

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th February, 2016 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

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), Mrs. C. Webber (District Councillor).

3 members of the public

- 2016/21 Apologies for absence
Apologies had been received from Mrs. R. Atkins, Mr. C. Bough, and Mr. W. Cumber.
- 2016/22 Declarations of Interest
The Chairman reminded members of the Code of Conduct and principles of public life, and the requirement to declare interests.
- Mr. Hoath declared an interest in the agenda item relating to the planning application by the Anson Trust/Thomas Homes in that he was a director of the Anson Trust. He stated he had no pecuniary interest. Mr. Walton and Miss Mander declared an interest in the agenda item relating to the planning application by the Anson Trust/Thomas Homes in that they were members of the Community Facilities Steering Group which was considering new facilities. Mr. Denton declared an interest in the agenda item relating to the planning application by the Anson Trust/Thomas Homes in that he was a representative for the Church on the Community Facilities Steering Group.
- 2016/23 Minutes of the meeting held on 13th January, 2016
The minutes of the meeting held on 13th January, 2016 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.
- 2016/24 Matters Arising from the meeting held on 13th January, 2016
Budget 2016/17
The Clerk was asked to circulate the budget papers to all members and to attach them to the minutes of the January meeting.
- Public Open Space – Vanderbilt Development
The Clerk reported correspondence with Vanderbilt. Mr. Denton reported that he had met with the site foreman to discuss the problems of ponding of water on the public open space, the road edgings, and footpath alongside the trees. The Clerk would refer back to Vanderbilt's Head office.
- 2016/25 Public Participation

There were no matters raised.

2016/26

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P15/V2864/LB Take down upper part of wagon entrance, remove 20th century alterations. Replace doors to original height. Construct stone gable and reform roof with Stonesfield slates.

The Tithe House, 15 Church Street

Permitted 21st January, 2016

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

None received

d) Applications for consideration at the meeting

Mr. Hoath, having declared an interest, withdrew from the Council and sat with members of the public.

P15/V3042/O Conversion of the Anson Institute building, North Street to 3 apartments (2 x 2 bed, 1 x 1 bed) and erection of 5 dwellinghouses (4 x 3 bed and 1 x 4 bed)

Erection of 5 x 4 bed dwellings along with new community building, multi-use games area, and rearranged sports pitches on The Anson field

Erection of nursery building on the Anson field

At the Marcham Institute, North Street and The Anson Field, Morland Road

For: The Anson Trust and Thomas Homes Ltd

Members discussed this application. Concerns were raised regarding the finish of the hall which was open to considerable debate, lack of overflow car park, the requirement to protect trees, inadequate space for waste and dust carts, water run off area, the roadway and car park surface finish, the need to protect pedestrians, a wider access off Morland Road, implications of lighting and effect on nearby properties. The proposed footpath from the south of the hall should link into the public footpath which ran east/west alongside the Anson field.

In favour of fully supporting 5 Against 0
Comments: The proposal provided the much needed village hall, a detailed analysis of possible sites had shown the Anson field to be preferred, an improvement in sports facilities resulted with the chance of better changing facilities and the potential for indoor sports. The street scene and road width at the North Street site would be much improved, however the concerns raised above should be notified to the District Council.

It was suggested that a Council working party be set up to consider the detailed proposals regarding finishes of any new building, if approved, and funding opportunities.

Mr. Hoath rejoined the Council.

P16/V0266/HH Erection of 4th bedroom on first floor over existing single storey extension
25 Packhorse Lane

For: Mr. J. Cram

In favour of fully Supporting 6

Comments: The proposal appeared appropriate for the size of the plot. The Council would like to see a footway at the front of the site to link existing footway.

2016/27

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Webber

Budget – The 2016 budget was highly contentious. Government had available £100m for shire counties over a 5 year period, but Oxfordshire was likely to receive very little of it. Savings had to be made of £65million. Areas identified for cuts were children's centres, adult social care and bus services. A unitary authority would save money.

2016/28

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Mrs C. Webber

Local Plan Inquiry – This was into its second stage. The Inspector, Malcolm Rivett was extremely conscientious.

Grant Funding – Grant funding was available from GLL Sports Foundation for talented young sport stars. Cllr. Mrs. Webber would provide information to the Clerk about this.

Packhorse Lane – Development rear of The Red house and at 7

Packhorse Lane – It was understood that Sweetcroft Developments Ltd had felled a tree subject to a tree preservation order. A local resident was raising this matter with the Tree Officer at the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Priory Park - Cllr Webber was dealing with issues raised by residents

in connection with this new development. These related to relocation of gas piping, blockages with building rubble, in drainage systems, and street lighting.

2016/29

Longfields

Housing

Council noted that Sovereign Housing Association had contacted tenants of Longfields outlining a pilot scheme offering tenants an opportunity to purchase their properties. As Longfields was a rural exception site with restrictions on sale, the Clerk had made enquiries of the Housing Association. Council noted the response. This indicated that the Longfields homes would not be eligible for the Voluntary Right to Buy. However, letters had been sent to all tenants to give them time to find out more and consider options before any national scheme was launched later in the year.

Council discussed the response and it was

RESOLVED:

that a letter be sent to Sovereign Housing Association requesting:

- (i) that there needed to be adequate internal administrative procedures to ensure that no sale took place.
- (ii) that a letter be sent to Longfields tenants to clarify the first letter and to state that there was never any intention that a Right to Buy would exist for those properties.

Play Area

Council noted that formal notice had been received on 9th January from W. Cumber & Son (Theale) Ltd to terminate the Licence arrangements for access to the Longfields play area. The notice referred to waiving the required 6 months notice period in the circumstances. The Clerk had asked for clarification of the circumstances. Council was of the opinion that the Licence had a value and it was

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a substantial sum be requested for early surrender of the Licence
- (ii) that the matter be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman to finalise the sum involved.

2016/30

Petition to Vanderbilt Homes

Council noted a copy of a petition signed by 21 residents in Longfields

and Kings Avenue which they had sent to Vanderbilt Homes requesting that the trees that run in the strip alongside Longfields be maintained and cut back.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council would support the residents in their request.
- (ii) that the Council would support the trees with the Tree Preservation Orders forming the western screen be retained, and the Leylandii trees on the Eastern side be removed.
- (iii) that the lawyers acting for Vanderbilt be asked as to progress

2016/31

Sheepstead Road

Council considered correspondence received from a resident in connection with the state and condition of Sheepstead Road. This expressed concern at damage caused by developers, dangers to users, particularly cyclists and suggested improvements that could be made. The request included that any future planning application for land off Sheepstead Road ensure that the road is brought up to an appropriate standard with sufficient lane widths, kerbs, and gully drainage. Council noted that Vanderbilt developers had filled in some potholes, and that the edging was to be cut out and fully restored once the site works were finished.

RESOLVED:

That the matter be referred to Cllrs. R and C. Webber. The County Council to monitor road restoration, and the District Council, in any new application to require a traffic management plan.

2016/32

Priory Park – A415

Council considered damage to kerb edging and verge at the entrance to the site off the A415. Concerns were raised that the footway from the development Eastwards alongside the A415 had not been constructed. Council considered a suggestion that the former sales office car parking area within the development be retained for visitor parking.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a letter be sent to Persimmon Homes, copied to the District Council's planning officer, requesting a) repairs be undertaken to damaged road edging on the A415 at the entrance to the development site, b) the footway to the

traffic lights alongside the A415 to be installed c) sales office car park area to be retained for visitor parking.

2016/33

A415 – Section from A34 to Marcham/Frilford

Council considered a suggestion that the section of road from the A34 to Marcham village and to the A338 have a reduced speed limit. Council noted that there had been a fatal accident on that stretch of road between the village and A34 in December 2015. Gating was suggested, that would mean two sets of traffic lights which controlled traffic flow through the centre of the built up area.

RESOLVED:

that the County Councillor, be asked to seek preliminary advice from the County Council as to what measures might be possible.

2016/34

A338 Bus Stops – X30 Service

Council noted comments from parishioners raised by a member at the last meeting, that a bus stop at the Dog House/A338 junction would be beneficial.

RESOLVED:

that the residents concerned raise this directly with the bus company.

2016/35

Cllrs. R and C. Webber left the meeting at 9.10 p.m.

2016/36

Defibrillator

Council considered siting a second defibrillator within the village. This was generally thought a good idea. One suitable location would be the primary school on an external wall.

RESOLVED:

that an enquiry be made of the Primary School to ascertain whether consent could be granted to site a defibrillator on an external wall at the front of the school.

2016/37

Annual Meeting of Electors

Council considered possible dates and speakers for the Annual Meeting of Electors. The school hall was available on 18th and

25th May. Suggested speakers were the Environment Agency on the Oxford Flood Relief Scheme and Healthwatch who supported healthcare within Oxfordshire, and possibly a demonstration on how to use a defibrillator.

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk progress arrangements for the Environment Agency to be the main speaker.

2016/38

Parishioner of the Year

Council discussed the parishioner of the year award and selected the recipient for the 2015 year. The award would be presented at the annual meeting of electors in May 2016.

2016/39

Correspondence.

- a) Letter of thanks for grants awarded – received from South and Vale Carers Centre and Friday Club.
- b) OALC – January update
- c) Oxfordshire County Council – Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Part I core strategy had been submitted to the Secretary of State. The inspector's report was expected in the Summer 2016.
- d) Freshwater Habitats – Information as to that Thames Water for Wildlife Project – a survey to find polluted water in the river Ock/Thames area. Council requested that this information be passed to Dr. Eric Dunford.
- e) OALC – Training – Roles and Responsibilities and Employment.

2016/40

Accounts

Council noted the report on a meeting of the Working Party which had undertaken a review of the effectiveness of the internal audit. This had concluded that it believed that the Council's system for internal financial control was satisfactory, and that the internal audit met the standards for scope, independence, competence, relationships, planning and auditing which were recommended by the National Association of Local Councils. A risk assessment had been carried out within the last 12 months. Copies of the audit plan (ref:3 and terms of reference for the internal auditor ((ref:2) had been supplied to members. The Working Party recommended that any large sums of money gifted for the benefit of the community be earmarked and restricted to projects for community benefit to avoid misunderstanding that they can be used to offset precept levels.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the report and recommendations of the Working Party be accepted

- (ii) that the Council earmark the sum of £180,000 and interest earned, gifted to the Council from the Kings Field development phase I, for use for projects for community benefit.
- (iii) that the terms of reference for the Internal Auditor (ref: 2) and the Audit Plan (ref: 3) be accepted

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 2814 to 2821 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £1994.69 in respect of administration costs, play area checks and repairs, litter picking, allotment water costs, and grants.

2016/41

Matters Raised by Members

The Croft – manhole cover - It was reported that this had now been repaired. Thanks were placed on record to the Clerk for arranging this.

North Street – footpath – handrail

The Clerk was asked to make enquiries of the contractor as to when the handrail work was to be undertaken.

North Street – footway

The Clerk was asked to provide an update at the next meeting on a footway for North Street.

2016/42

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2016/43

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 9th March, 2016 in the residents’ lounge at Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed Date