

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 12th October, 2016 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Miss R. Atkins, Mr. M. Denton, Mrs. J. Fabes, Mr. M. Hillis, Mr. M. Hoath,
Miss R. Mander, (Chairman), Mr.P. Steere, Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Cllr. Mr. R. Webber (County Councillor)

Prior to the commencement of formal business Mr. P. Doyle from Virgin Media outlined the company's plans for expanding its services into Marcham. There would be a completely new fibre network enabling internet speeds of up to 200mg per second, with faster speeds of up to 300mg/s for businesses. The work should be complete by March 2017. It was appreciated that there would be short term disruption, but this would be for longer term benefit. Marcham was one of 4 or 5 smaller villages to have the cable laid this financial year. Excavations would be narrow trenching, with no new materials brought in for restoration. Questions were raised with him. New housing developments were being planned and were taking place at the edge of the village, these were not included in the current plans of Virgin Media, and would be taken into account as the boundary line on a plan showing the works area had been arranged some while ago. Virgin Media had an audit process for checking restoration of excavations. Mr. Doyle agreed that the Parish Council could approach the company direct should it have any queries regarding restoration should there be queries once the backfilling of trenches was complete. It was suggested to Mr. Doyle that advance notice of when the works were to start should be given in Marcham and District News, and on the village facebook page. He confirmed that Virgin Media would itself, arrange community information events and marketing events.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Doyle and he left the meeting.

2016/194 Apologies for absence
Apologies had been received from Mr. W. Cumber and Mrs. S. Hill.
Apologies had also been received from Cllr. Mrs. C. Webber (District Councillor).

2016/195 Declarations of Interest
Mr. M. Hoath declared an interest in the agenda item relating to community facilities in that he was a Director of the Anson Trust which was proposing the facilities
Miss R. Atkins declared an interest in the agenda item relating to the planning application P16/V2555/HH at 50 North Street in that she knew the applicant.

2016/196 Minutes of the meeting held on 14th September, 2016
The minutes of the meeting held on 14th September, 2016 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting, subject to correcting typing. In minute 2016/182 correcting “Vale of White Horse District Council undertaking letter picking” to “Vale of White Horse District Council undertaking litter picking”, and to renumber of the pages of the minutes as page 334 appeared to have been missed out.

2016/197 Matters Arising from the meeting held on 14th September, 2016
Youth Shelter
Council noted that this had still to be painted. A reminder had been given, together with information as to the offer from Mr. Rob Finch, youth worker, to assist with the project.

2016/198 Public Participation
There were no members of the public present.

2016/199 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P16/V2183/LB Part replacement of roof with zinc substitute

Denman College, New Road

Permitted 3rd October, 2016

P16/V2017/FUL Demolition of house, replacement dwelling, swimming pool, garage and new access

Studland House, Woodside

Withdrawn 22nd September, 2016

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

No applications had been received

c) Applications considered at the meeting

P16/V2555/HH Single storey side extension

50 North Street

For: Ms. A. Gover

Members had comments regarding visibility from North Street which was in the conservation area, the materials to be used and possible reduction in car parking within the curtilage of the site.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in support of the application

In support	Not supporting	Abstentions
6	0	2

Comments: Council supported the application. It improved the living space. A condition to be included to ensure stone or materials appropriate to the conservation area be used. The District Council to confirm that the on site car parking arrangements met its requirements.

P16/V2533/HH Conversion/extension of outbuilding to create artist's studio

1 Gozzards Ford

For: Mr and Mrs. Spriggs

Members generally supported the application and were of the opinion that it was proportional improvement. The studio should remain as ancillary to the main dwelling, and no further works undertaken without planning consent.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in support of the application

In support	Not supporting	Abstentions
8	0	0

Comments: Council supports the application but a condition should be imposed to ensure that it remains ancillary to the main dwelling and that any permitted development rights were withdrawn

2016/200

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

In the absence of Cllr. Mrs. Webber, Cllr. R. Webber gave a report on her behalf. Reports were circulating that Dalton Barracks airfield was included in the Ministry of Defence sites to be sold by Government. If this were the case, then it may be possible to create a by pass for Marcham. Reference was made to the invitation by Catesby Estates Ltd to an exhibition in Denman College on Wed. 19th October to view plans for 55 houses on land to the Eastern side of the village and south of the A415.

Information as to the s. 106 requirements within the proposal to redevelop the Institute site, and erect housing, and community facilities had been sent by the District Council's legal department to Cllr. Mrs. Webber. These were presented at the meeting. Further information could be obtained from the District Council.

2016/201

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Webber

Cllr. Webber reported that other parishes within his Division were inundated with planning applications for housing, and that Sutton Courtenay residents had held an action day, where 150 people had attended. There had been a march to the District Council offices, where a petition regarding a fair deal for Sutton Courtenay had been handed in.

New Homes Bonus – The calculations for the payment of new homes bonus assume average rates over 6 years. The District Council received 80% of the bonus. Cllr. Webber suggested taking up the fight and requesting Marcham's share of the bonus.

2016/202

Miss Atkins left the meeting at 8.30 p.m.

2016//203

Neighbourhood Plan

Council considered whether to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan. Points that arose were: whether it would give control over what happened in the parish, the likelihood of available land and willingness of landowners to dispose of it, who would actually undertake a Plan, funding required and monies needed in the budget. It was noted that the Anson Trust's plan for community facilities should have started construction by the summer of 2016, and it may be better to consider a Neighbourhood Plan once it was clear that those plans were progressing.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that consideration be given when undertaking the budget to including money for a Neighbourhood Plan
- (ii) that the matter be reconsidered again early in the new year, with a view to setting up a working party, so that any legal ramifications could be understood before making a final decision

2016/204

Community Facilities

Council noted that planning consent had been given. The revised

offer letter to the Anson Trust as agreed at the last meeting had been sent to the Anson Trust. They had requested to meet and the Council's working party met with representative of the Trust. The Trust had had concerns with various points, in particular creating a charge on the land, a note at the Land Registry and the grant becoming repayable should community facilities cease to operate. The Trust had put forward an alternative suggestion of the Trust leasing the whole site (Anson Field other than land for housing and nursery) to the Parish Council. The idea being that the Council would then become more in control of its investment. The Council could then sub-let to whichever organisation it wished. The Council's representatives on the community facilities steering group reported that at a recent meeting of that group there had been discussion as to rent payable under a lease, and the possibly grant payment towards construction being regarded as up front rent payment. The legal aspects of a Lease, rent payments, vat implications and a grant towards construction, needed further investigation.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of authorising the clerk to incur costs of up to £5000 on obtaining professional necessary consultants' advice on legal, financial and other matters in connection with the council's role in regards to new community facilities.

In favour	Against	Abstention
6	0	1

Council noted the suggested specification for a new hall

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Clerk, in consultation with the working party, be authorised to incur expenditure up to £5000 in seeking professional advice in connection with the Council's role in regards to new community facilities.
- (ii) that the funds be taken from reserves, should the balance in the 2016/17 budget be insufficient.
- (iii) that the specification (draft 2) for a new village hall be noted
- (iv) that members consider the specification individually and notify the clerk should they have any comments.

2016/205 Department for Communities and Local Government – Consultation on Local Government Finance Settlement

Council noted the publication of the consultation paper and the proposals regarding council tax referendum principles for local parish and town councils. Council discussed the implications for the parish and

RESOLVED:

that a letter be sent in response to the consultation advising that this Council believed that an increase of 2-3% on the council tax band D was marginal and trivial, yet it would cost in the region of £2500 to undertake a referendum.

2016/206 Radar Speed Gun

Council noted that Sunningwell and Wootton Parish Council were not interested in joining with Marcham in the purchase of a speed detection gun. St. Helen Without Parish Council had resolved to contribute and share the cost should the matter progress. Cumnor Parish Council had requested further information. Mr. Denton had sought information from the Police, but they had not responded. Rather than purchase a speed detection gun, it was thought that requesting the Police to undertake speed monitoring may be one solution. It was suggested that should other parishes to the west of Marcham purchase a second gun, then enquiries should be made as to whether Marcham could share in that purchase.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Mr. Denton make enquiries of the Police as to whether they could visit the village with speed detection equipment
- (ii) that enquiries be made of the parishes within the Neighbourhood Action Group area 2 to see if and when purchasing a second speed gun whether Marcham could be considered to join them.

2016/207 Defibrillator outside Marcham Primary School

Council noted that Marcham Primary School had agreed a location for the proposed new defibrillator. Council considered the quotation received for the defibrillator, cabinet and installation costs. The electrical contractor was checking the level of his insurance cover to enable him to work on School premises. Funding had not been specifically included in the budget for this.

Mr. Walton proposed, Mr. Hillis seconded that Council proceed with

the acquisition of a defibrillator at a cost of up to £2000

The Chairman called for a show of hands

In favour	Against
7	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Clerk be authorised to proceed with the purchase of a defibrillator, cabinet and arrange installation at Marcham Primary School
- (ii) that a sum of up to £2000 be authorised for expenditure including vat, from reserves
- (iii) that expenditure be included in the budget for 2017/18

2016/208 The duration of the meeting had been 2 hours and Council resolved to suspend standing order no. 1a in order to allow business to be continued

2016/209 Vanderbilt Phase I – Footpath Howard Cornish Road, northwards
Council noted that the Solicitor who was approached to deal with the checking of the Transfer for the public open space sites had requested that he be instructed, in the interests of completeness, to handle the whole transaction. Council noted the estimated cost of £1000

RESOLVED:

that Council's Solicitor be instructed to proceed with the full conveyancing of the title of the footpath area and the public open space.

2016/210 Correspondence

- a) Vale of White Horse District Council – Tour around ERF Ardley on 16th November
- b) Environment Agency – Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme – newsletter
- c) Vale of White Horse District Council – Parish Forum Thursday 10th November at 6.00 p.m. at The Beacon, Wantage. Mrs. Fabes would attend this meeting.
- d) South Central Ambulance Service – Patient Forum 19th October, 2016 at 5.30 p.m. John Radcliffe Hospital. Focus on dementia care in the ambulance service

- e) Housing development – 55 units south of the A415 at the eastern side of the village – Catesby Estates Ltd
An exhibition was to be held in Denman College on Wednesday 19th October from 2.00 p.m. for councillors and 3.00 p.m. for the public.

RESOLVED:

that the Council's policy on housing design be sent to Catesby Estates Ltd

2016/211

Accounts

Council considered a donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal who had supplied the wreath laid at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday. The external audit for the year 2015/2016 had now been completed and Council noted that there were no matters which came to the attention of the external auditor, BDO, which required the issuing of a separate additional issues arising report Council received a report on the accounts and budget comparisons as at 30th September, 2016.

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 2888 to 2896 to be signed and

RESOLVED:

- (i) that payments totalling £4180.69 in respect of administration costs, cemetery maintenance, grass cutting, and grant.

2016/212

Matters raised by members for information

North Street/Sheepstead Road – missing lamp posts

It was reported that these lamp posts which had been removed owing to the poor state and condition had not been replaced. Members noted that they were in the County Council's programme, but were of low priority and were unlikely to be replaced in the near future.

Howard Cornish Road . Kings Avenue - Street Lights not working

Street Lights 22 and 23 in Howard Cornish Road were not working. Neither was street light 8 in Kings Avenue. These had been reported to the County Council.

Churchyard – grass cutting

Mr. Denton requested that the schedule of grass cutting within the Churchyard be placed on the agenda for the next meeting, as he had received several complaints about the length of grass. He suggested that the conservation area be sited to the rear only.

North Street – pavement

A request was made for an update report on the proposal for a pavement in North Street to be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

2016/213

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News

2016/214

Date of Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed Date