

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th February, 2018 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Miss. R. Atkins, Mr. M. Denton, Mr. I. Charles, Mrs. J. Fabes, Mrs. S. Hill,
Mr. M. Hoath, Miss R. Mander, (Chairman), Mr. P. Steere, Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Cllr. R. Webber (County Councillor)
1 member of the public

- 2018/22 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. M. Hillis and Cllr. Mrs. C. Webber (District Councillor).
- 2018/23 Declarations of Interest
Mr. D. Walton declared an interest in the agenda item relating to the allotments in that his wife was an allotment holder.
- 2018/24 Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January, 2018
The minutes of the meeting held on 10th January, 2018 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting, Council noted that Mrs. J. Fabes had sent apologies via email for the January meeting, but these had not been received in time to be recorded.
- 2018/25 Matters arising from the meeting held on 10th January, 2018
- Thames Water – works within the village
Thames Water had been seen active in Marcham. Leaks had appeared in Longfields and North Street, and pipe relining works were taking place in Kings Avenue.
- Path A415 – South side
Council noted that the developer had stated that the path narrowed to 117cm as tree roots were encountered and the tree was subject to a preservation order. The remainder of the works had been completed to the specified design except the edge of the entrance to Abbots Grange which would be completed in the near future. A road safety audit had not identified any problems with the path.
It was suggested that correspondence received by the Parish Council could be forwarded to the parishioner who had raised the question of the path with a councillor.
- Junction A415/Howard Cornish Road
Council noted that the Lux A Plant lorry had not been seen parking at the junction over the last month. It had, however started to park in North Street.
- 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.

2018/26

Public Participation

Dog Fouling

A member of the public stated that on various walks around the village there was a lack of dog waste bins, particularly in the centre of the village. A suggestion was made that one should go in the churchyard. The Chairman advised that dog faeces bags could be placed in litter bins around the village, or within a households own black waste bin. Discussion had taken place on the village facebook page, and it was suggested that stickers indicating that dog faeces could go into litter bins could be stuck to litter bins, to advise the public. An appropriate article could be put into MAD News.

2018/27

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P17/V3170/HH Single storey rear extension to allow a concrete block external finish to the west elevation

1 The Gap

Refused

11th January, 2018

P17/V2932/HH Demolish side garage and build new single storey extension to the front and rear with a double storey side extension

21 Fettiplace Road

Refused

24th January, 2018

b) Planning Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

No applications had been received

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

P18/V0044/FUL To erection one double and one single new apex sectional garages to replace 2 old existing garages

The Anson Field, Morland Road

For: Marcham Community Group

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

In Support

9

Against

0

Abstention

0

RESOLVED:

Council supports the application believing it to be appropriate for the location and purpose

2018/28

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

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

5 Council Agreement

An agreement for shared services on management between 5 councils was due to save £50m. The expected savings figure had subsequently dropped significantly. Cllr. Webber was taking a question back to the District Council as it was not clear how this had happened. At an audit, it had been reported that too much business was being outsourced, and this left the Council short of officers.

Air Quality

The District Council had committed to undertake various matters relating to air quality, but had not been able to do so owing to a lack of resources. One officer had been employed on a part time basis for both Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils.

New Facilities

Cllr. Mrs. C. Webber and others had received a letter from the Cricket Club expressing concern that they would have nowhere to go during the closure of the Anson field and construction of new facilities. A comment was made that this statement implied that the Cricket Club would be holding up the project. This was not the case. It was claimed that the Anson Trust had said to the Clubs that if they went along with the community facilities scheme then a temporary alternative would be found. The cricket league required certain facilities and it appeared that these were not being provided. A meeting was taking place attended by sports clubs, Anson Trust and developer plus representatives from the Parish Council within 2 days to consider the transition phase. Further comments and discussion was therefore postponed until after the meeting. Cllr. Webber asked to be kept informed of the outcome, and offered to withdraw from the issue if this was being resolved locally.

2018/29

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Webber

A415 – Path on Southern side

Emails concerning the path on the Southern side of the A415, its unfinished state and width had been referred by Cllr. Webber to the roads agreement team at the County Council.

Air Quality

Cllrs. R and Mrs. C Webber had met with the County Council officers. To divert HGVs away from the A415 would impact on households elsewhere, and the "A" road was an assigned route.

Growth Deal

The growth deal for Oxfordshire had secured £30m per year for 5 years. There was a requirement to provide 100,000 houses by 2031, however the Government had a 5 year commitment. It was unclear therefore how this was going to progress.

2018/30

Community Facilities

Council received an update from the s. 106 working party. It continued to work with the Vale of White Horse District Council in regards to the agreement, which it requires, in order to release the s. 106 funding. The working party received the draft Heads of Terms for the Lease for the facilities, and for a Services and Cooperation Agreement. It had considered these, and met with the Anson Trust, MCG and sports club to discuss the terms. A final draft, once agreed, would be presented to Council. Initial discussion had focused on the Parish Council being a party to the Lease in order to be able to step in should the Marcham Community Group cease to be the tenant. The MCG was looking at a Lease from the Anson Trust with a view to a separate pre-emption agreement for the Parish Council.

Miss Mander gave a report on a meeting of MCG which she had attended on 11th January as an observer. The MCG, as tenant and with its new Articles, would continue negotiating the development of new community facilities, with the CFSG being less active. Discussion had taken place about there being places on the future hall management committees for Parish Council members. This could be considered in due course by the Council.

2018/31

Grant Applications

Council noted further comments from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in regards to awarding a grant to the instructor trying to establish a Tai Chi group in the village, and to the question of providing a grant to an organisation to provide a community service, and the funds being used to employ staff. A comment was made that the response from OALC on the latter point had not addressed the question posed. Lengthy discussion followed.

Council noted additional information from the South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Council not award a grant to the applicant wishing to set up Tai Chi classes.
- (ii) that further consideration be given to the wording in the grant application correspondence for the Friday Club.
- (iii) that a sentence, for clarification purposes, be added to the grant application form as to who and which organisations were eligible to apply for grant funding

2018/32

RAF Brize Norton – Changes to air space consultation and London Oxford Airport consultation

Council noted proposed changes to the military air space required around RAF Brize Norton and the consequent effect on the London Oxford Airport.

RESOLVED:

that this Council has no comment to make

2018/33

Parishioner of the Year

Council considered the nominations for the parishioner of the year award and selected the recipient for the 2017 year. The award would be presented at the annual meeting of electors in 2018.

2018/34

Play Area – Inspection report

Council noted the quarterly report on the play area. Items were in good order. Two issues – see saw and flat swing seats were being monitored, as was the youth shelter. The roller was noisy when rotating, and the recommendation was to remove it for inspection to check on the wearing of the metal.

Mr. Denton reported that there had been broken glass at the youth shelter and graffiti and graffiti “tags” had appeared on the walls, as well as on road signs along the A415. The shelter had been painted approximately 18 months ago and if paint were left over, he would paint out the graffiti.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that MRH services, playground inspector, remove and check the roller barrel to check for wear and resolve the squeak noise
- (ii) the Clerk to locate any spare youth shelter paint and provide to Mr. Denton
- (iii) that the County Council be advised that graffiti tags had been sprayed on the road signs along the A415

2018/35

Dog Fouling

Council considered problems with dog fouling within the village, and the failure of dog walkers to clear up after their dog. There was general discussion regarding the regularity of emptying, checking on the number of bins that were currently available, obtaining stickers to indicate that dog faeces could be placed in litter bins, the provision of more dog waste bins, and enquiring whether the Vale of White Horse District Council could empty the bins if more dog waste bins were provided by the Parish Council. Council discussed the poor state and condition of the dog waste bin on the path near the cemetery.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Vale of White Horse District Council be asked if they would take on the emptying of dog waste bins, should the Parish Council provide more.
- (ii) that an article appear in MAD News to indicate that the Parish Council has

discussed the issue and informing residents where dog faeces can be deposited.

- (iii) that stickers be obtained for bins where dog faeces can be deposited
- (iv) that the dog waste bin on the path next to the Cemetery be replaced.

2018/36

Cow Lane Allotments – rats

Council noted correspondence from an allotment holder that there was an increase in rats on the allotments.

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk obtain quotations from pest control services for dealing with the rats.

2018/37

Bridleway 17 – The Mill, Marcham – Closure

Council noted the continued closure of bridleway 17. The Clerk reported that the County Council, as rights of way authority, was negotiating repairs for the bridge.

RESOLVED:

that the matter be left to the County Council to manage

2018/38

Annual Meeting of Electors

Council noted that the school hall was available on Wednesday 23rd May. The question of an appropriate speaker was to be resolved. Enquiries could be made of Cllr. R. Webber, as to speakers on road issues.

2018/39

Correspondence

- a) Letter of thanks for grant from Wantage Independent Advice Centre.
- b) South Central Ambulance – Working together newsletter
- c) Oxford Clinical Commissioning Group – Locality Plan. Consultation on the future of GP and primary care services. Closing date 31st December, 2018. A short summary of the plan to be published in February.
- d) Deputy Police Crime Commissioner – newsletter
- e) Leader funding – availability of grants to support the rural economy.
- f) Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – newsletter
- g) Oxfordshire County Council – Waste Strategy consultation
- h) Oxfordshire County Council – Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 2 Site allocations: Information consultation and renewed call for site nominations
- i) Letter Marcham Charity Trustees – Notification that as of 24th January 2018, the Marcham Parochial Charities ceased to exist, and all the money held by the Charities was transferred to Oxfordshire Community Foundation.
- j) Thames Water – “Shaping your water future” discussion 20th February at the community centre, Lindsay Drive, Abingdon. 7.00 p.m.

2018/40

Accounts

Council noted the report on a meeting of the Working Party which had undertaken a review of the effectiveness of the internal audit. This had concluded that it believed that the Council's system for internal financial control was satisfactory, and that the internal audit met the standards for scope, independence, competence, relationships, planning and auditing which were recommended by the National Association of Local Councils. A risk assessment had been carried out within the last 12 months. Copies of the audit plan (ref:4 and terms of reference for the internal auditor ((ref:3) had been supplied to members. The Working Party recommended that signatories to the accounts be checked, and a policy be put in place for monitoring any large sums of money gifted for the benefit of the community to ensure that they be spent in accordance with the donor's wishes.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the report and recommendations of the Working Party be accepted
- (ii) that the terms of reference for the Internal Auditor (ref: 3) and the Audit Plan (ref: 4) be accepted
- (iii) that signatories to the account be checked
- (iv) that a policy be produced for the monitoring of donated funds

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 3050 to 3057 to be signed and

RESOLVED:

that payments totalling £2887.86 in respect of administration costs, play area inspection and maintenance, training course fees and grants be authorised.

2018/41

Matters raised by members for information

Public Open Space – Developments south of A415 and Hyde Copse

A query was raised in regards to the 2 paths to link The Willows and Monks Walk developments. The location of these would be checked. The public open space in The Willows appeared to be at the southern end, where there was also spare parking capacity. It was suggested that the The Lux lorry which had been parked on the highway verge could relocate there.

A query was raised as to whether 15% of open space had been provided on the Taylor Wimpey development at Hyde Copse. A fence on the northern side had been erected close to the development. The approved plans would be checked.

Taylor Wimpey, Hyde Copse site - Footpath through to Vanderbilt Harding Way site

It was reported that the Taylor Wimpey site was close to finishing and

the path through to Harding Way was in need of construction soon. The Clerk would raise this matter with Taylor Wimpey, as well as checking with Vanderbilt as to the Transfer of Public Open Space.

Path to Harding Way from Howard Cornish Road

It was reported that the path leading from Howard Cornish Road northwards to Harding Way was in need of clearing owing to leaves. The Clerk was asked to see whether the handyman could sweep this.

Road Signs

It was noted that road signs left around the village following road works had now been cleared.

Dog Fouling

Miss Atkins stated that she would make contact with Berinsfield Parish Council regarding dog fouling, as an article had appeared from them in the Local Association of Local Councils newsletter.

2018/42

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2019/43

Date of Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed Date