

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th June, 2017 the residents' lounge at Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Miss R. Atkins, Mr. I. Charles, Mr. M. Denton, Mrs. J. Fabes, Mrs. S. Hill,
Mr. M. Hoath, Miss R. Mander, (Chairman), Mr. D. Walton

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

Joined by Cllr. R. Webber (County Councillor) and Cllr. C. Webber (District Councillor) and 1 member of the public at 7.37 p.m.

- 2017/150 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. Matthew Hillis and Mr. P. Steere.
- 2017/151 Declarations of Interest
Mr. Charles declared an interest in the agenda item relating to correspondence from residents and Denman College regarding dredging the lake, in that he had been involved with other residents in this issue.
Miss R. Atkins declared an interest in any matter relating to planning enforcement investigations at 1 Tower Close as she lived in the vicinity.
Mrs. Fabes declared an interest in the agenda item of possibly asking Millets Farm to consider brown tourist signs to direct traffic away from the village in that she lived close to the proposed alternative route.
- 2017/152 Minutes of the annual meeting held on 10th May, 2017
The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting, subject in minute 2017/119 to amending "Mrs Atkins" to "Miss Atkins"
- 2017/153 Matters arising from the annual meeting held on 10th May, 2017
- Best Kept Garden Competition
Council noted sponsorship from Slade Estate Services and The Crown Public House for competition prizes.
- Grant Contract – The Arthur Anson Memorial Trust Ltd
Council noted that the grant contract had been signed by all parties.
- Grass Cutting – Junction of A415/Howard Cornish Road
Council noted that the County Council had now cut the grass verge at the junction of the A415 and Howard Cornish Road.
- Howard Cornish Road – path installed by Taylor Wimpey
A hole in the path from the Longfields bus stop, at the point where it joined with the path installed by Vanderbilt Homes from its Harding Way development, had been checked by Taylor Wimpey. They had confirmed it would be filled in and the area treated and reseeded where

grass had been damaged, in due course. No exact date could be specified.

Best Kept Garden Competition

Council noted that Mary Embleton, a previous winner and whose garden was not being judged this year, and Joey MacLean of Frilford, had offered to be final round judges.

Junction of A415/North Street – height of garden wall/fencing on new houses.

The Clerk was asked what the current position regarding the height of the boundary wall and fencing which was causing visibility problems. The Clerk responded that the District Council had opened a planning enforcement file and was dealing with the matter.

General comments were made regarding the longstanding telegraph pole in the path, and cottage porch, which too interfered with motorist's vision. The newly installed path in North Street was uneven, and kerb setts were missing where vehicles had gone over the corner of the path. Queries were also raised in regards to construction which had taken place at the rear of the new houses. This appeared to be either a bin store or car port.

2017/154 Cllrs. Richard Webber (County Councillor) and Mrs. Catherine Webber (District Councillor) arrived at 7.37 p.m. along with one member of the public.

2017/155 Public Participation
The member of the public present introduced himself as a new resident, and said he would be moving into one of the homes on the Willow Farm, (Pye) development off the A415.

2017/156 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P17/V0712/FUL Conversion of carport and storage into residential annex

1 The Green

Permitted 22nd May, 2017

P16/V2692/FUL Variation of condition 13 on P14/V1976/O and P16/V0644/O for 37 dwellings for Matthew Homes on land south of Packhorse Lane

Provision of charging points for electric vehicles on market housing units only

Permitted 30th May, 2017

P17/V0939/HH Single storey rear extension with dark grey windows

30 Kings Avenue

Permitted 5th June, 2017

b) Planning Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

P16/V3224/FUL Erection of 49 dwellings with associated means of access, car parking, footpath links, amenity space and landscaping (amended plans 12th May, 2017)

Land off Sheepstead Road

For: Mrs. H. King-Thompson and Mrs. H. Shorthouse

Comments: Council was pleased to note the inclusion of the Sheepstead Road path, and changes to the route of path previously entering into the Council's allotments. Queries were raised on the adequacy of visitor parking, a tree replacement schedule, and sort identification of a particular bin area.

P16/V2791/RM Reserved matters application following outline approval P14/V2372/O for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale (amended plans 12th May 2017)

Land off Sheepstead Road

For: Mrs. H. King-Thompson and Mrs. H. Shorthouse

Comments: Council was pleased to note the inclusion of the Sheepstead Road path, and changes to the route of the path previously entering into the Council's allotments. Comments included path to the Eastern side in front of parking spaces, adequacy of bin areas, and queried tree replacement schedule, as no current landscaping information appeared on the District Council's website.

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

The Council had not been formally consulted on the following application, but the proposal included works affecting trees in the ownership of the Parish Council, and Council therefore debated the proposals. The Clerk advised that the applicant had offered to meet with representatives of the Parish Council

P17/V1549/DIS Discharge of conditions – archaeology, landscaping and tree protection

6 Mill Road

For: Oxford Advanced Living Ltd

Following general discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (i) that members meet the applicant on site to discuss works which could affect trees on the village green and which were in the ownership of the Parish Council.
- (ii) that the Vale of White Horse District Council be asked not to determine the application until the Parish Council had had an opportunity to comment on the proposals.

P17V1577/FUL Resurfacing of 2 car parks with
tarmac
Denman College, New Road
For: Denman College

Mr. Hoath had personally visited the car park areas and had spoken with the Estates Manager for Denman College. Members appreciated the need for a hard surface to the car park, but expressed some concern regarding the inadequacy of tarmac as far as drainage was concerned. Assurances were needed that water run off would not go into North Street, particularly from the car park next to the teaching block. It was unclear whether residents close to that car park had been notified of the application.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Council would prefer to see a permeable surface
- (ii) that assurances be sought that there would be no water run off into the highway.
- (iii) that enquiries be made to check whether nearby residents had been notified.

2017/157 Planning Correspondence

Mr. Charles, having declared an interest in the following item, left the meeting area and sat in the public gallery.

Denman College – Lake clearance - correspondence from residents

Council noted correspondence from residents expressing concern that they had heard that Denman College had plans to pump silt from its lake, and deposit it in the moat which ran alongside the College's access driveway off of The Farthings. This potentially could cause water levels to rise and be a problem for wildlife. The Clerk had raised the issues with the Estates Manager at the College, and had received a reply from the Principal, which confirmed silt was being removed to prevent the risk of flooding during periods of heavy rainfall. The work would be done over a 4 year period. The Environment Agency and Canal River Trust had not had any objections to the work commencing. In view of concerns from local people, the silt would no longer be placed in the moat, but would be deposited around the estate.

RESOLVED:

that a letter be sent to Denman College thanking them for not putting silt into the

moat and asking whether the Council and residents could be notified in future before the dredging or other works took place.

P17/V4199/PDH notification that an application had been lodged under permitted development rights for an orangery style conservatory at 44 Harding Way

2017/158

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

Cllr. Mrs Webber stated that there had been periods of purdah owing to the County and General Elections. St. Helen Without Parish Council had been considering undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan, however owing to the District Council's Local Plan part 2 which was ongoing, plans for housing on part of the Dalton Barracks site, and the Ministry of Defence's requirements for an Army presence on the site, she had recommended that that Marcham Parish Council defer its Neighbourhood Plan for the time being.

Mill Road – Walnut tree

Cllr. Mrs. Webber stated that issues in connection with a walnut tree n Mill Road with which she had been involved were now sorted.

2017/159

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Webber

Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr. Webber expressed concern should energetic volunteers undertaking a neighbourhood plan make development more likely. It was important to keep Marcham with Shippon in regards to local planning, as one area could affect the other.

Traffic Survey – The results of the traffic survey on the A415 through Marcham, arranged by Cllrs. R. and C Webber had been lodged with the County Council who were considering them. The statistics may prove helpful in setting conditions associated with any planning application. If 3000 houses were sited on Dalton Barracks, then Shippon too would require a revamp. It was impossible to consult on a neighbourhood plan in circumstances where housing numbers from 0 to 3000 were possibilities.

Signage Funding – The Principal Officer of traffic schemes had acquired more funding for highway signs. Cllr. Webber invited members to identify where signs were needed. He offered to arrange a meeting with the County Council's officer and members to discuss signage requirements. Members' initial thoughts were signs to indicate the way to the future village hall, and a sign on the village green to indicate the way to the Post Office and shop. Members agreed to give thought to signage and produce a list of requirements. A member mentioned that the street nameplate at Elwes Road required replacement. It was noted that this was a District Council matter.

County Councillor funding – Cllr. Webber advised that he had been allocated the sum of £5,000 for projects in his division. This had to be

shared with the other parishes for which he was the County Councillor.

Drayton Parish Council – radar speed gun

He advised that Drayton Parish Council had purchased a radar speed gun at a cost of £100. Marcham Parish Council, whilst being offered by East Hanney Parish Council to go out with some of their members for a trial when using their speed detection gun, had not yet received any confirmation of dates and times. Members suggested that Marcham could possibly purchase its own equipment if the cost were only £100. The Clerk would talk to the Police to see if it went along that route, whether specific training was required, and if the Police would issue letters to motorists found travelling in excess of the speed limit.

Unitary Authority Bid

The Bid by the County Council to become the Unitary Authority for the area has been lodged with Central Government. The Secretary for State for the department of Communities and Local Government Sajid Javid was dealing with it, and a decision as to whether the bid is acceptable in principle would be known in a few weeks.

Denman College – lake clearance

Cllr. R. Webber reported that he too had taken up issues with Denman College regarding the clearance and dredging of the lake.

2017/160

A415 – Traffic Survey

Council noted the results of the traffic survey organised by Cllrs. R and C Webber. The statistics did little to add the argument of air quality, but did regarding the number of HGVs in Packhorse Lane. Questions were asked regarding whether numbers had been double counted, such as people undertaking school runs. Should more traffic be diverted around Gozzards to avoid the A415 pinch point, then concerns were raised regarding the Dog House junction with the A338. A fatality had occurred near the junction. Traffic could potentially be encouraged through Tubney which would be undesirable. Traffic lights may control the staggered junctions. Vehicles avoiding the villages and keeping to the A34 and A420 would be preferable. The situation with traffic would continue to be monitored.

2017/161

Millets Farm – Provision of Play Barn

Discussion was held regarding the increased traffic through the village as a result of the creation of a children's play barn at Millets Farm, Frilford, which provided for over 300 children. A suggestion had been made to amend the existing brown tourist sign near the A34 or provide new ones to indicate the way to Millets Farm as being through Gozzards Ford, then Frilford avoiding Marcham village centre. The Clerk had provided information on the requirements of the County Council to erect brown tourist signs. These required the applicant to pay a one off non refundable fee at the time of the application, then if approved, quotations were then given by the County Council for all

costings. These included manufacture and erection of sign, plus administration costs, and upfront costs towards maintenance and eventual removal.

Council considered requesting Millets Farm to pursue the idea of new brown tourist signs. Discussion was then had regarding encouraging vehicles leaving Millets Farm to go westwards to the A420 at Kingston Bagpuize, rather than travel through the pinch point at Marcham village, and extended the 40 mph speed limit on the A415 west of the Millets Farm entrance.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that no action be taken in regards to the provision of brown tourist signs.
- (ii) that Millets Farm be asked to impress on motorists leaving the farm site to turn left to join the A420 as the route away from the area.
- (iii) that an extension of the 40 mph speed limit for that area be added to the list of possible speed limit alterations for future consideration.

2017/162

s. 106 Update - Report

Council noted a report on a meeting of the working party that had taken place. Questions had been put to the Vale of White Horse District Council regarding access to the s. 106 funding, and a reply was awaited. Confirmation had been sent that the questions would be replied to by Friday 16th June.

Reference was made to the s. 106 funding and North Street footway. The working party had discussed with Taylor Wimpey the possibility of a developer installing a footway in North Street. For various reasons Taylor Wimpey could not assist. It was suggested that an approach be made to Strutt Parker regarding the Kings Field phase II development and also Thomas Homes regarding the alteration to the Institute to enquire whether they could assist at the time of their developments.

RESOLVED:

that approaches be made to both Strutt Parker and Thomas Homes to enquire whether either could assist with the installation of a footway in North Street as part of their development works.

2017/163

Play Area – Inspection Report

Council noted the quarterly report on the play inspection. Most items were in good order and there were no serious problems. Swings seats were being monitored owing to a slight cut. The roller ball was noisy

and was being treated with silicone spray, rough wooden seats on the youth shelter had been sanded down, and an uneven loose slab at the youth shelter was being rebedded.

2017/164

Correspondence

- a) Thames Water – Meeting – Help shape the future of water and waste services 15th June at 6.00 p.m. at Trinity Church, Abingdon. Mrs. S. Hill may be able to represent the Council at this meeting.
- b) Local Council Review - magazine
- c) OALC – May circular
- d) Seafarers UK – Request for civic buildings and prominent flagpoles to fly the Red Ensign on Merchant Navy Day 3rd September. To be referred to the Anson Trust as they had a flagpole on the Institute building.
- e) Vale of White Horse District Council – Local Plan Part I
- f) Home Start – Invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting on 11th July at 11.30 a.m. at Didcot Civic Hall

2017/165

Accounts

The accounts for the year 2016/17 had been approved at the May meeting of the Council. The Governance Statement, Internal Audit Report, and figures were presented. Council noted the report from the internal auditor on the 2016/17 accounts. The auditor had adjusted the fixed assets figure to include the purchase of a defibrillator, a query had arisen on the level of the fidelity guarantee cover. The Responsible Financial Officer had approached the insurers on 3rd February 2017 in regards to the increase in fidelity guarantee, and this had been raised, and additional insurance premium paid. The internal auditor had raised concerns on the resolution of the Council that the internal auditor should confirm restricted monies were used for that purpose. Grant funds could have already been mis-spent and could not be recovered by the time the auditor saw the accounts. In addition it would be for the Council to ensure that it met any conditions imposed by a grant. The intention of the Parish Council was to ensure that members of the public were aware that grant sums were for items for community benefit and not for keeping the precept at a lower figure, and to be able to confirm to any donor that their funds had been spent on capital items for the benefit of the community.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Council approve the annual return figures and the governance of assurance required by the external auditor BDO on the annual return for 2016/17
- (ii) that the report from the internal auditor RJS (IA)Ltd be noted
- (iii) that a clear note of spending of grant monies be sent to any donor in due course, when grant funding had been spent.

Matters raised by members for informationInstitute North Street – weeds front area

It was reported that there were weeds in the path area in front of the Institute. It was suggested that the village volunteer group could possibly undertake the clearing. Mr. Hoath offered to check the position and clear the weeds if necessary.

Parkside Allotments

It was reported that on the Eastern side of Parkside allotment (left hand as entering from New Road) that there was a pile of items including metal things that were in need of clearing. The Clerk reported that all allotments at Parkside were let. The Clerk would check the position and ask the handyman to clear if necessary.

Community Facilities – Anson Trust

It was suggested that an update as to the current position regarding new facilities be put on the village facebook page. It was thought that there would be an article in the next issue of Marcham and District News.

Theft of bikes

It was suggested that in view of recent thefts in the village, then advice to contact the Police 101 number be put on the village facebook page.

Trees/shrubs overhanging paths

It was suggested that where trees and shrubs were overhanging the footway, then the Council should write to the property owners. This was possible in order to assist the County Council. In the first instance an article could be put on the village facebook page and in Marcham District News to encourage residents to keep their trees and shrubs cut back.

Path Church to Cemetery

Trees from Denman College were overhanging the path. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the College asking if they could be cut back.

Fettiplace Road - Parking Area

It was noted that a large trade vehicle was being kept on the highway. Questions were asked as to why it was not being kept within the grounds of the house to which it related. It was understood that a Goods Vehicle Licence may be in existence. The Clerk was asked to check the terms of any Goods Vehicle Licence

It was also reported that white spray paint had appeared in the parking area. This was thought to be the initial markings for the disabled parking space referred to at a previous Council meeting.

Fettiplace Road – Overhanging tree near roadway into Duffield Place garages.

It was reported that a tree on County Council verge was overhanging

the footway and was in need of trimming back. The County Council had already undertaken works to this tree last year.

Howard Cornish Road to Harding Way – new path

It was reported that the path in places was impassable owing to nettles and long weeds. A resident had taken matters into his own hands and had started cutting weeds back. The land was in the ownership of Vanderbilt Homes. The Clerk was asked to see if the handyman could assist with strimming them, as the ownership would be passed to the Parish Council in due course.

Marcham Mill – diversion of watercourse

It was reported that the water was likely to be diverted to the new watercourse in the near future.

Thomas Merrifield – for sale sign

It was reported that the for sale sign for the Kings Field phase I development was still in situ, even though the development was sold some long while ago. . A member had reported this to Thomas Merrifield Estate Agents, but it had not been removed.

Public Footpath alongside Frilford Road Recreation Ground

It was reported that there was growth overhanging the public footpath which ran alongside the Arboretum. The Clerk was asked to contract the landowner.

Village Hall website

The Clerk was asked to include an agenda item for the discussion at the next meeting as to the Council possibly providing funding for creating a new website to provide information as to the progress of the proposed village hall.

Defibrillator training Saturday 17th June

The Chairman reminded members about the community awareness training being provided by the South Central Ambulance Service in using a defibrillator which was being held on Saturday 17th June in Marcham Primary School hall. This had been advertised in Marcham and District News, the Council's noticeboard, more recently in the village shop and via a newsletter sent to parents by the school. It was suggested that this too be put on the village facebook page.

Anson Field Management Committee

It was reported that Mr. Walton and Miss Mander arriving early for a meeting in the sports scouts and social club had interrupted a meeting organised by the Anson Trust. The purpose of the meeting was unclear. The Clerk was asked to advise the Secretary of the Anson Trust of the current representatives for the Parish Council appointed last month to the Anson Field Management Committee. The Clerk, in any event, had not been sent the agenda for any meeting.

2017/167 Items for Marcham and District News
The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2017/168 Date of Next Meeting
The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday
12th July, 2017 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place at
7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed Date

