

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th March, 2016 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Miss. R. Atkins, Mr. W. Cumber, Mr. M. Denton, Mrs. S. Hill, Mr. M. Hoath,
Miss R. Mander, (Chairman), Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Cllrs. R. Webber (County Councillor), Mrs. C. Webber (District Councillor)
from 7.45 p.m.
1 members of the public

- 2016/44 Apologies for absence
Apologies had been received from Mr. C. Bough (away) and Mr. M. Hillis (work commitments).
- 2016/45 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.
- 2016/46 Minutes of the meeting held on 10th February, 2016
The minutes of the meeting held on 10th February, 2016 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting, subject in the list of those attending to changing "Mrs" in front of R. Atkins to "Miss".
- 2016/47 Matters Arising from the meeting held on 10th February, 2016
Annual Parish Meeting
The date of the annual parish meeting had been agreed as 25th May. The guest speaker will be the Environment Agency to talk about the Oxford Flood Relief Scheme.
- North Street steps – handrail
The contractor had been reluctant to install in the handrail owing to the fact that the owner had passed away. The Clerk had obtained permission from the executors to proceed. The contractor had been instructed to undertake the work as quickly as possible.
- A338 – Bus Stop at junction of Faringdon Road
It was reported that the residents who had requested a bus stop at the Faringdon Road junction of the A338 had contacted the bus company and other parishes, as well as the County Council. The County Council had limited funds. It was suggested that Marcham Parish Council might contribute to the cost. The Clerk was asked to include this item on the agenda for the next meeting.
- 2016/48 Public Participation
The member of the public present addressed Council regarding the security and protection of houses in Kings Avenue which backed onto the new proposed path leading from the Vanderbilt development to Howard Cornish Road. He asked that timber security fencing be erected.

2016/49

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

There were no planning decisions to report.

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

P16/V0134/FUL Variation of condition 2 on
P15/V1444/FUL Gable end window removed and 2
roof lights added
Peartree Cottage, 7 Packhorse Lane
For: Sweetcroft Homes
Comments: Council had no objection

d) Applications for consideration at the meeting

There were no applications to consider.

2016/50

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Mrs C. Webber
Priory Park (Abbots Grange)

Cllr. Mrs. Webber reported that there were still issues regarding the Priory Park development with which the residents were not happy. She was trying to assist. She had not been successful in securing a segregated area for pedestrians.

Unitary Authorities

Proposals had been put forward by the District Councils and the County Council regarding the formation of unitary authorities. The District Councils preferring 5 new authorities to include parts of South Northants and Cotswold District Council.

2016/51

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Webber

Cllr. R. Webber – the District Councils had presented proposals for new authorities as taking over the function of the County Council. The law required all Councils to disband and new councils to be set up. The Secretary of State would make any decision required. There had been general disquiet at the proposal by the District Councils. The County Council had first proposed a single unitary authority for the whole county, and was working towards this.

2016/52

Longfields
Housing

Council noted that Sovereign Housing Association had taken into account the comments regarding advising tenants in Longfields that the right to buy proposals did not apply to them, and would bear them in mind when next writing to the tenants.

Play Area

Council noted that following delegated powers given to the Clerk at the last meeting, a decision was made, in consultation with the

Chairman, to surrender the Licence for the play area with effect from 1st March 2016, without payment for early surrender, from the Licensor. A formal Notice advising users of the area had been erected on site.

2016/53

Affordable Housing on new build sites – Allocation of properties

Council noted further comments from the District Council regarding the retention in perpetuity of affordable housing on new build sites allocated for those residents with a strong local connection. The current allocations policy was introduced in 2013 following a period of consultation and the Parish Council would be invited to comments, as a consultee, next time a review took place.

2016/54

Community Facilities

Council considered setting up a working party to review funding opportunities and vat implications for new facilities and to look at the detailed requirements of a village hall. Council considered draft terms of reference for such a working party. It was generally felt that the issue was not just identifying funds, but ensuring they became available and progressing acquisition of funds through to delivery.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a working party comprising, the Clerk, Mrs. S. Hill, Miss R. Mander, and Mr. D. Walton be established to review funding opportunities, acquire funding and to look at detailed requirements of a hall
- (ii) that the terms of reference for the working party be as set out in the appendix to these minutes.

2016/55

Vanderbilt Homes

Council noted a response from Vanderbilt Homes regarding the footway to Howard Cornish Road This was to be a no dig footway with concrete edgings and black top finish. The principle had been agreed with the District Council's tree officer and also the planning officer. Leylandii trees would be removed, but no lighting would be installed. In addition as far as the public open space near the entrance to the development was concerned, Vanderbilt was looking at providing additional drainage to prevent standing water. It was noted, however, that ground levels in the centre had been increased, thereby creating water run off. This would be difficult to maintain. Posts had been installed to prevent vehicular access to the public open space. Council discussed the request by the member of the public to have fencing erected at the southern boundary of the development site extended to the rear of the 3 Kings Avenue properties which backed onto the new footway. This would provide security to those properties when the footway was opened up for use.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those who would support

the Parish Council taking on the public open space and footpath. Mr. Denton added an amendment to include taking on the public open space once drainage issues had been resolved.

In favour	Against	Abstention
6	0	1

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Council supports the resident in the request for an extension to the wooden fencing to aid security once the footpath was open
- (ii) that Council proceeds to take on the public open space once the drainage issues had been resolved, and also take on the footway

- 2016/57 Priory Park
Council noted the response from Charles Church Homes regarding damage to the entrance. This would be rectified in due course. The footway eastwards from the site alongside the A415 to the traffic lights would be installed once the legal agreements with the County Council had been completed. Should the visitor car parking area within the development remain, then this would require a minor amendment application to the District Council. Charles Church had been asked to consider this.
- 2016/58 Hitchcopse Wood – footpath
Council noted a report on the proposal for a recorded right of way through Hitchcopse Wood. The County Council, landowner, and parish councils of Marcham and St. Helen Without were to hold a site meeting to walk the route and to finalise the location. Unfortunately the landowner was unable to meet until at least April owing to convalescence. Mr. Hoath expressed an interest in attending the site meeting when arranged.
- 2016/59 Tennis Courts
Council noted that formal notice had been given by Oxfordshire County Council to terminate the Licence arrangements for the use of the school tennis courts outside of school hours. Access would cease with effect from 13th August 2016. The Clerk would notify the Tennis Association and place an article in Marcham and District News. It may be possible to continue with access to the school tennis courts after that date, on a short term basis by arrangement
- 2016/60 North Street - footway
Council noted an update report on likely costings, and steps involved. The next stage was to acquire plans of services. This would cost approximately £400. Questions were asked as to how long s. 106 money from the District Council took to release, and whether funding

from The Croft development could be put towards the project.

RESOLVED:

that plans of utility services in North Street between Howard Cornish Road and The Gap be obtained.

2016/61

Correspondence

- a) Vale of White Horse District Council – Unitary Authorities
Correspondence regarding proposals to create local unitary councils.
- b) Oxfordshire County Council – Unitary Authorities
Response from the County Council on District Council’s proposal for Unitary Authorities.
- c) Letter of thanks from Marcham Toddler and Baby Group for grant awarded.
- d) Parkside bench seat
Council noted comments from a resident that children were gathering around the bench seat at the northern end of Parkside during evenings. A request had been received for it to be removed. Council considered the request, and noted that a new youth worker employed by the Church, would be starting soon, and would be undertaking street work. To remove the bench seat would mean that other residents were disadvantaged.

RESOLVED:

that the bench seat at Parkside not be removed.

2016/62

Accounts

Council noted the changes to the audit processes from 2017 and considered whether to remain with the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointment Ltd’s external auditor for parish councils, or to opt out and to set up and follow an independent audit panel process to procure an external auditor. Council noted OAL training on “employment of staff on 20th April” at a cost of £65 plus vat.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council remain with the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointment Ltd’s appointed external auditor for the 2016/17 year.
- (ii) that Council agrees to pay the costs of the Clerk to attend the OALC training on “employment of staff” at a cost of £65 plus vat.

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 2822 to 2828 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £2123.56 in respect of administration costs, play area checks and subscriptions.

2016/63

Matters Raised by Members

Junction of Howard Cornish Road / North Street / Sheepstead Road

It was reported that cars were parking on amenity areas and verges causing damage to the grass and making the area unsightly. The Clerk was asked to contact the Landlord, Sovereign Housing Association and Request that the tenants be asked to apply for dropped kerbs.

Gas Leak – gas governor at junction of Church Street/A415

A vehicular accident had taken place with a car going into the gas governor at the junction of Church Street and A415 causing a gas leak. The Crown public house had opened early on 29th February around 5.30 a.m. to accommodate residents who had to temporarily leave their homes.

Youth Shelter, Anson Field

It was reported that the light in the youth shelter on the Anson field was not working. This was controlled by a switch in the pavilion building. Mr. Hoath offered to check this. Miss Atkins who lived near the site, too would check whether the light was functioning after dark.

2016/64

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2016/65

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 13th April, 2016 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed Date