

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.40 p.m.

---

Present:

Mr. I. Charles, Mrs. J. Fabes, Mrs. S. Hill, Mr. M. Hillis, Mr. M. Hoath,  
Miss R. Mander, (Chairman), Mr. P. Steere, Mr. D. Walton  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
Cllr. R. Webber (County Councillor), Cllr. C. Webber (District Councillor)

- 2018/44      Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for absence had been received from Miss. R. Atkins and Mr. M. Denton
- 2018/45      Declarations of Interest  
Mr. Walton declared an interest in the agenda item relating to allotments, in that his wife was an allotment holder.  
Mr. Hillis declared an interest in the agenda item relating to allotments in that his mother in law was an allotment holder.
- 2018/46      Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2018  
The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting,
- 2018/47      Matters arising from the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2018  
Vanderbilt open space/ Taylor Wimpey path  
Council noted that the lawyers for Vanderbilt Homes had confirmed that the easement for Thames Water had been completed and they were liaising with the Council's solicitors to transfer the public open spaces to the Council. The Clerk had contacted Taylor Wimpey. A new officer was temporarily dealing with the matter. She would check the information regarding the path from their site linking through to the path leading to the Vanderbilt site.
- Abingdon Road A415/ Path Persimmon Homes  
Council noted an update report from the County Council. Remedial works were due to be finished. The 415 path width was 1.2.m in the planning consent. The County Council, had however, requested a 2m wide path wherever possible, narrowing around the trees, hence the uneven width. The County Council would first inspect the end of the path where it goes into Abbots Grange before commenting on the possibility of a dropped kerb area.
- Members referred to the planned paths within the The Willows, Pye Homes development, and Monks Walk, Matthew Homes development, which should link the sites. Each developer had focused only on its own development, and there was inconsistency with the construction. Cllr. Richard Webber stated that there was not one officer at the County Council that was appointed to oversee adjacent developments, and it would help if there were.

The Clerk would check the s. 106 agreements and planning application to see whether the paths were to join, and approach Matthew Homes to check its intention to build a link to join the path within the adjacent Pye site The Willows.

2018/48

Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

2018/49

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P18/V0044/FUL Erect 1 double and 1 single new apex sectional garages  
The Anson field, Morland Road  
Permitted 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

P18/V0371.LDP Loft conversion to existing dwelling  
8 Abingdon Road  
Development fell within Class C of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 and therefore no planning application was required.

b) Planning Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

P18/V0361/FUL Erection of timber framed general purpose agriculture building  
Marcham Mill, Mill Road  
For: Mr. A. Bedford  
Comments: Council had no objections

P18/V0371.LDP Lawful development certificate  
Conversion of loft to additional bedroom  
8 Abingdon Road  
For: Mr. Walker  
Comments: Council expressed concern regarding the velux windows facing the A415, and the lack of parking given the creation of a new bedroom

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

No applications had been received

2018/50

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

Cllrs. Mrs. C and R Webber (County Councillor) were arranging a meeting for local residents to meet with Rachel Roberts Air Quality Officer from the Vale of White Horse District Council, and Jason Sherwood, Locality and Road Agreements Manager from Oxfordshire

County Council to discuss Packhorse Lane, air quality and traffic issues. The meeting was likely to be before the end of the month, and a venue was being sought.

#### Grants available from the Vale of White Horse District Council

Cllr. Mrs. Webber spoke regarding the North East Area Committee, New Homes Bonus and Capital Fund and grant funds available. She understood financial assistance may be required for the Cricket and Football Clubs for the transition phase between ceasing to play in the Anson Field and the new pitches being available. Grant workshops were being run in April by the District Council, and it was suggested that they would be helpful for anyone seeking financial support.

#### Planning Committee

Cllr. Mrs. Webber advised that additional planning committee meetings were being arranged owing to the increase in applications, in particular, developers of larger estates wanting to change planning conditions.

2018/51

#### County Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Webber

##### Unitary Authority

Cllr. Webber stated that Government had agreed to the proposal for 2 unitary authorities within Dorset, and it was likely to force Northamptonshire County Council to be abolished and for unitary authorities to be formed.

##### Potholes

Cllr. Webber had received an email from a resident requesting that potholed be fixed. The priority spending was on social services. A suggestion was put forward that dust carts could have cameras fitted which monitored each road as they went on their rounds.

##### A415 – Speed Limit

Cllr. Webber had arranged a meeting on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March with a Highway officer at the County Council. A request for a speed reduction pm to 40 mph would be discussed. The cycle track/footway was dark, grass and hedging encroached over the path, and there had been a fatality of a cyclist. Comments were made that anyone using the narrow cycle track/footway was put at risk when large lorries were travelling at speeds of 60 mph. Cats eyes were required. It was noted that the road between Drayton and Milton had had a speed reduction to 40 mph. A speed limit of 50 mph was suggested as an alternative. Cllr. Webber advised that he had been allocated a financial pot of £15,000 per annum for 2 years to be spent within his division. He was minded to allocate the funds for health and safety issues, and suggested that Marcham could formally apply for 25% of the funds, and that sum should cover the costs of the arrangements required, press notices etc. for a speed reduction if agreed by the County Council.

2018/52

##### A415 - ~Seed Limit, Marcham to A34

Members generally discussed a possible speed limit reduction and

questioned if a 40 mph limit would be observed, whether it would be preferable to request a 50 mph limit, and also discussed the moving of the 30 mph limit further eastwards possibly even to the Shippon turn.

The Chairman, asked for a show of hands for those in favour of a 50 mph limit on the A415 between Marcham and the A34.

In favour - 5

She asked for a show of hands for those in favour of a 40 mph limit on the A415 between Marcham and the A34

In favour - 3

Cllr. Webber advised that he was bound by a duty to all the county, and was not bound by the vote of the Parish Council. Members also raised the question of the speed limit along Sheepstead Road to St. Peter's cross roads, and there was general consensus that the speed limit on that road should be 40 mph.

The fact that the vehicle activated sign at the entrance point to the village on the eastern side was not working, was drawn to the attention of Cllr. Webber.

2018/53 Cllrs. R and C Webber left the meeting.

2018/54 Oxford Cambridge Expressway – Letter from CPRE  
Council considered a letter from the CPRE requesting support from the Parish Council in seeking a public inquiry into the proposal and the routes. A query was raised as to the options for the routes, and whether land west of the A34 could be affected. The Clerk confirmed that one of the options was west of the A34, and would obtain the plan of the options.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Clerk obtain a plan showing all possible options for the Oxford Cambridge expressway.
- (ii) that this Council is in full agreement regarding a public inquiry into the proposal
- (iii) that a letter of support for a public inquiry be written to the Secretary of State for Transport and copied to Ed Vaizey MP.

2018/55 Community Facilities  
Council received a report from the Council's s. 106 working party. It was still continuing to work with the Vale of White Horse District

Council in regards to the release of s. 106 funds. The legal department had been supplied with various copy documents, and a decision as to how the District Council intended to protect the release of the funds was awaited.

Council considered the latest plans for the hall, the Heads of Terms for the Lease and the Service cooperation Agreement.

**RESOLVED:**

that Council recommended the following amendments and MP Consultancy Services, agents for the Anson Trust be advised accordingly:

**Hall Plans –**

- a) rotate 180° the room adjacent to the office marked Ref 1. This would allow for additional toilet accommodation.
- b) reinstate double doors at the entrance
- c) reinstate, double doors from the bar/lounge to the outside
- d) reinstate at least one double door from the main hall direct to the outside i.e. remove side window next to door opening, as there may be large items to take in and out of the hall direct from the outside.
- e) consideration be given to the provision of steps and storage at a higher level within the store area.

**Lease – queries be raised on**

- f) the fact that some clauses, particularly 10 referred to the Parish Council, and the Council was not likely to be a party to the Lease.
- g) the operation of a pre-emption agreement
- h) provisions for the Council to have access to check the property
- i) the requirement for a definition for “reserve/sinking fund” and inconsistent use of the wording
- j) obligation on the part of the tenant to insure the contents
- k) obligation on the part of the tenant to pay whatever premium demanded by the landlord to insure the building. The tenant should be part of the insurance discussions.

In addition Council had concerns regarding the overall exterior appearance of the hall and the use of fibre cement wood effect weatherboarding, the colour of which had yet to be decided. Council was hoping for a coloured commuter graphic image of the finished hall to enable further discussion on the external finishings.

2018/56

Data Protection – Training

Council received a report on the data protection training event from members and clerk who had attended. New legislation would come into effect from 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. This would bring data protection in line with advancing technology.

RESOLVED:

That a working party comprising Ms. R. Mander, Mrs. J. Fabes, Mr. D. Walton and the Clerk be established to consider and report back on the obligations of this Council under the new legal provisions.

2018/57

Grant Application

Council considered a grant application from Revd Richard Zair towards the running costs of the Youth Club and Friday Club. A member made a suggestion that Council should again consider the introduction of a grant policy, and that applicants should apply for only one grant per annum. Discussion took place as to how the application towards running costs related to the previous application lodged in the Autumn 2017, and whether sufficient information had been provided, and whether there was a requirement to complete the Council's grant application form for the current application. There were differing opinions. Some members thought the grant form should be used only from the next financial year, others thought the grant form was relevant to the current application. Some thought further information should be sought.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those who were satisfied that a grant of £1500 should be paid to Marcham PCC towards the running costs of the Youth Club and Friday Club

In favour	Against	Abstention
6	1	1

Council also considered the details of the mental health workshops, submitted by Mr. Robert Finch, one of the Youth Workers, to satisfy the Council's previous grant condition which requested further information. This gave details of the trainers and the course content, dates, times and locations. Members wished to receive a report, after the events, of how many attended, and comments as to their success or otherwise.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the sum of £1500 by way of grant for running costs, including staff wages, of the Youth Club and Friday Club be awarded under s. 19 Local Government (MP) Act 1976 to Marcham PCC
- (ii) that the sum of £500 by way of grant for mental health workshops now be awarded under s. 137 Local Government Act 1972
- (iii) that the Youth Worker be asked to provide a report on the events held, together with information as to numbers who attended

2018/58 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

2018/59 Cow Lane Allotments – Charges for Water and Rent  
Council considered its allotment charges, and expenditure it had undertaken over the previous years. Income from allotments did not match expenditure, and they were now being subsidised.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that rent charges for allotments be increased by up to 50% with effect from April 2019
- (ii) that water charges be increased by 50% with effect from the quarter day in September, to be collected from the rental collection day in October 2018.

Council considered a quotation for dealing with rats on the allotments. Whilst the Council as landowner had a duty to assist the tenants, to do so would be costly. The problem of rats needed a holistic approach, as sheds with straw and paper for those allotment holders who kept chickens, and compost piles did not help. It was suggested that a letter be written to each allotment holder based on the advice of the pest control officer. Mr. Charles offered to prepare a list of questions on which to seek advice.

Council considered a request from an allotment holder to relocate a shed on a previously surrendered plot, currently with no tenant, to his own.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that permission be given to relocate the shed
- (ii) that a letter in the first instance be written to the previous tenant and shed owner to advise him of the likelihood of his shed being relocated.

2018/60

Dog Fouling

Council noted the response from the Vale of White Horse District Council in regards to the provision of dog waste bins and litter bins. Dog waste bins were no longer being installed, and if an area was particularly bad with either dog waste or litter, then a litter bin would be installed and emptied by the Vale of White Horse District Council. That Council was no longer taking on the emptying of bins installed by Parish Councils, even the parish funded the bin and were recharged the emptying costs. The Clerk had obtained some stickers from the Vale of White Horse District Council which could be placed on litter bins to indicate that dog waste too could be deposited there.

Owing to the lateness of the hour, the Council agreed to defer the remainder of the discussion on dog fouling

RESOLVED:

- (i) that discussion as to dog fouling be deferred to a future meeting.
- (ii) that a list continue to be prepared as to the location of bins where dog waste could be deposited.

2018/61

War Memorial

A preliminary enquiry as to the possibility of obtaining a grant from the War Memorial Trust had been lodged.

RESOLVED:

that this item be deferred to a future meeting.

2018/62

Annual Meeting of Electors

Council noted that the Emergency Planning Officer (Jonah Maddox), at the Vale of White Horse District Council had offered to be the guest speaker.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the offer of the Emergency Planning Officer to be the guest speaker at the annual meeting of electors be accepted.
- (ii) that the Emergency Planning Officer be asked as to what items should be held within the parish to assist in times of emergency.

2018/63

Adverse Weather - gritting

RESOLVED:

that this item be deferred to a future meeting.

2018/64

Thames Water Management Plan

RESOLVED:

that this item be deferred to a future meeting.

2018/65

Correspondence

- a) Letter of thanks for grant awarded from South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau.
- b) Letter from General Aviation Alliance re: Brize Norton and Oxford Airport consultations.
- c) Thames Water – Water Resources Management Plan briefing - Reading
- d) Deputy Police Crime Commissioner – Newsletter
- e) OALC – February newssheet
- f) Vale of White Horse District Council – Parish Forum Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 6.00 p.m.at the Beacon, Wantage

2018/66

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 3058 to 3064 to be signed. Council considered signatories to the bank current account and

RESOLVED:

- (i) that payments totalling £2135.14 in respect of administration costs, play area inspection, allotment water and subscriptions be authorised.
- (ii) that the signatories for the Nat West current account be amended to Ian Charles, Sandra Hill, Ruth Mander, and David Walton.

2018/67

Matters raised by members for information

Mr. Denton, in his absence had sent an email advising of the following 2 items.

28/28A North Street – building work

A builders bag containing rubbish had been left on the footway for over a month.

Howard Cornish Road - Sheepstead Road/North Street - condition

Vans and cars were being driven over the grass verge area at this junction churning up the grass, leaving ruts and a general muddy mess. Encouragement should be given to dropped kerbs and proper hardstandings. Bags of rubbish too had been left in this vicinity.

Parishioner of the Year

Information was being gathered in for the citation for the parishioner of the year certificate.

Packhorse Lane nos. 12-28A

It was reported that the path outside these properties was slippery.

2018/68

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2019/69

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

Signed ..... Date .....