

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th January, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. M. Denton (Chairman), Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. C. Bough, Mr. W. Cumber,
Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson, Mr. D. Walton.
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
6 member of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and commenced by advising that a third late grant application had been submitted from the Marcham village café. There was an agenda item relating to late grant applications and he stated that the application could be considered at that point if Council agreed.

2009/1

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. I. Charles.
Apologies had also been received from Cllr. J. Hanna (Vale of White Horse District Councillor).

2009/2

Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Mrs. Allan declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the late grant applications in that she had lodged an application on behalf of the village café.

Members noted the Clerk's reminder that the Register of Interests should be kept up to date. Mr. Bough asked that members be reminded at the annual Council meeting of what they had registered on the register kept by the Vale of White Horse District Council.

2009/3

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December, 2008

These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings, subject to the following amendments:

- (i) in the appendices relating to the Freedom of Information Act adding the fact that the Annual Return would be available on the website..
- (ii) in minute 2008/246 the words "thames valley economic development region" to be shown with capital letters.
- (iii) in minutes 2008/258 the word "Revd" to appear before the name Pamela Shirras.

2009/4

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December, 2008

Letters of thanks for grants awarded

Council noted receipt of letters of thanks for grants awarded received from Anson Field Management Committee, Abingdon Citizens Advice Bureau, South & Vale Cares Centre, Marcham Society, Duffield Place Sunshine Club, and Marcham Senior Citizens Club.

Parking of Caravans – Public Amenity spaces

Council noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council and the Vale Housing Association were both looking into the siting of caravans which had been placed on their respective pieces of land. It was noted that the owners had been given time limits in which to have them removed.

Oxfordshire County Council – A415 – Satellite Navigation Systems – Reduction of HGVs

Council noted that Mr. Paul Fermer from Oxfordshire County Council was the officer dealing with the monitoring of the Satellite Navigation Systems. Council noted that the County Council had just purchased a Traffic Management database to help manage the road network. In other parts of the country the company that had supplied it were working with South Yorkshire Public Transport Executive to provide an interface to satellite navigation devices to provide current information as to congestion and better inform the travelling public. The Clerk was asked to contact the County Council and clarify that it was the Parish Councils wish to advise HGV drivers not to use the narrow A415 where they often became stuck, and not to necessarily keep the travelling public advised of congestion. It was suggested that there should be better pictorial signs as non English speaking lorry drivers could have difficulty reading the road signs. Council discussed this and concluded that most signs included a universal picture.

Weed Spraying

Council noted comments submitted by Cllr. I. Brown offering his support with encouraging the County Council to undertake weed spraying this season. It was noted, however, that the financial settlement within the budget may not be very generous for the next financial year.

The Anson Trust – Parish Council's Nomination

Council noted that the Parish Council's nomination had been accepted by the Anson Trust and that Mr. Hugh Logan had been appointed a Trustee. The Clerk clarified that he was not a representative of the Parish Council and would not be sitting on the Board of Directors as such. He had no duty or obligations to the Council.

River Flood Gauge

Mrs. Evans asked for an update on the provision of a river flood gauge. The Chairman advised that he had the information of the grant funded schemes and would get in touch with her to discuss the application.

6 The Farthings – Ivy overhanging wall

Mrs. Evans asked for an update on the cutting back of this ivy. The Chairman, although he had offered to speak to the occupants of the property, he had not managed to do this. He agreed to visit them soon.

2009/5

Public Participation

Marcham Road Pharmacy

Mr. Horler advised that the pharmacy at the Marcham Road Health Centre was to remain open. He placed on record his thanks to the Parish Council and to Cllr. Jane Hanna.

Closure of Marcham shop and Post Office, North Street

Mr. Buckingham of Sweetbriar spoke critically of the Parish Council and its lack of action and veil of secrecy over the closure of the only village shop and Post Office. He enquired whether the Parish Council had approached the Post Office Authorities, Ed Vaizey, M.P., the Vale of White Horse District Council and whether the Council could assist financially. He spoke in support of the retention of the shop and Post Office and the difficulties faced by those without internet access and public transport should the shop disappear. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had no information about any closure. It was noted that the Council had not held a meeting since 12th December. Now that the matter had been brought to the attention of the Council, it would investigate and when the facts were known it could consider appropriate formal action.

Mr. Bott too expressed concern that the tenancy in the Post Office was not being renewed. The elderly were often unable to use public transport to get elsewhere without assistance and drivers were not allowed to help.

Cemetery

Mr. Scott of Sweetbriar queried the re-alignment of the cremated remains plaques in the cemetery. He expressed concern that the caskets could have been moved or were no longer under the plaque. The Chairman explained that the Cemetery committee had been undertaking some improvement works and plaques were realigned as part of this. The Clerk clarified that no caskets would have been disturbed as an exhumation order would have been required for this. It was merely a question of placing the plaques over where the caskets lay and straightening the row of plaques.

The Anson Trust – New Community Facilities

Mr. Bott referred to an article in MAD News regarding the Anson Trust's proposed new facilities. He stated that it seemed cut and dry. He stated he was prepared to offer £1000 towards a fund to fight the sale of the Institute. Mr. Bough replied stating that the Parish Council had no control over the Anson Trust or its assets. The Trust's article in MAD News referred to consultation, and at a future stage when the plans were known would there be an opportunity to comment.

A415 / North Street junction

A query was raised as to whether anything could be done to improve vision at the North Street junction with the A415. There was a telegraph pole, which, if moved, would improve sight lines. The Chairman advised that this would be a future agenda item.

Grant Application – Village Café

Mrs.Allan under s. 12(2) of the Code of Conduct, as the grant applicant, made a statement in support of the grant application. A Christmas dinner had been provided for those who attended the village café and a loss had been made and rent for use of the building was due. The year end accounts were in the course of preparation. A request for at least £160 was made towards the shortfall.

2009/6 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/3036/10 Continued siting of a portable building for use as a childrens' nursery and an oil tank for heating.
Marcham Sports and Social Club, Morland Road
Permitted 18th December, 2008

MAR/1467/11 proposed garden room extension
Omega House, 29 North Street
Permitted 9th January, 2009

Works to trees
24 North Street
Permitted 8th January, 2009

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

MAR/15255/3 Minor alterations to fenestration to rear of house, plus addition outbuilding to front of house.
Bracken Heath House, Wantage Road
For: Mrs. E. Osbourne
Comments: Council had no objections provided there was no breach of green belt policies or the potential for the outbuilding to be used separately from the main dwelling.

MAR/20732 Proposed two storey rear extension and front dormer window.
Demolish rear conservatory
4 Parkside
For: M. Powell
Comments: Council had no objections in principle, but had not been able to view the property from the rear and was unable, therefore, to judge the impact on the adjacent property. It would have some sympathy should there be concern from the neighbours regarding the dominant impact.

MAR/5011/5 Erection of garage doors to car ports
Plots 1 and 4 Cotsdale, Abingdon Road
For: Cranbourne Homes Ltd
Comments: Council could see no valid planning reason to object, but did query why the application related to only 2 of the 4 houses constructed

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

MAR/20333/2 Erection of single storey extension to provide new guest sitting room, home office and garage

The Clockhouse, Sheepstead Road

For: Mr and Mrs. Dunning

Comments: Council objected to the application in that the proposal had not been altered significantly from the previous application which had been refused. Concerns were raised regarding parking, the lack of a site shown for the repositioning of the oil tank, the potential for the creation of a separate dwelling and the overall impact on the character of the area.

2009/7

District Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr. Hanna no report was available.

2009/8

County Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr. Brown no report was available.

2009/9

Vale of White Horse District Council – Future Development in the Vale – Core Strategy Preferred Options

Council noted that the preferred options document will be published for public consultation starting 16th January for 6 weeks. A workshop for Parish Councils will take place on 22nd January at 7.00 p.m. in Wantage Civic Hall. Public exhibitions will take place on 27th January in the Guildhall, Abingdon. Council discussed possible representatives to attend the workshop.

RESOLVED:

that Mrs. Evans, Mr. Denton and Mr. Walton attend as representatives of the Council

2009/10

Grant Applications

Council noted that 3 grant applications outside of the usual time for considering these had been received.

RESOLVED:

that consideration be given to them at this meeting.

Council considered grant applications from Home Start and Victim Support.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that more information as to how many people from Marcham parish had been assisted be obtained.
- (ii) that when grant applications are received from organisations outside of the parish that information that information as to the level of support for Marcham parishioners over the last 5 years be obtained.

Mrs. Allan left the room.

Council considered a grant application by the Village Café to assist with a shortfall in funding in their expenses.

RESOLVED:

that under s. 137 Local Government Act 1972 a grant of £250 be awarded to the Marcham Village Café.

2009/11

Annual Parish Meeting

Council discussed possible dates and speakers for the Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk was asked to investigate possible dates in the latter half of May for the availability of the school hall. Possible speakers included The Anson Trust, The Chairman/Police from the local Neighbourhood Action Group, or Vale of White Horse District Council/Vale Housing Association as to letting policies and the procedure to be followed on bidding on social housing, particularly Duffield Place. It was thought that the first two suggestions might be of more interest to a wider group of parishioners. The Clerk would check the possibility of representatives from the District Council/Housing Association attending a meeting of the Parish Council to explain the letting procedure.

2009/12

Best Kept Garden Competition

Council considered running a garden competition this year.

RESOLVED:

that the garden competition be run again during the Summer of 2009.

2009/13

Budget 2009/2010

The Clerk explained the budget papers. Council carefully considered the current balances, the likely balances at the year end and the budget for 2009/2010. It was suggested that owing to the current economic climate there should be no increase in the precept if possible. Council considered quotations for grass cutting from 4 separate contractors. It was considered essential that the grass cutting be monitored this season whichever contractor was chosen. Council considered setting aside funding for Parkside allotment wall repairs, a base for the bottle bank hardstanding, and repairs for the War Memorial steps, and possible weed spraying on highway footways if permitted.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the budget as shown on the forms annexed to these minutes be approved.
- (ii) that a precept of £33,000 be set for the year 2009/2010
- (iii) that the quotation from Slade Estate Services be accepted for grass cutting during the 2009 season.

2009/14

Correspondence

- a) Vale of white Horse District Council – Your Vale Your Future – The Vale Partnership. A strategy for sustainable communities.
- b) NHS Health News – Winter 2008
- c) Oxfordshire County Council – Pension Fund – Report and Accounts 2007/2008
- d) Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – Review Autumn/Winter 2008
- e) Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment – Report
- f) Vale of White Horse District Council – Local Community Flood Group in the Vale – Formation and Funding
- g) River Thames Society – Annual Conference 2009 on Saturday 21st February, Shiplake College, Henley.
- h) Oxfordshire County Council – Campaign against domestic abuse information
- i) Vale of White Horse District Council – Chairman’s Community Award lunch for those within the sporting community. The Clerk was asked to draw this to the attention of the Anson Field Management Committee, who may be aware of likely nominees.
- j) Vale of White Horse District Council – Air Quality Action Plan. An action plan to improve the quality of the air in Abingdon Town Centre had been produced and was out to consultation until 19th February.

2009/15

Accounts

Council noted that an additional invoice from Slade Estate Services Ltd had been received for grass cutting alongside the paths in the Churchyard. This was outside the usual cutting schedule and the Council had not requested the cut nor the Clerk had instructed them to cut the grass. Discussion took place as to whether this should be paid.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the invoice in the sum of £78.20 be paid
- (ii) that Slade Estate Services Ltd be asked on whose authority was the grass cut.

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 1950-1956 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £2322.55 in respect of administration costs, grant awarded, grass cutting and play area/maintenance.

2009/16

Matters Raised by members for information

There were no other matters raised.

2009/17

Items for MAD News

Council noted the list of items for inclusion in the village newsletter. The Clerk was asked to include an article reminding the public about the parishioner of the year award. She was also asked to include something about the village shop and Post Office should correct factual information be available.

2009/18

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 11th February, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed Date

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 11th February, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. M. Denton (Chairman), Mr. C. Bough, Mr. I. Charles, Mr. W. Cumber,
Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson, Mrs. S. Turney, Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Mr. John Hammond, Public Transport Officer, Oxfordshire County Council
3 members of the public
Joined by Mrs. C. Ricketts

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mr. Hammond. Mr. Hammond spoke about the County Council's plans to introduce "premium routes" on the Stagecoach X30 and X31 service. This would include items such as cycle racks at certain points in rural locations to encourage bus travel, bus shelters, live bus information as buses were tracked by a GPS system, SMS texting for bus information, raised kerbing and painting on the road to mark bus stops.

Mrs. C. Ricketts joined the meeting.

Questions were invited. The Chairman advised that the 2 main areas in the village which would benefit from such improvements were the Eastbound stops by the Post Office and at the end of Longfields. Points were made regarding the problems faced by shoppers with trolleys or parents with pushchairs and also the lack of a bus shelter at the Tesco stops which was exposed.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Hammond for his presentation. Mr. Hammond then left the meeting.

- 2009/19 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs. J. Allan.
- 2009/20 Declarations of Interest
Mr. Cumber declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the Post Office in that he was a director of W. Cumber & Son (Theale) Ltd, the company which owned the property.
- 2009/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January, 2009
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.
- 2009/22 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January, 2009

6 The Farthings – Overhanging Ivy
The Chairman had spoken with the occupiers of this property. They wished the height to remain for privacy but would permit the side facing the road to be cut

back. They possibly had not appreciated that this would be at their expense should a contractor be asked to cut it back. The Clerk had referred this matter to the County Council.

Accounts – Cutting Churchyard in December

Council noted that the contractor Slade Estates Ltd decided themselves to cut the Churchyard in December to improve the appearance for Christmas. The Clerk was asked to advise them that, in future, they should not undertake further cutting without permission.

Letters of thanks

Council noted receipt of a letter of thanks from Marcham Café for the grant awarded, and also from The Ven. Eddie and Revd. Pamela Shirras for the Council's good wishes as they moved from the parish.

2009/23

Public Participation

Possible Closure of Marcham shop and Post Office, North Street

Mr. Buckingham spoke regarding a member declaring an interest, who should therefore have knowledge of the situation at the Post Office, and the statement by the Chairman at the last meeting that the Parish Council did not have any knowledge about the closure of the Post Office. He appealed to members that if the Council was unable to do anything as an official body, then they needed to do something as individuals to find other shop premises and to contact the M.P. He spoke of the desperation of local residents, particularly the elderly who would be unable to travel to shops elsewhere.

2009/24

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/15255/3 Minor alterations to fenestration to rear of house, plus addition of outbuilding to front of house

Bracken Heath House, Wantage Road, Frilford Heath

Permitted 12th January, 2009

MAR/20732 Proposed two storey rear extension and front dormer window.

Demolish rear conservatory

4 Parkside

Permitted 22nd January, 2009

MAR/5011/5 Erection of garage doors to car ports on plots 1 and 4

Cotsdale, Abingdon Road

Permitted 26th January, 2009

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

MAR/18688/1 proposed timber decking and iron railing to first floor bedroom doorway to form flower box area

12 Anson Close

For: Mr. C. Barrett

Comments: Council had no objections

Mr. Denton, at the meeting, declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following application in that he was an employee at the Frilford Service Station. This application had previously been considered under delegated powers, without any involvement from Mr. Denton, and was not an item for discussion at this meeting.

FRI/2396/21 Demolish existing car wash and jet wash and build 2 new jet wash enclosures and car wash, install new fuel tank and pumps

Frilford Service Station

For: Mr. K. Rashid

Comments: Council had no objections in principle, but expressed concern regarding safety of pedestrians crossing to the shop in the path of vehicles coming from 3 new wash enclosures. It suggested that a marked path be shown. In addition it requested no parking in front of the shop.

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

MAR/3418/7-CC Erection of single storey pitched and flat roof extension to provide new foundation stage classroom, w.c., cloakroom and storage accommodation, new lobby and covered play area. Construction of 16 space cycle shelter and other associated external work.

Marcham CE Primary School, Morland Road

For: Oxfordshire County Council

Council noted the siting of the cycle rack near to the storage facilities for the tennis association and noted that two members had checked the possible safety issues with a solid shelter, and the possibility of blocking the access to the storage. It was thought that given the location of the proposed cycle rack that these issues would not present a problem. A member queried the application number stated on the agenda as the application could not be found on the District Council's website. The Clerk would check the number before responding with Council's comments.

Comments: Council supported the application.

2009/25

District Councillor's Report

Waste Contract

Cllr. Hanna reported that the District Council had entered into a joint contract with South Oxfordshire District Council for waste. New contractors had just started in the South Oxfordshire Area and the scheme would be implemented in the Vale next year. There would be a weekly food waste collection and a fortnightly collection for recyclables. The aim was to increase recycling to 50%.

Vale of White Horse District Council – Core Strategy

Cllr. Hanna referred to the strategy in relation to the housing. The main impact on Marcham could be the extra traffic flow through the village should additional housing at Grove be agreed.

2009/26

County Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr. Brown no report was available.

Mr. Cumber left the room.

200927

Post Office

Rumours had been circulating regarding the closure of the village shop and Post Office. The Chairman had spoken with both the Landlord and the Tenant. It was understood that there was a legal situation with the tenancy arrangements. The tenants had not formally announced that they were leaving. At the moment the situation was a private commercial one in which the Parish Council could not interfere. Council noted that the Clerk had approached the Village Shops Development Worker at the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council to seek clarification of the Parish Council's role should the village find itself without a shop and Post Office. The Chairman read out the reply from ORCC. The question of the appointment of a professional mediator was raised. Some members were supportive of this, others felt that as both parties were local and known to each other, there was little merit in this. It was assumed they would have had opportunities to discuss matters directly between themselves, and intervention by the Parish Council would be out of order. Concerns were raised regarding the possible loss of a shop, the fact that it would probably not re-open if closed and questions were raised as to its profitability and shared understanding between the parties.

It was proposed by Mr. Hutchinson, seconded by Mr. Walton, that the Council approach the Landlord and Tenant to see if they would agree to professional mediation. Mr. Charles put an amendment and suggested that they be contacted to see if they felt such a course of action would help.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for the resolution that "the Parish Council makes an approach to the Landlord and Tenant to see if both parties have a shared understanding of the situation and to see whether a mediator would be helpful.

In favour 4

Against 4

The Chairman using his casting vote, voted in favour.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council contacts both the Landlord and Tenant to see if both parties shared the same knowledge of the situation and to see whether they would consider mediation would be helpful.

- (ii) that the Council writes to the Post Office Authorities, supporting the retention of the Post Office facility, once the Council was made aware that the Post Office was definitely closing.

2009/28

Oxfordshire County Council – Premium Bus Routes X30 and X31

Council discussed the presentation by Mr. Hammond. Council was supportive of the idea.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that an article be placed in MAD News advising residents of the proposal and asking for their preferences
- (ii) that Council asks for information about the SMS text service for bus information to be advertised on the shelters.
- (iii) that a question be raised if the Parish Council made a financial contribution whether more facilities could be provided within the parish.

2009/29

Vale of White Horse District Council – Future Development in the Vale – Core Strategy Preferred Options

Council discussed the Strategy consultation document and received a report from the members who attended the meeting hosted by the Vale of White Horse District Council. Council expressed concern that there should be no more houses on the flood plain, that the proposals did not take into account the A34 and its congestion, and that slip roads at Lodge Hill and Drayton were needed. Cllr. Hanna advised that the infrastructure money did not come with the requirement for housing but from the developers.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that this Council supports in principle the Core Strategy Preferred Options
- (ii) that comments be made that the infrastructure should be in place to support the proposals
- (iii) that no houses should be built on the floodplain

2009/30

Vale of White Horse District Council – Air Quality Action Plan in Abingdon

Mr. Hutchinson gave a report on a meeting which he had attended. Members discussed the air quality action plan. It was noted that there was a proposal to remove the HGV park from Rye Farm, but there was no indication as to where it was to be relocated.

RESOLVED:

that this comment be submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council.

2009/31

Parishioner of the Year 2008

Council noted that 1 late nomination had been received and considered by the

working party. The Clerk, in her report to Council had identified those on the shortlist. Council selected the recipient of the award for 2008. Council discussed the presentation of the Certificate.

2009/32

Grant Applications

Council noted that HomeStart, a previous grant applicant had confirmed that there were 3 volunteers within the parish and one family that was receiving assistance.

RESOLVED:

that a grant of £100 be awarded to HomeStart for the 2008/09 financial year.

2009/33

Annual Parish Meeting

Council noted the dates when the school hall was free and agreed the 20th May would be the date for the Annual Parish Meeting. Council discussed possible speakers and the presentation of the Parishioner of the Year Certificate.

RESOLVED:

- that
- (i) Neighbourhood Action Group and the Police be invited to speak
 - (ii) in addition that a representative from the Vale of White Horse District Council be invited to speak on the Core Strategy and the implications for Marcham.
 - (iii) if no speaker was available on the Core Strategy then a representative to speak on the Council's housing waiting list and how to be included, be invited.

2009/34

A415/North Street junction – visibility

Council discussed concerns regarding poor visibility for vehicles leaving North Street owing to the siting of a telegraph pole to the Western side. The Chairman reported that he had spoken with the owner of the garage at the Western side and he had agreed to lower a wall should relocating the telegraph pole be possible. Council was made aware of concerns by a resident regarding the number of vehicles near the junction and problems with parking for the houses in the vicinity.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that enquiries be made as to whether the telegraph pole could be resited.
- (ii) that the resident be asked to speak direct with the garage owner regarding the number of vehicles parked

2009/35

Communities and Local Government - Consultation

Real People, real power : Code of recommended practice on Local Authority Publicity

Council considered this consultation document

RESOLVED:

that no comment be submitted

2009/36

Correspondence

- a) Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action
Funding advice surgeries in Abingdon library on 19th Feb and 19th March between 1.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.
- b) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – January update
- c) Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – magazine
- d) Vale Community Safety leaflet – Winter edition
- e) Thames Water – Briefing on its response to the consultation on the Water Resources Management Plan – 5th March 7.00 p.m. Guildhall, Abingdon

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Denton and Mr. Hutchinson represent the Council.

- f) Letter regarding the poor condition of the path to the Cemetery
Council discussed the letter and considered that the path was much better since some trees had been removed. For a country path there was not thought to be a problem.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that no action be taken on the path
- (ii) that Mrs. Evans check when the required works to the weeds were to be carried out by those undertaking community service.

2009/37

Accounts

Council noted a training course for Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen that both Mr. Denton and Mr. Walton wished to attend.

RESOLVED:

that Council funds the training fee in the sum of £80 plus vat.

Council noted correspondence from the Bank of Ireland that the Irish Government has fully protected all deposits without upper limit until 29th September 2010.

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 1957-1964 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £1932.18 in respect of administration costs, Marcham and District News paper, allotments and play area/maintenance.

2009/38

Matters Raised by members for information

Neighbourhood Action Group

Mr. Denton reported that the NAG group were going to be putting leaflets through doors regarding safety and police activity in the area. He referred to several break-ins in the village.

Grit Bins

Mrs. Evans recalled the village having grit bins in the past. She referred to the icy, slippery conditions of recent times and the benefit that grit bins would bring.

The Clerk would make enquiries as to whether these could be provided by other authorities.

2009/39

Items for MAD News

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

2009/40

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 11th March, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed Date

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Present:

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

- 2009/41 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. I. Charles, and Mr. W. Cumber.
- 2009/42 Declarations of Interest
Mrs. Ricketts declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to the possible extension to 8 Longfields in that she knew the occupants. Mrs. Turney declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the possible extension to 8 Longfields in that she lived adjacent to this property.
- 2009/43 Minutes of the meeting held on 11th February, 2009
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.
- 2009/44 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th February, 2009

Annual Parish Meeting
Council noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council had agreed to send an officer to the annual parish meeting on 20th May to give a presentation on the District Council's core strategy and the implications for Marcham. Brief discussion took place as to the presentation of the Parishioner of the Year award.
- 2009/45 Public Participation

Caravans – Howard Cornish Road
A resident placed on record his thanks to the Council for arranging the removal of the caravans that had been left on public amenity space at the junctions of Howard Cornish Road with Duffield Place and Howard Cornish Road with Fettiplace Road.

North Street – Lack of Street Light north of The Gap
The Clerk reported that a resident had expressed concern to her that the section of North Street without any footway, northwards from The Gap was particularly dark and would benefit from an additional street light as there was a danger for pedestrians who had no choice but to walk in the road. The Clerk was asked to draw this to the attention of the County Council.

Marcham Churchyard – lack of light on path from New Road

The Clerk reported that a resident had expressed concern to her that the light on the East wall of the Church which should light up the path through the Churchyard from New Road to the main door of the Church, was casting shadows and causing darkness owing to shrubbery being in the way. The Clerk reminded members that a sycamore tree had been felled last year at this location to allow more light onto the path. The Council's representatives on the Churchyard working party would check the situation.

2009/46

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

Details pursuant to condition 35 of planning permission FYF 10304/6-CM and condition 26 of planning permission FYF 10304/8-CM
Tubney Woods Quarry and Landfill Site, Besselsleigh
Permitted 11th February, 2009

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

MAR/5011/6 Retrospective application for the erection of a 1.8 high close boarded fence to the boundary of plot 2
Cotsdale, Abingdon Road

For: Cranbourne Homes Ltd

Comments: Council objected, the original approval showed the re-use of stone from the barn to construct the boundary enclosure. No attempt had been made to use this. The wooden fence was out of keeping with the stone wall on plot 3 which was already on the Cotsdale site.

MAR/6253/5 Proposed riding arena, with fencing in of paddock
Brushwood, Oxford Road

For: Mrs. R. Kitto

Comments: Council had no objections

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

No planning applications had been received

Mrs. Turney left the room

Cllr. Brown joined the meeting

d) Other applications

A courtesy copy of an application for a 2 storey extension to 8 Longfields had been provided to the Council for comment, as this property was a shared equity house on a rural exception site.

The Rural Housing Trust which was the joint owner of the property had agreed to the extension. Council considered the principle of an extension to this property. Discussion took place on the fact that the land had been provided for affordable housing as starter homes, with the intention that families moved on as their needs grew. Members were of the opinion that if a 2 bedroom house were extended and made larger, the value would be increased and therefore the cost of the percentage share on a resale to local people would be more. This may in itself render the property unaffordable.

RESOLVED:

- a) that a letter be sent to the Rural Housing Trust setting out the Council's objections to permitting extensions to shared equity houses on a rural exception site on the following grounds.
 - (i) the land was provided for starter homes with the intention that families moved on as their needs changed leaving the smaller homes for new first time buyers.
 - (ii) that if extended the cost of the percentage share would increase thereby rendering the house not-affordable.
- b) that a similar letter also be sent to the Vale Housing Association who also had an interest in other shared equity houses in the parish.

Mrs. Turney rejoined the meeting.

2009/47

District Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr. Hanna no report was available.

2009/48

County Councillor's Report

Transport

Cllr. Brown encouraged members to view the Local Transport Plan and also the SCOTS (Southern Central Oxfordshire Transport Strategy) study. In regards to the latter report, he suggested that action should be taken for the whole of A415. Traffic in the South had grown by 7%. He supported a national speed limit reduction from 60 mph to 50 mph.

Budget

Cllr. Brown reported that there would be a 3.75% rise in the County Tax. The budget also contained a £5million shortfall in Council pension funding. There were to be no cuts in library services and Cogges Manor Farm was still being funded by the County Council.

Thames Water – Draft Water Resources Management Plan – Statement of Response

Cllr. Brown referred to the Statement of response and the hard copy that was available.

Hills Aggregates – Planning Application – Upwood Park

Cllr. Brown stated that the anticipated date for this planning application to go before committee was 18th May.

2009/49

Post Office

The Chairman had spoken to the Landlord and tenant of the Post Office/Shop regarding the possibility of a mediator to help sort out Lease terms. They had thought that this would not be helpful. The Clerk had contacted the Post Office Authorities who had given assurances that it was their intention to maintain a Post Office service within Marcham and that they were working towards finding a solution. The current Post Office would close temporarily on 22nd April. The Chairman reported that he understood that the Post Office Authorities were meeting with the Landlord of the shop in a few days time, and that it was the Landlord's intention to keep a Post Office / shop within the village. The following suggestions were made (i) that a temporary Post Office be provided until new arrangements could be sorted (ii) that details of alternative Post Offices be put in MAD News (iii) that those who organise the community bus be asked to take those without easy transport, to other Post Offices, if drivers could be found.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a letter be written to the Post Office Authorities asking that the Post office be kept open on a temporary basis until permanent arrangements could be sorted.
- (ii) that the Post Office Authorities be asked to close the Post Office for the minimum time possible.
- (iii) that the Post Office Authorities be asked to keep the Council informed and included in the decision for the new arrangements.
- (iv) that residents be advised of alternative Post Offices via MAD News
- (v) that enquiries be made to see whether transport could be arranged to take less mobile residents to alternative Post offices.

2009/50

Oxfordshire County Council – Premium Bus Routes X30 and X31

Council noted comments from parishioners on the County Council's proposals for the premium bus routes. Council discussed the possibilities and

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the County Council be asked to install real time information be installed at the 4 eastbound (to Abingdon) bus stops in the village

- (ii) that the County Council be asked to consider the installation of a bus shelter eastbound at the Duffield Place bus stop.
- (iii) that the County Council be advised that the Budgens garage at Frilford was happy to host a cycle rack

2009/51

Grit Bins

Council noted that these could be provided by the County Council if there was a funder. The County Council would keep the bin topped up with grit. Cllr. Brown suggested that the County Council would also replace the bin if damaged. He was asked to check County Council policy on grit bins. Council considered possible areas where a grit bin could be sited.

RESOLVED:

that the County Council be asked to consider whether The Gap near the junction with North Street was a suitable location for a grit bin.

2009/52

Telegraph Pole – Junction of A415/North Street – Lack of vision

Council noted that Scottish Southern had investigated the Council's concern regarding lack of vision at this junction, and had concluded that the telegraph pole was not a problem. The company was, however, prepared to provide a quotation to have this relocated, should the Parish Council wish to proceed on this basis. The Clerk had advised that Council's statutory powers would need to be checked. Council discussed this and

RESOLVED:

that no further action be taken

2009/53

Thames Water – Response to consultation on draft water resources management plan

The Chairman gave a report on a meeting that he and Mr. Hutchinson attended. The reservoir now proposed was smaller and the timescale had been put back to 2026. Reference was made to leaks in Oxfordshire, and encouraging Thames Water to repair pipes in the county although it was acknowledged that the worst pipes were in London.

2009/54

Oxfordshire County Council – Street Lighting

Council noted correspondence from the County Council which stated that that Authority was trying to reduce carbon emissions and street lighting produced 19% of those emissions. It was considering changing its policy of keeping street lighting on all night in rural areas and switching it off from 12.30 a.m. to 5.30 a.m. Council discussed this suggestion

RESOLVED:

that this Council supports in principle the

switching off of street lights in rural areas
between 12.30 a.m. and 5.30 a.m.

2009/55

Oxfordshire County Council – Contingency Planning – Diversion Routes A420

Council noted that the County Council was making plans for traffic control should the A420 be closed in emergencies. It proposed to divert traffic along the A34 and the A415 through the village of Marcham, and invited comments on the proposals. Council discussed these and

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council objected to these proposals
- (ii) that the County Council be advised that although an “A” road, the main A415 through the village with very tight bends was not suitable to take the vehicles that might result from a closure of the A420.

2009/56

Correspondence

- a) Jenks, Oxford – Aboricultural Contractors – Company looking for sites to deposit wood chips.
- b) Vale of White Horse District Council – Summons and Agenda 25th February
- c) Oxfordshire Waste Partnership – “Oxfordshire Spring Clean”
- d) Oxford Green Belt Networks – An invitation to subscribe to the network
- e) Standards Board – Town and Parish Standard magazine
- f) Vale of White Horse District Council – Core Strategy – Preferred Options Sustainability Appraisal.
- g) Oxfordshire County Council – Dial a Ride
Council noted that funding was continuing and that this scheme would run at least until 2012.
Mrs. Evans queried whether the scheme would be able to take residents from rural areas to the White Horse Leisure Centre to the swimming pool. The Centre was some distance from Abingdon and there was no longer a bus service to it. The Clerk would make enquiries.
- h) Oxfordshire NHS – Health News
- i) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – February update
- j) Thames Valley Police – Community Policing Awards Scheme
Council discussed the award scheme and

RESOLVED:

that no nomination be put forward

- k) Environment Agency – Environmental Permit Application received for the Energy from Waste Incinerator at Sutton Courtenay. Comments invited.

2009/57

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 1965-1969 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £1713.27 in respect of administration costs, play area/maintenance and grant awarded

2009/58

Matters Raised by members for information

Litter Blitz

Mr. Denton stated that the volunteer group was planning a Spring Clean on 28th March.

North Street – Quality of Road surface

Concerns were raised about the quality of the road surface in North Street. There were large puddles and residents had to walk in the centre of the road where there was no footway. This would be brought to the attention of the County Council.

Vale of White Horse District Council – Core Strategy - Reservoir

Cllr. Brown pointed out that the District Council had not supported the reservoir, but had also stated that it would not permit development in the vicinity in the meantime. These two statements contradicted each other.

Allotments

Mr. Walton, reported that an allotment shed had been burned down. The Clerk was asked if a letter of sympathy to be sent to the allotment holder. Mr. Denton, who was also Chairman of the Neighbourhood Action Group, stated that such action was a real problem and a concern for the Rural NAG. He referred to recent break-ins in the village and also advised that some burglars had been caught.

Churchyard

It was reported that unfortunately a tradesman's vehicle who was undertaking work at the Church had driven over the path edging. S.T. Grounds Maintenance would be asked to re-do this edging. It was also reported that the area grass damaged in the Churchyard from vehicles involved in the rebuilding of the stone wall along the path to the Cemetery, had not really recovered. The Clerk was asked to see whether something could be done.

A415 – Cyclists

Concern was raised regarding the number of cyclists using the A415 rather than the designated cycle track.

Howard Cornish Road – Speeding

Reference was made also to a Police car speeding at approximately 45 mph in the 30 mph limit in Howard Cornish Road. Mr. Denton would bring this to the attention of the Police via the Neighbourhood Action Group.

2009/59

Items for MAD News

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

2009/60

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 8th April, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Signed Date

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th April, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. M. Denton (Chairman), Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. C. Bough, Mr. W. Cumber,
Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson, Mrs. C. Ricketts, Mrs. S. Turney, Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
3 members of the public

- 2009/61 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. I. Charles, and also from Cllr. J. Hanna (District Councillor).
- 2009/62 Declarations of Interest
Mr. Cumber declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the Post Office in that he was a director of W. Cumber and Son (Theale) Ltd which owned the property. Mrs. Turney declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to grass cutting in the play area at Longfields in that she had been the volunteer who had offered to cut the grass.
- 2009/63 Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March, 2009
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.
- 2009/64 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March, 2009
- The Gap – Grit Bin
Council noted an acknowledgement from the County Council regarding the installation of a grit bin. The matter was being investigated.
- Dial a Ride
Council noted that this scheme was a door to door service for those unable or who found it difficult to use public transport. Certain criteria had to be met and any application for membership of the scheme had to be supported by the applicant's G.P.
- Home Start
Council noted receipt of a letter from Home Start thanking the Council for its grant award.
- Oxfordshire County Council - A420 Contingency Plans for traffic diversion
Council noted that once all comments were received on the diversion proposals they would be in a position to address any concerns. Members were reminded that the Highways Agency had agreed to install signs on the A34 providing early information as to problems on the A420, so larger vehicles would find alternative routes rather than use the A415.

Litter Blitz

Mr. Denton gave a report on a litter blitz that a volunteer group had undertaken. Over 20 sacks of rubbish had been collected. He wished to place on record his thanks to Marcham Cubs, Mr. Bough and Mr. Durrant for clearing ivy on the wall in North Street, and to Mr. Cumber for clearing the refuse.

2009/65

Public Participation

Post office/Shop

Mr. Cumber under s. 12(2) of the Code of Conduct, as a director of the company which owned the building, made a statement. He stated that the shop was on the market for letting as a lock up shop. He was working with Post Office Ltd to try and secure a temporary Post Office service until such time as a tenant for the shop was found, when the situation could be reviewed. He was meeting with the Post Office Authorities to discuss the situation.

Post Office/Shop

A resident expressed great concern at the attitude of the Parish Council in regards to the way the closure of the Post Office had been handled. He felt that the village was being destroyed, also similarly in regards to the Anson Trust, its future proposals and the closure of the Institute. He suggested that the Parish Council together with the District Councillor and County Councillor could have brought pressure to bear to keep the shop open. He suggested he was being fed false information. He referred to the lack of publication by the local press of his letters. He referred to the Anson Trust's proposals, the loss of the open field off Morland Road and the loss of the Institute. He suggested that the M.P., the County Councillor and the Vale of White Horse District Councillor too should become involved in the village matters. He stated the local people were desperate for help and they relied on the councillors to assist.

The Chairman, Mr. Bough and Mr. Hutchinson responded. They stated that the Parish Council had not sat idly by and had been in correspondence with the Post office Authorities. The Council was not linked with the Anson Trust, and there was certainly no plot to prevent publication of any correspondence in the local press as had been suggested. The publication was under the control of the editor. The resident was invited to speak individually to members outside of the meeting.

2009/66

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/18688/1 Proposed timber decking and iron railing to first floor bedroom doorway to form flower box area.

12 Anson Close

Permitted

9th March, 2009

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

Mr. Hutchinson spoke in regard to the following application and confirmed the Council's comments sent under delegated powers. He, together with Mrs. Allan, had attended a meeting with the principal and bursar. Part of the site was on landfill so relocating the building may be difficult. During pre-application consultation with the Vale of White Horse District Council, the current site had been the District Council's preference.

MAR/61841/38 Erection of two storey boarding accommodation block and associated car parking

Cothill House School

For: The Cothill Trust

Comments: Council felt that the development was unsympathetically close to the terraced private dwellings, some of which were grade II listed. The proposal could well be overbearing and dominant for these properties being only 5.5 metres away. There was some concern regarding the vehicular access crossing the public footpath.

Extraction of sand – Revised entrance at A338

Upwood Park

For: Hills Aggregates

Comments: Council had no objections

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

MAR/3579/2 Proposed two storey side extension

64 Howard Cornish Road

For: Mr. M. Fern

Comments: Members initially had been concerned about the possibility of overlooking and need for additional car parking. After a site visit and talking with the applicant, these concerns had been addressed and the Council had no objections.

2009/67

District Councillor's Report

The Clerk advised that Cllr. Hanna, when lodging apologies, had asked that the postponement by Thames Water of the reservoir be referred to members.

2009/68

County Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr. Brown no report was available.

Mr. Cumber left the room

2009/69

Post Office

It was known that the lease of the shop was on the market and that the Post Office had had meetings with the current owners. If there was no new tenant then the Post Office would look to provide a different type of service but it might be restricted. Once the future of the Post Office and possible new shop tenant was known the Council, at that stage, may have to think about a community shop, or taking residents to other Post Offices in the community mini-bus. The Post Office would be closing on 22nd April for audit purposes, and it was then for the Post Office Authorities to put in a temporary person if possible.

Mr. Cumber rejoined the meeting. The Chairman, on a point of clarification asked Mr. Cumber whether the Post Office could continue in the premises on a temporary basis. This Mr. Cumber confirmed.

2009/70

Southern Central Oxfordshire Transport Strategy

Council noted the transport strategy. The proposals improved the Wantage – Didcot routes particularly given the increase in business at the Harwell International Business site and nearby areas. Members suggested it was a good strategy but commented that the A34 and its congestion problems should not be forgotten.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that this Council supports the strategy
- (ii) that concerns regarding the A34 and its congestion be passed to the Oxfordshire County Council

2009/71

Affordable Housing – Extension to properties – Exception sites

Council noted responses from the Rural Housing Trust and the Vale Housing Association regarding consultation with Parish Councils when applications were lodged by tenants or those with a shared equity interest, for extensions. The approach from both Housing Associations was different. Council expressed disappointment that the Vale Housing Association was not prepared to notify the Parish Council should an application be lodged for alterations to a property on the rural exception site. The Chairman reminded members about an event at Wantage Civic Hall on 22nd April “How to get on the housing ladder”

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Cllr. Jane Hanna be advised that this matter had been raised again.
- (ii) that an advertisement be placed in MAD News inviting those moving from Longfields to notify the Parish Council, so that steps could be taken to ensure that the planning agreements entered into for this site were observed.

- (iii) that a letter be sent to the Vale Housing Association asking that its consultation policy be reviewed and that the Parish Council be informed should they receive any applications for alterations to any of its properties on the rural exception site.

2009/72

Longfields Grass Cutting

Council noted that although Mrs. Turney had offered to cut the grass free of charge, no public liability insurance cover could be provided. The Clerk advised that this could present a risk for the Council and consequently council tax payers should an incident occur and there was not cover. The alternative would be to instruct S.T. Grounds Maintenance, who had insurance cover and who were already working as sub contractors to the Council in other areas Council considered that the risk was small and therefore

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the risk to the Council be noted
- (ii) that Mrs. Turney cut the grass in the Longfields play area, free of charge to the Council, without providing independent public liability insurance

2009/73

Calor – Oxfordshire Village of the year competition 2009

Council considered entering the competition this year. Council discussed the amount of work involved and

RESOLVED:

that the Council not submit a competition entry on behalf of the village this year.

2009/74

Training Event for Chairmen - Report

Mr. Denton, Chairman, gave a report on a training event that he and Mr. Walton as Vice-Chairman had attended.

2009/75

Proposed Staffing Committee

Council considered in general terms setting up a staffing committee, as it had been advised at the Chairmen's training event that an established structure was needed to manage staff. The Clerk advised that the next meeting of the Council was the annual meeting when committees and their membership were appointed. Specific terms of reference for such a committee were required.

RESOLVED:

that the matter be deferred to the next meeting.

2009/76

Projects

Council noted that in the budget Council had set aside funding for repairs to the war memorial steps and the hardstanding for the bottle bank area in Howard Cornish Road. Council noted that members of the public were dumping garden

waste and also leaving bags behind at the bottle banks that had been used to carry recyclables. It was noted that a litter bin was required. Mr. Denton advised that he would be talking in a private capacity to the children in school about the volunteer day and litter collected. Council received a report regarding the renovations to the youth shelter and the repairs to the steps at the start of the North Street footpath. The youth shelter work had been delayed owing to the bad weather in February. The Clerk confirmed with members that there were to be no concrete slabs behind the shelter and that the repainted colour was to be dark green.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Mr. M. Davies be instructed to start the repairs to the war memorial steps
- (ii) that Mr. G. Ayres be instructed to undertake the hardstanding works for the bottle banks in Howard Cornish Road
- (iii) that an article be placed in MAD News reminding residents not to dump items by the bottle banks and to take the bags home.
- (iv) that the Vale of White Horse District Council be asked to provide a litter bin at the bottle bank area.

2009/77

Correspondence

- a) Vale of White Horse District Council – “Worried about facing redundancy” leaflet.
- b) Vale of White Horse – Parish Council newssheet
- c) Oxfordshire County Council – Primary School Review – view of stakeholders
- d) Oxfordshire County Council – Early Learning
Advertising material for local children’s centre handed to the School and playgroup.
- e) Vale of White Horse District Council/Wantage Breakfast Club
Information as to a business seminar at Lains Barn 14th May 8.00 a.m.
- f) CPRE – Oxford Green Belt Way Walk and Rally 19th April 3.00 p.m.
- g) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils –Update
- h) Oxfordshire County Council – Changes to X15 Bus Service
Council noted that this bus would no longer go round the village and would stop on the A415 by the war memorial. Council expressed disappointment at this news and felt that the bus company would stand more chance of picking up residents should it serve the village.

RESOLVED:

that a letter be sent to the County Council and RH Transport concerning this.

2009/78

Accounts

Mr. Walton expressed concern that the Council's schedule of payments appeared in the supplementary clerk's report on the agenda and not specifically listed in the part of the agenda or minutes which were automatically available to the public. He suggested that this was a less than tight system. He suggested that the Council was in breach of its financial regulations. The Clerk advised that this had already been raised by the member with the Clerk and that she had advised that possibly putting details of all cheques issued automatically in the public domain may be a breach of the Data Protection Acts. She had also advised the member that advice was being sought from the Association of Local Councils and that when the advice was to hand, the matter would be put on the agenda for discussion. Members discussed the point raised and instructed the Clerk to place the matter on the agenda for the next meeting regardless of whether the legal advice from the Association of Local Councils, necessary to reach an informed decision, had been received.

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 1970-1977 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £2524.26 in respect of administration costs, play area/maintenance, grass cutting and sign.

2009/79

Matters Raised by members for information

Public Footpath from Church to Cemetery/Frilford

Mrs. Evans confirmed that this path had now been cleared by those undertaking community service. They were returning the weekend following Easter to paint the burial ground gate and fence.

Villager of the Year

Mr. Bough stated he no longer wished to organise the "villager of the year" award. A replacement would be considered at the May meeting.

Anson Field

Mrs. Ricketts stated that children kick balls against the pavilion building in the Anson Field, this was causing damage to drain pipes. She asked that future consideration be given to a "wall". This might be funded through grants and other contributions.

Anson Trust

Mr. Bough, as a Director of the Arthur Anson Memorial Trust Ltd reported that the Trust had completed the land option agreement, the school was not interested in the project and the value of the land for development had reduced. Matters would proceed, but not on the same scale. He confirmed that Mr. John Duffield had been contacted within the last 3 months regarding the Institute, but he does not have an interest in that. The joint working party of representatives of the Parish Council and Jane Hanna, would be meeting with the Trustees to receive an update on the position at the end of April.

Access to Council meetings

The Chairman stated he would make laminated signs for use to indicate the

room where council meetings were held.

Longfields – play area

Mrs. Turney stated that there had been dogs in the play area last week. She suggested suitable signs should be erected. She would liaise with the Clerk regarding this.

Anson Trust field - fence

It was noted that the fence along the edge of the public footpath was in a poor state of repair. It was suggested that the Anson Trust be approached to see whether they had plans to fence the field.

Garden Competition

It was suggested that a Spring Garden competition might be considered for another year. It was noted that this was not successful on a previous occasion when it had been tried.

Land at Howard Cornish Road/Junction of North Street/Sheepstead Road

Council noted that the Guides/Brownies were considering planting bulbs for their 90th year celebrations. This land was not in the ownership of the Parish Council. Consent would have to be obtained from the Vale Housing Association/County Council who owned the land.

2009/80

Items for MAD News

Council noted the list of items for inclusion in the village newsletter. An advertisement would be included for the Annual Parish Meeting containing reference to refreshments.

2009/81

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 13th May, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m. This would be the annual meeting of the Council

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed Date

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th May, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. C. Bough, Mr. W. Cumber, Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson,
Mrs. C. Ricketts, Mrs. S. Turney, Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Walton the Vice-Chairman, took the chair for the start of the meeting.

2009/82

Election of Chairman

The Chairman for the start of the meeting, Mr. Walton, 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 Mr. Hutchinson and

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

2009/83

Declaration of Acceptance of Chairman

RESOLVED:
that Mr. Denton, being absent from the meeting, be authorised to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman as Chairman at a later date, but as soon as possible and before the next meeting.

2009/84

Election of Vice-Chairman

In the absence of the newly elected Chairman, the Chairman for the start of the meeting, Mr. Walton 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 Mrs. Allan, seconded by Mr. Cumber, and

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

Being the newly elected Vice-Chairman, Mr. Walton continued as Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

2009/85 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.

2009/86 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

2009/87 Appointment of Public Transport Representative

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Walton represent the Council

2009/88 Appointment of Representative to Hills Aggregates Liaison Committee

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Cumber represent the Council

2009/89 Appointment of Representatives to the Anson Field Management Committee

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Bough and Mr. Hutchinson represent the Council

2009/90 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

2009/91 Appointment of Representative to the Reservoir Affected Parishes Group

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Hutchinson represent the Council

2009/92 Appointment of MAD News Correspondent

RESOLVED:

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

2009/93 Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit Working Party

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Cumber and Mr. Walton serve on the review of effectiveness of internal audit working party

2009/94 Planning Consultation Working Party established by Cllr. J. Hanna

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Charles, Mrs. Evans, Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Walton represent the Council on the working party established by Cllr. Hanna to discuss how to undertake parish consultation should a planning application for new housing and recreation facilities be lodged.

2009/95 Parishioner of the Year Award working party

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Hutchinson and Mrs. Ricketts form a working party to consider nominations for the Parishioner of the Year Award and to administer the arrangements for the Certificate.

2009/96 Village Garden Competition working party

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Bough assisted by Mrs. Turney if necessary undertake the arrangements for the garden competition and preparation of certificates.

2009/97 Staff Committee/Working Party

Council considered the setting up of a staffing committee/working party and considered the terms of reference of such committees/working parties of two larger councils.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a staff working party be set up comprising Mr. Denton, Mr. Walton and Mrs. Turney
- (ii) that terms of reference of such working parties of smaller Councils be sought
- (iii) that the working party meets within the next 3 months to consider suggested terms of reference to be approved by Council.

- 2009/98 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. Charles, Mr. Denton and Cllr. I. Brown (County Councillor).
- 2009/99 Declarations of Interest
Mr. Walton declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to Cow Lane allotments in that his wife was an allotment holder. Mr. Hutchinson declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to the grant application by the Youth and Children's Minister in that he served on the youth worker's support group. Mr. Cumber declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the Post Office in that he was a director of W. Cumber and Son (Theale) Ltd which owned the property.
- 2009/100 Minutes of the meeting held on 8th April, 2009
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings. Mrs. Allan referred to a factual point in minute 2009/79 regarding the planting of bulbs at the junction of Howard Cornish Road/North Street/Sheepstead Road. Whilst this was a correct record of the meeting she stated that the brownies were celebrating 100 years and not 90 years.
- 2009/101 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th April, 2009
Tarmacing of recycling bank area – Howard Cornish Road
Council noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council and Salvation Army had confirmed that they would temporarily relocate the recycling banks to allow for a hardstanding to be installed.

Bulb planting by Brownies – Howard Cornish Road/North Street.Sheepstead Road junction

Mrs. Allan pointed out that the agenda item for this meeting which contained reference to her raising this issue should have in fact read Mrs. Ricketts. Council noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council and Vale Housing Association had no objections to planting in their land. The District Council wished to be advised as to the location of the bulbs for their records. The County Council, however, required a Licence to be granted and legislation of the New Roads and Street Works Act followed in regard to any works on the highway. These requirements were discussed by Council.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Council is extremely dismayed at the reaction of the County Council by applying the same strict requirements to brownies wishing to plant bulbs as to major highway works.
- (ii) that Cllr. Brown (County Councillor) be advised of the Council's view.

X15 Bus Service around the village

Council noted correspondence that had been received from the County Council

that the decision to withdraw the service from Howard Cornish Road/North Street was a commercial one, and the County Council had no influence where the contractor was not under contract to the County Council. The Clerk has not received a reply from Thames Travel, the bus operator and would continue to make enquiries regarding this.

2009/102

Public Participation

Post office/Shop

Mr. Cumber under s. 12(2) of the Code of Conduct, as a director of the company which owned the building, made a statement. He stated that the Post Office Authorities remain keen on keeping a Post Office in the village. The Post Office Authorities were ensuring that the computer equipment remained "live", although there had been some difficulties with the telephone line. The Post Office Authorities would keep the Post Office going for 3 – 6 months until the situation with the shop was clearer. As regards a new tenant there has been some interest in the shop. Mr. Cumber stated that he hoped the Post Office would continue alongside the shop business.

Post Office/Shop

A resident stated that it was sad that a people pressure group had not been organised. He was of the opinion that the parish would not have found itself in the current situation if earlier action had been taken. He referred to the situation in St. Giles, Oxford where councillors had led a petition of 3,000 signatures. He referred to rubbish which had been left at the rear of the Post Office in Sweetbriar. He had personally removed paper and plastic items, but reported that metal shelving was still remaining. The Vale of White Horse District Council would not clear the items as part of its weekly collection.

2009/103

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/5011/6 Retrospective application for the erection of 1.8 high close boarded timber fence to boundary of Plot 2

Cotsdale, Abingdon Road

Permitted 30th March, 2009

MAR/6253/5 Proposed riding arena with fencing in paddock. Change of use from grazing

Brushwood Farm, Woodside

Permitted 9th April, 2009

Single storey pitched and flat roofed extension to provide new classroom, wc, cloakroom and storage. Cycle shelter

Marcham Primary School

Permitted 27th April, 2009

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

MAR/15176/1 Erection of 2 storey rear extension, insertion of two front elevation pitched roof dormers, together with internal refurbishment
3 Mill Road

For: Mr. S. Middleton

Comments: No objections and Council supported the application

MAR/15176/2-LB 1 Erection of 2 storey rear extension, insertion of two front elevation pitched roof dormers, together with internal refurbishment
3 Mill Road

For: Mr. S. Middleton

Comments: No objections and Council supported the application

MAR/20825 Erection of 2 storey side extension
8 Longfields

For: Mr and Mrs Cousins

Comments: Council's view expressing concern about the long term affordability of properties on this rural exception site, as set out at the March meeting of this Council, were reiterated.

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

Appropriate Assessment undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council, requested by Natural England on the impact of sand extraction on Cothill Fen
Upwood Park

For: Hills Aggregates

Council noted that the application for sand extraction was due to be heard by the County Council's Planning and Regulation Committee on Monday 18th May. Mr. Hutchinson gave a report on the assessment. The assessment had concluded that any impact on the Fen would be mitigated by conditions being imposed such as to the preparation of a water management plan. Mr. Hutchinson referred to the fact that local residents were holding a meeting that evening and were intending to have representatives speak at the County Council's Planning Committee. It was understood that the County Councillor Iain Brown would also be present.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that no comment be submitted on the Appropriate Assessment
- (ii) that Council not send a speaker to address Planning and Regulation Committee.

2009/104

District Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr. Hanna no report was available.

2009/105

County Councillor's Report

The Clerk reported the issues raised by Cllr. Brown when lodging his apologies

for the meeting. These included the arrangements for a grit bin, which had previously been reported. He had also referred to the fact that the County Council was willing to undertake a trial devolved budget arrangement with the Parish Council for weed spraying.

Council referred to this arrangement and was keen to pursue it. Reference was made to previous quotes and the requirements to provide a plan showing priority areas. Mrs. Ricketts and Mrs. Turney offered to assist with a priority plan of the village weeds. Mr. Hutchinson referred to a telephone call he had received from a resident in North Street who had expressed concern that the Vale of White Horse District Council was clearing the hollyhocks and wall flowers growing from walls, as part of a street cleaning schedule. He had attended a site meeting and had negotiated a compromise.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the street cleaning schedule be obtained from the Vale of White Horse District Council
- (ii) that the Clerk prepare a map of the village showing where a contractor should spray weeds and check the quotations previously received
- (iii) that Cllr. Brown be asked to pursue the devolved budget arrangements as soon as possible.

Mr. Cumber left the room

2009/106

Post Office

Mr. Walton stated he was sad to have lost the Post Office and that he was sure he spoke on behalf of the Council when saying this, as it was an important part of the village. The Clerk summarised the position in regard to the temporary arrangements for the Post Office as far as the Post Office Authorities had advised. They were still hopeful of being able to find a temporary replacement. It was suggested that the people who ran it whilst the previous tenants were away should be invited to run it. Council discussed the rubbish that had been left by the tenants.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Clerk contact the Vale of White Horse District Council to arrange the removal of the rubbish left behind by the Post Office/shop tenants.
- (ii) that Council pays for its removal if necessary

Mr. Cumber rejoined the meeting

2009/107

Grant Request

Council noted that a grant request had been received for an event in June. Consideration of this application in the Autumn when Council usually

considered grants would be too late. Council discussed whether to take this item at this meeting.

RESOLVED:

that the grant request be considered at this meeting

Council considered a grant request from the Youth and Children's Minister to take a group of village children to Viney Hill, a Christian Activity Centre on an activity weekend. Council was concerned that there had been no forward planning and the request not lodged last Autumn so all grant applications could be considered together. Also there was little justification as to why it was necessary to subsidise the costs.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a grant of £100 be awarded towards the costs of taking village children to Viney Hill Activity Centre
- (ii) that enquiries be made as to which organisation the cheque should be made payable.
- (iii) that the applicant be advised that forward planning was required so that applications could be considered together, and also more detailed information as to the need for funding would be required in future.

2009/108

A420 Contingency Planning Review Meeting

Council noted that the County Council was hosting a meeting at the Bell Hotel, Faringdon on 20th July at 1030 a.m. to demonstrate and review the progress of the County Council's A420 contingency plan.

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Denton represent this Council.

2009/109

Cow Lane Allotments

Council considered a request for the re-opening of the pedestrian gate off Sheepstead Road to enable allotment holders who walked to the site easier access rather than walking to the Cow Lane access. Council also considered a complaint that grass cuttings were being dumped in the hedge off Cow Lane. Council also considered two separate requests from Abingdon and Witney College and also from TWL training to permit the use of allotments by students undertaking training courses. The tenancy for the allotments would be in the names of residents of Marcham who happened to be employees of the colleges. Members considered that horticulture was therapeutic and gardening could be of benefit to those with learning difficulties. The Clerk, in her report, had advised Council to consider the terms on which the land was sold to the Parish Council, any implications of a commercial transaction and consultation with other

allotment users, the insurance position, the requirement of the Council's insurers for a risk assessment to be undertaken and means of transportation for the students.

Council discussed the letting of allotments to local residents but who would permit students to work the plots. Members felt that this was no different to any other allotment holder having assistance.

Council also considered a request from an allotment holder, Mrs. Holt, to site a shed on the plot that she rented. She had also requested permission to retain and reconnect a water supply, which had been installed without permission by a previous tenant of the plot, to her plot under the Cow Lane hedge.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Council supports the use of the allotments for working by students from Abingdon and Witney College and TWL training, provided the tenancy agreements are in the names of local residents.
- (ii) that Mrs. Holt be advised that the water pipe was improperly placed, that hosepipes were not permitted
- (iii) that Council itself would consider whether additional water supplies were needed.
- (iv) that permission be granted to Mrs. Holt to place one shed on the allotment plot 8B nearest the hedge.

2009/110

Longfields – Play Area

Council considered a quotation from Falcon signs for the manufacture of a sign indicating "ownership" and "no dogs permitted" for the Longfields Play Area. Council noted that S.T. Grounds Maintenance had repaired the fence and trimmed bushes that were overhanging the play area.

RESOLVED:

that the information sign from Falcon signs for the Longfields play area be purchased at a cost of £60

2009/111

Centenary of North Berks Football League 1909 – 2009

Council considered a letter from the Centenary Committee of the North Berks Football League requesting that Council celebrate the Centenary of the League.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the letter regarding the Centenary of the North Berks Football League be passed to the Marcham Football Club
- (ii) that a letter of congratulations be sent to the League at the appropriate time later in the year prior to its celebration events.

2009/112

Environment Agency – Application for environmental permit
Energy from Waste Incinerator – Sutton Courtenay

Mr. Walton gave a report on the Environmental Permit application. Council discussed concerns that cadmium was an extremely toxic metal, many batteries contained cadmium, and all refuse was being incinerated without being separated. This would lead to emissions of cadmium into the atmosphere in volumes much greater than permitted elsewhere such as California. It appeared that mid-range figures had been used when calculating what the incinerator would produce rather than taking the worse case scenario. There appeared to be a requirement for better filters. Monitoring was expected twice a year. This was not sufficient given the risks from emissions in the interim. Carbon capture had not been considered as part of the permit application. Didcot Power Station was considering a carbon capture rig, so WRG should consider carbon capture for the incinerator.

RESOLVED:

that a letter be sent to the Environment Agency expressing Councils concern over the incineration of items containing cadmium, the release of cadmium into the atmosphere and the consequent impact on the area and on public health. The letter to contain reference to better monitoring and the suggestion for a carbon capture mechanism, as was being considered for other industrial premises.

2009/113

Correspondence

- a) Vale of White Horse District Council – Standards Committee agenda 28th April
- b) Equality and Human Rights Commission – Public Sector Equality Duties
- c) The Playing Field – magazine – Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association
- d) Vale of White Horse District Council – Assisted travel schemes information
- e) Letter from parishioner – removal of flowers in North Street. – This had been referred to minute 2009/105
- f) Training course information entitled “Granting, exercising and transferring rights of burial” 25th June. £40 per delegate.
- g) OALC – AGM 8th June, Exeter Hall, Kidlington
- h) Vale of White Horse District Council – Agenda 20th May

2009/114

Accounts

Council considered placing a schedule of payments onto the part of the agenda automatically disclosed to the public, and for putting a full list of cheques within the main body of the minutes and not as an appendix. Mr. Walton stated he had asked for Council to consider this as there appeared to be a case for doing this and also in the interests of being open. He reminded members that other councils did this. The Clerk had provided information as to the provisions of the Data Protection Act and the disclosure of personal information. This confirmed certain information should not be disclosed

without the consent of the person who was the subject of the data. After general discussion it was recognised that the summary receipts and payments, and the budget were available automatically. Mr. Walton stated that Council had agreed to publish its annual return, and that the scale of staff salaries should be recorded in the minutes.

RESOLVED:

that Council not disclose the full list of cheques automatically in the public domain.

Council noted the list of cheques to be signed and authorised payments totalling £3910.59 in respect of administration costs, parishioner of the year award, and grass cutting.

2009/115

Matters Raised by members for information

Parishioner of the Year Certificate

The Parishioner of the Year Certificate had been presented by way of surprise to the recipients. They would be in attendance at the Annual Meeting for Electors to be formally presented.

Register of Interests

Mr. Bough reminded the Clerk that he had asked for members of the Council to be reminded of the contents of the register of interests each had completed.

Sports wall on Anson Field

Mr. Bough stated that he had spoken with the project management officer for WREN. It was likely that funding towards the cost of a sports wall would be forthcoming. He hoped that the Parish Council would support the project and asked for this to be an agenda item for the June meeting.

Anson Trust – New Community Facilities

Mr. Bough, as a Trustee advised Council that discussions were taking place with commercial parties and that real progress was being made.

2009/116

The duration of the meeting was 2 hours and Council

RESOLVED:

to suspend Standing Order no 1a to allow business be continued

Longfields – Play Area fence

It was pointed out that the inherited fence at the front of the play area site was not suitable for the purpose. The chain link fencing had been pulled out of its frame and the wooden top rails had been used as balancing beams by the children. It was thought that it would not be durable, although it had been repaired. Council may have to budget for a replacement fence.

Annual Meeting for Electors

Mr. Cumber offered to arrange for the purchase the refreshments for the annual meeting of electors.

Revd. Richard Zair

Mrs. Allan passed on the thanks of Revd. Zair regarding the Parish Council maintaining the closed churchyard.

Tower Close / Orchard Way – parked cars

It was reported that there were numerous cars parked on the highway verges and paths.

Morland Road / Howard Cornish Road junction

It was reported that there were potholes at this junction. The details of the Oxfordshire gateway were provided, so that the matter could be reported direct.

2009/117

Items for MAD News

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

2009/118

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 10th June, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed Date

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th June, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. M. Denton (Chairman), Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. C. Bough, Mr. I. Charles,
Mr. W. Cumber, Mrs. M. Evans, Mrs. C. Ricketts, Mrs. S. Turney, Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Cllr. J. Hanna, (District Councillor)
Guest Speakers: Mrs. L. Scaplehorn and Ms. H. Richardson from Housing
Department, Vale of White Horse District Council
2 members of the public

Prior to the Commencement of formal business, Mrs. Scaplehorn and Ms. Richardson gave a presentation about the District Council's housing register, the choice based lettings system and the method of allocation of properties. Reference was made to the locations of housing register application forms, the requirements of proof of residence, and the banding arrangements for properties which would change from 13th July. Potential tenants could bid for properties once their eligibility had been assessed and a band had been allocated. Properties available were shown on the District Council's website and on lists in libraries, GP surgeries etc. The District Council handled choice based lettings and most transfer lists, some housing associations handled their own transfer list. They explained the letting system for the rural exception site and the steps they took to ensure compliance with the s. 106 agreement. Approximately 400 properties were allocated each year and there were 4000 people on the housing register. The average waiting time for a family was 4 years, and for a 1 bedroomed property was 18 months. They answered questions as to conditions of houses and gardens, shorthold and assured tenancies, percentages of housing association properties which were on the transfer lists, and the "local connection" situation of those in the Army and other services.

The Chairman thanked them for the presentation and they then left the meeting.

- 2009/119 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. D. Hutchinson
- 2009/120 Declarations of Interest
Mr. Bough declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the grant request by the Anson Trust in that he was a Director of the Trust.
- 2009/121 Minutes of the annual meeting held on 13th May, 2009
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings subject in minute 2009/101 in Bulb Planting by Brownies to add the letter "r" in Howard.
- 2009/122 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th May, 2009
Longfields Play Area sign
Council noted that this had been manufactured and would be installed shortly.

Letter of thanks from Parochial Church Council for grant

Council noted receipt of a letter of thanks from the Parochial Church Council for the grant to send village children on an activity weekend.

Letter of thanks from The Ven. Eddie and Revd. Pamela for Parishioner of the Year Certificate

Council noted receipt of a letter of thanks for the Parishioner of the Year Certificate from The Ven. Eddie and Revd. Pamela Shirras.

2009/123 Public Participation

There were no matters raised

2009/124 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/3579/2 Proposed two storey side extension
64 Howard Cornish Road
Permitted 18th May, 2009

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

No applications had been received

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

No applications had been received

2009/125 District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Hanna gave an update report from the working group which she had established to consider public consultation when the planning application from the Anson Trust was lodged. The group had met with the Directors and the information given had been reiterated at the Annual Meeting of Electors. The working group had met since to consider the information. There were some concerns over the consultation phase and plans for the consultation. The group had decided to write to the Anson Trust asking for clarification as to its intentions regarding consultation, the involvement of user groups and what its plans were for the involvement of the village. Information was being sought as to a planned timeframe for consultation. The group could not take action until it was better informed. Mr. Bough advised, as a Director of the Trust, that there would be a reply in the next edition of MAD News to the letter written by a resident which appeared in the June issue. It appeared that talks were taking place with a developer to have an option on part of the recreation field. Any planning application would be for the developer to handle. There would therefore be no consultation by the Anson Trust on this aspect. As for the rest of the proposals, there should be consultation on the matters which were in the control of the Anson Trust. Cllr. Hanna asked whether the Trust would have any pre-conditions with the developer as to what was acceptable, and queried

whether there would be a plan for consultation and whether the developer would hold a public meeting. It was stated that the Anson Trust had to manage their affairs in the best interest of the charity. Questions and answers and further discussion were not relevant to the District Councillor's report to the Parish Council and the issues were left to the working group to pursue.

In the absence of Cllr. Brown the newly elected County Councillor, a question of policy of where political signs were permitted at election time was put to Cllr. Hanna as several electoral posters had appeared on County Council highways. Cllr. Hanna acknowledged that signs should be placed only on private land, and that this would be borne in mind for the next election.

2009/126

County Councillor's Report

It was noted that Cllr. Iain Brown had been re-elected as the member for the Hanneys and Hendreds Division at the recent County Council elections. In the absence of Cllr. Brown from the meeting, no report was available.

2009/127

Post Office

Council noted that the Post Office would re-open from Monday 15th June between 9.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. This was a temporary arrangement. Mr. Cumber advised that the technical problems regarding the Post Office's computer equipment and telephone line had been resolved, and that the shop premises were still being advertised for rent.

2009/128

Annual Meeting for Electors

Council considered matters arising from the annual meeting for electors.

Arboretum Car Park - pothole

Council noted the request to repair the tarmac car park.

RESOLVED:

that this matter be referred to the Marcham Recreation Ground Charity.

Buses

Council noted the concerns that had been raised at the annual meeting regarding the proposal to reduce the bus service to hourly during the day and 2 hourly in the evening.

RESOLVED:

that this matter be deferred for discussion under the agenda item relating to buses.

The Anson Trust – The Anson field

Council noted the comments made by a Trustee and those of the public, at the electors meeting. It was clear that the Trust proposed to dispose of part of the Anson field to a developer and that part would remain as a green space.

Concerns had been raised as to the future of the open space should development take place on part of the field. Council discussed the possibility of being involved with the open space in some way, such as a Lease to the Council, to try and ensure its protection and use as a public facility. It was thought by some to be premature, as it was assumed that part of the Anson Trust's consultation would be about what to do with the space. However, it was generally felt prudent, to pursue the idea, as the future of the area and the Anson Trust's position was uncertain. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Anson Trust to express the Parish Council interest in protecting the area. The Chairman asked for a show of hands

In favour 8

RESOLVED:

that a letter be sent to the Anson Trust to express the Council's interest in protecting any remaining open space on the Anson field should the Trust dispose of part of the field to a developer and subject to any planning application being successful.

2009/129

Buses

Stagecoach Service X30 and 31

Council received a report from Mr. Walton who had attended a public meeting arranged by Stagecoach regarding its proposed reduced service. The X30 and 31 service Oxford to Wantage was seen as one service, although one bus travelled through Marcham and the other direct from Oxford to Wantage. Stagecoach was unwilling to continue the half hourly service through the village owing to declining numbers. Council noted that the Clerk had written a letter of objection to Stagecoach following the concerns raised at the annual meeting for electors. Concerns were raised that if the bus service went to hourly, then residents would use cars and potential passengers would be lost.

Council considered a letter from Oxfordshire County Council regarding a bus subsidy, as it was proposed to reduce the bus service to hourly in the day and 2 hourly in the evening Monday-Thursday. The County Council had agreed to provide a subsidy to fund an hourly service in the evening until December 2009 and sought views as to its continuance after then, given the apparent lack of demand on the Abingdon/Wantage section of the route. Council was of the opinion that the evening hourly service was important for the village.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Council ratifies the action of the Clerk in writing a letter of objection to Stagecoach to the Proposed reduction in bus service through the village.
- (ii) that a letter be sent to the County Council advising that the retention of the hourly

evening service was vital for the village, and that the subsidy should continue after December.

- (iii) that the letter also include reference to the loss of potential passengers if the half hourly service was reduced to hourly.

X15 – RH Transport

Council noted a response from RH Transport that it was a rare occasion when anyone boarded the X15 around the village. A commercial decision had been made to run the service along the A415 main road only, and that it would not revert to going round the village. Council considered a request from a parishioner that the main road stop near Hyde Farm Nurseries be reinstated.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a letter be sent to Oxfordshire County Council requesting that this stop be reinstated, as it existed when the X15 ran along the A415 previously.
- (ii) that the Parish Council funds the cost of the “flag” if required by the County Council.

2009/130

Grant Request

Mr. Bough asked Council whether he could make a statement. Mr. Bough had previously declared a personal and prejudicial interest. Council agreed to Mr. Bough making a statement. Mr. Bough, under s. 12(2) of the Code of Conduct, as a director of the Arthur Anson Trust made a statement regarding the grant application. The Trust had received a second quote for a wooden ball wall, the same as the one on Tilsley Park in the sum of £1250. The intention was to erect a wall to stop youngsters kicking balls at the pavilion building.

Council noted that a grant request had been received from the Anson Trust for funding in the sum of £3,000 for a concrete sports wall on the Anson field, as well as the information tabled at the meeting. Council discussed whether to take this item at this meeting given its policy of considering grants only at the November meeting.

RESOLVED:

that the grant request be considered at this meeting

Mr. Bough left the meeting.

Council discussed the grant application. Some concerns were raised regarding graffiti, noise, flammability of the wooden structure, and direction of balls rebounding. In principle, Council was supportive of a grant of £1250 for the erection of a wooden wall, depending on a site visit to Tilsley Park to view the wall in that location. Council discussed placing an article in MAD News. This

was thought premature. The Clerk reminded members that this was a grant application, and the project was an Anson Trust project.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Mrs. Ricketts, Mr. Charles, Mrs. Allan and Mr. Walton visit the wooden ball wall at Tilsley Park and report back to the Clerk on its suitability for Marcham.
- (ii) that a plan showing the location of the proposed wall be obtained from the Trust.
- (iii) that a grant of £1250 be approved and paid to the Anson Trust by the Clerk subject to satisfactory comments from the 4 members following their visit to Tilsley Park.
- (iv) that no article be placed in MAD News by the Parish Council

Mr. Bough rejoined the meeting.

2009/131

Best Kept Garden Competition

Council discussed the arrangements for the competition. 7 members offered to act as guides for the first round judges. The results of the first round would be available by the end of June. Council was reminded that the competition would be biennial in future. The Clerk advised on sponsorship received to date. Mr. Denton advised that his employer might be approached to sponsor the competition if it was found necessary to seek further sponsors.

2009/132

Village Green

Council considered complaints from parishioners regarding the condition of the edge of the village green. Vehicles encroached over the edge destroying the grass. The Clerk reminded members of the statutory protection of village greens. Council discussed ways of dealing with the problem including signs to prevent vehicles, and the installation of plastic or concrete grid blocks to strengthen the edge.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the opinion of G & I Ayres of Marcham, highway work specialists, be sought as to the strength and weights supported by the grid blocks.
- (ii) that no signs be erected
- (iii) that the matter be deferred to a future meeting.

2009/133

Vale of White Horse District Council – Community Safety Tri-Signs

Council noted that the District Council would provide information signs free of charge for vehicle areas/car parks.

RESOLVED:

that no signs be acquired for use in the parish

2009/134

Street Lighting

Council considered the County Council's proposal to turn off street lights between 12.30 a.m. – 5.30 a.m. and noted the areas in the village where residents had requested that they be left on. Council was supportive of the idea of carbon reduction and turning off some lights.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the County Council be advised that this Council supported the turning off of alternate lights.
- (ii) but that lights at Parkside, garage block between Haines Court and Howard Cornish Road, path between Morland Road and Howard Cornish Road, and bus stops at Longfields and junction of Howard Cornish Road/North Street be left on as requested by residents.

2009/135

Bench Seat

Council considered a request from a parishioner to give a donation to the Parish Council to that a bench seat could be erected in memory of a family member. Council was prepared to accept a donation, subject to the agreement of the location of the bench. The Anson field was a possibility, and this would require the permission of the Trust. Should the plans of the Trust to develop part of the field reach fruition, then it was hoped that the Trust would relocate the bench if necessary. The arboretum was a possible site if the Anson field was not suitable.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the parishioner be advised that the Parish Council was prepared to accept a donation to cover the cost of a bench seat
- (ii) that the preference was to site this in the Anson field, subject to the Trust's permission.
- (iii) that the Arboretum be the second choice of site should the Anson field prove not possible.

2009/136

Correspondence

- a) Thames Valley Police Open Day – Police Training Centre, Sulhamstead, Reading 8th August
- b) Vale of White Horse District Council – Survive and Thrive magazine
- c) Oxfordshire County Council – Home 2 school newsletter
- d) South East Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy
Council noted that the Secretary of State had completed her consideration of representations. The document was available at www.gos.gov.uk/gose
- e) OALC – May newsletter
- f) Vale District Council Community Safety – newsletter
- g) South Oxfordshire District Council/Vale of White Horse District Council – Launch of Leader Project – a scheme to support capital projects, business and

rural communities from funding acquired from the Rural Development Programme for England.

h) Vale of White Horse District Council – letter from Chairman

Council considered a letter from the Chairman of the District Council offering to attend local events.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the letter be copied to Marcham C.E. Primary School
- (ii) that the Chairman be invited to present the prizes for the Best Kept Garden Competition

i) Vale of White Horse District Council – Flood Grant

The Chairman, as co-ordinator of the local flood group, stated he had received a letter from the District Council offering a grant of £1,000 to support Marcham with its flood prevention measures including the purchase of a flood gauge, fluorescent coats, road closed signs, sand bags and water bags (inflatable sand bags).

j) Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau – Annual General Meeting

Council noted an invitation to attend the annual general meeting of the bureau On Thursday 25th June with guest speaker Lucy Bartlett, Business Management Consultant for the bureau. Members interested in attending to advise the Clerk.

2009/137

Accounts

Council considered the receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31st March 2009. Questions on the accounts were answered by the Clerk. Council had been provided with a copy of the proposed annual return and also considered the figures on the annual return and the governance assurance statement. Council noted that Mr. Walton and the Clerk had attended a meeting with the internal auditor to receive his report for the 2008/2009 year. Council noted the report. The issue for Council was that Council was effectively borrowing from its employee to pay for stamps and other petty cash items. This had arisen following the adoption of the financial regulations in December 2008 when Council had chosen to delete the clause relating to the petty cash imprest system which had previously been in operation. The internal auditor had recommended the reinstatement of the imprest system, or regular reimbursement of expenses to the Clerk. Council also noted that the recipients of the Parishioner of the Year Award had nominated the Parochial Church Council as the organisation to receive the Council's agreed £100 grant. This would be spent on village activities such as the children's holiday club.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Council approve the receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31st March 2009 as presented.

- (ii) that Council approve the annual return figures and the governance of assurance required by the external auditor BDO Stoy Hayward on the annual return
- (iii) that the report from the internal auditor RJS (IA)Ltd be noted, and that a review of financial regulations take place
- (iv) that the grant of £100 to Marcham Parochial Church Council, as nominated by the recipients of the Parishioner of the Year Award be approved.

2009/138

Matters Raised by members for information

Bottle Banks – Hardstanding

A question was asked regarding the moving back of the bottle banks now that the hardstanding had been finished. The Clerk would make enquiries.

Footpath alongside Anson Field - strimming

It was reported that this path needed strimming. The Clerk would ask the contractor to do this.

Churchyard – elderflower tree

It was reported that elderflower growing on the North side of the Church needed cutting down. The Clerk would make arrangements for this.

Footpath Church to Cemetery

It was reported that this path needed clearing. Mrs. Evans confirmed that those undertaking community service who were doing work in the parish would do this.

Location of Bench Seat

It was suggested that should there be a request to the Parish Council to accept a donation, in future, to erect a bench seat then one location would be in the hardstanding in the grass opposite the path by Sheepstead Road. Anyone sitting there could then see the arrival of the bus, and there was easy access to the bus stop.

Highway Weed Spraying

Mrs. Ricketts and Mrs. Turney handed the Clerk the map for highway weed spraying. The Clerk would ask Cllr. Brown the County Councillor as to the progress on the idea of devolved spending from the County Council for weed spraying.

Longfields

It was suggested that the Parish Council pursue the idea of putting play equipment in the Longfields play area. This could be an agenda item for a future meeting. It was reported that parking on the wide verge at the corner of

Longfields restricted vision and also prevented the grass from being cut. The Chairman offered to speak to the new Police Officer for the area.

Incident – Youths/Elderly person

It was reported that an incident had occurred involving youths with bicycles where an elderly resident had been injured. Anyone hearing information about this matter was asked to pass it on to the Police.

Neighbourhood Watch

It was reported that residents should be aware of leaflets in letterboxes regarding the purchase of jewellery, where callers returned to properties and were alleged aggressive. The Clerk was asked to place an article in MAD News concerning this.

Thames Valley Police - Update

The Chairman showed members a Police information newssheet. This also had been received by the Clerk and emailed to all members.

Wayside Cross

It was reported that weeds were growing in this area. Mr. Denton and Mr. Walton offered to clear this. It was noted that the work to level the steps had not been done. The Clerk advised that the contractor was planning to do it during the Summer in time for the next Remembrance Sunday. The Clerk was asked to remind the contractor that the work was outstanding.

Volunteer Group

Mr. Denton, for information, reported that the village volunteer group would be undertaking a tidy up in July. Marcham Cubs, would probably assist with this.

2009/139

Items for MAD News

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

2009/140

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 8th July, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed Date

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th July, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. M. Denton (Chairman), Mr. C. Bough, Mr. I. Charles, Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson, Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Joined by Cllr. I. Brown (County Councillor)
4 members of the public

2009/141 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs. J. Allan, (holiday), Mr. W. Cumber, (attendance at Royal Show) and Mrs. S. Turney (recovering from hospital surgery).

2009/142 Declarations of Interest
Mr. Bough declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the grant request by the Anson Trust in that he was a Director of the Trust.

2009/143 Minutes of the meeting held on 10th June, 2009
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

2009/144 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th June, 2009

Best Kept Garden Competition

Council noted that the deputy manager from Millets Farm Garden Centre had agreed to be the final round judge. Judging would take place in July. Mr. Bough placed on record his thanks to all members who helped find judges for the first round of judging and who accompanied them around the village.

Howard Cornish Road – Recycling Banks

Council noted that the bottle banks had been relocated back to their original position, but now located on the hardstanding. The area was much tidier. Unfortunately sacks containing non recyclables had been left alongside the banks again. It was suggested that a notice be put on the bottle banks advising that objects other than recyclables were not to be left and all litter to be placed in the litter bin which was adjacent.

Letter of thanks – Parochial Church Council

Council noted receipt of a letter of thanks from Marcham Parochial Church Council for the grant awarded as a result of the parishioner of the year nomination.

2009/145 Public Participation

Post Office

A resident, who had been critical of the owner of the Post Office, and Parish Council at the April meeting, wished to publicly apologise for what he had said. He advised that he had visited the owner of the Post Office premises and had had discussions with him. He now better understood the situation regarding the closure of the shop and appreciated the circumstances involved.

North Street – Garage - large pothole

It was reported that there was effectively a sunken trench which had appeared again in North Street outside the garage. The Chairman commented that this had already been reported to the County Council, but that it would be drawn to its attention again.

Anson Trust – Development Proposals / Ex-Servicemen’s Club

A resident stated concern that should the Anson Trust’s proposals proceed then the Ex-Servicemen’s Club would be without a base from which to operate. He asked that the Parish Council do something for the Ex-Servicemen’s Club. The Chairman stated that this was an issue that could be considered at a later date. Mr. Bough, as an Anson Trustee, responded and advised that the Trust had invited the Club to be part of the new proposals, but that the officers of the club had declined to be involved.

Cllr. Brown joined the meeting.

Pavements - Condition

A resident complained about the state and condition of the pavements. She had tried pushing a wheelchair along and the pavements were like rollercoasters. This point was noted by Cllr. Brown. The Chairman stated that owing to the County’s limited budget it was unlikely that action would be taken by the County Council unless the situation was dangerous.

2009/146

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/20825 Erection of a two storey side extension
8 Longfields
Permitted 10th June, 2009

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

MAR/1841/38 Erection of two storey boarding accommodation block and associated car parking (amended plan)
Cothill School
For: The Cothill Trust
Comments: Council re-iterated its earlier objections to the details in the that the amended location was still unsympathetic to the adjacent listed buildings.

Council's earlier concerns regarding vehicle movements and public footpath still remained and the loss of trees and hedging would impact on the area. Council was of the opinion that not enough had been done about the revisions.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that he had received a request from a resident adjacent to the site for the Council to send its planning response letter not only to the officer dealing with the application, but to all members of the development control committee. Council considered this request.

RESOLVED:

that the Parish Council's letter sent to the planning officer dealing with the application be sent to all members of the District Council's development control committee

MAR/20889 Alterations to existing dwelling including the creation of a first floor and new garages

Hyde Farm Bungalow, Abingdon Road

For: Mr. P. Collet

Comments: Council had concerns regarding the height as it was similar to the CotSDale properties where the Council had lodged an objection, the impact at the start of the village, and the large garage block adjacent to the A415. Council pointed out errors on the drawing and asked that if the District Council were minded to approve the application then a condition be imposed so that the garage block could not be converted to living accommodation.

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

MAR/2394/4-LB Proposed reinstatement of the former roof form to the dovecote

Tithe House, 15 Church Street

For: Mr. J. Duffield

Council noted comments submitted by Mrs. Tierney, Clerk of Works for the Parochial Church Council expressing concern in case building works affected the Churchyard which was adjacent to the site. Council suggested that the Parochial Church Council contact the agent to clarify the situation.

Comments: Council had no objections, but was unsure how the works would be carried out and asked that any trees, including those in the adjacent Churchyard which may be affected, be protected.

MAR/2394/3-LB Proposed rebuilding of the former gables to the now roofless Tithe Barn at Tithe House and to reinstate roof.

Tithe House, Church Street

For: Mr. J. Duffield

Council noted comments submitted by Mrs. Tierney, Clerk of Works for the Parochial Church Council expressing concern in case building works affected

the Churchyard which was adjacent to the site. Council suggested that the Parochial Church Council contact the agent to clarify the situation.

Comments: Council had no objections, but was unsure how the works would be carried out and asked that any trees, including those in the adjacent Churchyard which may be affected, be protected.

MAR/20909 Erection of two storey extension
19 Kings Avenue
For: Mr. H. Johnson
Comments: Council had no objections

MAR/20687/1 Demolition of existing garage. Erection of new garage
(amendment to approval MAR/20687)
The Barn, Oakley Park, Frilford Heath
For: Mr. C. Agger
Comments: Council had no objections

2009/147 District Councillor's Report
In the absence of Cllr. Hanna no report was available.

2009/148 County Councillor's Report
The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Brown to his first meeting since re-election.
Cllr. Brown raised the following issues:

- Devolved budget for weed spraying – he had chased this funding.
- Pavements – He would raise this matter and submit photographs to the County Council if they could be provided.
- Reservoir – He had attended a meeting with the Environment Agency, the M.P. and Group Against the Reservoir Development. It appeared that Thames Water had to look more carefully at the alternatives. Before the Water Management Plan could be finalised the matter had to go to the Secretary of State.
- Anson Trust – Cllr. Brown and Ed. Vaizey M.P had met with 2 members of the Anson Trust on the sports field to discuss Anson Trust matters. Ed. Vaizey had offered to chair a public meeting if required.
- County Council – There would be 10% reduction in staff levels of the next 4-5 years. £60 million had to be saved. A review would go to Cabinet and then to full County Council meeting in September. Front line services would not be cut.
- Frilford – At the annual meeting of electors, Mr. Tony Carter and Mr. Nigel Carter of Garford had announced that they were in negotiations with Hills Aggregates for sand extraction on a 50 acre site off the A338 south of the Frilford Road and Kingston Road staggered junction. This was unlikely to come to fruition for some years.

Cllr. Brown then left the meeting.

Mr. Bough left the room

2009/149

Grant Request for games wall – The Anson Trust

Two out of the four members nominated at the last meeting had visited the Tilsley Park games wall. A brick games wall had also been viewed. Mixed feelings about the scheme had resulted. A wooden wall appeared “rough” with some graffiti, the brick wall was covered in graffiti. Concerns were raised that this type of structure would not be in wide open space and would be very large in the corner of the Anson Trust field. There were fears that it would be difficult to see youngsters should they choose to hide behind it. It was acknowledged that the Parish Council had supported the installation of play equipment for younger children, and that it should possibly assist the older children. There was no evidence that the youngsters had been consulted about the games wall. It was noted that plastic guttering on the pavilion buildings was being damaged as a result of kicking a ball against the wall of the building. The Clerk advised that the Trust had been asked to provide a plan of the proposed location for the games wall, but the Trust had informed her that it would consult with the users of the field first and would forward a plan in due course. Given that reports from two members on their visit to Tilsley Park were still awaited, and the location plan for the site not received it was

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Trust be advised that the Parish Council was not prepared to offer a grant at this stage
- (ii) that the Trust be asked to provide evidence of consultation with the youngsters as to what they would like
- (iii) that the Trust be advised that the Council would consider the grant request again when further information was available including what ways, other than a games wall, had been considered to solve the problem of kicking balls against the pavilion.

Mr. Bough rejoined the meeting

2009/150

Village Green

Council discussed vehicle damage to the edge of the village green. Council noted comments from Mr. G. Ayres that owing to the heavy wear sustained, grid blocks may become loose and cause a trip hazard. Council was concerned about minimising the impact to the Green. Council discussed possible action and discounted double yellow lines or bollards for the time being. The Chairman offered to speak with Mr. Cumber to ask for the edge to be levelled and re-seeded. Large trade vehicles and companies using Mill Road too should be advised not to encroach on the Green.

2009/151

Longfields Play Area

Council noted estimates for providing a new swing and safety surfacing in the Longfields play area. Depending on the number of swing seats, these ranged from £3500 to £4600. Council noted also the need for planning consent for a change of use should the erection of play equipment take place. Given the sums involved members suggested a Longfields fund raising event.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the matter be deferred to a future meeting
- (ii) that a fund raising event to support the costs involved be suggested to Mrs. Turney and Mrs. Ricketts who had initiated the idea of play equipment in Longfields.

2009/152

Flood Grant

Council noted receipt of £1000 grant from the Vale of White Horse District Council for flood defences. Council received an update report from the working party. This outlined several items which required purchasing such as a flood gauge, torches, beacons, fluorescent coats, sand bags, sand, and aquasacks. In addition to the grant, costs of up to £1500 were expected. A location to store these items would be required. It was suggested that the working party should consider flooding from the South and the river Ock in addition to that from the North West of the village.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the working party report be adopted
- (ii) that a sum of £1500 be agreed to spend on items required for flood protection
- (iii) that a letter be sent to Mr. Cumber to ask whether permission could be obtained to store the items at Manor Farm

2009/153

Vale of White Horse District Council – Statement of Community Involvement
Council noted the revised Statement of Community Involvement.

RESOLVED:

that no comment be submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council

2009/154

Vale of White Horse District Council – Supplementary Planning Document – Sustainable Construction and Resource Efficient Buildings
Council noted the planning documents.

RESOLVED:

That no comment be submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council

2009/155

Correspondence

- a) Vale of White Horse District Council – Standard Committee Agenda 3rd July and 14th July.
- b) Environment Agency – Press Release – notification of request for further information in support of an Environmental Permit application for an energy from waste plant at Sutton Courtenay.
- c) Oxfordshire County Council – Community Support Fund – Notification of a fund for small grants from community groups or voluntary organisations developing services or who have limited funds.
- d) Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – Invitation to attend information and training event on Rural Affordable Housing in the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire. Thursday 17th September 12.00 noon - 3.00 p.m. (lunch included).
- e) Vale of White Horse District Council – Revocation of Tree Preservation Order. Notification received that a Tree Preservation Order preserving 11 elm trees at the entrance to Denman College has been revoked. This is owing to the fact that the trees no longer exist and probably died as a result of Dutch elm disease some years ago.
- f) South East Partnership Board – Formal submission of partial review to the South East RSS – Planning for gypsies, travellers and showpeople – recommendations for new policy .
- g) Oxfordshire County Council – Bus Strategy (sent to Public Transport Representative)
- h) Vale of White Horse District Council – “Get Active” information
Information regarding appointment of new “Get Oxfordshire Active” officer.
A project to encourage and support adults to lead more active lifestyles.
- i) OALC – June update.
- j) ORCC – Spring/Summer review

2009/158

Accounts

Council reviewed the financial regulations following the internal audit report, and discussed reinstating the imprest petty cash system. Council considered the method of account keeping and discussed changing from the manual system to a computerised system. Council also noted that the Bank of Ireland interest rate on its investments had dropped to .0001%. It considered alternative investments in fixed term deposits. Council noted the list of cheques to be signed.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the following clause be added to the financial regulations
“6.6 As an alternative to 6.5 the RFO may provide petty cash to officers for the purpose of defraying operational and other expenses. Vouchers for payments made shall be forwarded to the RFO with a claim for reimbursement:
 - a) The RFO shall maintain a petty cash float for the

purpose of defraying operational and other expenses. Vouchers for payments made from petty cash shall be kept to substantiate the payment.

b) Income received must not be paid into the petty cash float but must be separately banked, as provided elsewhere in these regulations.

c) Payments to maintain the petty cash float shall be shown separately on the schedule of payments presented to Council under 5.2 above.

- (ii) that a computerised accounting system from RBS be purchased in the sum of £297 plus vat
- (iii) that sums of £79 per annum be set aside for the annual payment and £390 be set aside to cover the cost of any possible training.
- (iv) that further investigation into investment options be undertaken
- (v) that the Clerk be authorised to change the investment account in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- (vi) that cheques totalling £2176.37 and numbered 2008-2012 be authorised covering administration, grass cutting and arboretum padlock

2009/159

Matters Raised by members for information

New Road - Denman College overhanging branches

Overhanging branches were reported. The Clerk was asked to contact the College to arrange for them to be cut back.

Churchyard – Denman College steps entrance

A tree was reported as overhanging the road. The Clerk was asked to contact the handyman to arrange for this to be cut back.

North Street - Weeds

It was reported that weeds were growing in North Street. It was understood that the village volunteer group were planning another day of tidying.

Churchyard

Concerns were raised that the path from the main gate West of the Church damaged by tractor vehicles when repairs were carried out to the wall abutting the path to the Cemetery still had not been satisfactorily restored. As well as tracks a channel had formed in the main path, and the path was being washed away in periods of heavy rain. It was noted that a planning application for works to the dovecote and Tithe Barn had been received, and it may therefore be preferable to wait to request full restoration in case further access to these buildings from the Churchyard was required. It was also noted that the elder tree reported last meeting still required cutting down.

Antisocial Behaviour

It was reported that there was an increase in antisocial behaviour in the village. The attention of the Police had been drawn to several instances of vehicle damage, outdoor drinking, a motorcycle rider without a crash helmet riding around causing disturbance at 2.00 a.m. and a car being driven around the Anson field. Members were encouraged to call 999 should they become aware of problems.

2009/160

Items for MAD News

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

2009/161

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 9th September, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Signed Date

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th September, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. M. Denton (Chairman), Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. C. Bough, Mr. W. Cumber,
Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson, Mrs. C. Ricketts, Mrs. S. Turney, Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
20 members of the public
Cllr. A. Rooke – Chairman of the Vale of White Horse District Council

The Chairman commenced the meeting by welcoming and introducing Cllr. Rooke, the Chairman of the Vale of White Horse District Council who was in attendance to present the prizes for the best kept garden competition. He placed on record his thanks to Mr. Bough and other Councillors who had helped with the organising and first round judging of the competition. Cllr. Rooke then presented the prizes to the winners of the competition. Local press photographs were taken. After the presentation Cllr. Rooke and 16 members of the public left the meeting.

2009/160

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2009/161

Declarations of Interest

Mr. Walton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the setting of the amount of the water charge for 2009/10 in that his wife was an allotment holder.

2009/162

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July, 2009

These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

2009/163

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July, 2009

Devolved Budget – Oxfordshire County Council

Council noted that the agreement relating to weed spraying on the highways was in the course of preparation. Council noted that in addition to spraying the County Council had undertaken some weed clearing works.

Flood Working Party

Council noted that W. Cumber & Son (Theale) Ltd had agreed to store the items required in case of flood. These were being acquired. It was suggested that via the MAD News, a request for volunteers to join a list of helpers prepared to move furniture to high level in times of anticipated flood could be made.

The Anson Field – open space area

Council noted a response from the Anson Trust that it would welcome the

involvement of the Parish Council in regards to the management of remaining open space should proposals for the development of part of the field proceed.

2009/164

Resignations

Council noted that Mr. I. Charles resigned from the Council with effect from 17th August. A casual vacancy had been declared. A letter of resignation from Mr. D. Hutchinson too had been received to take effect from 10th September. A second casual vacancy would be declared. The Chairman placed on record the Council's grateful thanks for their work within the community over the past few years. Mr. Hutchinson responded and wished the Council success in the future. Council considered the appointments to the working parties and groups on which they served. It was noted that both Mr. Charles and Mr. Hutchinson, whilst originally being Council representatives on the working party established by Cllr. Hanna (District Councillor) to consider village consultation on the Anson Trust proposals, would remain on the working party as co-opted members. Cllr. Hanna's working party would probably therefore remain constant.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Mrs. Ricketts be appointed to be the Council's representative on the Anson Field Management Committee
- (ii) that Mr. Cumber be appointed to serve on the Council's planning working group
- (iii) that Mr. Denton be appointed to serve on the Churchyard working group
- (iv) that should Cllr. Hanna not co-opt Mr. Charles and Mr. Hutchinson to her working group, then Council appoints Mrs. Turney as a third Parish Council representative.

2009/165

Public Participation

Demolition of wall

A resident referred to the demolition of a section of wall in the old part of the village and enquired whether planning consent was needed. The Clerk advised that demolition in a conservation area may need consent. The details of the location would be provided so that further checks could be made.

North Street – Cottages opposite New Road

A resident referred to the flowers that were growing at the front of the cottages at the back edge of the footway. The pavement was narrow at this point, and with parked vehicles one side and overhanging buddleia and foxgloves the other, there was no way through, particularly after rainfall when the flowers were wet. The Chairman advised that this would be investigated.

2009/166

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/20889 Alterations to existing dwelling including the creation of a first floor and new garage
Hyde Farm Bungalow
Withdrawn 14th August, 2009

MAR/2394/5 and MAR/2394/3-LB Proposed rebuilding for former gables to the now roofless Tithe Barn at Tithe House and to reinstate roof
15 Church Street
Withdrawn 7th August, 2009

MAR/2394/6 and MAR/2394/4-LB Proposed re-instatement of the former roof form to the Dovecote
15 Church Street
Withdrawn 7th August, 2009

MAR/20909 Erection of two storey extension
19 Kings Avenue
Permitted 29th July, 2009

MAR/20687/1 Demolition of existing garage. Erection of new garage
The Barn, Oakley Park
Permitted 7th August, 2009

MAR/20916 Change of use from open space to garden
Land between 18 and 20 Howard Cornish Road
Permitted 12th August, 2009

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

MAR/20916 Change of use of open space to garden.
Land between 18-20 Howard Cornish Road
For: Mrs. W. Didcock
Comments: Council had no objections

MAR/294/5 Proposed rebuilding of the former gables to the now roofless Tithe Barn at Tithe House and to reinstate roof.
Tithe House, 15 Church Street
For: Mr. J. Duffield
Comments: Council had no objections, but asked that trees be protected if access was required from the Churchyard

MAR/2394/6 Proposed reinstatement of the former roof form to the dovecote
Tithe House, 15 Church Street
For: Mr. J. Duffield
Comments: Council had no objections, but asked that trees be protected if access was required from the Churchyard.

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

No applications had been received

d) Report from Mr Hutchinson on Development Control Meeting 2nd September

Mr. Hutchinson had attended the District Council's Development Control meeting and addressed committee in regard to the planning application for the boarding accommodation block at Cothill School and associated car parking. Planning consent had been refused with the reasons for refusal being deferred to a future committee meeting.

2009/167

District Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr. Hanna no report was available. Council was advised that as far as her working group was concerned, it had received a letter from the Anson Trust advising that it in turn had received a letter from Neighbours Around the Field inviting the Trust to attend a meeting on the topic of the Anson field. The Trust had accepted the invitation and had asked whether Jane's group wished to speak at the meeting or be involved in preparing a list of groups who should attend. Jane Hanna's working party was considering its position and deciding on an appropriate response.

Mr. Denton commented that he was surprised at the recent advertisement regarding a meeting as he had thought the Anson Trust had called the meeting, and not the Neighbours Around the Field group. As an individual he had personally queried the position with Mr. Ed. Vaizey MP as it was understood that the M.P. was to chair the meeting. Mr. Bough, as a Trustee of the Anson Trust asked to speak on the matter. He confirmed that the Trust had met with Mr. Vaizey and had agreed to an open meeting which they would arrange in due course, but that an invitation to the Trust to attend a meeting organised by the Neighbours Around the Field group had been received by the Trust after the group's advertisement for the meeting had appeared in MAD News. The situation was muddled. Mr. Denton stated he, as an individual, would speak to Cllr. Hanna about the matter on her return from holiday. The Clerk advised on the Council's position which was to remain independent, and stated that any interest group was entitled to arrange whatever meetings it wished.

2009/168

County Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr. Brown no report was available.

2009/169

Recreation
Longfields Play Area

Council discussed the provision of play equipment at this site, the need for planning consent for change of use should play equipment be installed. Council noted a seminar on play area design, health and safety and grant funding to be held on 26th September at Barton. Mrs. Ricketts offered to attend on behalf of the Council. Fund raising possibly undertaken by the residents of Longfields was referred to. This was thought generally difficult owing to the personal circumstances of some families. Only 5 or 6 families in the vicinity had

children under 10, so it was thought, in the first instance that one swing was all that was required. Council noted that the fencing was chain link fencing held at the top and bottom between two half rounds of timber which easily came apart. New fencing, gates, litter bin and probably a seat would be needed in the future. Council noted the RoSPA safety report for this area which confirmed there were no problems with fencing, but did recommend, a seat, litter bin and a road sign.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the RoSPA report be noted
- (ii) that quotations be sought for new fencing and a litter bin
- (iii) that Mrs. Ricketts represents the Council at the play seminar on 26th September.
- (iv) that an application for planning consent be reviewed at a later date once a firm decision to install play equipment had been made.

Council then noted the RoSPA safety inspection report for the play area in the Anson Field. This had identified trip hazards at the edge of the rubber safety surfacing where it joined the grass. This had been noted by the swings, roundabout and springies. In addition the ground was slightly eroded under the roller barrel. Council had noted that the Clerk had already asked S.T. Grounds Maintenance to level and make good the ground as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:

that the RoSPA safety inspection be noted.

2009/170

Direct Information Service

Council considered whether to subscribe to this National Association of Local Councils publication at a cost of £90 per annum.

RESOLVED:

that Council does not subscribe to the Direct Information Service.

2009/171

Consultation on Consolidation of Council Tax – Demand Notice Regulations including efficiency information

Council considered this consultation document.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council does not submit any comments
- (ii) that individual members submit comments as individuals should they wish to do so.

2009/172

Thames Water – Water Resources Management Plan

Council noted that the Secretary of State had called for a public inquiry into the Plan. Council noted a press release by the Vale of White Horse District

Council welcoming the call for an inquiry. Council considered any further part in the inquiry, such as written representations, or joining with other parishes in speaking at the hearing.

RESOLVED:

that no further action be taken on the public inquiry aspect to the water resources management plan

2009/173

War Memorial

Council was made aware of the War Memorials Trust which awarded grants for repair and restoration of war memorials. Council had previously resolved to undertake repair works to the steps. It was noted that it may therefore be possible to obtain grant funding towards the work. It was suggested that a sloped pathway to the memorial rather than steps might be preferable. Also a standing area around the site, and the re-instatement of the base at the rear of the memorial would help during the Remembrance Day services. Reference was made to a flagstaff which also used to exist in the village, which possibly could be included in restoration plans/new work. The Clerk confirmed that an application for a road closure order had already been made to the District Council in readiness for the Remembrance Day service.

RESOLVED:

that a firm proposal for the revised restoration works to the war memorial be prepared and submitted to Council for consideration.

2009/174

Neighbourhood Action Group - Report

Mr. Denton gave a report on the recent activities of the group. Speeding in the village had been a concern and the Police had been out checking this. In view of the speeds detected enforcement action would follow soon. There had been issues with anti-social behaviour and a meeting had taken place with the Vale Housing Association, Police and local residents. An anti-social behaviour contract had been signed. A further meeting with the Housing Association to discuss problems in other areas had been planned. Council noted that the Police had also visited the local Wednesday café to talk with the elderly residents who met there. Mr. Denton agreed to speed to the Police Community Support Officer for Marcham regarding youth activities as it was reported that some youngsters, were bored over the Summer holidays and were asking for a Youth Club to be set up again.

2009/175

Cow Lane Allotments – Water Charge

Council considered the charges for the water for the 2009/10 year based on consumption and costs for 2008/2009. The Clerk mentioned that although a tenancy agreement had been prepared for the new tenant of the adjacent paddocks, the signed agreement had not been returned or the rent paid. A reminder had been sent. It appeared therefore that the prospective tenant did not wish to take on the tenancy as the paddocks were not occupied.

RESOLVED:

that the water charge for a whole plot be set at £13 for 2009/2010

2009/176

Grant Request

Council noted a grant request from residents of the Duffield Place complex requesting funding towards maintaining the common areas which were visible to the public. It was anticipated that work would be required before the usual grant meeting in November.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that this application be deferred to the November meeting of Council
- (ii) that Council would encourage the residents and support in principle this type of request

2009/177

Staff Working Party

Council noted that the staff working party had met and had prepared the suggested Terms of Reference for its operation. Council considered these.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Terms of Reference for the Staff Working Party as attached to these minutes be approved.
- (ii) that the Council's grievance procedure go on the Council's website.

2009/178

Correspondence

- a) Oxfordshire County Council – Countryside Service Annual Report 2009
- b) Oxfordshire County Council – Highways Annual report 2009
- c) Oxford Green Belt network – newsletter August 2009
- d) Vale of White Horse District Council – Parish Information Sheet
- e) Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau – annual Report 2008/2009
- f) Oxfordshire County Council – Local Transport Plan (LTP3) Timetable of the Plan objectives
- g) OALC – update August
- h) Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum – Local Environment Groups Conference Sat. 26th September, Wootton by Woodstock at 8.15 a.m.
- i) Marcham Society – Confirmation of grant awarded by Awards for All for the picture publication of the history of Marcham
- j) Vale of White Horse District Council – Voluntary Sector and Community Forum meeting information to be held on 1st October at the Guildhall, Abingdon at 5.15 p.m.

2009/179

Accounts

Council noted receipt of a street cleansing grant in the sum of £125 from the

Vale of White Horse District Council. Council noted the list of cheques numbered 2013 – 2034 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £7206.84 in respect of administration costs, play area/maintenance, grass cutting, allotment water expenses, best kept garden competition, weed spraying, and Chairman's allowance.

2009/180 Matters Raised by members for information

Neighbourhood Action Group Survey

The Chairman reported he was completing a NAG Survey form in regards to Drug and Alcohol treatment in Oxfordshire. He asked members if they were aware of any such problems locally. They confirmed they were not.

Pothole repairs

It was reported that the potholes at the junction of New Road/North Street and in North Street outside of the garage had been repaired. The pothole in Morland Road at its junction with Howard Cornish Road was still outstanding.

64 Howard Cornish Road - extension

It was reported that the sight line had been reduced since this building works had taken place. Cars from the site were now parking in the road on the bends causing hazards. Council was reminded that there was a condition in the planning permission that prior to the use or occupation of the building that a scheme for the parking of 2 vehicles should be submitted for approval by the District Council.

Drainage/Sewerage System – blockages

It was reported that there had been blockages in the sewerage system in Anson Close, this was probably due to residents flushing inappropriate items such as nappies into the system. A request for residents' co-operation could be placed in MAD News.

Youth

It was raised that the youngsters in the village had nothing to do since the youth club closed. This was being raised by NAG with the local Police Community Support Officer.

Churchyard

Mrs. Allan, as a member of the Churchyard working party reported that works required doing in the Churchyard. She would meet with Mr. A. MacLean, who was undertaking works in the Cemetery, in order to go through and list the items and ask for a quotation to be sent to the Clerk in time for the budget meeting.

2009/181 Items for MAD News

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

2009/182

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 14th October, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Signed Date

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th October, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. M. Denton (Chairman), Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. C. Bough, Mr. W. Cumber,
Mrs. M. Evans, Mrs. C. Ricketts, Mrs. S. Turney, Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
9 members of the public
Mrs. W. Robinson, MacIntyre Trust

Prior to the commencement of formal business Mrs. Robinson from the MacIntyre Trust outlined the potential scenario for a shop in the village. She spoke regarding the work of the charity which offered life long support for people with learning disabilities. Government proposals were such that all youngsters would receive education until the age of 18 including those with learning disabilities. Funding was available to set up enterprises to give such students work experience. The vacant Post Office shop in Marcham provided an opportunity for the foundation learning course. Should the project go ahead it would need the support of the community, as it was unlikely to be commercial, and would be run on the lines of a community shop with volunteers as well. The Post Office was committed to keeping a service in the village and a business manager for the shop would also be the postmaster. A questionnaire seeking comments from the village would be circulated should the idea progress. It was likely that a final decision would be made in January, when the project, if supported by the relevant organisations would move ahead quickly.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Robinson for her presentation and she then left the meeting.

2009/183 Apologies for Absence
There were no apologies for absence.

The building's fire alarm sounded, and the Chairman adjourned the meeting.
The Chairman re-opened the meeting after 15 minutes.

2009/184 Casual Vacancies – 2 seats
The Clerk summarised the co-option procedure and the legal requirement to have an absolute majority in order to select a candidate. 4 candidates had put themselves forward and their details had been provided to members.
Mr. Cumber proposed, seconded by Mrs. Allan, that the co-option proceed by way of secret ballot.

Voting took place for the first seat with one candidate emerging with an absolute majority, it was then

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Rowe be co-opted to join the Council until the next election.

Voting took place for the second seat with one candidate emerging with an absolute majority, it was then

RESOLVED:

that Miss Mander be co-opted to join the Council until the next election

2009/185

Declaration of Acceptance

Both Mr. Rowe and Miss Mander made and signed the declaration of acceptance and joined the meeting.

2009/186

Declarations of Interest

Mr. Cumber declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the Post Office/Shop in that he was a director of a company which owned the building.

The Clerk advised that although the Members Code of Conduct did not relate to officers, and there being no Code of Conduct for officers in operation, she, none the less would leave the room during the agenda item relating to the planning application for Dove Cottage as this property was immediately to the rear of her property, and also for the agenda item in relation to the premium bus routes in that the County Council was proposing to permanently site a bus stop at the front of her property.

2009/187

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th September, 2009

These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

2009/188

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th September, 2009

Demolition of Wall

Council noted that the demolition of a wall as raised by a parishioner at the last meeting, did not require planning permission unless in a conservation area or if it were a listed structure. Widening a driveway would require consent from the County Council and also the involvement of the Vale of White Horse District Council as planning authority where it opened onto a classified road.

Morland Road - Pothole

Council noted that this pothole had now been repaired.

Best Kept Garden Competition

Council noted receipt of a letter of thanks from Cllr. Rooke, Chairman of the Vale of White Horse District Council for the invitation to present the garden competition prizes. It also noted receipt of a letter of thanks from one of the winners who had been unable to attend the presentation evening.

2009/189

Public Participation

Planning Application 7 Anson Close

Mr. Butt spoke regarding the planning application for an extension to 7 Anson Close and a new house adjacent. He sought the support of the Parish Council in objecting to the application on various issues including the inaccuracy of the drawings, the over dominant nature of the building, the loss of daylight and sunlight and the proximity to the culvert.

Planning Application Dove Cottage

Mr. Martin spoke regarding the planning application for an extension to Dove Cottage, Abingdon Road and a new garage block and store. He sought the support of the Parish Council in raising concerns about the garage and store block. He referred to the inaccuracy of the drawings, the impact on his property as it was sited close to living accommodation, and the proposed materials to be used as they did not relate to the closest building.

Article MAD News

Mr. Buckingham spoke regarding the Anson Trust's article in MAD News which stated that the Council had been collaborating with the Trust regarding the Trust's proposals. He reminded the Council that they should first have a mandate from the people. The Chairman appreciated his concerns, as Council members too had been surprised to read the article. This was to be discussed as an agenda item later.

Mr. Cumber left the room.

Village Shop

Council discussed the presentation by Mrs. Robinson. It appeared to be a practical solution for an empty shop and an innovative opportunity. It was understood that the Church would like to be involved. Mrs. Robinson needed for her reports, some ideas as to what the village required

RESOLVED:

that a working party comprising Mr. Denton, Mrs. Evans, Miss Mander, and Mrs. Ricketts be set up to pursue the idea of the charity using the empty shop premises to start a community shop, and to bring reports to Council.

Mr. Cumber rejoined the meeting.

2009/190

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/SAH/1841/38 Erection of a two storey boarding accommodation block and associated car parking
Cothill House School, Cothill
Refused 23rd September, 2009

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

MAR/2394/10 and MAR/2394/7-LB Proposed rebuilding of the former gables to the now roofless Tithe Barn at Tithe House and to reinstate roof.

Tithe House, 15 Church Street

For: Mr. J. Duffield

Comments: Council had no objections, but asked that trees be protected if access was required from the Churchyard. Access to the Churchyard should be maintained for services, funerals etc.

MAR/2394/8 and MAR/2394/9-LB Proposed reinstatement of the former roof form to the dovecote

Tithe House, 15 Church Street

For: Mr. J. Duffield

Comments: Council had no objections, but asked that trees be protected if access was required from the Churchyard. All works vehicles to be parked off street to enable access to the Churchyard for services, weddings etc.

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

Council agreed to take these applications in an order different from the agenda.

MAR/3793/5 Demolition of existing kitchen and conservatory. Internal alterations. Extension to provide new dining area, kitchen, conservatory, bedroom and shower room

Cothill Farm House, Blackhorse Lane

For: Mr. J. Hoek

Comments: Council had no objections

The Clerk left the room for the following item. In the absence of the Clerk, the Chairman took the notes and drafted the following minute

MAR/10588/2 Erection of two storey side extension, alterations to property

Dove Cottage, Abingdon Road

For: Mr and Mrs. N. Lawrie

Comments: Council was concerned that the representation of existing buildings was inaccurate. The scale of the proposed garage and store should be reviewed and it should be relocated closer to Dove Cottage. No concerns regarding the extension to the dwellinghouse.

The Clerk rejoined the meeting.

MAR/20996 Extension to existing house and erection of new detached house with associated fencing and driveways.

7 Anson Close

For: Mr. M. Dearing

Comments: Council objected to the development for the new house in that it would result in a cramped form of development and be an over development of the plot, lacking in amenity space. Council objected to the erection of the 1.8m fence as the remainder of the street scene was open plan. It considered the development would cause impact on neighbouring properties and would over look those in Anson Close and Hyde Copse. Flooding was a potential problem should the culvert be affected by the development, and local drainage could be affected . As for the extension to the existing dwelling, the Council had concerns that it could cause overlooking of the properties to the rear.

Council expressed concern generally that two of the applications considered at this meeting had incorrect drawings in that they did not accurately represent boundaries, the proximity to buildings and the accurate location and size of adjacent buildings.

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk write to the Vale of White Horse District Council advising of the Council's concern and requesting that future drawings for consultation accurately represent the position on site.

2009/191

County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Brown referred to the following items:

Oxfordshire County Council - Budget

The budget for 2010/11 was about to be considered. This would be a difficult budget owing to the general economic situation.

A34 diamond North Abingdon

There was support for the "on" "off" slip roads both North and Southbound at the A34 Abingdon North, but the question was the funding of the works.

Parish Plans

Cllr Brown made reference to community led planning. He was aware that East and West Hanney were preparing a plan, and suggested that Marcham might like to think again about a plan.

SCOTS – Southern Central Oxfordshire Transport Study

The findings on this were to be made public soon. The proposals would be

dependent on developer funding from Wantage.

Speed Limit Review

There were no surprises as far as speed limits were concerned for Marcham. The 30 mph section of the A338 through Hanney would remain.

Thames Water - Reservoir

A 5 week public inquiry was going to be held. The County Council together with the District Council was considering hiring a barrister to represent the authorities.

Minerals Plan

There was no formal adopted policy on minerals at the moment, other than policies brought forward from a previous plan and Cllr. Brown was pushing for one to be formally adopted to ensure officers had firm guidelines for recommendations.

Larkmead School

Government had allocated funding for "Better Schools for the Future". Larkmead School had been identified for funding.

Flooding

Cllr. Brown referred to funding which was available for flood groups. A grant application has already been lodged for Marcham. He passed on the thanks from residents of Hanney to Mr. Cumber for digging out the ditch in the area. He also referred to the fact that 200 properties had been removed from the Environment Agency's flood plan. The Chairman commented that Marcham flood group's members were attending a forum meeting at the end of the month.

2009/192

District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Hanna reported that since the last meeting the District Council's Development Control committee had refused permission for the extension to Cothill School.

The working group set up by her had met the previous week. The group was concerned that its purpose appeared to be misunderstood. The sole purpose was to encourage the widest consultation on plans which may be submitted in due course. The group had no control over what went into the plan. Once it was known what was proposed then a survey would be planned and a public meeting held. The group had felt it was unfortunate that the word "collaborate" was used in the Anson Trust's article in MAD News. The group had invited the Trust to be represented at two of its meetings in order to receive an update on the time lines of what the Trust was planning, so it could plan its consultation. As for the public meeting arrange for Friday 16th October, it was unclear who was arranging this, and she had not received any invitation as the

Chair of the working group, or the District Councillor. She had intended to speak from the floor about the planning process and the official consultation that would take place.

Colin Bough, as a Trustee of the Anson Trust, asked to speak. He stated that the word “collaborate” which appeared in the article was unfortunate and it should have said “co-operation”.

2009/193

Anson Trust – proposals for new village facilities – article in October MAD News regarding public meeting on 16th October.

Members discussed their surprise at seeing the meeting advertised in the village newsletter, and wondered whether there was any advantage in a public meeting until it was known what the Trust’s plans were. The meeting appeared to be led by the members around the field group in co-operation with the M.P. The members were astonished to read in the newsletter the article from the Trust stating that it was collaborating with the Parish Council. This was not the case. The Council was independent of any organisation, and had representatives on the working party set up by Jane Hanna, so that planning could take place on how the District Councillor and the Parish Council could seek the views of the residents on any proposals put forward by the Trust. Council discussed whether it should have a formal role in the planned meeting.

Mr. Bough, as a Trustee explained how the meeting had come about.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council strongly refutes the suggestion that the Anson Trust had been collaborating with the Parish Council.
- (i) that an article be placed in the next edition of MAD News confirming this position
- (ii) that the Council not have a formal role in the public meeting on Friday 16th October.

2009/194

Recreation – Longfields Play Area

Council noted that the cost of a new installed litter bin to match others in the village would be approximately £400. Council also noted that fencing with a vehicular access gate and two self closing pedestrian gates identical to the play area fencing in the Anson field would be in the region of £3500. Council noted that the chain link fence with wooden top and bottom needed to be more substantial.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a guppy litter bin be purchased from Glasdon together with the ground rods for installation at a cost of £350.00
- (ii) that the Clerk take steps to have this installed
- (iii) that the Clerk obtain estimates for the cost of replacing the chain link fencing and repairing the existing fence at the Longfields play area.

2009/195 Vale of White Horse District Council – Gambling Act 2005
Council noted the consultation documents on the Statement of Licensing Policy. It noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council had agreed not to have a casino in the district.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Parish Council had no substantial comments to make on the policy
- (ii) that a letter be sent to the Vale of White Horse District Council applauding the decision not to have a casino in the district.

2009/196 Oxfordshire County Council – National Highways and Transport Network questionnaire
Council noted that the County Council was taking part in the National Highways and Transport Survey, and that the Parish Council had been asked to find the time to produce a collective response to the questionnaire. Responses could be given to the Clerk outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

that the response to questionnaire be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with members

The Clerk, having indicated that she would leave the room, was asked to stay, as comments were likely to be general and did not relate exclusively to the permanent siting of a bus stop outside her property.

2009/197 Oxfordshire County Council – Bus Routes 31 and X30 – Formal Bus Stop Markings – Consultation
Council considered the proposals for formal marking of the bus stops put forward by the County Council. Concerns were raised about the build out in the layby opposite Longfields, and also the proposal to site a stop outside the Post Office. These two proposals would severely restrict the on street parking which currently took place, and could affect the viability of the shop should this re-open. Whilst the Council had previously supported the introduction of real time information and the marking of stops, it had not appreciated that it might result in the moving of stops. It was thought that a site meeting was necessary to further consider the situation. The Chairman, Miss Mander and Mr. Walton offered to visit the bus stop sites.

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk arrange for a site meeting to take place with the County Council.

2009/198 Sustainable Communities Act
Cllr. Brown indicated that he had supported a motion at the County Council. The proposal was for Government to devolve down. Council discussed the letter received from Local Works.

RESOLVED:

that no formal Council response be sent.

2009/199

North Street – opposite New Road – Complaint regarding overhanging flowers and narrow path

Council discussed concerns raised that the hollyhock and other flowers overhanging the footway made it difficult for residents to pass by when the flowers were wet, as the footway was particularly narrow.

RESOLVED:

that a letter be sent to the occupier of the property asking that they be tied up and properly managed otherwise the County Council could ask for them to be removed.

2009/200

Correspondence

- a) Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – Annual General Meeting 21st October at Islip Village Hall
- b) Campaign to Protect Rural England – Oxfordshire Briefing. Following a legal challenge to the South East Plan the Secretary of State conceded that insufficient consideration had been given to alternatives to the proposed extension in the green belt of Grenoble Road.
- c) Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Draft Water Resources Management Plan
The revised plan was available at www.thameswater.co.uk/wrmp
- d) Oxfordshire County Council – Use of Road Safety Team’s Mobile Information Unit. Council noted that the Road Safety Team had a mobile exhibition unit which could be used for fetes, roadside events with the police and engagement with the public.
- e) Training event on common land, village greens. 9th November at Minster Lovell
- f) Oxfordshire County Council – exhibition of the County Council’s proposals for the new crossing over the River Thames at Newbridge on 26th, 27th/28th November at the Rose Revived PH, Newbridge.

2009/201

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 2035– 2043 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £5020.88 in respect of administration costs, play area/maintenance, grass cutting, and grant awarded

2009/202

Matters Raised by members for information

New mobile fish and chip van

The Council’s attention was brought to a new mobile fish and chip van which visited the village on Wednesdays. An “A” board had appeared at the end of Howard Cornish Road, and the van had started stopping at Longfields. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the business was aware of the village newsletter where he could advertise his business.

Oxfordshire County Council – Street Lights

The Clerk was asked when selected street lights in the parish would be turned off . The Clerk indicated she had not heard specifically from the County Council, and would make enquiries.

Marcham Primary School – opening of new classroom

Cllr. Brown said that the new classroom at the school would be officially opened on Thursday 15th October. Mr. Denton as Chairman, knew about this and would be attending.

Churchyard

Mrs. Allan stated that a branch had come down and essential works to the trees in the Churchyard were required. Mrs. Allan had met with one contractor who had summarised the works needed and provided one quotation. The Clerk confirmed that other quotations had been sought. The funding may have to come from reserves, with the Council adding the cost to the precept for the next financial year.

Litter Blitz

Miss Mander said that it was noted during the village tidy up that many cigarette butts were in Haines Court. She suggested a litter bin might help. Thought could be given to this for the future, but many cigarette butts were thrown out of the windows at the flats, so a bin may not help.

War Memorial

The Chairman produced a sketch of some proposed alterations to the surroundings to the war memorial. These would enable a ramp to be installed. This could be a matter for discussion at a future meeting.

2009/203

Items for MAD News

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

2009/204

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 11th November, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The Chairman moved, that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

Remainder of the meeting – Staffing matters

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed Date

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 11th November, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. M. Denton (Chairman), Mr. C. Bough, Mr. W. Cumber,
Mrs. M. Evans, Miss. R. Mander, Mrs. C. Ricketts, Mrs. S. Turney, Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
6 members of the public
Mr. Colin Baird, Mr. Charles Benner and Mr. Roger O'Neill, Oxfordshire County Council.

Prior to the commencement of formal business Mr. Baird, Mr. Benner and Mr. O'Neill outlined the County Council's proposals for a new bridge over the River Thames at Newbridge. The existing bridge was the oldest complete original bridge over the Thames, being some 750 years old. It was a Scheduled Ancient Monument. An 18 tonne weight limit had been imposed, but some HGVs ignored this. Monitoring was being undertaken and prosecutions followed. The bridge had cracks which were monitored daily. Strengthening works would be very invasive. Some 9800 vehicles crossed the bridge each day. When the weight limit was lowered some 200 HGVs diverted with approximately 50% of those going through Cumnor which generated complaints. A new bridge was the only practical solution. There were two possible designs, an arch bridge or beam bridge. The bridge would have 2 lanes, but would have traffic lights, as at the moment, to control the traffic flow. Access to the Maybush PH would be from the South and to the Rose Revived PH from the North. An exhibition about the proposals would be held in The Rose Revived on 26th, 27th, 28th November with a deadline for public comment of 24th December. Questions followed. The County Council confirmed that water damage to the bridge had been taken into account in their calculations, and that the old bridge would still remain open as a cycle and pedestrian route. The officers were advised that the main issue for Marcham would be the traffic growth.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Baird, Mr. Benner and Mr. O'Neill for their presentation, and they then left the meeting at 8.00 p.m.

2009/205 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. P. Rowe and District Councillor, Cllr. J. Hanna.

2009/206 Declarations of Interest
Mr. Bough declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to the request by the Anson to meet with members of the Parish Council in that he was a Director of the Trust. Mr. Cumber declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the Post Office/Shop in that he was a director of a company which owned the building. The Clerk advised that although the

Members Code of Conduct did not relate to officers, and there being no Code of Conduct for officers in operation, she placed on record that one of the sites proposed by the County Council for the new bus stop markings was outside her property.

2009/207 Minutes of the meeting held on 14th October, 2009
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

2009/208 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th October, 2009
North Street – Overhanging Hollyhocks
It was reported that these had now been removed and access along the footway was much improved.

Grant to Marcham Parochial Church Council
Council noted receipt of a letter of thanks in respect of the grant awarded for the youth worker.

2009/209 Public Participation
Post Office/Village Shop
Mr. Cumber, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Post Office made a statement. He advised that one further casual enquiry had been received for taking on the tenancy, but he was not hopeful of this progressing. The Chairman advised that he understood that the MacIntyre Charity had prepared a business plan and put this to Abingdon College. They were hoping to have an answer in 2 – 3 weeks.

2009/210 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/2394/10 and MAR/2394/7-LB Proposed rebuilding of former gables to the now roofless Tithe Barn at Tithe House and to reinstate the roof (resubmission)
15 Church Street
Permitted 20th October, 2009

MAR/2394/8 and MAR/2394/9-LB Proposed re-instatement of former roof form to the Dovecote (resubmission)
15 Church Street
Permitted 20th October, 2009

MAR/3793/5 Demolition of existing kitchen and conservatory
Demolition of existing kitchen and conservatory. Internal alterations. Extensions to provide new dining area, kitchen, conservatory, bedroom and shower rooms
Cothill farm House, Blackhorse Lane
Permitted 28th October, 2009

MAR/20996 Extension to existing house and erection of new detached

house with associated fencing and driveways.
7 Anson Close
Withdrawn 28th October, 2009

MAR/10588/2 Erection of a side extension and single bay garage with alterations to existing dwelling
Dove Cottage, Abingdon Road
Permitted 5th November, 2009

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

No applications had been received prior to the meeting

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

MAR/5733/5 Demolition of six bedroom house. Construction of four bed house on same site (amendment to MAR/5733/3)
The Old San, Blackhorse Lane
For: Mr. M. Rusby
Comments: Council had no objection

- d) Planning Correspondence – Vale of White Horse District Council – Referral of planning applications to development control committee - consultation
Council considered this consultation document, which proposed to put fewer applications to Committee. Council had concerns that the Parish Council's role was reduced. There was provision that the District Councillor could, in consultation with the Chairman of Development Control Committee, request that a particular application goes to Committee, but the Parish Council would be reliant on a good working relationship with whoever was the District member for the ward.

It was RESOLVED:

- (i) that the following recommendation be put to the Vale of White Horse District Council.
 - a) "that applications for all household/domestic extensions (as defined by the Government's "other" category) where the town or parish council view, if contrary to the planning officer recommendation for approval, are considered by the Development Control Committee, unless the Chairman of the Development Control Committee (or perhaps the Executive Member for planning) agrees that the town/parish council view expressed is not material to planning or is inappropriate in the circumstances. If the planning officer recommendation is for refusal, then the decision on these categories of application is delegated to the Head of Planning.

- b) that applications for all new houses and commercial development (as defined by the Government’s “Minor” or “Major” category, where the town or parish council view is contrary to the planning officer recommendation, are considered by Development Control Committee.
- (ii) that the view of this Council be shared with other Vale of White Horse parishes.

2009/211 County Councillor’s Report
In the absence of Cllr. Brown no report was available.

2009/212 District Councillor’s Report
In the absence of Cllr. Hanna no report was available

2009/213 Anson Trust – proposals for new village facilities – public meeting on 16th October.
Members referred to the public meeting and the variety of issues that were raised. It was noted that the Parish Council would remain independent. It appeared that the village wanted to explore other schemes. Council noted the invitation from the Trust to meet both with members of the Council and Jane Hanna’s working group. Mr. Walton reported from the meeting of Jane Hanna’s working group held earlier in the week. It wished to remain a consultation group which could undertake independent consultation at any time in the future. It was not keen to taken on a “joint role”. The group would like to meet separately with the Trustees to hear their information and to respond, but not to influence. Cllr. Hanna had placed a letter in Marcham and District News following the public meeting offering to facilitate one meeting for those who had expressed an interest in particular options, but she had not been overwhelmed with replies. The Chairman referred to the invitation from the Trust to meet with Council members to hear the Trust’s thoughts following the public meeting. Given the other roles of members within the community, and the likely conflict of interest, some members felt unable to meet with the Trustees, however, Mr. Denton, Miss. Mander, and Mrs. Turney offered to meet with them. It was hoped that Mr. Rowe too, would be able to be present.

2009/214 Post Office / Shop
This matter had been referred to in public participation. Council noted that the Post Office was closed this week owing to illness.

2009/215 Recreation – Longfields Play Area
Council further considered the fencing of the play area alongside the footway at the Western boundary. An estimate for wooden picket fencing had been received in the sum of £1000. This compared with £3500 for metal hoop topped fencing.

RESOLVED:

that wooden picket fencing be installed along the Western boundary of the Longfields play area site at a cost of £1000.

2009/216

Oxfordshire County Council – Bus Routes 31 and X30 – Formal Bus Stop Markings

The Chairman gave a report on a meeting that he, Mr. Walton and Miss Mander had had with Mr. Green from Oxfordshire County Council. In North Street the Eastbound stop had moved northwards. There may be the need to install a drain owing to possible water ingress on the wall. The Westbound stop was now proposed outside of the Post Office. Should it remain where it had been previously located, the entrance into Sweetbriar could be impeded with the raised kerb. At Duffield Place, there were difficulties Eastbound as the access to the bus was behind parked cars, the next option was outside no. 11 which involved building up part of the pavement, the preferred third option was to site the stop nearer the recycling banks. Westbound it was proposed to move the stop to the east side of Duffield Place as access for wheelchairs would be improved. At the Longfields stop, the proposal was to move the Eastbound stop further along the road to improve visibility, and Westbound to move the stop further eastwards away from the layby where cars parked. At the start of Howard Cornish Road near the A415 it had been suggested to move the Eastbound stop northwards and locate the flag on a street light thereby removing the existing post and flag. Westbound the proposal was to site the stop outside no. 90. Mrs. Turney drew attention to the fact that the occupier of that property had written to members. The Chairman advised that he would not take the letter for the time being. He stated that should the Westbound stop be sited outside of Hellensbourne, then there would need to be adequate lighting, and there was concern that there could be a build up of cars at the junction. Council noted that there would be a final round of consultation undertaken by the County Council. Council expressed concern that there would be large yellow paint markings throughout the village.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the comments as set out above be submitted to Oxfordshire County Council as the views of the Parish Council at the present time.
- (ii) that an enquiry be made to see if smaller paint markings could be applied.

2009/217

Grant Applications

Council considered grant applications from various organisations and

RESOLVED:

- (i) 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	£200
Home Start Southern Oxfordshire	£100

Duffield Place Residents £150
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal £60

- (ii) 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
- (iii) that the sum of £450 be awarded under s. 142 Local Government Act 1972 to the Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau.
- (iv) that no grants be awarded to the Sue Ryder Care Nettlebed Hospice, Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, Kids Enjoy Exercise Now, Oxfordshire Association for the Blind and Central Netball Venue.
- (v) that the grant of up to £150 awarded to Duffield Place residents for clearing the communal areas, be set aside and paid on production of receipts.

2009/218 Oxfordshire County Council – Street Lights
Council noted the list of street lights now proposed to be turned off by the County Council. Mr. Walton advised that numbers 5 and 8 in The Farthings, should be left on. It was thought that walking the village after dark to see which lights should remain on would be the best course of action. Mr. Denton and Miss Mander offered to check the street lighting and report back to the Clerk.

2009/219 Churchyard – work to Trees
Council considered quotations for works to trees and clearance works in the Churchyard. Council noted that approval for the works had been granted by the Vale of White Horse District Council as the Churchyard was in a conservation area.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that S. Ringrose Tree Surgeon be appointed to carry out the works to the lime trees at the main and side entrance to the Churchyard. The works included raising the crown, removing deadwood, reducing lateral branches by 30% and removing sucker growth at a cost of £1190 plus vat.
- (ii) that Trade Services (Landscaping) Oxford be appointed to carry out the clearance works in the Churchyard at a cost of £840.
- (iii) that the work undertaken under (ii) be inspected prior to payment being made.

- 2009/220 Oxfordshire County Council – Highways – A415 Newbridge
Council had no further comments to make following the presentation by County Council officers. It was agreed that the public should be encouraged to attend the exhibitions.
- 2009/221 A338 and Abingdon Road, Tubney – Formal consultation – speed limits
Council noted formal consultation to reduce the speed limit along the A338 to 50 mph, and Abingdon Road Tubney to 30 mph.
- RESOLVED:**
that Council supports this proposal
- 2009/222 War Memorial
Council considered proposed changes to the war memorial, the removal of the gravel and installation of ramp and garden. The Chairman said he had been investigating the cost and one estimate was £14,000. He would investigate grant possibilities should Council support the suggested renovations.
- RESOLVED:**
that the Council, in principle, supports that idea of renovation to the war memorial, removal of steps, the installation of a ramp and garden area.
- 2009/223 Correspondence
- a) Oxfordshire County Council – Changes to subsidised bus services 4B and 31
Contracts have been awarded to commence on 13th December 2009. 4B would continue unchanged until June 2010 and service 31 continue unchanged until December 2011.
 - b) Oxfordshire County Council – Road Casualty Report 2008
 - c) Vale of White Horse District Council – Road Closure Order, Church Street, New Road, part A415 on 8th November for remembrance day parade to war memorial.
 - d) Vale of White Horse District Council – Summons and Agenda 28th October, 2009
 - e) Vale Community Safety Forum – 1st December, 2009 10.00 a.m., Guildhall, Abingdon. Mr. Denton offered to attend this forum.
 - f) Department of Communities and Local Government – Government response on reforms to byelaw procedure consultation undertaken last year.
 - g) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Winter General Meeting 23rd November 7.30 p.m.
 - h) OALC – update November
 - i) ORCC Bulletin- November
 - j) Thames Valley Police – Neighbourhood Policing Monthly Update
- 2009/224 Accounts
Council noted the list of cheques numbered 2044– 2055 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £6079.74 in respect of administration costs, play

area maintenance/litter bin, grass cutting, cemetery maintenance, allotment water, rural path maintenance, and grant awarded.

2009/225 Matters Raised by members for information

Parishioner of the Year

Nominations for this award would soon be required. The Clerk was asked to place an article in MAD News.

Cow Lane – surface

Comments were received regarding the state and condition of Cow Lane now that the agricultural research buildings at the end were being demolished and carted away. The condition of the lane had been made worse by heavy rainfall. Questions were asked as to how long the works were continuing. Mr. Denton offered to speak with the farm manager regarding this.

Vale of White Horse – Flood meeting

Two members of the Marcham flood group had attended a meeting with other flood groups in the Vale district. Approximately 25 parishes had been represented. An alliance of parishes had been formed.

Alleyways – The Gap to Fettiplace Road, Orchard Way to Haines Court

It was reported that these two paths had shrubs/trees which were overgrowing. The Clerk was asked to place an article in MAD News appealing for commonsense in keeping growth trimmed back where people had to walk.

2009/226 Items for MAD News

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

2009/227 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 9th December, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The Chairman moved, that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

Remainder of the meeting – Staffing matters

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed Date

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th December, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. M. Denton (Chairman), Mrs. M. Evans, Miss. R. Mander, Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
3 members of the public

- 2009/228 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs. J. Allan, Mr. C. Bough, Mr. W. Cumber, Mrs. C. Ricketts, Mr. P. Rowe, Mrs. S. Turney and District Councillor, Cllr. J. Hanna.
- 2009/229 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.
- 2009/230 Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November, 2009
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings, subject in minute 2009/216 to changing the words "... and Westbound to move the stop further westwards away from the layby where cars parked" to "...and Westbound to move the stop further eastwards away from the layby where cars parked".
- 2009/231 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November., 2009
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
Council noted receipt of a letter of thanks from the Royal British Legion for the grant awarded.
- Oxfordshire Association for the Blind
Council noted receipt of a letter from the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind commenting on its disappointment that the Parish Council was not able to support the Association financially this year, even though it helped 8 residents in the parish.
- Vale of White Horse District Council – Consultation on referral of planning applications to committee
Council noted that numerous Parish Councils had lodged objections to the proposals to change the way planning applications were decided. Council noted receipt of a letter from Cllr. Tony de Vere, Leader of the District Council confirming that the matter was under review and was no longer going to its Executive Committee on 4th December.
- Oxfordshire County Council – Bus Stop markings
The Clerk was asked whether any comments had been received from the County Council regarding the possible reduction in size of the yellow markings on the

road. The Clerk had included this in past correspondence with the County Council, but had not received a specific reply to the question. The Clerk was asked to continue to request the County Council for the information.

2009/232

Public Participation

Duffield Place – Parking

Mr. Horler drew the Council's attention to problems with on street parking in Duffield Place. This was an elderly persons accommodation area with a designated warden. Residents were finding it difficult to park their cars in the evening as spaces were being taken by others in the village. It was noted that this was not an easy situation, as the parking was not exclusively for the residents in Duffield Place, but Council appreciated the concerns as those less mobile needed to park near their homes. The Chairman, who was also involved with the Neighbourhood Action Group offered to speak with the local Police Community Support Officer about the matter.

Marcham Society – Publication of "Marcham Remembered"

Mr. Buckingham placed on record his congratulations to Marcham Society for its recent publication of village photographs and for the exhibition in the School. Council supported his opinion and asked the Clerk to write to Marcham Society congratulating it on a first class professional publication.

Duffield Place – T.V. Aerial

Mr. Horler reported that the elderly residents in Duffield Place could not receive a T.V. signal. This was known by the Housing Association that owned the properties, but the problem was still outstanding after some time. The Chairman said the Council would see what could be done to improve matters.

2009/233

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 prior to the meeting

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

No application had been received

2009/234

County Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr. Brown no report was available.

2009/235

District Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr. Hanna no report was available

2009/236

Anson Trust – proposals for new village facilities

The Chairman gave a report on a meeting which some members of the Council had had with the Trustees following the public meeting. The Trust was considering options and business plans and it appeared difficult to know what the Parish Council should or could do next until firm proposals were available. The idea of the Council checking the final proposal and possibly acting as an intermediary body in the position regarding the Lease between the Ex-Servicemen and the Trust had been raised. These issues were outside of the role of the Council. Mr. Walton gave a report on the meeting between Jane Hanna's working group and the Trustees. It had been made clear to the Trust that the role of the group was to manage the consultation and not become involved with the viability of any project. A developer would be lodging any planning application and the group had thought it very important to be aware of timescales, as to undertake proper consultation within a short time frame would be difficult. It had asked the Trust to be advised of any planned developer and to be able to liaise with any developer regarding timescales for consultation. The question of the Council setting up its own working party had been raised previously. It was thought that the Council could not take on any active role.

RESOLVED:

that no Council working party be established.

2009/237

Grant Applications

Council considered grant application from:

a) Independent Advice Centre in Wantage

Council noted that 24 Marcham residents had been helped in recent years. Council asked whether there could be an annual break down of these figures, and also wondered whether there was a branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau in Wantage.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the request be deferred for consideration until the next meeting
- (ii) that the Clerk obtain the annual break down of residents from Marcham that had been supported and also to find out whether there was a Citizens Advice Bureau in Wantage.

2009/238

Marcham Big Event 2010 – Meeting 27th November., 2009

Council received a report from Mrs. Evans who attended a meeting to discuss the organisation of the village event to raise funds for charities, particularly Moldova. The meeting had been attended by 8 people representing various organisations. This group would form a steering committee whilst each village organisation would organise its own contribution to the event. The weekend of 12th/13th June had been chosen which coincided with the Manor Farm open day. The event would probably take place in a range of venues around the village and could include a mad hatter's tea party, open gardens, ghost walk, silver band, barn dance, morris dancers, sports fixtures, various stalls, tours and

village festival. The next meeting of the group would be held on 14th December, 2009.

RESOLVED:

that Mrs. Marjorie Evans represent the Council at the meeting of the “Big Event” steering committee

2009/239

Oxfordshire County Council – Formal Bus Stop Markings – X15

Council considered the proposed bus stop markings for the X15 stop on the A415, both sides of the road, by the war memorial. The Clerk read out a letter from the County Council regarding the Parish Council undertaking consultation on the proposed siting of stops for the 31 in North Street and Howard Cornish Road. Members commented that the County Council had undertaken its own consultation a few weeks ago on the original proposals and wondered why the Parish Council was now being asked to ask those affected by the revised proposals for their views. The Clerk would check the position and provide a copy of the letter to Mr. Walton. The lack of timetables at all stops was mentioned, as was the fact of no response from the County Council on the concerns raised by the Parish Council on the quantity of proposed yellow markings.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Mr. Walton, as public transport representative, make enquiries about the fitting of bus timetables at all stops.
- (ii) that Mr. Walton speak to residents affected by the bus stop proposals.

2009/240

Vale Community Safety Partnership Forum – 1st December, 2009

Council received a report from Mr. Denton who attended this meeting. There were new initiatives within the Police and better responses to residents were being achieved. Within the communities steps were being made to ensure that no one was left out and those attending had been advised of who to contact regarding various issues. Miss Mander mentioned that the Police did not seem to patrol Mill Road. Mr. Denton would speak to the PCSO and ask if this area of the village could be checked.

2009/241

A415 - Newbridge – proposals for new bridge

Council noted correspondence received from several people expressing concern about the impact on the A415 should the new bridge go ahead. The potential for additional traffic flows, and particularly the effect of HGVs of up to 44 tonnes. Council noted comments that there appeared to be no overall strategy for the A415. Council also noted receipt of the summary, prepared by the County Council, of the questions and answers put forward during the presentation at the previous meeting. The A34 was over populated with

vehicles and it was recognised that the A415 was an “A” road. It was felt important that the Marcham By Pass should still have high priority on any agenda, as it would be impossible to upgrade the A415 without an adequate by pass around the bottle neck.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the question of maintaining the pressure for a by pass for Marcham be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- (ii) that the importance of looking at the A415 as a whole, as the main East/West route, be stressed to the County Council
- (iii) that the County Council be offered a précis of the points made at the last meeting for circulation around other parishes if it so wished.

2009/242

Local Transport Plan Consultation 3

Council considered the list of schemes submitted by the County Council.

RESOLVED:

that the County Council be asked to include in its list of schemes a proposal for a footway on the Southern side of the A415 from the entrance to the Priory to link with the existing footway.

2009/243

Risk Assessment

Council carried out a risk assessment as outlined in the National Association of Local Councils Guide on Governance and Accountability. Council considered risks to its assets and liabilities on an individual basis. It was noted that the contractor who supplied the bench seats had retired and replacement parts would no longer be available. Council considered increasing the insurance for these as the cost of replacement with a different type of bench would be higher.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the risk assessment as presented be adopted, but if members subsequently thought of additional items, to advise the clerk.
- (ii) that the insurance cover on the bench seats not be increased

2009/244

Correspondence

a) Vale of White Horse District Council – Register of Interests

Council noted a reminder from the District Council that homes addresses should be included in the register of Member’s interests.

b) Vale of White Horse District Council – Planning evening for Parish Councils

Slides and presentation material from the evening held for Parish Councils had been received.

c) Vale of White Horse District Council – Chairman’s Community Awards Lunch 2010

Council noted that the Chairman of the District Council was hosting a Community Awards Lunch on 6th March 2010. The theme was unsung heroes of the Vale. Nominations were being invited.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the members of Marcham Society who had worked hard putting together the publication of village photographs “Marcham Remembered” be nominated
- (ii) that a copy of the book be sent to the Chairman of the Vale of White Horse District Council.

d) Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – Annual Report

e) Crimestoppers – Information about this organisation and how to report crimes anonymously

f) Vale of White Horse District Council – Summons and Agenda 9th December

g) O.R.C.C. – Community Transport Directory

h) Thames Valley Police – Report for December (Rural Area).

i) Vale of White Horse District Council – New Waste Collection

Council noted that a meeting to explain the new proposals that would be introduced next year would be held on Thursday 17th December 2009 at 5.30 p.m. in the Abbey room, Guildhall, Abingdon. Mr. Denton offered to attend this meeting.

2009/245

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 2056– 2070 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £4640.21 in respect of administration costs, play area maintenance, grass cutting, cemetery maintenance, workwear coats, grants awarded.

2009/246

Matters Raised by members for information

Open Space area adjacent to the flats – Howard Cornish Road/North Street

Concerns were raised about parking on the grassed public open space at this junction. The grass was being churned up and tyre marks left. In addition one of the tenant’s garden needed attention. The Clerk was asked to write to the Landlord of these flats pointing out these concerns.

Parking in New Road – Denman College

Concerns were raised about parking from staff at Denman College, who left their vehicles in New Road on the verges, destroying the verge. A previous telephone call to the College had established that the vehicles belonged to staff employed there and that staff had been circulated with an email about parking. The Clerk was asked to write formally to the College concerning the continued parking in New Road.

2009/247

Items for MAD News

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

The Chairman reminded members that an additional item of correspondence had been received from Sovereign Vale regarding the allocation of a property at Longfields, which was a rural exception site. Council agreed to take an additional item on the agenda.

2009/248

Longfields

Council had been asked by the Housing Association which owned most of the Longfields properties for its views on a proposed swap between tenants. Council was aware of the terms of the s. 106 agreement which laid down the provisions for occupying these properties. Council regarded that the conditions should apply to all incoming tenants whether on allocation by the District Council/Housing Association or when swaps took place. The Clerk reminded members that when another property on this site became vacant a few months ago the Council had been approached by 3 local families who had enquired how they could be considered for the vacant house. There did appear, therefore, families who could meet the necessary criteria waiting to occupy these properties. Members felt that agreeing to an exception would set a precedent for the future.

RESOLVED:

that this Council could not support the allocation or swapping of any of the Longfields properties to anyone who did not meet the local connection need established when these houses were constructed.

2009/249

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 13th January, 2010 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Signed Date