: Mr. K. Belcher

Comments: No objections

MAR/3312/27 Demolition of existing single storey building. Erection of accommodation block

Denman College, New Road

Comments: Council had no objections

2007/58 District Councillor's Report – Cllr. J. Hanna

Cllr. Hanna had no further matters to report.

Mr. Cumber, Mr. Bough, Mr. Denton and Mrs. Ricketts left the room.

2007/59 The Anson Trust – New Community Facilities

Council noted receipt of the responses to the NAF questionnaire supplied to the Council. These were in circulation for information purposes, among the members. Council noted comments from the Charity Commission, and also from the Trust to the questions posed following the last Council meeting. Council discussed the matter in general terms, but again was of the opinion that no decision as to the Council's position could be made on the information available at the present time.

Mr. Cumber, Mr. Bough, Mr. Denton and Mrs. Ricketts left the room.

Cllr. Hanna left the meeting.

2007/60 Cow Lane Paddocks / Fencing and new gate off Sheepstead Road to allotments

Council noted quotations from W. Corke, Agricultural contractor from Appleton for fencing in the sum of £3017 plus vat, and from Matthews Land group in the sum of £3558 obtained by Mr. Cumber.

RESOLVED:

that the quotation from Mr. Corke be accepted.

2007/61

Grant Applications

Council noted that more and more grant applications were being lodged. This appeared to be because the Vale of White Horse District Council was asking its grant applicants to contact the parishes for support. Council discussed setting a policy to deal with grant applications. Council also considered grant applications from 4 applicants.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that grants be considered just once a year in November bearing in mind the amount of funding set aside in the budget the previous January.
- (ii) that grants be awarded to organisations with a demonstrable benefit to villagers
- (iii) that grant applicants be asked to explain the link with Marcham and how the grant would benefit the parish.
- (iv) that the applications from Root and Branch, Sunningwell School of Art and Oxfordshire Children's Information Service be deferred to November
- (v) that Miss Wright who applied on a personal basis be advised that the Council could not help individuals.

2007/62

Litter Bin – The Gap

Council noted that owing to difficulties in finding a suitable location the District Council had decided not to install a litter bin, but in the first instance, would increase its litter picking in the area. The District Council would review the situation in due course. Miss Carter who had requested the bin had been advised of the position.

2007/63

Meeting Procedure

Council consider the procedure for members of the public to address Council.

RESOLVED:

that all members of the public, when addressing Council, be asked to provide details of their name and road where they lived in the parish.

Council also considered substitutes for meetings when an appointed member to an outside body was unable to attend.

RESOLVED:

that this matter be deferred until the May meeting.

- 2007/64      Best Kept Garden Competition 2007  
Council considered running the Best Kept Garden Competition this year.
- RESOLVED:
- (i)      that the competition not be run during 2007, but reconsidered next year.
  - (ii)     that a note to this effect be put in MAD News
- 2007/65      Department of Trade and Industry – Consultation – Post office Network  
Members had been advised about this consultation paper.
- RESOLVED:
- that no comments be submitted
- 2007/66      Communities and Local Government – A revised model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members  
Council noted that this consultation document had been in circulation. Of the members who responded to the Clerk there was support for the revisions. A letter of general support had been sent.
- RESOLVED:
- that the action of the Clerk be ratified.
- 2007/67      Oxfordshire County Council – Minerals and Waste Development Framework Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Issues and preferred option consultation  
Council noted that the deadline for commenting on these documents had been postponed until 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- RESOLVED:
- that the Council’s response be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman.
- 2007/68      South East England Regional Assembly – Partial review of the South East Plan  
Council noted receipt of this document on a revised apportionment of primary land won aggregates.
- RESOLVED:
- that the Council’s response be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman.
- 2007/69      County Councillor’s Report  
A415 Packhorse Lane  
Cllr. Brown expressed his delight that the County Council was doing something regarding the problems with pedestrians versus traffic on the section of

Packhorse Lane without a footway. He advised that the Head of Transport had gone against other officers' advice when deciding on the trial.

X15 Bus – Abingdon to Witney

Cllr. Brown advised that the government funding for the X15 bus was coming to an end and the County Council may offer financial assistance. A decision on this service would be made by cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

Thames Water – Reservoir -Rutland Water

Cllr. Brown reported that he had been on a visit to Rutland Water with members and officers from the Vale of White Horse District Council. He also mentioned that Mr. Daniel Scharf, a member of Drayton Parish Council, had withdrawn from the Reservoir Affected Parishes Group.

Oxford City Council – bid for Unitary Status

Cllr. Brown commented that he felt the bid for unitary status by Oxford City Council would be rejected. If this were the case, then the status quo would continue.

2007/70

Noticeboard

Council noted that both glass panels in the noticeboard outside the Institute had suffered vandalism and had been broken. The Clerk had obtained three quotations. Two for replacement laminated glass and one for a polycarbonate sheet.

RESOLVED:

that the quotation from A and C glass of Culham in the sum of £90 plus vat for laminated glass be accepted.

2007/71

Correspondence

a) Oxfordshire County Council – Bid for Unitary Status by the City Council

Council noted receipt of a booklet produced by the County Council on its belief that it would be better to improve joint working within the existing councils rather than set up 3 unitary councils.

b) Communities and Local Government – Review of Quality Town and Parish Council Scheme

Council noted that as the local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill had been published, any review of the current Quality Council Scheme had been postponed. This was because the Bill took forward the commitments made in the Local Government White paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities", which if enacted would put on a statutory basis the extension of powers of well-being to all quality councils.

c) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – County Circular

Council noted the contents of the circular.

- d) Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – News Bulletin  
Council noted receipt of the news bulletin
- e) Vale of White Horse District Council – Summons and Agenda 21<sup>st</sup> February  
Council noted receipt of the Summons and Agenda.
- f) Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Reservoir Stage 1 Consultation  
Council noted receipt of a letter from Thames Water stating that there would be a delay in responding to the parish Council's comments on the Stage 1 consultation as the company considered it extremely important that time was taken to consider all the issues raised.
- g) The Rural Housing Trust – Annual Report 2005/06  
Council noted receipt of the report.
- h) Oxford Inspires – Celebrating Oxfordshire 2007  
Council noted receipt of information as to the events which were being held in Oxfordshire.
- i) Co-operative Futures – Information  
Council noted receipt of information as to this organisation which supplies information and support to communally owned enterprises.
- j) Thames Valley Energy Efficiency Advice Centre  
Council noted receipt of information from this centre.
- k) Vale of White Horse District Council – Standards Committee agenda 22<sup>nd</sup> February.  
Council noted receipt of the agenda.
- l) Vale of White Horse District Council – Information on smoking ban  
Council noted receipt of the information on the smoking ban in enclosed public places which would become effective from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2007.
- m) Royal Town Planning Institute – Information on Planning Aid  
Council noted receipt of the information.
- n) Vale of White Horse District Council – Vacancies on Standards Committee and Remuneration Panel  
Council noted details of the vacancies for independent members.
- o) Oxfordshire County Council – Slurry coating Hyde Copse and Anson Close  
Council noted that a tarmac slurry coating was to be put on the footways in Hyde Copse and Anson Close during March or April. Members queried whether this as necessary as there were worse areas in the village. The Clerk would contact the County Council regarding this.

- 2007/72      Accounts  
 Council noted the list of cheques to be signed and authorised payments totalling £1794.43 in respect of administration costs, play area maintenance, and grant.  
 Council noted that BDO Stoy Hayward had again been appointed external auditor for the 2006/07 year of accounts.
- 2007/73      Matters Raised by members for information  
John Mansell – Former Parish Council Chairman  
 The death of John Mansell, former Chairman of the Council was announced. The Clerk was asked to put an article in MAD News.
- The Crown Public House – closure  
 It was reported that The Crown public house had closed without notice. The Clerk was asked to contact the brewery to see what its future plans were.
- Haines Court – Former newsagent shop  
 It was reported that fence at the rear of the shop had blown down in high winds. The Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the owner, the Vale of White Horse District Council.
- Public Footpath Church to Cemetery  
 It was reported that no further clearing works had been carried out on this path. The Clerk was asked to check with the handyman to see when this was going to be done.
- Oxfordshire County Council - Speed Indicator Device  
 Mr. Denton indicated that he had spent some time with the County Council's officer in the Frilford Road monitoring traffic. A small percentage of vehicles were still travelling at excessive speeds.
- Howard Cornish Road / Fettiplace Road - potholes  
 It was reported that potholes had appeared which needed reporting to the County Council.
- 2007/74      Items for MAD News  
 Council noted the list of items for inclusion in the village newsletter.
- 2007/75      Date of Next Meeting  
 The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

Signed ..... Date .....

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

-----  
Present:

Mr. W. Cumber (Chairman), Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. C. Bough, Mr. I. Charles,  
Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson Mrs. C. Ricketts, Mr. P. Rowe, Mrs. S. Turney  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
2 members of the public  
Cllr. J. Hanna (District Councillor), Cllr. I. Brown (County Councillor)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the current Council. He confirmed that there had been 10 nominations for the 10 seats on the Council for the elections due on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. No formal ballot would therefore take place. Nine of the existing members had been nominated, but Mr. P. Rowe had decided to stand down. Mr. David Walton would be joining the Council as from the next meeting.

2007/76

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. M. Denton

2007/77

Declarations of Interest

Mr. Bough declared personal and prejudicial interests in the agenda item relating to The Anson Trust in that he was a director of the Trust.  
Mrs. Ricketts declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the Anson Trust in that she served on the Committees of various organisations which would be affected by the Trust's proposals and felt that she could not represent the interests of one organisation over and above that of any other or the public at large.

2007/78

Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2007

Mr. Bough stated that his intention in minute 2007/52 was to be available to answer questions on returning to the room following the Council's discussion on the item relating to the Anson Trust. However he did not propose any amendment to the minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007 were therefore agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

2007/79

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2007

A415 – Trial Traffic Lights

Council noted correspondence from the County Council indicating that a possible programme for the scheme was being prepared.

Oxfordshire County Council – Fire and Rescue

Council noted receipt of a letter of thanks for the grant awarded to the Junior Citizen's Education programme.

Oxfordshire County Council - footways tarmac slurry – Hyde Copse/Anson Close

Council noted the response from the County Council as to why Hyde Copse and Anson Close footways were having a surface coating when they were not in need of repair. This indicated that the additional coating provided a further wearing surface thereby prolonging the need for major repair. It could not be used on footway surfaces which were in a poor state of repair as it would not adhere properly to any loose surface.

South East England Regional Assembly – Revised Apportionment of land won aggregates

Council noted that no comments had been submitted to the Assembly on this item.

The Crown Public House – Closure

Council noted that the brewery Greene King had sold the freehold of the site to Admiral Taverns who were currently advertising for a new tenant to take an assignment of the Lease. The decision to cease trading at The Crown was that of the current tenant.

With consent of Council the Chairman adjourned the meeting of the Council.

2007/80

Public Participation

A415 - Traffic Lights

Mr. Les Mitchell from Church Street stated that traffic lights had been installed for a very short period recently and traffic queues were forming. He asked whether this was the formal trial. This was not the case, the temporary lights had been installed owing to building works to a garden wall in Packhorse Lane.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

Mr. Bough and Mrs. Ricketts left the room.

2007/81

The Anson Trust – New Community Facilities

Council noted that questions had been raised at the previous meeting by the public and generally in the MAD News regarding the distribution of assets should the Trust be dissolved. Council considered taking independent advice on the matter. Council was aware that the Trust itself was approaching Solicitors for advice which it had offered to put in the public domain. Council referred to a questionnaire which had appeared and undertaken by the Neighbours Around the Field Group. Council was unhappy with the timing of this, as it was not yet known precisely what the Trust was doing, and the detailed planning application was awaited, and the questions asked could not be answered easily. Concerns

were expressed regarding the 3 week deadline for commenting on planning applications when any application regarding the Trust's proposals would be very complex.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council not seek independent legal advice on the Trust's position at this stage
- (ii) that the publicly available report on the advice obtained by the Trust be awaited.
- (iii) that further discussion concerning the Council obtaining independent advice be postponed until after the contents of the Trust's report were known.

Mr. Bough and Mrs. Ricketts rejoined the meeting.

2007/82 Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – Oxfordshire Villages of the Year  
Council noted that the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council was not organising a best kept village competition this year, but was continuing with the Oxfordshire Villages of the year Competition. Mrs. Evans offered to assist with the preparation of the entry.

RESOLVED:

that the Parish Council enter the Oxfordshire Villages of the year Competition on behalf of the village.

2007/83 National Association of Local Councils - Community Enterprise Awards  
Council noted that prizes of up to £1000 were available in each of 4 categories of community involvement of housing, gypsies, youth and older people. Council was aware of the effort involved in pursuing affordable housing in the parish.

RESOLVED:

that a competition entry be lodged by the Council housing category of the Community enterprise Awards.

2007/84 South East England – Regional Housing Board  
The Regional Housing Strategy Review 2007 document had been in circulation. The deadline for comments was 27<sup>th</sup> April.

RESOLVED:

that any comments submitted by this Council be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with Mr. Rowe and Mrs. Evans.

2007/85 Hills Aggregates Liaison Committee  
Mr. Denton had attended a meeting of this committee but no report was available. Cllr. Brown, however, had been present and reported that there had been a site visit followed by the meeting. The site was operating well, although the Licence for remediation had been exceeded, there were no substantial problems with the area.

2007/86 Parkside Allotments  
Council considered a request from an allotment tenant to erect a 6 feet by 4 feet shed on an allotment opposite Denman College. Council also considered the provision of a water supply to the site. Given the location of the site adjacent to listed buildings and in the conservation area and that allotments where sheds could be erected were available elsewhere in the parish, Council did not support the erection of a shed, but would agree to a smaller lockable storage box for tools. Equally Council was of the opinion that a water supply was available on allotments elsewhere in the parish should tenants need a direct water supply. Council did discuss the provision of water for Parkside, and possible alternate uses for the site, and the possibility of increasing allotment rents

RESOLVED:

- (i) that permission not be given for a garden shed as it would be out of keeping with the area
- (ii) that consent be granted for a low level tool storage box which did not exceed the height of the wall
- (iii) that enquiries be made of Thames Water as to the possibility of installing a water supply to the Parkside Allotments.

2007/87 District Councillor's Report

Timberyard, Packhorse Lane – Planning Application

Cllr. Hanna reported that the planning application for Try Homes Ltd on the timberyard, Packhorse Lane would be discussed at the District Council's Development Control Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

X15 Bus Service

Cllr. Hanna reported that the funding for this service was being cut and the District Council had requested a meeting between the District Council, County Council and the operator.

2007/88 County Councillor's Report

X15 Bus Service

Cllr. Brown reported that it had been a County Council Cabinet decision not to fund the part of the service that had been previously funded by Government. The service finished in its present form on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Abingdon College part

funded the service for their students who also travelled to their Witney site. The County Council was working with the College and would try and keep some service, possibly a public service.

#### Thames Water – Reservoir

Cllr. Brown stated he had received a letter from someone who had been involved in reservoir construction who was recommending that the best location for a reservoir was West Drayton.

#### Sustainable Communities Bill

Cllr. Brown reported that the County Council supported this Bill which awarded more power to local people.

#### A415 Newbridge

Cllr. Brown reported that there was a proposal to reduce the 18 tonne limit to 7½ tonnes, with an exception for buses. It was thought that buses run to a timetable and information about the numbers crossing were available, unlike the number of heavy lorries which were uncontrollable.

2007/89

#### Correspondence

##### a) Thames Valley Police – Community Policing Awards

Council noted that Thames Valley Police were running an award scheme for those officers who had made a positive difference to the community. Forms were available for individuals which wished to nominate an officer.

#### RESOLVED:

that this Council not submit a nomination

##### b) Letter from Postwatch – Post Office Closures

Council noted receipt of a summary from Postwatch on its response to the Government's consultation on post office networks.

##### c) Vale of White Horse District Council – Vale Visitor Guide 2007

Council noted receipt of the guide.

##### d) Vale of White Horse District Council – Plan for Children and Young People

Council noted receipt of information about this plan.

##### e) Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – News Bulletin April 2007

Council noted receipt of the News Bulletin.

2007/90

#### Planning Applications

##### a) Decision on previous applications

MAR/19610/1 Demolition of existing bungalow and farm buildings  
Erection of a three bedroom dwelling  
Rushey, Mill Road  
Permitted 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2007

MAR/15060/2 Erection of a single storey front extension  
30 Parkside  
Permitted 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2007

MAR/6213/1 Erection of first floor extension over garage  
1-3 New Road  
Permitted 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2007

MAR/19961 Erection of a garden shed  
4 The Green  
Permitted 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2007

b) Applications considered prior to the meeting

Work to Trees  
5 The Green  
Comments: Council had no objections

c) Applications considered at the meeting

MAR/1084/5 Erection of rear conservatory  
28 Parkside  
For: Mr and Mrs. Gainsford  
Comments: Council had no objections

d) Planning Application Timberyard, Packhorse Lane

Council noted that the application was to be considered on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and discussed sending a representative to address the Development Control Committee.

RESOLVED:

that the Council not send a representative to address the District Council's Development Control Committee at the meeting concerning the Try Homes Ltd planning application for 10 houses on the timberyard.

2007/91

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques to be signed and authorised payments totalling £5911.21 in respect of administration costs, play area maintenance, allotment paddock fencing and reglazing of noticeboard.

2007/92      Matters Raised by members for information

District Councillor - Jane Hanna

Reference was made to the efforts of Jane Hanna over the past 4 years in office since the last District Council election. The Clerk suggested that as the period of election purdah had started it would be inappropriate for the Council or officer to refer to one election candidate more than any other, in case of appearing not impartial. Any correspondence regarding her term as District Councillor would be deferred until after the election on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

Parish Councillor - Peter Rowe

The Chairman placed on record the Council's thanks to Peter Rowe for his efforts on behalf of the Council and community since being co-opted on to the Council.

2007/93      Items for MAD News

Council noted the list of items for inclusion in the village newsletter.

2007/94      Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be the first meeting of the new Council to be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

Signed ..... Date .....

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

-----  
Present:

Mr. W. Cumber (Chairman), Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. C. Bough, Mr. I. Charles,  
Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson Mrs. C. Ricketts, Mrs. S. Turney. Mr. D. Walton  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
4 members of the public  
Cllr. J. Hanna (District Councillor),

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Council.  
All Members had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2007/95

Election of Chairman

The Chairman of the Council, Mr. Cumber, called for nominations for the election of a Chairman of the Council to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council

It was moved by Mrs. Evans, seconded by Mrs. Ricketts and

RESOLVED: nem.con  
that Mr. Cumber be elected Chairman of the Council to hold office until the next annual meeting of the Council

2007/96

Declaration of Acceptance of Chairman

Mr. Cumber signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman.

2007/97

Election of Vice-Chairman

The Chairman of the Council called for nominations for the election of Vice-Chairman of the Council to hold office until the next annual meeting of the Council

It was moved by Mr. Cumber, seconded by Mrs. Evans and

RESOLVED: nem.con  
that Mr. Charles be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council to hold office until the next annual meeting of the Council

2007/98

Appointment of Planning Working Group

RESOLVED:  
that the Clerk be given delegated powers in consultation with Mrs. Allan and Mr. Hutchinson to respond on

behalf of the Council on planning applications requiring Council's comments before the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

2007/99 Appointment of Representative for the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils

RESOLVED:

- (i) that no specific member be appointed as representative
- (ii) that the agenda for these meetings be presented to Council, and members would decide at that time if they wished to attend

2007/100 Appointment of Public Transport Representative

RESOLVED:

that Mrs. Turney represent the Council

2007/101 Appointment of Representative to Hills Aggregates Liaison Committee

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Denton represent the Council

2007/102 Appointment of Representatives to the Anson Field Management Committee

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Cumber and Mr. Bough represent the Council

2007/103 Appointment of Members to the Churchyard Working Party

RESOLVED:

that Mrs. Allan and Mr. Charles represent the Council at meetings with 2 representatives nominated by the Parochial Church Council to discuss the maintenance of the closed Churchyard

2007/104 Appointment of Representative to the Reservoir Affected Parishes Group

RESOLVED:

that no specific representative be appointed

2007/105 Appointment of MAD News Correspondent

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk write a monthly articles on Parish Council business for the village newsletter

2007/106 Appointment of Charity Trustees for the parochial charities  
Council noted that it had nomination rights for the parochial charities. It also noted that the existing Trustees were prepared to continue for a further term.

RESOLVED:

that Mr. M. Denton, Mrs. M. Hall, Mrs. J. Myatt, Mrs. J. Smith, Mrs. S. Walton be appointed Trustees of the parochial charities for the period of this Council until May 2011

2007/107 Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. M. Denton and also from Cllr. I Brown (County Councillor).

2007/108 Declarations of Interest  
Mr. Bough and Mrs. Ricketts both declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to the results of the survey into the Anson Trust's proposals undertaken by the Neighbours Around the Field group.

2007/109 Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2007  
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

2007/110 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2007

South East England Regional Housing Board

Council noted the comments that had been submitted on behalf of the Council

X15 Bus Service

Council noted the details of the new service which would commence from 4<sup>th</sup> June. This was 2 hourly off peak between Abingdon and Witney with some peak time changes, and hourly between Abingdon and Wallingford. Concerns were raised that some residents used the service for access to Abingdon as an alternative to the Stagecoach service. The timetable when available would be checked. Council would review the service should timetable irregularities be discovered.

With consent of Council the Chairman adjourned the meeting of the Council.

2007/111 Public Participation

There were no matters raised by the public.

2007/112 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/19789 Land adjoining and opposite Cothill Farmhouse,  
Blackhorse Lane, Cothill  
Siting of portable toilet. Change of use for outdoor activities for schools  
and young people  
Refused 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2007

MAR/3312/27 Demolition of existing single storey building. Erection  
of accommodation block with 16 en suite rooms  
Denman College, New Road  
Permitted 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2007

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

There had been no applications received

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

MAR/5011/4 Demolition of existing bungalow and outbuildings  
Erection of 4 x 4 bedroom dwellings, access, car parking and  
landscaping  
Cotsdale, Abingdon Road  
For: Cranbourne Homes Ltd  
Comments: Council objected to the application on grounds of traffic, the  
number and height of the proposed dwellings and impact on the eastern  
gateway approach to the village. The design had minimal onsite  
parking, there would be a considerable traffic hazard owing to the  
location of the access onto the winding spine road into the village close  
to a bus stop and junction with A415. The dwellings represented an  
inappropriate density for the location, taller than any other nearby  
dwelling and would not enhance the open character of that part of the  
village. The existing dwellings in the area paid respect to the grade II\*  
listed farm house. The current proposal did not provide a soft transition  
from the open fields to the more built up area of the village as other  
adjacent bungalows did.

d) Appeal by Try Homes against the refusal by the Vale of White Horse  
District Council to allow 5 courtyard style houses on the Timberyard,  
Packhorse Lane

Council noted that this appeal had been turned down. It was reported that  
Try Homes had not fully restored the village green as promised. Mr.  
Cumber then declared a personal interest in view of the fact that he lived in  
Mill Road. Should any new development take place it was essential that  
vehicles did not park on the village green. Bollards at the start of Mill Road,  
to prevent car parking and being arranged by the County Council had not yet  
been installed.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Clerk write to Try Homes regarding the restoration of the Green, and the restrictions on the parking of vehicles on the Green should any further development take place.
- (ii) that the Clerk contact the County Council regarding the bollards which should be installed to prevent off road parking on the path at the start of Mill Road, where the wall had been set back to improve vision.

2007/113

The Anson Trust – New Community Facilities

Council noted the results of the survey undertaken by the Neighbours Around the Field group. Council discussed the timing and wording of the questionnaire. It was felt the issues to be considered were wider than just retaining an open green space in the centre of the village. It was important therefore for any consultation process to be effective and ask the right questions at the right time. Council considered that its credibility could be questioned if it appeared not to be taking notice of village actions or being concerned. It was suggested that an article be placed in MAD News to clarify the Council's position. Should matters progress to a planning application lodged by the Anson Trust, it was the belief of the Council that a substantial period of consultation would be required in order to gauge the views of the parish. It was suggested that the views of the user groups, the fuller financial position, information as to the management of any new facilities would be required before any final view and planning comment could be submitted to the District Council. Mr. Walton proposed and Mr. Charles seconded the motion that a letter be sent to the Anson Trust to seek an early consultation process with the Parish Council before any application was lodged.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a letter be sent to the Anson Trust indicating that in order to reflect the village view on any application it would need a substantial amount of time for a consultation process and therefore that
- (ii) the Trust be advised that in order to be able to carry out a parish consultation, the Parish Council would like to be advised and consulted long before the submission of any application to the Vale of White Horse District Council.
- (iii) that information as to the current position of the Anson Trust and its timescale be sought

2007/114

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. J. Hanna

Cllr. Hanna thanked the Council for its letter of appreciation for her efforts during the last term of office.

Longfields Housing

Cllr. Hanna referred to the problems that had been experienced with the advertising and incorrect descriptions. She then explained the allocation process.

Cllr. Hanna left the meeting.

2007/115

Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007

Council noted that the revised Code had come into effect from 3<sup>rd</sup> May. All Authorities had to adopt the Code by 1<sup>st</sup> October. The Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils was working with the Monitoring Officers to arrange a common date for adoption with all Oxfordshire parishes, and to arrange training.

2007/116

Vale of White Horse Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report  
Council noted this consultation documents.

RESOLVED:

that the Parish Council not submit comments.

2007/117

Village Action Plan

Council discussed the merits of a village action plan and considered the topics it would cover. It was thought that a small group of members should begin the process by revisiting the village appraisal carried out in 1994.

RESOLVED:

that a working party comprising Mr. Denton, Mrs. Evans, Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Walton be formed to consider the preparation of a village action plan

2007/118

Annual Meeting of Electors – 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2007

Council discussed the final arrangements for the annual meeting of electors.

2007/119

Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Training Courses

Council noted training courses which were being organised by the Association. Mrs. Allan and Mr. Hutchinson expressed an interest in attending the course entitled “Effective responses to planning applications” to be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October at Didcot Civic Centre.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Mrs. Allan and Mr. Hutchinson attend the planning training course on 10<sup>th</sup> October.
- (ii) that the course fee, £40 plus vat for both members be paid by Council

2007/120

Correspondence

- a) Vale of White Horse District Council – Thames Water Reservoir  
Council noted receipt of a copy correspondence from the District Council to Thames Water on the second stage consultation
- b) Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire – Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust  
Council noted that the Trust was applying to become a Foundation Trust and noted an invitation for those interested to become members.
- c) Oxfordshire County Council – Revision of subsidised bus services in the Wantage and Faringdon area  
Council noted that the County Council would undertake a review of its support for the stagecoach service 32/33 later in the year. There was to be a public meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00 p.m. in the civic hall at Wantage. Mr. Walton agreed to attend this.
- d) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Annual General Meeting  
Council noted that the Annual General Meeting of the Association would take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 at Exeter Hall, Kidlington at 7.30 p.m. Nominations were being sought for parish representatives to the executive committee
- e) Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – The playing field magazine  
Council noted receipt of the magazine
- f) Vale of White Horse District Council – Summons and Agenda 16<sup>th</sup> May  
Council noted receipt of the Summons and Agenda and noted in particular that the company who held the cleansing and waste contract, Cleanaway had been taken over by another company Veolia.

2007/121

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques to be signed and authorised payments totalling £4011.69 in respect of administration costs, play area maintenance and rent, grass cutting, and subscriptions  
Council discussed signatories to the accounts. In view of the fact that the members of the Council had essentially not changed it was

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the signatories to the account remain as Mr. Cumber, Mr. Bough, Mr. Denton, Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Ricketts
- (ii) that any two of the above members be authorised to sign cheques.

2007/122

Matters Raised by members for information

A415 finger pointer sign for school

It was reported that the sign indicating the way to the school was loose and the wind blew this around. Mr. Cumber offered to have a look at this in the first instance, otherwise it would be reported to the County Council.

Bus Shelter – Longfields

It was reported that there may be a crack in the window in the bus shelter. The Clerk would check the position.

North St – Weeds

It was reported that the weeds were quite high in North Street. The Clerk was asked to refer this to Cllr. Brown.

Howard Cornish Road - Bottle banks

It was reported that there was broken glass near the bottle banks. There appeared to be permanent debris which detracted from the appearance of the area. It was suggested that they could be removed or the area better landscaped.

Allotments

It was suggested that the rents could be increased to cover the cost of the water or a different rate introduced for those who had hosepipes. This would be an agenda item for the next meeting. It was reported that a refrigerator had appeared on the allotments. This would be checked.

Footpaths - strimming

It was reported that the footpath between North Street and the A415 alongside the Anson field had not been strimmed. An account for the work had been received from the grass cutting contractor. The Clerk would check the position

Dog Fouling

It was reported that dog fouling was not being cleared in North Street. An article could be placed in MAD News to remind residents about the penalties.

2007/123

Items for MAD News

Council noted the list of items for inclusion in the village newsletter.

2007/124

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

Signed ..... Date .....

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

-----  
Present:

Mr. W. Cumber (Chairman), Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. C. Bough, Mr. I. Charles,  
Mr. M., Denton, Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson, Mr. D. Walton  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
2 members of the public  
Cllr. J. Hanna (District Councillor), joined by Cllr. I. Brown (County Councillor)

2007/125      Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs. Ricketts and Mrs. S. Turney

2007/126      Additional Agenda Items  
The Chairman referred to two additional items which had been received since preparing the agenda. The first related to the arrangements for the presentation of the community award certificate, the second to an application for a loan from the Anson Trust. Council considered whether or not to take the items as part of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

that these items be included on the agenda

2007/127      Declarations of Interest  
Mr. Bough and Mr. Denton both declared personal and prejudicial interests in the new agenda item relating to the Anson Trust in that they were Directors of the Trust. Mrs. Allan declared a personal interest in the matter relating to the Anson Trust in that she was married to one of the Trustees. Mr. Hutchinson declared a personal interest in that he was involved in the Youth Club which would be affected by the Anson Trust's proposals.

2007/128      Minutes of the annual meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2007  
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

2007/129      Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2007

A415 – Finger Pointer indicating the way to the School  
This sign had now been refixed.

Cllr. Brown joined the meeting.

A415 – North Street

This path had now been strimmed. There was still some concern that it had not been cut back the full width of the path. Grass cuttings too had been dumped in places. The Clerk was asked to write to the occupiers of the properties adjacent

to the path where the grass cuttings had been dumped pointing out that the disposal of garden waste on a public footpath was not permitted.

#### Howard Cornish Road – Bottle Banks

Council noted the response from the District Council. The contractors for street cleansing have a responsibility to keep the area free from broken glass. Strimming the grass around the bottle banks or placing on a hard standing could be considered. As all bottle banks in the District were well used there were no plans to remove them.

With consent of Council the Chairman adjourned the meeting of the Council.

2007/130

#### Public Participation

##### The Institute

Mr. Les. Mitchell from Church Street stated that he had spoken with Mr. John Duffield who had offered to buy the Institute and bring it up to modern standards and then to let the village take over and run it. When Mr. Mitchell was canvassing as a candidate in the recent District elections many parishioners raised the topic of the Institute.

Mr. Bough from Kings Avenue spoke regarding the decline in the finances of the Anson Trust. The Trust had previously used some of the endowment, with the consent of the Charity Commissioners, and in view of the current position was needing to go to the Commission again. The Trust was asking for a loan to avoid a cash flow problem in the next 3 or 4 months until it was granted access to the endowment. The Trust was not seeking a loan for specific items, but in general for items such the caretaker's and secretary's salary, drawings and the Solicitor's bill.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting

Mr. Bough and Mr. Denton left the meeting.

2007/131

#### The Anson Trust – New Community Facilities

The Chairman read out the response from the Anson Trust regarding the Council's request for pre-planning application consultation and sufficient time in which to be able to properly consult the village prior to the Council having to give a response to the District Council on an application. Council considered the response which indicated that the Trust would endeavour to provide the Council with sufficient time. Council generally felt disappointed with the use of the word "endeavour" and the fact that there were no guarantees or no mention of a specific period of time.

Council considered a letter from Cllr. J. Hanna. She offered to facilitate the setting up of a small working group to assist in the detailed consideration of any proposed development by the Anson Trust. This would include consultation

work with local residents and local groups. Such a group would involve parish councillors and would enable those who had to respond to the District Council on any application the opportunity to work together rather than separately. Council felt that comprehensive consultation with the village would be required, and noted that Cllr. Hanna as District Councillor would be undertaking her own consultation in any event. Council agreed that a joint working group would be preferable and

RESOLVED:

- a) that the support of the Council be given to Cllr. Hanna to organise a joint working group in order that comprehensive village consultation regarding the detailed Anson Trust's proposals when known be carried out
- b) that Mr. Charles, Mrs. Evans, Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Walton represent the Council on the group.

Council considered a letter from the Anson Trust requesting a loan of £5,000 towards running costs, and costs regarding the preparation of drawings. Council noted advice from the Clerk regarding the Council's powers under s. 19 Local Government Act 1976 concerning the lending of money to a voluntary organisation for recreational purposes, and further comments regarding the lack of power for the lending of money for other purposes. Council discussed all aspects of the application and considered it was essential that the Council remain fully separate from and independent from the Trust, to avoid any misunderstanding in the eyes of the parishioners.

RESOLVED:

that a loan of £5,000 not be given to the Anson Trust.

Mr. Bough and Mr. Denton rejoined the meeting.

2007/132

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. J. Hanna

Cllr. Hanna reported that the planning application for 4 dwellings on the site of Cotsdale would go to planning committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. It was understood that this was being recommended for approval. Council discussed its objections to the application and its preference for lower height dwellings.

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Hutchinson attend the meeting of the Development Control Committee as spokesperson for the Parish Council when the application was discussed

Cllr Hanna reported that as previously agreed with the District Council, she had been advised about the allocations, made so far on the new Longfields properties. She had been able to confirm the local connection of those who had received offers.

2007/133

A415 – Traffic Trial

Council noted that the County Council's traffic trial to allow a path for pedestrians around the bend would commence on 10<sup>th</sup> July. Concerns were raised that once drivers became aware of the existence of the lights, they would rat run elsewhere. It was suggested that vehicle counts should take place before and during the trial. It was also suggested that the Speed Indicator Device machine could be used in Howard Cornish Road during the trial to help monitor traffic.

2007/134

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. I. Brown

Cllr. Brown referred to the traffic trial on the A415. The signals would be put out on the 10<sup>th</sup> July. Should there be any problems with emergency vehicles, then the trial would cease. Cllr. Brown referred to the new X15 bus service and the County Council's review of the subsidised bus service. These items were on the Parish Council agenda. He mentioned that 3 sites at Tubney had been identified by the County Council for mineral extraction. He also mentioned that Thames Water were hosting a meeting in Reading on the need for water resources and its latest findings.

2007/135

Community Service Award

Concerns had been raised that the recipient of the award always had a surprise or shock at being selected, and that people who had worked with or supporters of the recipient may like the opportunity to be present, but could not do so unless they were aware of who was to receive the award. There was general discussion, although not agreement, about the presentation this year. It was agreed that the Chairman should play a key role in keeping tight control on the proceedings. It was suggested that the citation on the certificate should always be put in MAD News, and that flowers could also be presented to the recipient or spouse.

RESOLVED:

that consideration be given next year to the format for the presentation when planning next year's Award.

2007/136

Oxfordshire County council – Minerals Site Proposals and Policies Document Issues and Options Consultation

Council noted this document which had been in circulation and on the County Council's website.

RESOLVED:

that no Parish Council comment be submitted

2007/137

Bus Services

Council noted receipt of the revised bus timetable for the X15. Mr. Walton had attended a public meeting hosted by the County Council where discussion had taken place on the routes subsidised by the County Council as the contracts for the financially supported services came to an end in December 2007. One of the main suggestions was that the Oxford, Abingdon, Marcham, Wantage, Didcot, Abingdon, Oxford circular route be divided into 3. The County Council had posed certain questions regarding the Stagecoach service which were discussed by Council. Also discussed was the gap in the early morning timetables of the X15 and 32/33 services where villagers would have to wait for 1¼ hours between buses for a service to Abingdon, and the possible location of an additional stop near the end of Ford Lane for the X30 service along the A338.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the following comments be submitted to the County Council
  - (i) that users of the 32/33 service perceive it as unattractive as a result of its numerous diversions off main roads
  - (ii) that a suggestion that services could connect with trains at Didcot appeared irrelevant to Marcham, but that this would be difficult in any event as the two modes of transport were not integrated
  - (iii) that this Council supported the split of the long circular route of the 32/33 into 3
  - (iv) that this Council considered that through buses from the village to Oxford essential
- b) that no comment be submitted on the suggestion that an X32 or X33 be created or on any flows of non-catchment students using services 32/33, or on the service 31 Sunday service.
- c) that a request be submitted for an additional stop at Ford Lane on the A338 for the X30 service.

2007/138

Bus Shelter – Howard Cornish Road

Council noted that the Health Act 2006 introduced a ban on smoking in enclosed public places with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2007. As enclosed was defined as being more than 50 percent enclosed, the legislation applied to the bus shelter. Council also noted that the shelter had suffered vandalism and had 3 broken window panes. The Police were about to make arrests of those responsible. Community service and/or funding the repairs by those responsible was considered. Council discussed replacing the 3 broken panes, or renewing all 5 panes in the shelter

RESOLVED:

- (i) that “no smoking” signing compliant with the legislative requirements be purchased at a cost of £20 plus vat.
- (ii) that all 5 panes in the bus shelter be replaced with polycarbonate sheet at a cost of £850 plus vat.
- (iii) that the matter of payment for the replacement panes by the offenders and community service be deferred for future discussion until after the Police had made the arrests.

2007/139

Longfields Housing

Council noted the response from the Vale of White Horse District Council on the question of the Parish Council not being a consultee in the planning agreement. Council also noted that one of the original shared equity dwellings was now on the market.

RESOLVED:

that no further action be taken

2007/140

Thames Water – Reservoir

Council noted a letter stating that since the first stage consultation the Environment Agency had published the “Water resources planning guidelines”. As a result Thames Water was revising its approach and strategy for developing the reservoir needs case. The application for the Compulsory Works Order would therefore be delayed beyond May 2008. Council considered an offer from Thames Water to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss changes in the reservoir programme.

RESOLVED:

that the offer not be accepted at the present time

2007/141

Allotment Rents

Council discussed the current level of rent and the use of water. Concerns were raised that some allotment holders may have sprinklers. Council noted that to increase the rent 12 months notice had to be given. Consideration was given to having an increased charge for those who used sprinklers.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that 12 months notice be given to increase the basic rent at Cow Lane Allotments from £5 to £10 per plot to take effect from the rent day 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008.
- (ii) that checks be made on the allotment site to see whether sprinklers were in use.
- (iii) that the matter of an additional charge for the use of a sprinkler be deferred until the next meeting.

Council discussed the Parkside Allotments and the possible provision of a water supply. Council noted plans from Thames Water showing the route of the supply pipe in the road. Given Thames Water's costs for infrastructure charges, connection charges and fee for providing a quotation together with the costs of trenching and standpipe, the approximate cost for installing a new water supply on the Parkside allotments would be £2000 - £2500.

RESOLVED:

that no water supply be connected to the Parkside allotments

2007/142

Village Action Plan

Council received a report from the Working Party. One meeting had taken place and considered possible headings for a plan which included environment, housing, community facilities, transport, employment and education. It was hoped to encourage groups to take responsibility for these areas, so that the onus was not on the Parish Council. The Working Party would place an article giving a report in MAD News

2007/143

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/1084/5 Erection of rear conservatory  
28 Parkside  
Permitted 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2007

MAR/19761/1 Proposed residential development of 10 dwellings  
with associated access  
Timber Yard, Packhorse Lane  
Permitted 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2007

Works to Trees  
5 The Green  
Permitted 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2007

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

MAR/13930 Close existing access and move vehicular and pedestrian  
access  
9 Cothill  
For: Mr and Mrs. Turner  
Comments: Council had no objections

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

No applications had been received

2007/144

Correspondence

a) Vale of White Horse District Council – New Community funding Advice Service

Council noted that the GrantNet database of funders previously on the Vale of White Horse District Council's website would be replaced by a service run by the Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action Group based in Oxford.

b) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Annual General Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 at Exeter Hall, Kidlington

Council noted the details of the Annual General Meeting.

c) Oxfordshire Green Belt Network – Newsletter and notes on minerals working and its impact on the Green Belt

Council noted receipt of this newsletter.

d) Vale of White Horse District Council – letter from the Chairman

Council noted an offer from the Chairman of the District Council to visit parish events in order to meet members of the community.

2007/145

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques to be signed and authorised payments totalling £5891.20 in respect of administration costs, play area maintenance, grass cutting, Cemetery expenses, annual meeting of electors expenses, certificate for the villager of the year and 3<sup>rd</sup> party funding for a grant from Wren for the play area. Council noted that the cheque book was with the auditor and the cheques would be signed when it was returned.

2007/146

Matters Raised by members for information

The Farthings - footway

It was reported that a letter should be received in the near future from The Farthings Residents Association regarding the poor quality of the footways.

Sheepstead Road / Cow Lane - Pothole

It was reported that a pothole, which was filled in only 6 weeks ago had reappeared.

North Street – footway

It was reported that the footway between the Post Office and The Institute was in poor condition, and it was known that one resident had tripped and fallen.

Recycling

Mrs. Allan had contacted the Waste Management section at the District Council regarding the recycling of soft plastics. Plastic items other than bottles, such as meat and vegetable containers, margarine, cream and yoghurt cartons could be taken to Millets Farm or Tesco where there were appropriate recycling bins. Waxed cartons could not yet be taken.

Best Kept Garden Competition

It was suggested that the garden competition could be run over a year, with inspections being carried out each season.

Car Parking

It was reported that parking on the bend in Howard Cornish Road opposite Long Barn was causing problems. Mr. Denton offered to raise this via the Neighbourhood Action Group. 3 Cars had also been seen on the land at the junction of Mill Road and A415. This was in the space that had been created in order to improve vision. Cars too were parked in the gardens of the flats belonging to the Vale Housing Association. The Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the Association.

Footway – The Gap to Fettiplace Road

It was reported that this path had a large number of weeds growing. Weeds had been noted elsewhere in the village. The Clerk was asked to refer this to Cllr. Brown the County Councillor.

Use of Allotments by Marcham Cubs

The Marcham cub pack had requested to use one of the unused allotments in Cow Lane to light a small fire on which to cook sausages. The cubs were fully insured. Although this item had not been included on the agenda, Council agreed that permission be granted.

Pony Paddocks

It was noted that the paddocks had still not been let. It was suggested that wider advertising take place.

2007/147

Items for MAD News

Council noted the list of items for inclusion in the village newsletter.

2007/148

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2007 in the residents’ lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

Signed ..... Date .....

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

-----  
Present:

Mr. W. Cumber (Chairman), Mr. C. Bough, Mr. I. Charles, Mr. M., Denton,  
Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson, Mr. D. Walton  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
2 members of the public  
Cllr. J. Hanna (District Councillor), Cllr. I. Brown (County Councillor)

- 2007/149     Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs. J. Allan and Mrs. C. Ricketts.
- 2007/150     Declarations of Interest  
Mr. Bough declared a personal interest in the matter relating to the Anson Trust in that he was a director of the Trust.
- 2007/151     Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2007  
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.
- 2007/152     Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2007
- A415 – Traffic Trial  
Council noted that the County Council's traffic trial scheme to enable a footway around the bends had started. One Member commented that that the trial was not fully representative of the traffic flows as the private schools in the area had closed for the Summer. Another Member commented on seeing a traffic queue on one day but not the next.
- Parking – Howard Cornish Road – Flats  
Council noted that the Vale Housing Association was encouraging those who drove their vehicles into their front gardens to apply to the County Council permission to drop the kerb. Council also noted that parking on the amenity land at the side of the flats was being dealt with by the Association, although it was understood in one instance that the tenant was about to move.
- With consent of Council the Chairman adjourned the meeting of the Council.
- 2007/153     Public Participation
- Play Area  
Mr. Gordon Bendall, Trustee of the Arthur Anson Trust, explained he had been

in attendance at a site meeting between Wickstseed Leisure, play equipment manufacturers and the Parish Clerk, to represent the Trust. Difficulties had been identified by the contractor regarding removing the chain link fence as this had now become hidden within the hedging. Owing to a broken wooden fence alongside the Southern edge of the field and a narrow gap before the play area fence, it had been suggested that the Trust's wooden fence be removed and the new play area fence be erected on that line. This would eliminate the narrow gap which was generally an area for nettles. The Trust supported the removal of the complete hedge as this would open up the whole area.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting

2007/154

Play Area

Council noted and discussed the Clerk's report on the site meeting which had taken place to discuss the installation of the equipment.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the hedge and chain link fence surrounding the play area be completely removed to leave a site open to view.
- b) that the line of the Southern boundary fence be located alongside the public footpath.

2007/155

County Councillor's Report

Traffic Trial

Cllr. Brown advised that the County Council was now filling the plastic barriers with water to aid stability. He was aware of some initial difficulties with a parked lorry blocking the beam at the traffic lights and concerns from residents who could not leave their driveways easily owing to the traffic queues. He had been advised that the Police did not support the traffic lights.

Reservoir

Cllr. Brown referred to a meeting which he had attended on 22<sup>nd</sup> June where he had met Councillors from London. Thames Water's pipe replacement work in London was progressing well and leakage rates were now below those set by Offwat. He indicated that there may be two public inquiries regarding the proposed new reservoir. One on the need and the second on the design and landscaping.

2007/156

District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Hanna reported that the planning application for 4 houses on the site of Cotsdale had been approved by planning committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. The houses would be at a lower level than originally thought as there was a requirement to lower slab levels. Cllr. Hanna would be included as a consultee in this regard. The policies in the local plan were deemed acceptable and the County Council had had no traffic concerns, and as a result the application had been granted consent.

2007/157

Cllr. Hanna/ Parish Council – Joint Working Group Re: village consultation on Anson Trust’s proposals

Cllr. Hanna gave a summary of the first meeting of the Joint Working Group. The planning policy framework had been considered, and how the planning officers would approach any application. She had offered to meet with the Anson Trustees to discuss how the group would consult with the village and also to seek from them the necessary information. The group had also considered seeking clarification from Mr. Duffield as to any intentions regarding the Institute. It was noted that a letter regarding the Institute had appeared in MAD news which was in the public domain, but no detailed information was contained in it. One member of the group had agreed to liaise with the County Council to clarify its position on the Anson Trust’s proposals and the school.

Mr. Bough, as a Director of the Anson Trust invited Cllr. Hanna to a Trust meeting. He confirmed that the word “endeavour” to consult prior to any planning application was intended to indicate that the Trust would consult. He confirmed that the Trust had not received any recent offers in connection with the Institute, but had received more than one offer in the past. However, as there was a s.106 planning agreement which required the Institute to be redeveloped should houses be constructed at the rear, then that had affected the overall value. Should a new hall be constructed elsewhere in the village, then the s. 106 would not apply. He stated that should the real value of the site be offered, then the Trust would sell.

Cllr. Brown expressed some concern regarding the uncertainty over the future of the school and commented on how unsettling it was for parents and children if there were no firm proposals for the school.

Council discussed contacting Mr. Duffield regarding the letter which appeared in MAD News to seek clarification of the contents.

RESVOLVED:

that Cllr. J. Hanna, as Chairman of the Joint Working Group be asked to contact Mr. Duffield regarding his current position and intentions concerning the Institute.

2007/158

Allotments

Council discussed a possible water charge in addition to the allotment rent for those allotment holders who chose to use hosepipes or sprinklers, and the arrangements by which this was to be implemented. Council discussed showing the cost of water as a separate item in the accounts, as the idea was to cover costs and not to make a profit. It also considered fining those who used hosepipes or sprinklers without consent.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the Clerk check the previous expenditure on water on Cow Lane Allotments during the last financial year.
- b) that an additional charge of £20 per plot be introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2007 for those allotment holders who used a hosepipe or sprinkler.
- c) that this charge be reviewed annually.
- d) that permits to use a hosepipe or sprinkler be issued by the Clerk on an annual basis.

2007/159

Code of Conduct

All Council members had been given a copy of the new Code of Conduct, the guidance notes issued by the Standards Board and the pocket guide. Council referred to the provisions of the new Code of Conduct, and specifically considered clause 12(2) regarding the right of members with a prejudicial interest to make representations at meetings.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the mandatory conditions set out in the Model Code of Conduct set out in Statutory Instrument 2007/1159 be adopted as the Marcham Parish Council Code of Conduct, to be effective from 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2007 subject to:  
the inclusion of the general principles as an Annex to the Code with a footnote to explain that it is not part of the Code but is included as an Annex because of the requirement in paragraph 1(2) of the Code for members to have regard to the principles.
- b) that standing orders be reviewed to take account of the adoption of clause 12(2).
- c) that the offer from the Vale of White Horse District Council to prepare and fund the required press advertisement regarding the Code be accepted.
- d) that the Monitoring Officer at the Vale of White Horse District Council be advised that the Code had been adopted.

2007/160

Oxfordshire County Council – Review of External Transport Posts

Council considered this consultation paper from the County Council. It was aware of some benefits of the posts as advice had been sought by villagers on transport issues. Council believed the posts to be of benefit, but could not comment on how the County Council supported or financed the posts.

RESOLVED:

that a letter be written to the County Council in support of the retention of the posts as they had been of benefit to people in this parish, but indicating that the eventual decisions on how to run the department was down to the County Council.

2007/161 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/13930/3 Close existing access and move vehicular and pedestrian access

9 Cothill

Permitted

19<sup>th</sup> June, 2007-07-12

MAR/5011/4 Demolition of existing bungalow and outbuildings. Erection of 4 x 4 bedroom dwellings, access, car parking and landscaping.

Permitted

5<sup>th</sup> July, 2007

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

MAR/37393/4 Construction of workshop and garden store

Cothill Farm House

For: J. Hoek

Comments: Council had no objections

2007/162 Correspondence

a) Oxfordshire County Council – Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework

Council noted that the County Council had delayed publishing its preferred site option paper owing to advice from the Government Office for the South East that the Core Strategy needed to be more specific as to where future waste and minerals development would take place in the county.

b) Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – Spring/summer Review and June Bulletin

Council noted receipt of these documents.

c) Oxfordshire Community Foundation - Report 2005/06

Council noted receipt of the Report.

- d) Thames Valley Police Open Day – 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2007  
Council noted receipt of the details of the Police Museum open day.
- e) National Association of Local Councils – Cracking the Code  
Council noted details of a training day on the new Code of Conduct which would take place on 19<sup>th</sup> July in Birmingham.
- f) Vale of White Horse District Council – Summons and Agenda 18<sup>th</sup> July  
Council noted receipt of the Summons and Agenda.
- g) Oxfordshire County Council – Provision of caravan site for gypsies and travellers in Oxfordshire  
Council noted this consultation paper which required a response by 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

RESOLVED:

That any response be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman.

2007/163

Accounts

Council received a report from the internal auditor. Council noted the recommendation that as the total payments were referred in the minutes, a separate signed monthly list of cheques should be produced in addition to the list on the Clerk's report.

The Clerk presented the receipts and payment accounts for the year ending 31st March 2007. The Clerk reported that the changed annual governance statement required Council to confirm that it had carried out an effective review of internal audit procedures. This was a new declaration as far as the external auditor was concerned, and as this Council had not done so during this financial year, no such confirmation could be given.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that council approve the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2007 as presented.
- (ii) that Council approve the governance of assurance required by the external auditor BDO Stoy Hayward on the annual return, subject to declaring that a review of internal audit procedures had not been carried out during the financial year 2006/07.

Council noted the list of cheques to be signed and authorised payments totalling £2483.58 in respect of administration costs, play area maintenance, grass cutting, recreation, and signs for the bus shelter.

2007/ 164 Matters Raised by members for information

Weeds

The height of the weeds in Howard Cornish Road near the junction with North Street were becoming a problem as people found it difficult to cross the road.

North Street – Ponding of Water

It was reported that following heavy rainfall, water was ponding in the road. This was particularly difficult for pedestrians as there was no footway.

Police Neighbourhood Action Group

NAG had been preparing an environmental visual audit of issues within the parish, including potholes, weeds etc. This would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Mr. H. Smith

It was reported that the Mr. H. Smith, husband of former Councillor and Chairman of the Council Mrs. Joyce Smith, had died. Council asked the Clerk to send a letter of condolence to Mrs. Smith from the Parish Council.

Denman College Open Day

It was reported that owing to the open day at Denman College, there may be an increase in vehicles in the village. It was noted that Mr. Cumber had agreed that drivers could park in the field near the war memorial.

Sheepstead Road - Pothole

It was reported that the pothole in Sheepstead Road still had not been repaired, although more than one member and the Clerk had reported it.

Wild flower verges

It was suggested that wildflower seed on the verges would improve the appearance of the village and would prevent the need for mowing too regularly. The Clerk was asked to find out about the possibility of this.

2007/165 Items for MAD News

Council noted the list of items for inclusion in the village newsletter.

2007/166 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

Signed ..... Date .....

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

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Present:

Mr. W. Cumber (Chairman), Mr. C. Bough, Mr. M., Denton, Mrs. M. Evans,  
Mr. D. Hutchinson, Mrs. C. Ricketts, Mrs. S. Turney, Mr. D. Walton  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
2 members of the public  
Cllr. J. Hanna (District Councillor), Cllr. I. Brown (County Councillor)

- 2007/167     Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. I. Charles and also from Cllr. J. Hanna (District Councillor) and Cllr. I. Brown (County Councillor).
- 2007/168     Declarations of Interest  
Mr. Walton declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to the allotments in that his wife was an allotment tenant. Mrs. Ricketts declared a personal interest in the item relating to the allotments in that her husband was an allotment tenant. She also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the request by her husband for permission to install a water standpipe on his allotment plot. Mrs. Evans declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to flooding, in that flood water had gone into her garden.
- 2007/169     Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2007  
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings, subject to amending the following typing errors.  
Minute 2007/156 District Councillor's report. Delete the words "she had been" from the second line.  
Minute 2007/152 Traffic Trial. Delete the word "that" from the second line.  
Minute 2007/161 Planning application 9 Cothill – Delete the additional numbers from the date.  
Minute 2007/162 Accounts – Add the word "to" in the second line "were referred to in the minutes".
- 2007/170     Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2007  
  
There were no matters arising.  
  
With the consent of Council, the Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow comments from the public.
- 2007/171     Public Participation

Allotment water charges

Mr. Collins referred to the Council's decision to make a supplementary charge for those who used hosepipes. As a hosepipe user he felt that he should not be expected to pay and subsidise the people who would not be using a hosepipe and therefore not charged a supplementary amount, as these users too could use large volumes of water. He suggested that the costs of the water be charged equally between everyone.

A415 Traffic Trial

Mr. R. Anderson referred to his disappointment at the early stopping of the traffic light experiment. It was understood that this had been done at the request of the emergency services. Mr. Anderson commented that the emergency services had found alternate routes when the A415 has had to be closed.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

2007/172

County Councillor's Report

No report from Cllr. Brown was available.

2007/173

District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Hanna had passed a report to the Clerk. This referred to her meeting with Mr. Duffield on the question of his offer to purchase the Institute. An offer had been made at the asking price, but had been turned down with no explanation given. Mr. Bough stated that the Anson Trust had taken the decision to market the Institute, partly to make it clear that it was the Trust's intention to dispose of the Institute, and to see what value could be obtained. It had been marketed at offers over £500,000. More than one offer had been received. The site, however, had the restrictions of the s. 106 planning agreement, and therefore the offers did not represent the true value of the site, which would be higher should the restrictions be lifted. The Trust had to demonstrate to the Charity Commission that it was obtaining the true value of the site.

Cllr. Hanna would meet with the Anson Trust on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

The report from Cllr. Hanna also mentioned that the Vale of White Horse District Council had offered £250 compensation to each property affected by the recent flooding in the district.

2007/174

Allotments

Council considered comments received from some allotment holders on the proposed supplementary charge for the use of a hosepipe. It was felt that using a hosepipe would use more water, and this was generally accepted by Thames Water. Council discussed the fact that water was an important resource and that the figures for consumption on the allotments should be made public. This could be explained in terms of the number of watering cans full, so that the

allotment holders could understand the true costs involved. Council considered an option of making an additional charge now for the water costs based on a per plot basis. A further charge for using a hosepipe could be introduced later. Council also referred to potential costs for grass cutting/maintenance on the unworked allotments.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Standing Order no. 40 regarding the rescission of decisions be suspended
- (ii) that the Council's previous decision to charge a supplementary charge for the use of a hosepipe be rescinded
- (iii) that a supplementary charge for water be imposed on all allotment holders at Cow Lane.
- (iv) that allotment holders at the Cow Lane allotments be notified that the last 12 months charges for water will be divided equally among them, and will be collected when next collecting the rent.

Mrs. Ricketts left the room

Council considered a request from Mr. N. Ricketts to install a standpipe on his allotment plot. Council was concerned that there may have been unauthorised standpipes installed in the past. There should only be 2 standpipes off the central path. Council considered that it would best in the first instance to achieve an understanding of what was on the site.

RESOLVED:

that permission to install a standpipe on a plot be refused.

Mrs. Ricketts rejoined the meeting.

2007/175

Arboretum

Council noted that the tap in the arboretum had been leaking. The Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, had instructed Mr. M. Davies, general builder, to carry out repairs.

RESOLVED:

that this action be ratified.

2007/176

A415 Traffic Trial

Some members regretted the early termination of the traffic trial, and commented that it would be difficult to reach an early conclusion with limited knowledge. Council discussed lodging a request for a further trial and holding a meeting with the officers.

RESOLVED:

that the Packhorse Lane Action Group for Safety be asked its opinion

2007/177

Flooding

Council noted receipt of flooding information pack from the Vale of White Horse District Council. It was suggested that this be placed in MAD News.

It had been noted that as so many floods had taken place at the same time, the road closure signs were not sufficient to discourage vehicles from trying to get through. It was suggested that each village should have volunteers to man the closure points.

It was suggested that the source of the problem of flooding in the village had originated from Marcham brook and water from the west of the village. It was thought that trees were in some of the water ways in Denman College grounds, and that its lake had not been dredged for many years. It was felt important to understand the whole water course.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Environment Agency be asked to carry out an assessment to determine the source of the problem locally and to see how it could be avoided in the future.
- (ii) that the Environment Agency be invited to attend a meeting of the Council.

2007/178

National Association of Local Councils – Community Award Scheme

Council had resolved to enter this competition earlier in the year. It had been invited to send a representative to the annual conference at Bournemouth on 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> October. Mr. Cumber and Mr. Denton indicated that they may be able to attend. The arrangements would be finalised outside of the meeting.

2007/179

Vale of White Horse District Council – Review of Polling Places

Council noted that the District Council was carrying out a review of polling places and was inviting comments on the use of the existing premises particularly in regard to access difficulties and facilities offered.

RESOLVED:

that this Council is of the opinion that the facilities at the pavilion were adequate for the purposes of holding elections.

2007/180

Neighbourhood Action Group – Environmental Audit

Council noted that the Police Community Support Officer and two

representatives from the NAG group had taken photographs of negative effects in the village such as weeds, poor street lighting, potholes, boarded up shop, and graffiti. This file had been given to the Police with the intention that it be passed to agencies and individuals responsible for addressing the problems. The photographs were available for viewing by members.

2007/181

Wild Flower Verges

Council considered comments from the County Council and Vale of White Horse District Council on the creation of wild flower verges. It was suggested that these could be considered for the arboretum or the Churchyard. It was thought that whilst it was a nice idea, in practice it may be difficult to sustain and maintain the areas.

RESOLVED:

that no action be taken to create wild flower areas.

2007/182

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/7342/1 Erection of conservatory  
Prospect Cottage 5 Priory Lane  
Permitted 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2007

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

MAR/7342/1 Erection of conservatory  
Prospect Cottage 5 Priory Lane  
For: Mrs. L. Gray  
Comments: Council had no objections

c) Applications dealt with at the meeting

There were no applications to be considered

2007/183

Correspondence

a) Vale of White Horse District Council – Notice of extraordinary meeting of The Council to discuss flooding – 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2007

b) Oxfordshire County Council – Minerals and Waste Development Framework

Council noted that a new minerals and waste plan was being prepared. The core strategy was being amended to take into account points made by the Government Office for the South East. Consultants were undertaking a

technical assessment of identified waste sites. 100 mineral sites had been identified and a preferred short list was being prepared. This would go out for public consultation in 2008.

- c) Thames Water - Interim Report on Stage 2 involvement – Reservoir  
Council noted receipt of the report.
- d) South East England – Panel Report  
Council noted receipt of the Report on the examination in public. This recommended a review of the Oxford green belt.
- e) Vale of White Horse District Council – Electric Blanket Testing  
Council noted that the electric blanket testing would take place at Abingdon fire station, Ock Street on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September.
- f) Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – News Bulletin August 2007 and Notice of the Annual General Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> October  
Council noted details of these events.
- g) Vale of White Horse District Council – Working in Partnership  
Council noted details of a reception being held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September at the Guildhall, Abingdon.
- h) Vale of White Horse District Council – Meeting to discuss the development framework 9<sup>th</sup> October in Wantage Civic Hall at 7.00 p.m.  
Council noted the details of this meeting.

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Denton, Mrs. Evans and Mr. Hutchinson represent the Council at the meeting.

- i) Vale of White Horse District Council – draft Licensing Policy  
Council noted that the draft policy was available for viewing on the District Council's website.

2007/184

Accounts

Council considered the setting up of a working party whose remit would be to review the effectiveness of the internal audit. Council noted that the Council was required to carry out such a review under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 which came into effect in 2006.

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Cumber and Mr. Walton consider the

effectiveness of the internal audit in the first instance and report to Council.

Council noted the list of cheques to be signed and authorised payments totalling £5480.65 in respect of administration costs, play area maintenance, reglazing of bus shelter, repairs to tap at the arboretum and water costs on the allotments.

2007/ 185 Matters Raised by members for information  
Noticeboard

It was reported that this had become faded and uninteresting. The Clerk was asked to seek quotations for replacing the baize backing in order to brighten it up and also to assess whether it needed staining.

Longfields Play Area/Access road

It was reported that this area had been seeded, but a mains water pipe had been left sticking out the ground and children tended to play with the water. This was not an area of responsibility for the Parish Council. Mrs. Turney would report this matter to Sovereign Housing Association.

It was also reported that the promised rumble strip to slow traffic on the access road had not been included. The Clerk confirmed this had been queried, but the advice given was that Gemma BDS the agents for the Oxford Rural Housing Partnership, who negotiated with the County Council on the highway issues, had agreed to delete this on cost grounds. The Clerk would approach the County Council direct.

Highway matters

It was mentioned that the pothole in Sheepstead Road had a white line painted round it, but there was no indication of when it was to be repaired. In addition concerns were raised by the parking of vehicles in Howard Cornish Road, particularly on the bends.

Group Against the Reservoir Development

The Chairman handed the Clerk a letter and leaflets which he had been given. This information would be an agenda item for next time for discussion.

2007/186 Items for MAD News

Council noted the list of items for inclusion in the village newsletter. The Clerk was asked to include an item regarding “trick or treat” and Halloween, to encourage those who participated in this to adopt a safe attitude and respect the wishes of those who did not support the aims.

2007/187 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2007 in the residents’ lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

Signed ..... Date .....

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

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Present:

Mr. W. Cumber (Chairman), Mr. C. Bough, Mr. M., Denton, Mrs. M. Evans,  
Mr. D. Hutchinson, Mrs. S. Turney, Mr. D. Walton  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
2 members of the public  
Cllr. I. Brown (County Councillor)  
Joined by Mrs. Allan

- 2007/188     Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. I. Charles and  
Mrs. C. Ricketts also from Cllr. J. Hanna (District Councillor).
- 2007/189     Declarations of Interest  
Mr. Walton declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to the  
allotments in that his wife was an allotment tenant. Mr. Denton declared a  
personal interest in the agenda item relating to the planning application at the  
Frilford Service Station in that he was an employee of the Service Station. Mr.  
Cumber declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to  
correspondence from the "Group Against the Reservoir Development" in that he  
was a Director of W. Cumber and Son (Theale) Ltd who owned land in the area  
where the reservoir was proposed.
- 2007/190     Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2007  
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.  
  
Mrs. Allan joined the meeting.
- 2007/191     Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2007  
  
NALC – Community Empowerment Awards  
Council noted that Marcham had not been successful in the housing section of  
this competition.  
  
Longfields Rumble Strip  
Council noted that the County Council had confirmed that it would look into  
this matter. The Clerk referred to a letter from Sovereign Housing Association  
which indicated that the strip had been left out as it had been felt that the strip  
would be ineffective and a maintenance liability for the local authority, and that  
the nearby 90° bend with its own rumble strip would act as traffic calming, and  
another strip close to driveways would probably have resulted in complaints  
from residents. Concerns were raised with regard to speeding traffic and it was  
suggested that signs were required. The Police were aware of certain speed  
infringements.

### Sheepstead Road - Pothole

Council noted that the pothole near Cow Lane had been repaired.

With the consent of Council, the Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow comments from the public.

2007/192

### Public Participation

#### A415 Traffic Trial

Mrs. Timberlake commented that the County Council had not given feedback on the trial and she was not aware whether the County Council was planning another trial. She confirmed that Packhorse Lane Action Group for Safety was divided in its view. Some appreciated the opportunity to walk in safety, others were concerned with the speed and noise of traffic. She asked the Parish Council to consider the need to control traffic through the village and look at measures such as a pinch point, or speed camera if the County Council say that the pedestrian footway is not a viable option.

#### The Anson Trust Proposals

Mr. Anderson raised concerns regarding a letter in the MAD News referring to a survey undertaken by the Neighbours Around the Field group. He believed the letter to contain inaccuracies and he would respond in the next issue of the village newsletter. He outlined why the NAF group had undertaken the survey and reminded members of the results. He provided members with copies of the survey questionnaire.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

2007/193

### County Councillor's Report

#### A415 Traffic Trial

Cllr. Brown confirmed that funding for a permanent scheme (pedestrian footway) was available, but it required to know what the village wanted as it would not support the project if it was unpopular. There was no known accident record at pinch point.

#### Longfields Rumble Strip

Cllr. Brown commented that it was the responsibility of the Police to enforce traffic speeding. He felt it was impossible for the County Council to engineer all speeding problems out of road design.

#### Bus Service

Cllr. Brown commented on the early morning X15 RH Transport Service which could not negotiate the junction at North Street/A415 owing to vehicles parked close to the junction. He recommended painting double yellow lines and Police enforcement for those parked in breach of Highway Code regulations.

#### Reservoir

Cllr. Brown commented that Thames Water Utilities Ltd had indicated that one

reason for the new reservoir was that they could not recharge aquifers, yet it appeared that they had achieved this in other areas.

#### Planning

Cllr. Brown indicated that he had attended a meeting in Letcombe where there had been discussions regarding the Environment Agency having a veto over the planning authority where the construction of houses in the flood plain was involved.

#### Campaign to Protect Rural England – Oxfordshire Briefing – South East Plan

Cllr. Brown advised members of a CPRE briefing on the contents of the South East Plan report.

2007/194

#### Allotments

Council noted a report from the Clerk who had been in attendance collecting allotment rents earlier that day. Three tenants had surrendered their plots, and three new residents had come forward looking for plots. The proposal for charging separately for water had been reasonably well received, although one tenant had not agreed with the idea.

2007/195

#### A415 Traffic Trial

Council noted that the County Council had not received many replies on the traffic trial. It did require comments from the village in order to decide on whether to proceed with the footway or not. It was therefore planning to undertake a letter drop to each household with a response form and pre-paid envelope. Council noted that the County Council would also require a resolution from the Parish Council as to whether it supported the idea of a footway or not. Council considered that it would require as much information as possible in order to reach a resolution.

#### RESOLVED:

- (i) that the County Council be asked to supply the results of its response forms to the Parish Council, providing details of the comments and reasons if there were objections.
- (ii) that the County Council also be asked to supply a report on the view of the emergency services.
- (iii) that a consensus view from PLAGS be obtained.

2007/196

#### A415- Try Homes/Linden Homes new development

Council considered complaints received regarding advertising displays and flags at the edge of the development site close to the A415 which could be a distraction for motorists.

#### RESOLVED:

that these be reported to the Enforcement Officer at the Vale of White Horse District Council.

2007/197

Bus Services

X15 – Witney to Abingdon

Council noted receipt of complaints that the early morning bus which was a 6 wheeled double decker could not negotiate the junction of the A415 and North Street owing to parked vehicles. This had resulted in the bus travelling along the A415 and leaving passengers behind in North Street and Howard Cornish Road. The Clerk had liaised with the Police who had undertaken to speak with the businesses either side of the North Street junction, and check for parked cars. Council considered the provision of yellow lines, but appreciated that these had been considered before without success.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that an article be placed in MAD News asking residents not to park close to the junction
- (ii) that Mr. Denton refer this matter to the Neighbourhood Action Group.

32/33 Stagecoach Service

Council noted that the County Council discussed the new contracts for subsidised bus services on 4<sup>th</sup> October. It appeared that a service from Wantage would run through Marcham. Council considered the timetabling and noted the gap of 1½ hours between 8.26 and 9.56 which it thought excessive

RESOLVED:

that a letter be sent to Stagecoach congratulating the company on its success of being awarded the contract, and in order to help advertise the timetable and route enquire whether any increase in the frequency of service was planned.

2007/198

Parish and Town Council's evening – hosted by County Council and Vale of White Horse District Council

Council received a report from Mrs. Evans who had attended this meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September. She reported on the proposed Local Development Framework and outlined its constituent sections. This would be combined with the Vale Community Strategy which dealt with the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Vale. The Development Framework included a requirement for the County Council to produce a strategic flood risk assessment and the Parish Council considered setting up a working party to consider local flooding issues and the preparation of a flood risk assessment and action plan for Marcham.

The Clerk reported that she had liaised with the Environment Agency, who were

working with the County and District Councils in regard to flooding, but unfortunately could not attend a Parish Council meeting at this time. The agency was unaware of the specific details of Marcham's flooding and the Clerk had sent them the list of properties affected with the notes that had been issued to the District Council. The Agency undertook to include Marcham in its report that it was preparing.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a working party be set up comprising Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Turney and Mr. Denton to consider the issue of flooding within Marcham and the preparation of a local resilience plan
- (ii) that co-optees be invited by the Working Party to join the group if required.

2007/199 Parish and Town Council's evening 9<sup>th</sup> October hosted by the Vale of White Horse District Council

Mr. Denton and Mr. Hutchinson gave a report on this meeting which they had attended. At the meeting they had considered the issues that were important over the next 10-20 years such as Business, social, new development etc. with focus on the sites for new housing.

2007/200 Remembrance Sunday – Closure of A415

Council discussed the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday. The Clerk had applied to the Vale of White Horse District Council for a road closure order. Mr. Denton had cleared the war memorial, but would check it again prior to the event.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Clerk contact the Police to ask for assistance with traffic control
- (ii) that Mr. Denton be the Council's representative in Church and read the lesson, and lay the wreath.

2007/201 The Arthur Anson Memorial Trust Ltd

Council noted that under the terms of the Articles of Association of the Arthur Anson Memorial Trust Ltd the Council could nominate two individuals to be Trustees of the charity for a maximum term of office of 3 years, eligible to be re-nominated for one further 3 year term. The term of office of the existing nominees had now expired. Council considered whether it wished to take up its option to nominate Trustees, whether it should nominate the same Trustees as it had previously or change one or both of them. It also considered whether it should advertise in MAD News and invite people who wished to be considered for nomination to contact the Clerk. It appreciated that those to be considered would have to be prepared to commit much time and effort to the Trust.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that an article be placed in MAD News requesting expressions of interest from anyone who wished to be considered for nomination to be lodged with the Clerk.
- (ii) that Mr. Bough and Mr. Denton, being 2 of the Trustees, and knowledgeable of the demands of being a Trustee, draft an article for MAD News
- (iii) that the draft article be circulated to all members and Clerk for approval.

2007/202

Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils / Vale of White Horse District Council – Training event

Council noted that a training session on Risk Assessment and the Freedom of Information Act would be held at Stratfield Break pavilion, Kidlington on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Training on the Code of Conduct 2007 would take place at Wantage Civic Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Clerk attend the training session on Risk Assessment and Freedom of Information Act
- (ii) that Council fund the cost of the training in the sum of £40 plus vat
- (iii) that members notify the Clerk of which training session on the Code of Conduct they would wish to attend.

2007/203

Group Against the Reservoir Development

Council considered a letter from GARD asking whether there were any groups in the village which were willing to co-operate with GARD, and asking for an indication of collective or individual support.

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk respond informing GARD that there were no known relevant groups in this parish.

2007/204

Campaign to Protect Rural England

Council considered a request from CPRE for the Council to join.

RESOLVED:

that the Council not become members of CPRE

2007/205

Planning Applications

- a) Decisions on previous applications

No decisions had been received

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

No applications had been received

c) Applications dealt with at the meeting

FRI/2396/19 Demolish car wash and jet wash and construct two new jet wash enclosures and car wash, install new fuel tank and pumps

Frilford Service Station

For: Frilford Service Station

Comments: Council had no objections

2007/206

Correspondence

a) Sovereign Housing Group – Key Performance Indicators

Council noted that as a result of comments submitted on the Longfields housing development, in future the Housing Association would try to arrange that a representative from the Association visit a Parish Council meeting during the construction stage.

b) Oxfordshire County Council – Casualty Report 2006

Council noted receipt of the report.

c) Vale of White Horse District Council – Clearance of Advertising clutter

Council noted that the District Council had increased its campaign to reduce unauthorised litter.

d) DEFRA – Ways to tackle climate change

Council noted receipt of this information

e) Parish Plan event

Council noted an event on parish plan at Steventon village hall on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Mr. Denton expressed an interest in attending.

f) O.R.C.C. – Village shop of the year competition

Council noted the details of this year's competition

2007/207

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques to be signed and authorised payments totalling £2503.87 in respect of administration costs, grass cutting, and donation.

2007/ 208

Matters Raised by members for information

Denman College wall alongside public footpath

Council was asked to note that the arches at the base of the wall on the northern side of the footpath from the Church were fox holes from the days when the Berkshire hunt passed through the village rather than over flow areas for the Denman lake.

A415 – hedge alongside cycle track

It was reported that although the hedge and trees on the Northern side of the A415 towards Abingdon had been cut back, that on the Southern side close to the allotment site was still in need of cutting. Council would monitor this.

Haines Court – parking

It was reported that 4 vans were regularly parking in the cul-de-sac together with numerous cars which were making it difficult to vehicles to manoeuvre and some even had to reverse out of Haines Court. The Clerk was asked to write to the owner of the vans.

Marcham Youth Club

Mr. Hutchinson, as Chairman of the Youth Club reported that there was a possibility that it would close, and asked that if this happened whether the Parish Council would hold the balance of any funds in its account, earmarked for the Youth Club should it reopen. Council noted that an article regarding the possible closure would appear in the next issue of MAD News

Footway between North Street and Parkside

It was reported that there were overhanging trees from the cottage at the side of this path which were causing problems for people trying to walk it. The Clerk was asked to contact the property owner in the first instance to see whether they could be cut back.

Longfields – possible play area

Mr. Cumber stated that he had emailed members with a copy of a suggested draft Licence between W. Cumber and Son (Theale) Ltd and the Parish Council with regard to the play area in Longfields. This would be a matter for discussion at the next meeting.

The Anson field – play area

Council noted that the play area was now installed. It had been noticed that some of the paint on the equipment was already wearing. It was suggested that a formal opening be planned.

2007/209

Items for MAD News

Council noted the list of items for inclusion in the village newsletter.

2007/210

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

Signed ..... Date .....

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. W. Cumber (Chairman), Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. C. Bough, Mr. I. Charles,  
Mr. M., Denton, Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson, Mrs. C. Ricketts,  
Mrs. S. Turney, Mr. D. Walton  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
Cllr. J. Hanna (District Councillor)

- 2007/211     Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. I. Brown (County Councillor)
- 2007/212     Declarations of Interest  
Mr. Cumber declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the draft Licence for the proposed amenity area at Longfields in that he was a Director of W. Cumber and Son (Theale) Ltd who owned the land. Mr. Bough declared a personal interest in the grant application by the Anson Trust in that he was a Director of the Trust, and the Council's representative on the Anson Field Management Committee. Mr. Denton declared a personal interest in the grant application by the Anson Trust in that he was a Director of the Trust. Mr. Hutchinson declared a personal interest in the grant application by the Ven. Eddie Shirras for funding for a Youth and Children's Minister in that he was a member of the Advisory Committee for the Youth Worker. He also declared a personal interest in the item relating to the grant application by the Marcham Players in that he was on the Committee for this organisation. Mrs. Ricketts declared a personal interest in the item relating to the grant application by Marcham Pre-School in that she was a member of the Pre-School Committee.
- 2007/213     Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2007  
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.
- 2007/214     Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2007
- Longfields – Rumble Strip  
There was no further news from the County Council on the possible rumble strip in Longfields.
- The Anson Trust – Director  
There had been 3 enquiries but no firm expressions of interest lodged with the Clerk for consideration as nominees to the Anson Trust Board of Directors.

In order to allow more time to receive applications, the Clerk would place a brief article in the next edition of MAD News to remind anyone interested to apply.

#### Hedge Cutting / Overhanging growth

Queries were raised as to progress with getting the allotment hedge cut opposite the Church and near the footway from the Old Vicarage into Parkside, and also the overhanging growth on the path from North Street to Parkside. The Clerk would check with the handyman to ensure these were dealt with.

#### Longfields – Proposed Play Area

It was reported that the water pipe was still protruding from the ground, although it was understood that Sovereign Housing Association had agreed back in July to remove it. Mr. Cumber offered to take this up with them.

#### Remembrance Sunday

It was noted that the Police Beat Officer P.C. Reece and the Community Support Officer Ms. Schmitt attended the service and helped with traffic control on the A415 during the parade to the wayside cross. Council asked the Clerk to write and thank them. Queries were raised as to why the Parish Council was not the first to lay its wreath at the wayside cross. This had happened for the past 2 years only, whereas previously the Council had always been the first to commemorate those who died from Marcham. The Clerk was asked to have a forward diary item for September/October 2008 to consider this in time for the next Remembrance Sunday service.

Council noted a letter of thanks for its donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

#### Try / Linden Homes development site on Packhorse Lane

Council noted that advertising signs had been removed, but flags had now been erected. The Clerk referred to the Control of Advertisement information just received from the Department of Local Government and Communities. This permitted the erection of temporary advertisements on construction sites without the need for obtaining planning consent.

2007/215

#### Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

It was suggested that the public could be better limited as to the time they spoke, as sometimes it delayed Council business. However, it was felt equally important that speakers be able to complete the main points of what they wanted to say. The Chairman noted these comments for future meeting.

2007/216

#### County Councillor's Report

In the absence of the County Councillor, the Clerk referred to a note given by Cllr. Brown when giving his apologies. This stated that Thames Water's consultants, Dialogue by Design had set up a panel to gauge local opinion as to the reservoir. However, the panel members' details were being kept secret, as

were the agendas and minutes. No information was in the public domain, yet it was the local public and its opinions which were key to this. Various questions were being asked.

2007/217

District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Hanna apologised for her absence from the last meeting. Her working group on the Anson Trust matters would meet again on 30<sup>th</sup> November. She expressed interest in the Parish Council's flood working party, and she had managed to visit some houses affected by flooding back in the Summer. She confirmed she had been working behind the scenes on queries with on the planning application for 4 dwellings on the site of Cotsdale, Abingdon Road. She had met with Mr. Rodger Hood, the Deputy Director of Planning and Community Strategy and planning officers at the District Council.

With the agreement of Council, the agenda order was altered so that a report from the Flood Working Party could be given.

2007/218

Flood Working Party

Mr. Denton gave a report on the first meeting of the working party which comprised himself, Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Turney. The Working Party suggested various measures that could be considered to help assist in times of emergency should flooding occur again and investigations as to diverting water elsewhere, the part that the Denman lake played and the involvement of the Environment Agency. He circulated the list of suggested measures for future consideration, and this would be an agenda item for the next meeting. He stated that he and Mrs. Evans would be attending the trade fair on flood products the following day. Cllr. Hanna added that the Vale of White Horse District Council had made a small payment of £250 to residents affected by flooding and who had lodged their claim with the District Council.

Cllr. Ms. Hanna left the meeting.

2007/219

Planning Applications previously granted consent

MAR/5011/4 Cotsdale, Abingdon Road – Erection of 4 dwellings

Council noted a report from Mr. Hutchinson. When consent was granted for this application it was envisaged that slab levels would be reduced. It appeared that the Vale of White Horse District Council had approved ground levels as existing. Mr. Hutchinson had received representations from Mr. J. Martin on behalf of neighbours regarding this. Mr. Hutchinson had liaised with Cllr. Hanna and they together had pursued the matter with the Vale of White Horse District Council. A site meeting had taken place and with the co-operation of Cranbourne Homes Ltd, the developer, a reduction of 40% in ground levels of

what had been expected had been agreed. There were some administrative and procedural matters outstanding which may be followed up separately and did not involve the Parish Council.

MAR/1976/1 Timber yard, Packhorse Lane – Erection of 10 dwellings

When planning consent was granted there was a requirement that a 2m wide footway should be constructed at the front. It appeared that the area left may be narrower than required and may therefore not comply with the planning condition. The Chairman had measured the depth and it was 2m or slightly more. Council continued to discuss the development and what appeared to be accesses on to the path from the front of the dwellings and expressed concern that should this be the case that once on the path there was no easy way to cross the road. It was suggested that the path should continue eastwards as far as the entrance into the Priory/Prior Lodge to enable better vision for pedestrians crossing the road and so that pedestrians could cross at a point where there was a path the other side.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Clerk check the planning consent to see whether there were to be accesses on to the A415.
- (ii) that if this were the case then the Clerk to investigate the possibility of extending the path in an eastwards direction.
- (iii) that members be kept informed

2007/220

Bus Services

Council noted that Stagecoach had accepted the Parish Council's offer to help advertise the new timetable which would commence from 9<sup>th</sup> December. The service no. 31 Wantage to Oxford would return to running all day and would increase to a 30 minute service from the current hourly frequency. The morning "gap" in service would be reduced

2007/221

Play Areas

The Anson Field

Council considered the purchase of a bench seat for the play area and the re-installation of the ownership sign which was in store at Manor Farm. Council considered wooden benches, metal or recycled plastic. It thought that the purchase of a new ownership sign might be preferable to erecting the old one. Council considered the RoSPA report and noted that the arms under the roundabout had been adjusted by Wicksteed Leisure Ltd to eliminate the grinding noise referred to. Other items such as clearing algae from safety surfacing and building up ground levels to prevent trip hazards could be referred to the handyman to carry out. Council considered a formal opening of the new play area. Comments were made that there were large quantities of litter

collecting and there was possibly under age drinking. The Neighbourhood Action Group had approached the Police Beat Officer and the Community Support Officer and they were keeping an eye on the area as well as speaking with the local shops regarding the sale of alcohol. Members discussed having seen teenagers using the new play equipment and also dogs within the area. It was suggested that the ownership sign indicate that the equipment was not suitable for people over a certain age. Discussion continued regarding the youth shelter adjacent to the play area site which was looking untidy alongside the new play equipment. It was suggested that a new shelter be erected elsewhere in the recreation ground and that enquiries be made of the Anson Trust as to whether this was possible.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a recycled plastic bench seat be purchased for the play area.
- (ii) that Mr. Cumber check the original ownership sign in storage at the farm, and consideration be given to purchasing a new sign indicating the age limit for the equipment.
- (iii) that that handyman be asked to deal as soon as possible with the issues raised in the RoSPA report – algae on safety surfaces and steps to slide, potential trip hazards and build up the surrounding area surround.
- (iv) that the handyman also be asked to clear the litter.
- (v) that the Council purchase a recycled plastic bench seat for the play area. The estimate cost was £395 plus carriage and vat.
- (vi) that a formal opening be postponed until the Spring when there had been an opportunity for a seat and sign to be installed and the old equipment re-painted.
- (vii) that the Anson Trust be asked their opinion on relocating the position of the youth shelter within the Anson Field, with a view to erecting a new shelter.

Longfields

Council considered the RoSPA report on fencing and noted that a restraining wire on the rear fence was recommended.

Mr. Cumber left the room

Council considered the terms of the draft Licence. It was felt that it was

generally acceptable, but the Clerk listed suggested improvements to the wording of some clauses.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Clerk in the first instance ask Mr. Cumber to consider the suggested amendments
- (ii) that the Licence be accepted as it is should he not wish to change the wording.

2007/222

Grant Applications

Council considered grant applications received

Mr. Cumber declared a personal interest in the following application in that Marcham Players were now arranging productions in a barn in the ownership of W. Cumber and Son (Theale) Ltd, a company of which he was a Director.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that £500 be set aside under s. 145 Local Government Act 1972 for Marcham Players towards their expenses of providing productions in the parish.
- (ii) that under s. 137 Local Government Act 1972 the following grants be awarded where there is benefit to some or all of the community.

Marcham Senior Citizens Club	£250
Duffield Place Sunshine Club	£250
South and Vale Carers Centre	£75

- (iii) that £1500 per annum for 3 years be set aside under s. 137 Local Government Act 1972 to provide an annual grant to Marcham Parochial Church Council to provide a Youth and Children's Minister
- (iv) that £2000 be set aside under s. 137 Local Government Act 1972 for Marcham Pre-School towards the construction costs of a canopy to provide an outside all weather play area. That this sum only be paid when quotations for the work are provided to Council..

- (v) that the sum of £750 be awarded to the Anson Field Management Committee under s. 19 Local Government (Misc.Prov.) Act 1976 towards the expenses of grass cutting in the recreation ground
- (vi) that the sum of £300 be awarded under s. 142 Local Government Act 1972 to the Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau.
- (ii) that no grants be awarded to the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, Victim Support Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire Chinese Community and Advice Centre, Sunningwell School of Art, Root and Branch Watchfield, and Oxfordshire Children's Information Service.

2007/223

Letter from Mrs. J. Owsnett

Council considered a letter from Mrs. Owsnett who expressed concern about the state of the village and its cracked uneven pavements, weeds growing from paths and the edge of boundary walls, overhanging bushes, verges in need of cutting and the copse at the junction of New Road and Parkside which needed tidying up as well as the condition of the shop area in Haines Court. A member referred to a litter bin which used to be in place but was now missing. It was noted that most of these items were outside the control of the Parish Council. It was suggested that the environmental audit undertaken by the Neighbourhood Action Group could be sent to the relevant agencies. It was suggested that regular checks be made of the work undertaken by the handyman. Mr. Denton and Mr. Charles offered to liaise over this. A member referred to the leaves coming off the trees in Parkside which made the paths slippery.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Vale of White Horse District Council be contacted regarding the untidy state of its property in Haines Court (former newsagent shop)
- (ii) that Mr. Charles and Mr. Denton liaise over the environmental audit and monitoring of the litter picking and other work undertaken by the handyman.
- (iii) that Mrs. Owsnett be advised that the Council had taken an interest in her letter and steps were being taken as far as it was able and it was advising other relevant agencies of the matters she mentioned.

Planning Applicationsa) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/18490/1 Demolition of two single garages and the erection of a double garage. Alterations to existing flat roofed dormer window to provide pitched roof.

The Warren, Faringdon Road

Permitted 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2007

MAR/3793/4 Construction of a workshop and garden store (part retrospective)

Cothill Farm House, Blackhorse Lane

Permitted 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2007

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

MAR/3312/28 Insertion of 35 geothermal boreholes in lawn to provide ground source heating

Denman College

For: Womens' Institutes

Comments: Council had no objections

MAR/19490/1 Demolition of 2 single garages and erection of double garage. Alterations to existing flat roofed dormer window to provide pitched roof.

The Warren, Faringdon Road

For: Mr and Mrs D. Barnes

Comments: Council had no objections

c) Applications dealt with at the meeting

MAR/20333 One and a half storey extension to provide sitting room and home office with studio space

The Clockhouse, Sheepstead Road

For: Mr and Mrs. Dunning

Council discussed this application in detail and various points were raised regarding the use of the building, access to The Fosse, the aesthetics and relation in size of the extension to the original building and its location near the green belt.

Comments: Council resolved that the only comment to be submitted to the District Council was that about parking and to ensure that adequate parking facilities were available for the use of the building and to ensure the unobstructed access to the property to the rear.

2007/225

Correspondence

a) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Winter General Meeting

Council noted that this would take place on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November at Stratfield Brake Pavilion, Kidlington at 7.30 p.m. (refreshments 7.00 p.m.)  
Speaker: ORCC and TOE on funding for community/environmental projects.

b) Vale of White Horse District Council – Garden Waste

Green sacks were to be discontinued later in 2007. Only the brown bin scheme will be operating next year.

c) Climate X Change – An organisation to facilitate climate change awareness across Oxfordshire

An offer to provide resources to support ideas – posters/speakers/films/quizzes for events in the parish. Contact Jo Hamilton – co-ordinator on 01865 275856

d) Environment Agency / National Flood Forum

A trade fair of flood defence products on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November at the Kings Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford between 3.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.

e) Communities and Local Government – Information on outdoor advertising and signs.

f) Letter – Mrs. M. Pointer (received after the agenda was prepared and agreed to be added to the list of correspondence)

Council noted receipt of a copy letter from Mrs. Pointer addressed to the County Council who was concerned about the lack of bollards at the junction of Mill Road and the A415 which should have been installed by Try Homes when constructing the 5 dwellings at The Green. Vehicles were now mounting the kerb and driving over the widened section of footway to avoid waiting in a traffic queue. This was causing a manhole cover to become displaced which then left a large hole exposed.

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk to write to the County Council to express Council's concern.

2007/226 Accounts

Owing to a report from RoSPA on the play equipment which indicated a grinding noise on the roundabout, Council had been advised to consider not paying in full the invoice for the new play equipment. However, the contractors had now rectified the problem, and Council

RESOLVED:

that the invoice for the play equipment be paid in full.

Council therefore noted the list of cheques to be signed and authorised payments totalling £212302.45 in respect of administration costs, grass cutting, bench seat, play area maintenance, donation, contribution to cemetery maintenance.

2007/ 227

Matters Raised by members for information

Church Path – Church to Cemetery

Owing to the works to reconstruct the stone wall at the side of the path damage was being caused to the path. Significant reinstatement would be required. The Clerk was asked to contact the contractor regarding this.

Arboretum - Noticeboard

It was reported that the noticeboard in the Arboretum appeared to be slightly loose and rocking. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the handyman to stabilise this.

Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit

Mr. Walton reported that he and Mr. Cumber had met to discuss this and would report to the next meeting.

Villager of the Year

It was suggested that an article appear in MAD News inviting nominations and that a small working party of Mr. Bough and Mr. Denton produce a short list for Council to consider.

Marcham Churchyard – Sycamore tree entrance from New Road

It was reported that this tree was overshadowing the sodium light at the entrance. The Clerk was asked to contact Andrew MacLean to look at it. Mr. Cumber agreed to speak to the former secretary of the P.C.C. regarding any need for a faculty.

Howard Cornish Road - flats

It was reported that it was quite dark at the rear of the flats on the Southern side of Howard Cornish Road. The Clerk was asked to enquire of the Housing Association about the possibility of lighting.

Council - correspondence

It was suggested that members have sight of correspondence sent out in the name of the Council. The Clerk was asked to email copies of important letters

to members. Members, when instructing the Clerk to write during the meeting, would also indicate if they wished to receive the letter.

Review of Primary School Provision / Review of Post Offices

The Clerk was asked to put these items on the agenda for the next meeting.

2007/228

Items for MAD News

Council noted the list of items for inclusion in the village newsletter.

2007/229

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

Signed ..... Date .....

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

-----  
Present:

Mr. W. Cumber (Chairman), Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. I. Charles, Mr. M. Denton,  
Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson, Mr. D. Walton  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
Cllr. J. Hanna (District Councillor)

2007/230     Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. Bough and Mrs. Turney.

2007/231     Declarations of Interest  
Mr. Denton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the nomination for the Anson Trustees in that he was a Director of the Trust. Mrs. Allan declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to the nomination for the Anson Trustees in that she was married to one of the Trustees.

2007/232     Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2007  
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

2007/233     Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2007  
  
Longfields – Rumble Strip  
Council noted receipt of a letter from the County Council confirming that this would be installed.

Timber Yard – Erection of 10 dwellings  
Council noted receipt of a letter from the County Council confirming that it is investigating the possibility of extending the path on the Southern side of the A415 in an easterly direction. Further correspondence from the County Council confirmed that the terms of the s. 106 agreement with the developer required the dedication of a 3 metre strip of land along the front of the site, although a requirement of the planning consent was that 2 metres of this should be a footway. The County Council was ensuring that the terms of the s. 106 would be enforced.

A415 – Mill Road junction - bollards  
Council noted that a site meeting between the County Council and the developer had taken place. Correspondence had been received that bollards are being installed.

2007/234     Public Participation  
There were no members of the public present.

2007/235 County Councillor's Report  
In the absence of the County Councillor, no report was available.

2007/236 District Councillor's Report  
Anson Trust - Cllr. Hanna reported that she had met in the Summer with Mr. Duffield and the Anson Trustees and also more recently with the working group which was considering how best to undertake parish consultation should a planning application from the Anson Trust be lodged. The working group had suggested that two of the Trustees attend a meeting with the working group to clarify the Trust's position with regard to pre-application consultation, the planning process, timing and other relevant issues. She asked the Clerk to liaise with the Secretary of the Trust to arrange such a meeting.

2007/237 Vale of White Horse District Council - Consultation – Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision Strategy  
This document had been in circulation and read by members.

RESOLVED:

that this Council not submit comments to the Vale of White Horse District Council

2007/238 Vale of White Horse District Council – Issues and Options report for future Vale development  
Several copies of this document had been in circulation and read by members. The deadline for comments was 31<sup>st</sup> December. The members present had no comment to make.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that members submit any comments to the Clerk
- (ii) that the matter be delegated to the Clerk to respond to the Vale of White Horse District Council on behalf of the Council upon receipt of comments from members.

2007/239 Flood Working Party  
Mr. Denton gave a report on a meeting of the Flood Working Party which had taken place. A written report containing reference to a draft Flood Prevention Guide had been prepared giving information such as contact details of relevant organisations, radio stations, commercially available products to help prevent flooding, information leaflets and suggestions for being prepared and planning now for future flooding.  
The Working Party asked the Council to financially support the purchase of high visibility coats, sacks, sand, automatic level warning systems for the brook at Frilford, and the production costs of the information booklet. It also asked that letters be written to the County Council to request storm drains be cleared on a regular basis, write to the Police to seek confirmation that volunteers could man "road closed" signs, to write to the Vale Housing Association to seek the use of the residents' lounge at Duffield Place in an emergency, the

Environment Agency to request a full investigation of the water courses that affect Frilford and Marcham, and Denman College to encourage them to clear their water courses. The Chairman placed on record the Council's thanks to the working party. It was also suggested that a press release about the booklet be prepared once it was ready.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Working Party progress the drafting of a Flood Prevention Guide for distribution to the public
- (ii) that the Council writes to
  - a) the County Council requesting that the storm drains be cleared on a regular basis
  - b) the Police to seek advice on volunteers manning road closure points
  - c) the Vale Housing Association to seek the use of the residents' lounge in cases of emergency
  - d) the Environment Agency requesting a full investigation of the water courses that affect Frilford and Marcham.
  - e) Denman College to ensure that their water courses were kept clear

2007/240

A415 Traffic Trial

Council noted that the deadline for responses to the County's trial was 1<sup>st</sup> December. The County Council had not yet been able to complete its assessment of the responses and a meeting between the Cabinet member for Transport and two officers from the County Council would take place on 10<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the matter. No information would be available until after that date.

2007/241

Youth Shelter

Council noted that the Anson Trustees agreed that they would be prepared to grant a Licence to the Parish Council so that the youth shelter could be located elsewhere in the Anson field. The Trust's preference was on the South side of buildings on the field adjacent to the football training area. Council discussed whether it was really necessary to relocate the shelter or whether it could remain in its existing position. It was suggested that the existing shelter be painted and the matter reviewed in the Spring.

RESOLVED: that

- (i) the existing shelter be painted
- (ii) the matter of discussing relocating the shelter be deferred until the Spring.

2007/242

Church Path - restoration

Council noted that the Clerk had spoken with the supervisor of those reconstructing the wall along the church path. He had confirmed that Mr.

Duffield had already planned to restore the Churchyard grass surface following damage caused by a dumper truck during the reconstruction of a wall at the side of his property, and had also agreed to restore the path between the Churchyard and Cemetery.

Council discussed preferred surfacing and thought that a hoggin path would be best including the area in the Churchyard.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Clerk telephone the supervisor of the workmen to obtain his contact details
- (ii) that a letter then be written suggesting that hoggin be used along the Church path between the Cemetery and Churchyard and also in the Churchyard to the gate in Church Street.

2007/243

The Arthur Anson Memorial Trust Ltd

Council considered nominations to the Anson Trust. There were discussions as to continuity of directorships and the qualities of possible new directors. Some members wished to have the opportunity to speak with and ask questions of those who had expressed an interest in being nominated.

RESOLVED:

that the matter be deferred until the next meeting to allow time for members to talk with those who had expressed an interest in being considered.

2007/244

Code of Conduct Training Event

The Chairman reported that 3 members of the Council and Clerk had attended the training event. The content had been informative although areas of the presentation could have been better.

2007/245

Review of Primary School Provision

Council considered the document circulated. It was considered useful to liaise with the Head Teacher at Marcham Primary School to ensure that the Parish Council and the School worked together in regard to the review. It was also suggested that the Head Teacher could be the guest speaker at the annual meeting for electors.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the review document be considered at a future meeting as the review for the Abingdon area was due to take place well into 2008.
- (ii) that the date for the annual electors meeting be discussed at the Council's January meeting.

2007/246

Review of Post Offices

Council considered the document issued by the Oxfordshire Rural Community

Council. It noted that the review of Oxfordshire's post offices would be in February 2008.

RESOLVED:

that this matter be deferred to a future meeting.

2007/247

Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit

Mr. Walton gave a report on a meeting of the working party. He itemised the background, what was required, the proposals including reference to better publication of the accounts on a website and risk assessment. The working party members intended to meet with the internal auditor in order to discuss matters further.

RESOLVED:

that Council, at its next meeting, discuss the possible creation of a website.

2007/248

Risk Assessment

Locals Guide on Governance and Accountability. Council noted that new play equipment and fencing had been installed, and a new bench seat for the play area had just been purchased.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the risk could be covered by adequate insurance.
- (ii) that the items be added to the insurance policy

2007/249

Standing Orders

Council reviewed the Standing Orders to take into account the changes in the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED:

that the revisions appended to the minutes be added to the Standing Orders.

2007/250

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/13312/28 Insertion of 35 geothermal boreholes in lawn to provide ground source heating  
Denman College  
Permitted 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2007

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

MAR/20347 Conversion of existing garage to playroom and store  
75 Howard Cornish Road  
For: Mr and Mrs. Bayley  
Comments: Council had no objections

c) Applications dealt with at the meeting

MAR/2640/2-LB Internal alterations  
Tamesis 17 North Street  
For: Mr and Mrs. C. Frost  
Comments: Council had no objections

2007/251

Correspondence

a) Marcham Primary School

Letter received thanking the Council for the donation of the bench seat to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of H.M. The Queen.

b) Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – Autumn/Winter review magazine

c) Oxfordshire Association of Local Council – County Circular

Council noted the contents of the circular

d) Marcham Players – Grant – Letter of thanks

Council noted receipt of a letter of thanks from Marcham Players for the funds set aside towards the cost of productions in the parish.

2007/252

Accounts

Council received the report from the external auditor. This highlighted:

1. The requirement to carry out a review of the effectiveness of the internal audit
2. The requirement to restate figures in view of the fact that the accounts had changed from income and expenditure to receipts and payments.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the report be noted
- (ii) that the Council continue with its arrangements for the working party undertaking the review of the effectiveness of the internal audit
- (iii) that no action be required on item 2 as the information requested had been provided at the time of audit.

Council noted the list of cheques to be signed and authorised payments totalling £5779.04 in respect of administration costs, grass cutting, bench seat, grants,

noticeboard maintenance, paper for MAD News.

2007/253

Matters Raised by members for information  
Churchyard

It was reported that the edges to the Church path needed trimming back and the weeds treating. The Clerk would contact S.T. Grounds Maintenance regarding this.

The Anson Trust – possible meeting with Neighbours Around the Field group  
Queries were raised regarding a possible meeting between the Neighbours around the Field and the Anson Trust, and it was noted that the Clerk to the Council had been copied in on an email between the Group and the Trust. Mr. Denton as a Director of the Trust thought that it was unlikely that the meeting would take place.

Bus Timetables – Stagecoach service no. 31

Members were pleased to note receipt of the new bus timetables.

Howard Cornish Road – pothole

The Clerk was asked about possible repairs to the pothole which had been reported to the County Council some weeks ago. It had been reported to the County Council again in November and an acknowledgement received. No further information was available.

Churchyard Conservation Area – Works to Sycamore

Mr. Cumber confirmed that he had spoken with the Parochial Church Council who had confirmed that a faculty was not required. He also advised that as the tree was a sycamore no consent from the Vale of White Horse District Council would be required.

Junction of Hyde Copse/Howard Cornish Road – Trees

It was reported that two trees were overhanging the road on the Northern side of Howard Cornish Road. The Clerk would refer this to the Vale of White Horse District Council whose land it was.

2007/254

Items for MAD News

Council noted the list of items for inclusion in the village newsletter.

2007/255

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

Signed ..... Date .....

**Marcham Parish Council**  
**Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Appendix to Minutes – Revision of Standing Orders**

60A “At all meetings of the Council, the Chairman may at his/her discretion, and at a convenient time in the transaction of business, allow any members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted. Such sessions form part of the Council meeting in law and shall be duly minuted. The Code of Conduct which was adopted by the Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2007 shall apply to members of the Council in respect of the entire meeting. Where, however, members of the Council exercise their rights pursuant to Standing Order 60B below, members of the public shall be allowed to attend the meeting to (a) make representations (b) answer questions or (c) give evidence relating to the business to be transacted”

60B “At all meetings of the Council, the Chairman may permit members of the Council (including co-opted members) who have a prejudicial interest in relation to any item of business to be transacted at that meeting to (a) make representations, (b) answer questions or (c) give evidence relating to the business to be transacted. Such sessions form part of the Council meeting in law and shall be duly minuted. The Code of conduct which was adopted by Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2007 shall apply to members of the Council in respect of the entire meeting. Any member having declared a prejudicial interest and permitted to make representations must withdraw from the room or chamber during consideration of the item to which the interest relates.