

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th January, 2016 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. C. Bough, Mr. M. Denton, Mrs. S. Hill, Mr. M. Hillis, Mr. M. Hoath,
Miss R. Mander, (Chairman), Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Cllrs. R. Webber (County Councillor)
Joined by Mr. W. Cumber

- 2016/1 Apologies for absence
Apologies had been received from Mrs. R. Atkins (work commitments) and Cllr. Mrs. C. Webber (District Councillor) who was attending a District Council meeting.
- 2016/2 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.
- 2016/3 Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December, 2015
The minutes of the meeting held on 9th December, 2015 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.
- 2016/4 Cllr. W. Cumber joined the meeting at 7.34 p.m.
- 2016/5 Matters Arising from the meeting held on 9th December, 2015
- Letters of thanks for grants awarded
Council noted letters of thanks for grants awarded had been received from Wantage Independent Advice Centre, Marcham Senior Citizens Club, Oxfordshire Association for the Blind and the Anson Trust.
- Public Footpath 292/9 – The Priory
Council noted the response from Oxfordshire County Council's footpath's officer. This indicated that the Rights of Way officer when commenting on the original planning application had asked that pedestrians using the right of way be protected from vehicles. It was suggested that evidence be gathered when there was conflict between pedestrians and vehicles, and a joint approach could be made to the planning officer.
The clerk was asked to request local residents to help record relevant incidences. The clerk was asked if the footpath was to remain in its diverted route or be restored to the original line. The clerk responded that from a conversation with the rights of way officer, the intention was to restore the footpath to the original line.

Mill Road – Bridleway to Drayton 293/17

The clerk reported that the Department of Transport had granted a further closure order for a period of 12 months until January 2017.

Affordable Housing - allocation

Council noted the response from the Vale of White Horse District Council regarding affordable housing allocation. On new development sites 40% of housing would be affordable. 20% of that would be for people with a very strong local connection, defined as living in the parish for 5 years out of the preceding 8 years, or having previously lived in the parish for at least 5 years and parents or children still lived there and have done so for 10 years. The clerk was asked to place an article in MAD News regarding the mechanism for registering for the housing waiting list. Questions were asked as to local connection in perpetuity, and why that could not be the case. A question was also asked about a second house in Longfields which may have been sold. The clerk would make enquiries as to both questions.

Kings Field Development – Vanderbilt Homes – Footpath

A question was asked as to whether there had been any further responses regarding the footpath linking Kings Field phase I development with Howard Cornish Road. The clerk confirmed there had been some exchanges with the solicitor acting for Vanderbilt Homes prior to the Christmas break, and the letter sent to the planning officer had been sent to the solicitors, but no detailed response had been received from them.

2016/6

Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

2016/7

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P15/V2661/LDP Two storey rear extension
Pinetops, Woodside, Frilford Heath
Lawful development certificate 4th January 2016

P15/V2663/HH Rear dormer window to previous
extension. Internal alterations and construction of rear
dormer window to garage
Pinetops, Woodside, Frilford Heath
Permitted 5th January, 2016

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

P15/V2864/LB Take down upper part of existing wagon entrance to Tithe Barn, removing 20th century alterations, replace doors to original height, construction of stone gable and reform roof covering with Stonesfield slate
15 Church Street
For: Mr. J. Duffield
Comments: Council had no objections

d) Applications for consideration at the meeting

There were no applications to be considered.

Mr. Walton raised a query relating to the timescale for the Parish Council response to the District Council on the planning application for new community facilities which had been lodged by Thomas Homes and The Anson Trust. As this was a major application he suggested that the Parish Council discuss the details at the March meeting of the Council. Council agreed in principle and asked the clerk to see whether an extension of time for comments to early March could be agreed.

2016/8

County Councillor's Report

Air Quality – A meeting had taken place with Jason Sherwood, Roads Agreement Manager, Oxfordshire County Council, Tim Williams, Environmental Health Officer, Vale of White Horse District Council. A possible gated access for the A415 had been suggested. This would restrict vehicles as they passed through the bends on the A415, thereby helping with pollution. Officers were going to obtain a firmer idea of costs for a ban or a limit through Marcham.

Drayton Neighbourhood Plan – This was under threat by 2 planning major applications neither of which were on sites identified within the Neighbourhood Plan. A determination was expected on 27th January.

Oxfordshire County Council – Budget – Savings required of the County Council now amounted to £70 m rather than £50 m as previously thought. Budget setting would be difficult.

Road repairs – Dragon patcher

A Council member commented on the County Council's "dragon patcher", which had been used within the village to repair potholes. This was a vehicle, with an inbuilt fire emitting nozzle, operated by only 2 people, and which undertook rapid repair to potholes.

2016/9

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. C. Webber

In the absence of Cllr. Mrs. C. Webber (District Councillor) Cllr. R. Webber had included reference to District Council matters in his report.

2016/10

Budget 2016/17

Council carefully considered the current balances, the likely balances at the year end, the effect of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, and the budget for 2016/2017. Discussion was had as to weed spraying, and the number of properties on new housing developments which would be occupied and paying council tax, but which had not been taken into account when the District Council had calculated the tax base.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the total amount required from the Vale of White Horse District Council be set at £42000
- (ii) that this be made up of expected grant of £619 and £41381 charged to residents by way of precept.
- (iii) that a letter be sent to the Leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council enquiring the amount that the Parish Council could expect to receive from the additional council tax paying dwellings, and encouraging the District Council to count new housing into the tax base as soon as possible.
- (iv) that the handyman be asked to clear dead weeds following weed spraying

2016/11

Community Facilities

Council considered the terms of engagement from the Solicitor advising on community facilities.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the terms of engagement be accepted
- (ii) that instructions to the solicitor be agreed item by item.

2016/12

Vanderbilt Homes – public open space

Council noted that the public open space area which it was to take on was in poor condition. It was holding ponding water in some areas. This was particularly the area where the site cabins had been located, and the ground was compacted. There was easy access to the grass area by vehicles and it could potentially be used for overflow parking, or used by delivery lorries. Mr. Denton had spoken to the site manager who had agreed it was not satisfactory.

RESOLVED:

that a letter be sent to Vanderbilt Homes requesting that action be taken to restore the land to a satisfactory condition before

being taken over by the Parish Council:
this to include proper drainage,
replacement of soil/grass, and means of
restricting vehicular access.

2016/13

Grant Application

Council considered a grant application from South and Vale Carers Centre.

RESOLVED:

that a grant of £100 be awarded under s. 137 Local Government Act 1972 to the South and Vale Carers Centre for the 2015/16 financial year.

2016/14

Grass Cutting

Council considered a suggestion by the grass cutting contractor that an additional cut of the central arboretum area would be beneficial, as the length of the grass had become exceptionally long.

RESOLVED:

that an additional cut not be undertaken, and that the grass be left until the start of normal grass cutting season in March.

2016/15

Risk Assessment

Council noted the risk assessment as prepared by Mr. Hoath. Checks on individual items of property and the monitoring process to be followed had been included. A green, amber, red system of checks was suggested. Members to inform the clerk of any issue which had become a more significant matter and moved to a "red" status.

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour of adopting the risk assessment as drafted

In favour
8

Against
0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the risk assessment as presented and attached to these minutes be adopted
- (ii) any suggestions for alteration or changes to the risk assessment be notified to the clerk and Mr. Hoath.

2016/16

Correspondence

- a) OALC – December update
- b) OALC – Training 27th January, preparing for financial year end, and on 10th February - meeting internal audit requirements.

RESOLVED:

to fund attendance at these training events for the clerk should she wish to attend.

c) Hill Aggregates – magazine

2016/17

Accounts

Council noted the report on the accounts as at 31st December 2015. Council noted the list of cheques numbered 2808 to 2813 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £2363.33 in respect of administration costs, grass cutting, play area checks and bench seat.

2016/18

Matters Raised by Members

Sheepstead Road

It was reported that there were numerous potholes on the western side of Sheepstead Road opposite the Vanderbilt housing development. These required digging out and new tarmac. The white gate village entry point had also been relocated.

X30 Bus Route – Bus Stops

Parishioners had mentioned that the X30 bus which travelled along the A338 had no bus stop between Oxford Instruments and Budgens. There was a requirement for one at the junction of Faringdon Road and the A338 for the benefit of the residents in the area of the Dog House Public House. This would be supported by Frilford Parish Meeting. The clerk was asked to place this item on the agenda for the February meeting.

A415 – Speed of Traffic

There had been a fatal accident on the stretch of the A415 between the A34 and the village. It was suggested that Council consider whether a speed reduction for this section of road was required. The clerk was asked to place this item on the agenda for the February meeting.

Anson Field – Felling of walnut tree

A member expressed her disappointment at the way in which the Anson Trust had suddenly felled the old walnut tree next to the car park area. This had been done in a way which was not open and transparent.

Village Map

A member showed a copy of a village map drawn some years ago. He suggested that this be updated to show the new housing developments and new village roads.

Defibrillator

A member suggested that consideration could be given to siting a

second defibrillator within the parish. Council agreed that this could be investigated. The clerk would include the matter as an agenda item for future discussion.

2016/19 Items for Marcham and District News
The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2016/20 Date of Next Meeting
The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 10th February, 2016 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed Date