

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th June, 2016 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.40 p.m.

Present:

Miss. R. Atkins, Mrs. S. Hill, Mr. M. Hillis, Mr. M. Hoath, Miss R. Mander,
(Chairman), Mr. P. Steere, Mr. D. Walton

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

- 2016/125 Apologies for absence
Apologies had been received from Mr. W. Cumber and Mr. M. Denton
Apologies had also been received from Cllr. Mrs. C. Webber who was
attending a District Council planning committee meeting.
- 2016/126 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.
- 2016/127 Matters Arising from the meeting held on 11th May, 2016
A415 – Howard Cornish Road junction – grass
Council noted that the County Council had confirmed that it had
arranged for the sight lines at this junction to be cut.
- Neighbourhood Action Group – Appointment of Representative
To note that Thames Valley Police had confirmed that the NAG group
for Marcham was no longer in existence, unless someone wished to
resurrect it.
- A338 Bus Stops
Council noted that the site meeting between the County Council, the
bus company, the police and Frilford parish had taken place on 11th
May. Marcham parish had not been invited to attend as the site was
entirely within Frilford. Agreement had been reached to install one
stop just south of the Faringdon Road/A338 junction in the southbound
direction. Owing to a bend in the road, there was insufficient visibility
for motorists in a northerly direction. A bus stop would not be
installed northbound.
- 2016/128 Public Participation
There were no members of the public present.
- 2016/129 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P16/V0825/HH Two storey extension and detached store/hobbyroom in the rear garden
5 Haines Court
Permitted 27th May, 2016

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

No applications had been received.

c) Applications considered at the meeting

P16/V1109A and P16/V1367/LB New signage
The Crown Public House, Packhorse Lane
The Chairman called for a show of hands for those supporting the application

In favour	Against
7	0

Comments: Council supported the application. It was suitable and appropriate for the location

The Clerk placed on record that she was related to the agent for the applicant in regards to the following application

P16/V1148/HH Single storey side extension, single storey rear extension with 2 storey centre element
12 Parkside

For: Mr. C. Didcock

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those supporting the application

In favour	Against
7	0

Comments: Council supported the application. It was an appropriate extension in a suitable sized plot

P16/V0546/HH and P16/V0547/LB Demolish previous extensions on western aspect and bay window on eastern aspect and extend principal dwelling and former barn with both single and two storey additions (amended plans)

Marcham Mill, Mill Road

For: Mr and Mrs. A. Bedford

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those supporting the application

In favour	Against
7	0

Comments: Council supported the application. The amendments did not impact on the area, nor was the property overlooking others.

d) Planning Correspondence

(1) Vale of White Horse District Council -Changes to Vale of White Horse District Council constitution – planning – scheme of delegation

Members discussed the proposed changes to the consultation process, and changes to the handling of planning applications by the Vale of White Horse District Council. One proposal defined major applications as being in excess of 10 dwellings, and minor ones less than 10 units, with rules applying as to when each of these types of application could go to planning committee. Members were of the opinion that large towns were very different from small villages, and the impact of a development of 9 units in a small village could be significant. A one size fits all approach was not appropriate. Training in the new process and on responding to planning applications was being arranged by the Vale of White Horse District Council for parish councillors

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the proposed changes to the Vale of White Horse District Council constitution be noted
- (ii) that the Vale of White Horse District Council be advised that this Council does not support the number of housing units being set at 10 to determine the difference between major and minor applications and requests that this be lower for villages
- (iii) that Mr. Hoath and Miss Mander attend the planning training sessions in July.

(2) Vale of White Horse Local Plan Update bulletin 1.

Council noted the bulletin update.

2016/130

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Webber and District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Mrs C. Webber

In the absence of Cllr. Mrs. C. Webber, Cllr. R. Webber gave her report.

68 Howard Cornish Road - She would be addressing the District Council's planning committee on the planning application for an extension to 68 Howard Cornish Road, with an emphasis on restricting a possible 2 phased attempt at a 2 storey extension.

Development at The Willows – bungalows – Contrary to rumours the bungalows had not been sold, but expressions of interest with the selling agents lodged. They would bear in mind, in due course, the fact

that the plans of the site had been altered at the request of local residents to include bungalows so that existing residents could move. Local Plan – The preliminary report from the Inspector had been received by the Vale of White Horse District Council. Areas around Cumnor were not going to be included, but housing near Tilsley Park in Abingdon was. The Inspector was aware of stresses elsewhere south of Abingdon near the floodplain. The acceptance of the SHMAA figures was correct, but there was no obligation to build the houses. There was no specific mention of Marcham.

Unitary Authority Workshops – This would take the form of a feedback session as to which services parishes considered they could undertake.

Transformation Director – The County Council had employed a transformation director to look at cost savings, and to oversee transition to a Unitary Authority.

Community Facilities planning application – This was likely to be considered by Committee in July.

- 2016/131 Mr. M. Hoath left the meeting to address Planning Committee on behalf of the Parish Council in regards to the application for 68 Howard Cornish Road
- 2016/132 County Councillor / District Council report continued
General discussion continued in regards to speeding traffic, and the use of a speed detection gun. Cllr. Webber suggested writing to the other parishes within the same County division to see if they wished to share the cost of acquiring a speed gun and undertaking training.
- 2016/133 A415 – Speed Limit
Council noted that a response was awaited from Abingdon Town Council regarding sharing the cost of the speed survey. This was being debated that that Council's planning and highways committee. Council noted that the parishes within the Neighbourhood Action Group 2 area, west of Marcham had jointly purchased a speed gun. The Clerk had approached those parishes with a view to hiring or borrowing the gun and had researched other information. Training by the Police was required in the use of the speed gun, and it could not be used in areas where the speed limit was in excess of 40 mph. Information correctly gathered could result in Police letters being sent to those drivers who exceeded the speed limit, and could result in eventual prosecution for repeated offences. It was suggested that parishes with the same County division may wish to jointly purchase a speed gun.

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk make enquiries of the

other parishes within the Sutton Courtenay and Marcham division as to their position regarding sharing the costs of a speed gun.

2016/134

Oxfordshire County Council – Unitary Authority Workshops

Council noted that the County Council was hosting workshops around the county to deal with issues and answer questions regarding its claim for unitary authority status. Specific questions had been posed by the County Council. General discussion followed. Mr. Steere and Miss Atkins offered to represent the Council at the workshop in Abingdon on 22nd June. They would take forward the view that the Parish Council would welcome the opportunity to take more decisions about services that affected their communities. Issues currently affecting Marcham were grass cutting footway maintenance, replacing street lighting. It was recognised that some services would be better delivered by a larger authority such as waste collection and disposal, roads, policing, fire services, transport and strategic planning. Reference was made to some responsibilities for footways whereby the Parish Council could take on the role of employing contractors direct. Education though could be managed by a smaller local authority. The Parish Council did not currently have the capacity with existing staff to take on more roles. It was recognised that there would be the need for additional funding, hours, training and administrative assistance even if services were commissioned to be undertaken by contractors.

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Steere and Miss Atkins represent the Parish Council at the workshop arranged by Oxfordshire County Council on Unitary Authorities to be held in Abingdon on 22nd June, taking forward the issues raised above.

2016/135

Vale of White Horse District Council – Parish Forum 7th July 2016

Council noted that a Parish Forum meeting organised by the Vale of White Horse District Council was to be held on Thursday 7th July 2016 at the Oxford Abingdon Hotel, Abingdon at 6.00 p.m. Mr. Hillis offered to representative the Council at the meeting. Mr. Hoath and Miss Mander would check their diaries to see if they too could attend. It was suggested that Mr. Denton be asked too.

2016/136

Play Area

Council noted that the Clerk had purchased a padlock for the play area gate, fitted it, and given a key to the grass cutting contractor. Council considered a quotation for the replacement of forked swing chains, and

RESOLVED:

That these should be replaced a at a cost of
£120

2016/137

Youth Shelter - repainting

Council noted that Mrs. Christine Ricketts had offered to arrange for the shelter to be painted. After some discussion it was agreed the youth group select the colour of the shelter from a range of chlorinated rubber paint, that the wooden bench area be revarnished, and yellow paint edging to the concrete base be provided

RESOLVED: that sum of £250 be set aside for the re-painting costs of the youth shelter

2016/138

Mr. Hoath rejoined the meeting.

2016/139

Cow Lane Pony Paddocks

Council noted the tenancy of the paddock area was soon to come to an end. The current tenant had requested a further year's agreement of the grass keep at the same price. The area formed part of the original allotment site, and if required for allotments at a future date, it was noted that consideration as to ceasing its use as paddock would be needed. Reference was made to poplar trees on the southern boundary of the allotment site which overshadowed the southern allotments.

RESOLVED:

that the grass keep be let for a further year for 2 ponies in the sum of £240

2016/140

Transfer of open space areas Kings Field Phase I development

Council considered the draft transfer document and plan.

It was thought advisable to instruct Solicitors to act for the Council to check the draft document and advise on the legal interpretation of some of the wording. Council considered the attestation clauses and signature requirements.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Solicitors be instructed to advise the Council on the draft document
- (ii) that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman execute the Transfer on behalf of the Council, once agreed.

2016/141

Correspondence

- a) Oxfordshire County Council – X-15 bus service changes from 21st July 2016

Following changes to the County Council's support for subsidised bus services, and those that were supported by s. 106 funding, the X15 service Abingdon to Witney which passed through Marcham would be renumbered 15, and would run through Howard Cornish Road, but cease to serve Millets Farm. There would be 5 buses a day Monday to Friday approximately 2 hourly.

b) Oxfordshire County Council – Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy

Council noted the map in appendix 1 of the preliminary assessment of Mineral Site Options, has been updated. This was to correct inconsistencies with the site numbering between the map and main document. It did not change the assessment content of the document.

c) Environment Agency – Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

Public exhibition of the preferred route for the scheme on 28th June between 2.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m at Oxford Town hall

d) Community First Oxfordshire - newsletter

e) Oxfordshire County council – Protecting public rights of way (planning applications).

Note on how best to respond to planning applications when they affect public rights of way.

f) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Update newsletter

g) Fields in Trust – Centenary Fields

Nominations for fields being received by the Trust to secure them in perpetuity as recreation spaces

2016/142

Employee Salary Scales

Council noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services had reached a 2 year agreement on salary scales. A 1% increase was to be implemented for 2016/17 and a 1% increase for 2017/2018. The Clerk was employed under the NJC terms. Council

RESOLVED:

that the salary of the Clerk be increase by 1% for 2016/17 and a further 1% for 2017/18 as per the agreement.

2016/143

Accounts

The accounts for the year 2015/16 had been approved at the May meeting of the Council. They were re-presented showing how the balances were represented. Council had been provided with a copy of the proposed annual return. It considered the figures on the annual

return and the governance assurance statement. Council noted the report from the internal auditor on the 2015/16 accounts. This raised a minor query on the value of fixed assets and adjusted an entry from the previous year's audit.

Council noted receipt of a grant of £349 from the Vale of White Horse District Council towards The Queen's birthday celebrations. Cllr. P. Steere expressed an interest in attending the training session for new councillors organised by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Council approve the annual return figures and the governance of assurance required by the external auditor BDO Stoy Hayward on the annual return for 2015/16
- (ii) that the report from the internal auditor RJS (IA)Ltd be noted
- (iii) that the accounts for the 2015/16 year now be signed
- (iv) that Council funds the cost of the training course For Cllr. Steere in the sum of £90

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 2852 to 2865 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £4536.40 in respect of administration costs, play area checks, grass cutting, annual meeting of electors expenses, cemetery maintenance, weed spraying, The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations, and parishioner of the year award expenses.

2016/144

Matters Raised by Members

Grass Cutting

It was reported that the verge at St. Peter's Cross Roads was in need of cutting in order to assist visibility at the junction.

The Chairman mentioned that a resident in New Road had requested that the verge outside his house be cut. This was part of County Council highway verge and would be cut by them under their current schedule.

Mr. Hillis referred to issues regarding grass cutting appearing on facebook. He would add a statement clarifying the current position of the County Council.

General comments were made for future discussion regarding the

Parish Council acting as agents for the County Council in regards to all grass cutting and tree work if the relevant budgets were available.

2016/145 Items for Marcham and District News
The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News, and include reference to grass verge cutting.

2016/146 Date of Next Meeting
The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 13th July, 2016 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m. .

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed Date