

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 11th July, 2018 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. M. Denton, Mrs. J. Fabes, Mrs. S. Hill, Mr. M. Hillis, Mr. M. Hoath,
Miss R. Mander, (Chairman), Mr. D. Walton
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

Joined by Cllrs. R. Webber (County Councillor) and Cllr. Mrs. C. Webber
(District Councillor)

- 2018/159 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Miss. R. Atkins,
Mr. I. Charles, and Mr. P. Steere.
- 2018/160 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.
- 2018/161 Minutes of the meeting held on 13th June, 2018
The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting,
- 2018/162 Matters arising from the meeting held on 13th June, 2018

Highway Verge Cutting

Council noted that the County Council had advised that there were 10526 square metres of highway grass within the 30 mph zone. The rate per square metre was 10.25 p which equated to a grant of £1079 per annum. The rate for rural grass cutting was 1.25p per linear metre. A map of the urban areas had been requested, to enable prices from contractors to be obtained, should the Parish Council wish to enter into an agency agreement with the County Council. Any agreement would come into force from April 2019. A query was raised as to merging the County Council's areas, and those that were the responsibility of the Vale of White Horse District Council under one contract.

Village Green – Open Reach

Council noted that Open Reach had traced what they thought was an old wayleave agreement relating to ducting alongside the A415 in the village green, and had decided to close the complaint case which related to unauthorised cabling in the village green leading through to the new Walnut Tree Mews properties. The Clerk had lodged a second complaint requesting that the case be reopened, as the matters were not related in any way. Open Reach had confirmed that they were re-investigating the matter.

Electric Charging Points – requirement for condition in planning approvals

Council noted that Cllr. Mrs. Webber concurred with the view of the

planning officers. Chargers were added at the expense of a developer on new building developments, but not for individual houses. Individual residents could obtain their own charger with the aid of a grant of up to £500.

2018/163

Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

2018/164

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P18/V0953/HH Replacement of side north extension, single storey rear extension, and first floor rear dormer window
19 Mill Road
Permitted 25th June, 2018

b) Planning Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

None received

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

P18/V1472 Installation of vehicular gates and single pedestrian gate, 2m high at entrance to property
Pendlewood. Cothill Road
For: Mr and Mrs J Haworth
Members commented that the application did not specifically refer to the gates opening inwards, but this seemed to be the case from the drawing.
The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in support of the application

In support	Against	Abstention
7	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council supports the proposal to erect vehicular and a pedestrian gate
- (ii) that confirmation be provided that the gates are to open inwards and not over the bridleway. A planning condition to regulate that may be appropriate.

2018/165

District Councillor and County Councillor reports

These items were deferred until the Councillors' arrival at the meeting.

2018/166

Community Facilities

Council received a report from the Chairman. She re-confirmed the

content of the meeting with the District Council. There were various outstanding issues to be resolved before the application for s. 106 funding could be progressed. The proposal for the hall extension had been discontinued, and the developer for the Anson Trust was seeking costs for development. Costs would be supplied to the Parish Council when available.

2018/167 Mr. Denton declared an interest in the following item in that he was a member of the Parochial Church Council.

2018/168 Cllr. R. Webber (County Councillor) and Cllr. Mrs. C. Webber (District Councillor) joined the meeting at 7.40 p.m.

2018/169 Churchyard Maintenance

Council received a report from its representatives who attended a meeting with the Parochial Church Council and Marcham society. The meeting was to enable the PCC to better understand who was responsible for which aspect of Churchyard maintenance. Whilst no formal notice to the Parish Council seemed to have been served, it was generally assumed that the Parish Council had taken on the general maintenance of the closed Churchyard. The required maintenance was to a general standard as determined by the Parish Council. Improved access, grass cutting schedules, conservation area notice board, cutting back path edging, and weed treatment had been discussed.

It was noted that changes to the access would be for the PCC to determine. They also would deal with the weed treatment immediately abutting the Church building. The Parish Council would check the grass cutting schedules and seek prices for suggested revisions to be considered by the Parish Council, and would deal with trimming the path edging. The Parish Council in conjunction with Marcham Society would review the restoration requirements for the conservation notice board close to the steps from Denman College.

Mr. Denton stated that it was some while since he had asked for the path edges to be trimmed back, and these had not been done. The quotation had only been approved at the last meeting, and the contractor instructed shortly afterwards. It was suggested that the Council seek an alternative contractor should the work not be carried out soon.

RESOLVED:

that the report be noted

2018/170 District Councillor – Cllr. Mrs. C. Webber - report

Local Plan Part 2

Cllr. Mrs. Webber had attended one day of the Local Plan Part 2 Inquiry. Questions had been raised as to why there was inclusion for Oxford City provision when the city itself had not completed its own Plan. Concerns had been raised regarding the deliverability of the Dalton Barracks site. The Inspector was not aware of the proposals for the Oxford Cambridge expressway. Only sites over 50 dwellings would be included in the Local Plan. Oxford wanted 50% of

dwellings as “affordable”, but could only deliver 30%. The rest of the area could be affected by that.

Capita

Certain services provided by the District Council were provided by Capita. The company was at break even point. The external auditor was examining the performance, and the results of a review would be put into the public domain.

2018/171

County Councillor – Cllr. R. Webber – report

Joint Chief Executive with Cherwell District Council

There was a proposal for a joint Chief Executive with Cherwell District Council. This had been approved at the Executive Committee and would be put to the full Council for adoption.

Pothole repair - funding

£120 million had been allocated for funding repairs to potholes.

Housing Development – Marcham

Cllr. Webber commented on the numbers of houses locally, the impact that more housing in Marcham would have. He outlined the experience in Sutton Courtenay and the action that had been taken within the parish, such as the formation of a local action group. He suggested that if more development was not welcome, then something similar would be required.

2018/172

Vanderbilt estate – open spaces

Council noted and considered a map from its solicitors which indicated the areas to be transferred to the Parish Council, and areas to be maintained by a future Management Company for the development. It showed that the strip of land from Howard Cornish Road to form the footpath into the Vanderbilt estate although being transferred to the Parish Council would become the responsibility of the Management Company for maintenance. Discussion took place as to the purpose of the path providing not only an access to the Vanderbilt site, but going further and linking other developments. It would therefore be preferable to be in the ownership of, and the responsibility of the Parish Council.

It was proposed by Mr. Hoath, seconded by Mr. Walton that the Council become the owner of, and takes responsibility for the maintenance of the 2 public open spaces to the South and East of the Vanderbilt site. This included the strip of land southwards to Howard Cornish Road.

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour of the proposal

In favour
6

Against
0

Abstention
1

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Parish Council acquires the two larger public open space areas to the south and east of the site, including the strip of land leading to Howard Cornish Road
- (ii) that the responsibility for maintenance for these areas becomes that of the Parish Council
- (iii) that once the Council became the legal owner of the areas, an application be lodged for the commuted sum for maintenance being held by the Vale of White Horse District Council.

2018/173

Grant Policy/Application Form

Council received a report from the working party. A grant application form had been created together with a suggested policy. Minor amendments were suggested. It was suggested that the policy be adopted with immediate effect, and the use of the application form be implemented from September, for organisations applying for grants in the Autumn. The level of success of using the application form could be reviewed post grant applications. It was suggested that grant applicants who have submitted applications over the past 2 years, be advised of the new application form.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the grant policy as attached to these minutes be adopted with immediate effect
- (ii) that the grant application form as attached to these minutes be used with effect from the next round of grant applications from September 2018
- (iii) that notice of the new grant application form and new policy, together with past grants awarded be published in the September issue of Marcham and District News

2018/174

Litter Bins – Youth Shelter and Play Area

Council noted comments from its contractor who emptied the litter bins that there were carrier bags filled with soiled nappies, and carrier bags with cat litter being put into the bins. Parking too had become a problem for the contractor since the Anson Trust had closed and locked the vehicular access gate off Morland Road. An alternate parking place was the car park of the Baptist Chapel to which the Anson Trust had access.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that an article be placed in the next edition of Marcham and District News advising that household waste should not be deposited in the litter bins
- (ii) that an enquiry be made of the Nursery operating from the Anson field to check where they now disposed of their waste since vehicular access to the field was not possible.

2018/175 Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Annual General Meeting
2nd July, 2018

Mrs. Hill gave a report on the Annual General Meeting of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils which she had attended. There had been a presentation by Toni Vitale, Partner at Winckworth Sherwood, Solicitors who had prepared the National Association of Local Councils toolkit for local councils on the new requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations. There was a deficit of almost £7000 in the accounts of the Oxfordshire Association, and ways of reducing this such as an increase in membership subscriptions and charging for additional services were going to be considered.

2018/176 Hitchcopse Wood – signage

Council noted a reminder from the landowner that the Parish Council had agreed to provide notices to encourage walkers to keep to the path should a new right of way be created within Hitchcopse Wood. The County Council had created the new right of way, but this had yet to be marked on the definitive map. Council discussed the provision of signs, and noted that the clerk had approached St. Helen Without Parish Council, as that Council too had been involved from the outset, in regards to the new right of way.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council pursue signs stating “In order to protect wildlife, please keep your dog under control. Please do not stray from the footpath”
- (ii) that with the landowner’s agreement such signs be located at each entrance onto the new path.
- (iii) that comments be sought from St. Helen Without Parish Council.
- (iii) that the cost of the signage be shared with St. Helen Without Parish Council

2018/177 Village Green - Signage

Council noted a quotation to produce a 600mm x 400 mm sign stating “Marcham Parish Council. This is a registered village green and the parking of motor vehicles is an offence liable to prosecution”. The cost was £153.63 for the sign and fixing post plus vat and delivery.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a sign be purchased in the sum of £153.63 plus vat and delivery,

- (ii) to be erected on the village green that the website address and a QR code be added to the sign.

2018/178

Emergency Plan

Council considered the preparation of an Emergency Plan, following the presentation by the Emergency Planning Officer at the Annual Meeting of Electors. Mr. Denton held details of residents who had offered to assist in times of flooding. He would review this and bring it up to date if necessary. The opinion of members was that a new community hall should be provided in the first instance, before any emergency plan be drafted.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Mr. Denton check and update any information he held regarding assistance to be provided should a flood take place
- (ii) that further discussion regarding the preparation of an emergency plan be deferred until after a community hall, where residents could be located, had been built.

2018/179

North Street / A415 junction - vision difficulties owing to wall

Council considered writing to the owners of the new properties at the junction of A415 and North Street regarding the height of the wall at the corner which was causing vision difficulties for motorists leaving North Street. The matter had already been investigated by planning enforcement, and although the wall was not part of the approved planning consent, at 1.1m high it was thought that enforcement action was unnecessary.

RESOLVED:

that a letter be sent to the occupiers of the affected properties stating that the height of the wall was a cause for concern, and that the council was keen to see what could be done to improve vision at the junction.

2018/180

Frilford Road Recreation Ground – repairs to wall

Council considered the quotations for the repairs to the wall at the entrance to the Frilford Road recreation ground. It was suggested that other options such as the use of gabions and stones to strengthen the corner could be considered.

RESOLVED:

that the matter be deferred to a future meeting.

2018/181

Correspondence

- a) Oxfordshire Leader funding (grants to support the rural economy update
- b) Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – Annual General Meeting Notice 11th July, 2018 at 7.30 p.m. Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington
- c) Healthwatch Oxfordshire – June briefing
- d) OALC – newsletter - June

2018/182

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques numbers 3091 to 3098 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £3989.96 in respect of administration costs. play area checks, grass cutting, works to trees and weed treatment.

The Clerk commented that the contractor had not specified the day when the weed treatment had been carried out, and this was being clarified. The cheque would not be paid until this had been confirmed. The contractor had not carried out the work in March as expected, and then had sent an invoice without prior notification of when the work was to be done. The arrangement for weed treatment may require reviewing for a future season.

2018/183

Matters raised by members for information

Vehicle Activated Signs at entrance points to village – A415

The sign at the Eastern side of the village was not functioning at all, and the one at the Western side indicated only one of the numbers. A question was raised as to whether the Parish Council should fund repairs, as these had been left by the County Council. It was also suggested that the idea of a speed gun considered previously, but not pursued at budget time, be re-investigated, It was thought that Wootton Parish Council had acquired a speed gun, and enquiries could be made of that Council.

Frilford Road Recreation Ground – lock on entrance barrier

It was reported that the lock on the entrance barrier was broken. Mr. Denton offered to check this.

It was also reported that a sign advertising a stonemason was in the vicinity of the rear gate into the cemetery. This would be investigated.

Gladman Developments

Information had been distributed by this company to each household in the village regarding new housing development proposals at the north east side of Marcham. An exhibition was being held in the Baptist Church Hall on Tuesday 17th July. The company had initially offered to meet with Parish Councillors at tonight's meeting, then had cancelled the meeting at the last minute. A subsequent offer to meet after the exhibition did not meet with approval from the members. Members would attend the exhibition as individuals when convenient to them.

Hyde Copse development – Taylor Wimpey

It was reported that Taylor Wimpey had left certain areas of open space without rotavation, and grass was in poor condition. It was suggested that any relevant planning condition be checked to ensure compliance.

2018/184

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2018/185

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 12th September, 2018 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

Signed Date

