

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th January, 2018 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

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

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

Cllr. Mrs. C. Webber (District Councillor)

Cllr. R. Webber (County Councillor)

- 2018/1 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Miss R. Atkins and Mr. M. Denton
- 2018/2 Declarations of Interest
Mrs. S. Hill declared an interest in the agenda items relating to the budget in that her husband was Treasurer of Marcham Sports Scouts and Social Club, Secretary of Marcham Cricket Club and her son in law was Chairman of Marcham Football Club. These organisations were likely to be grant applicants to the Council during the 2018/19 financial year.
Mr. Charles declared an interest in the grant application from the Tai Chi organiser in that he had attended Tai Chi sessions in the village.
Miss Mander declared an interest in the grant application from the Tai Chi organiser in that her mother attended Tai Chi sessions in the village.
- 2018/3 Minutes of the meeting held on 13th December, 2017
The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December, 2017 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting,
- 2018/4 Matters arising from the meeting held on 13th December, 2017
Junction A415/Howard Cornish Road
Council noted that the Lux A Plant lorry had ceased to park right at the junction. The Clerk had placed an article in Marcham and District Council, and the Chairman stated she had contacted the Police Community Support Officer.
- A415 - Path on southern side
A response from the County Council was awaited.
The Clerk had also contacted Persimmon homes, who had indicated that they would be finishing the path in accordance with the drawings that had been approved by the Parish Council. No comment had been made in regards to the path, which in one section, was not even the width specified on the original drawings. The Clerk was pursuing this.
- Thames Water – works within the village
Reference had been made in the December minutes regarding the rodding of drains. Several Thames Water vehicles had been seen in the village. Questions were raised as to what they were doing. The Clerk was asked to try and find out.

2018/5 Public Participation
There were no members of the public present.

2018/6 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P17/V2592/HH Extension and alterations to existing house to form first floor accommodation
Hyde Farm Bungalow, Abingdon Road
Permitted 16th November, 2017

b) Planning Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

No applications had been received

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

P17V2932/HH Demolish side garage and build single storey extension to the front and rear, and a two storey side extension (parking proposals)
21 Fettiplace Road
For: Mr and Mrs. D. Merriman
Comments: The property would become a 4 bedroom house and yet there were only 2 parking spaces, parking provision was therefore insufficient. Turning space within the site was inadequate, and no tracking was shown on the drawing. Text on the drawing referred to using existing cross over, and the Parish Council objected if this were to mean parking on the cross over.

2018/7 District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Mrs. C. Webber
Air Quality - Cllr. Mrs. Webber had put a motion to the District Council. There were statutory obligations to measure and monitor air quality in the district, to declare Air Quality Management Areas and produce Action Plans. The motion had been that the District Council include in its budget for 2018/19 funding for all projects recommended in the 2015 Air Quality Action Plan that were not yet complete, and to ensure that the Council had a low emissions strategy similar to that of South Oxfordshire District Council to focus the Council's efforts on the reduction of air pollution.
The motion, however, had not been supported by the District Council, despite Public Health England statistics regarding deaths in Oxfordshire caused by pollution.

Cllrs. Catherine and Richard Webber were both attending a meeting with Jason Sherwood, Locality and Roads Agreement Manager at Oxfordshire County Council to discuss the air quality issues.

Food Waste – bags

The food waste collection service was now able to take food in standard plastic bags as the machinery involved was not able to easily handle the compostable bags.

Sharing services

Arrangements were being put in place for Hart District Council, Mendip District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, East Hants District Council and Havant Borough Council to join in sharing some services and contracts. The planned saving for the Vale of White Horse District Council was £400,000.

Waste Collection

The assisted collection of waste for one resident, which had been reported as not taking place, had been restored, and there had been no further problem over the past month.

2018/8

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Webber

Government Funding – The growth deal and the Oxford / Cambridge expressway were separate issues. The expressway went through green belt areas in Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, and Bedfordshire. The future of the scheme was uncertain as, Lord Adonis, who was behind the proposal, had ceased to be interim Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission.

A £215million growth deal had been secured by the Oxfordshire growth board, with central government. This was a 5 year deal, with some strings such as the provision of 100,000 houses. There was some chance of infrastructure before development took place.

County Council finances – These were looking better and there was hope for no further major cuts.

Air Quality – Cllr. Webber had concerns regarding the lack of response from the County Council regarding the traffic survey undertaken on the A415 by Cllrs. R. and C. Webber and local residents. The County Council had undertaken traffic modelling of an HGV diversion and a meeting was to take place with the Locality and Roads Agreement Manager to discuss the findings.

North Street / New Road – street works

A member asked Cllr. Webber if an officer from the County Council could ensure that trenches, which were subsiding following works by Thames Water and BT, were reinstated.

A415 Culham – Sutton bridge

Cllr. Webber referred to a public inquiry commencing on 23rd January in regards to 2 planning applications in Sutton Courtenay. The County Council had agreed that no more development should take place until the growth deal was in place, and a new bridge across the river Thames had been constructed.

2018/9

Community Facilities

A copy of the minutes of the Community Facilities Steering Group meeting held on 14th December, 2017 had been circulated to members. It was reported that the Community Facilities Steering Group would

cease, and the committees of Marcham Community Group would take on the negotiating as the MCG would be the tenant of the facilities and therefore responsible for them. A query was raised as to whether the Parish Council would have a representative on each of their committees. The minutes of the CFSG meeting referred to the Parish Council obtaining a quote for the reconstruction of a play area in the north west corner of the Anson field. As the CFSG was ceasing to exist there would be no requirement for the Council to pursue this and report back. There would be room in the Anson field for a junior pitch if the corner of the play area was removed. It was expected that the Sports Scouts and Social Club would close on 31st March 2018. The Baptist Church and hall would remain available for use until the end of the project to construct new community facilities in the Anson field.

In regards to the application for s. 106 funding to the Vale of White Horse District Council, the application had been approved subject to the Parish Council entering into a legal agreement with the District Council regarding the release of the funds. Legal advice on the draft agreement, may be required.

The Chairman asked for a show of hands for those in favour of instructing a solicitor to advise on the draft agreement

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	0	0

RESOLVED:

that the Council instructs Solicitors, if appropriate, once the draft legal agreement with the Vale of White Horse District Council had been received and considered by the working party.

2018/10

Grant Applications

Council noted comments from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils regarding grants, and the explanation as to the use of s.137 Local Government Act 1972, and the payment of salaries. Lengthy discussion took place regarding the definition of benefit, and whether this could be interpreted as the benefit received by a group by the employment of one individual. Members were in disagreement, and the Clerk advised that members put together their specific questions and a further approach would be made to OALC.

Council noted a grant request from the organiser of a Tai Chi class in Marcham, as there was insufficient income to pay for the hall hire and the salary of the instructor. Questions were asked as to whether the Council could support a private business in this way.

The Chairman asked for a show of hands of those in favour of awarding a grant to the Tai Chi group, if permitted to do so. 2 members, having declared interests, took no part in the debate or voting in this matter

In favour	Against	Abstentions
4	1	0

Council noted that information from the South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau as to how the money was used, was awaited, as was the completion of the form trialled with the PCC.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that members approach the Clerk with specific questions to put to the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils
- (ii) that a question also be raised about a Council possibly grant funding a business which provided for residents.
- (iii) that a grant of £100 as a contribution towards rent costs be awarded to the Tai Chi group, with the sum being sent direct to the hall provider, should the council be able to support this organisation.

2018/11

Local Council Review Magazine

Council noted the current costs of purchasing the Local Council Review magazine, and considered ordering fewer copies in order to reduce costs. It was proposed by the Chairman that only 5 copies be purchased in lieu of the current 11.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that 5 copies of the Local Council Review Magazine be purchased for sharing one between 2 members
- (ii) that the copy currently purchased for the clerk ceased to be purchased.

2018/12

Change to agenda order

In view of the lateness of the hour Council agreed to change the order of the agenda to take the item relating to the budget as the next item.

2018/13

Budget 2018/19

Council carefully considered the current balances, the likely balances at the year end, and the budget for 2018/2019. It focused on the selection of a grass cutting contractor. It was suggested that the agreement for grass cutting be entered into for one year only, in view of the likely construction of a village hall, and possible changes to grass cutting arrangements in future years.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in support of a precept sum requested from the Vale of White Horse District Council of £54,500.

In support	Against	Abstention
7	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that unspent sums from the current year be taken into reserves.
- (ii) that a precept be requested from the Vale of White Horse District Council in the sum of £54,500.
- (iii) that Slade Estate Services be appointed grass cutting contractor for the 2018 season.

2018/14

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.

2018/15

Management Fees – Harding Way

Council noted and considered correspondence in regards to management fees on the shared common areas within Harding Way. A resident was concerned with the charges collected by an agent management company, and enquired whether the Parish Council could take on the smaller area of grass at the same time as taking over 2 larger areas of open space from the developer. The smaller area of grass was not part of the public open space, and the Council had never been offered it. The developer had established a management company with the intention of residents becoming the directors and taking on the management of certain spaces themselves. Agents were dealing with the grass cutting in the interim. The charges made by the managing agent was a private matter.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Parish Council not take on any additional grass area.
- (ii) that the resident be advised to encourage the developer to hand over the grass cutting arrangement to the Harding Way (Marcham) Management Company.

2018/16

Annual Meeting of electors

Council commenced discussion regarding speakers for the annual meeting of electors. Members were asked to give the matter some thought, and to let the Clerk know. The Clerk was asked to contact councillors not present at the meeting. The certificate for the parishioner of the year would be presented, should a recipient be selected. Discussion followed on the preparation of the certificate.

RESOLVED:

that the certificate, if awarded, be prepared and printed the same way as the previous year.

2018/17

Correspondence

a) Letters of thanks for grants awarded had been received from Marcham Bellringers Society, Marcham Cricket Club, South and Vale

Carers Centre/BeFree, and Marcham Rainbows.

b) Thames Valley Police – Survey on increase in council tax to help protect operational policing.

2018/18

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 3042 to 3049 to be signed and

RESOLVED:

that payments totalling £2237.63 in respect of administration costs, play area maintenance and grants be authorised.

2018/19

Matters raised by members for information

There were no matters raised.

2018/20

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2019/21

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 14th February, 2018 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Signed Date