

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th January, 2019 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

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

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

Joined by Cllr. R. Webber (County Councillor) at 7.50 p.m.

- 2019/1 Apologies for Absence
Apologies had been received from Miss. R. Atkins, and Mr. M. Hillis.
Apologies had also been received from Cllr. Mrs. Catherine Webber (District Councillor) who was attending a meeting of the District Council's planning committee.
- 2019/2 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.
- 2019/3 Councillor Resignation
Council noted that Mrs. Jane Fabes had formally resigned from the Parish Council. The Chairman had written a letter of thanks to her for her service to the community. As the next elections were due in less than 6 months time, steps were not being taken to advertise the casual vacancy.
- 2019/4 Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December, 2018
The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting, subject in minute 2018/263 Longfields – Lamppost to replacing the word “undertaken” with “undertaking”.
- 2019/5 Matters arising from the meeting held on 12th December, 2018

Footpath North Street to A415 – ivy
Council noted that the ivy causing problems on the footpath was mostly coming from 40 North Street.

Grants Awarded
Council noted letters of thanks for the grants awarded from Oxford Association for the blind, The Abingdon Bridge, Marcham Football Club, Marcham Cricket Club, Be Free, Marcham Society, Marcham Parochial Church Council and Marcham St. John's Ambulance Cadet Unit.
Council also noted that St John's Ambulance Cadet Unit had requested that the payment go direct to St. John Ambulance, who would then issue the training manikins to the Marcham unit.

Village Green – Possible New Street Light

The County Council was investigating the possibility of a new street light on the western side of the village green. There would be a need for a new light column (£1000), a new low voltage supply, the installation and future maintenance/repair costs as well as an upfront payment for the cost of electricity for a period in the region of 30 years (£750). The costs could be in the region of £4000. The County Council was prepared to obtain a detailed quotation from Scottish Southern if required.

Members were aware that there was likely to be a growing list of capital projects, and agreed that the preference was for creating a list of projects, and reviewing them all collectively in due course, rather than trying to fund each request on a piecemeal basis. The Chairman offered to speak with householders in the vicinity who may be able to assist with an external light to their properties in the interim.

Members continued to discuss street lights which were not working within the village. These had ceased to function early evening, and were not lights which switched off between 12.30 a.m. and 5.30 a.m. as part of the carbon action plan. The Chairman stated she would prepare a list of lights which did not come on, and these could be referred to the County Council. One light in North Street just north of the New Road junction was referred to in particular. It was thought that a pine tree in the vicinity was overshadowing it. The Clerk would check the situation, and refer any problems with the tree to the property owner.

2019/6 Cllr. Richard Webber (County Councillor) joined the meeting at 7.50 p.m.

2019/7 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

2019/8 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

No decisions had been received

b) Planning Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

No applications had been received

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

P18/V3064/LB Minor internal alterations to ground floor of house Morland House, Sheepstead Road
After some discussion the Chairman called for a show of hands for those in support of the application

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	0	0

RESOLVED:

that the Council has no objections and supports the application

R3/0.145 s. 73 application to vary a previous permission to continue the development of a new standalone building to provide 2 classrooms and a single storey extension to create a storage room (permitted by R3.0089/16) without complying with condition 1, in order to vary the approved plans and documents to allow for a) a section of timber cladding to be replaced with brickwork b) installation of 4 louvres, c) installation of two external ramps and d) internal alterations to the plant room and wcs

Marcham Primary School

After some discussion the Chairman called for a show of hands in favour of the application

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	0	0

RESOLVED:

that the Council has no objections and supports the application

2019/9

District Councillor's report – Cllr. Mrs. C. Webber and County Councillor's report – Cllr. R. Webber

Marcham By Pass

Cllr. Webber confirmed that The County Council's Cabinet had supported the delegation to officers of the exercising of Compulsory Purchase Powers in connection with various road schemes, including the Marcham By Pass. Such a scheme would assist with the Frilford junction road difficulties, the air quality issues within Marcham, and Dalton Barracks development proposals. He encouraged the development of a neighbourhood plan, as should a By Pass and Oxford Cambridge Expressway develop, then there could be a demand on Marcham for more housing. A Neighbourhood Plan could be undertaken not just by a Parish Council, but by a village group, and he urged members to consider undertaking a Plan with others locally.

A comment was made to Cllr. Webber regarding litter and the state of the verges in Sheepstead Road. This he noted. In addition, it had been noted that grass/hedge cutting had taken place alongside the A415. This had

revealed litter. A question was asked as to whether advanced warning of works could be given to the Parish Council, as volunteers had done some litter picking, only to find that a litter pick had then been carried out by those arranging the hedge cutting. A comment was made that the replacement gas pipes being installed in the A415 were not causing significant traffic problems as far as Marcham was concerned.

2019/10

Community Facilities

Members noted that the Council's comments on the draft lease documents as agreed at the last meeting, had been sent to Mark Patchett who acted on behalf of the Anson Trust, and a response was awaited. Council members on the s. 106 working party, and clerk had met with officers of the Vale of White Horse District Council, and representatives from Thomas Homes, Marcham Community Group, and the District and County Councillors to discuss the release of s. 106 monies towards the community facilities project. It has been a productive meeting with all parties understanding each other's positions, and requirements. The aim of the Vale of White Horse District Council was to seek authorisation to release the funding, subject to certain contracts and Deed of Variation being in place, at its meeting of full Council on 13th February.

Members discussed instructing a surveyor jointly with the Anson Trust, as opposed to instructing its own surveyor as previously resolved in July 2017, to monitor all aspects of construction. At that time an independent surveyor for the grant provider was preferred. The thinking now was that joint instructions would provide direct access to those undertaking the construction in case of queries, and the surveyor would be responsible to both parties. Mr. Walton proposed, seconded by Mr. Steere that the Parish Council, instructs jointly with the Anson Trust, a surveyor to supervise the construction of the village hall aspect of the community facilities.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of the Parish Council jointly instructing with the Anson Trust a surveyor to monitor the construction of the hall facilities.

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	0	0

RESOLVED:

that the Council instructs a surveyor jointly with the Anson Trust to monitor the construction of the community hall facilities and to provide reports.

2019/11

Litter Bins – Anson Field

Council considered a request from the Marcham Community Group to take over the emptying of the bins adjacent to the MSSSC building. The Clerk had advised that the Parish Council had no responsibility for litter bins on

private land. Members discussed the fact that the bins would be not accessible during the construction of new community facilities, and as they were unlikely to be used again, the logical conclusion was to remove them. Mr. Denton offered to speak with the Chairman of the Anson Trust owners of the field, and to also check whether fencing had been erected which enclosed the bins.

2019/12

Budget 2018/19

Council carefully considered the current balances, the likely balances at the year end, and the budget for 2019/2020. Items discussed included the provision of a Christmas tree and/or lighting decoration of existing trees on the village green, a contract with a pest control contractor for dealing with rats on the allotments, the cutting of highway verges on behalf of the County Council, the maintenance of the new public areas within the Vanderbilt development, North Street footway, and speed detection equipment as well as general spending. One member asked queries over the projected balances, and income and expenditure. The Clerk would look at the points raised.

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 £63300.

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 £63300, as per the budget sheets attached to these minutes.
- (iii) that the Council enter into a contract with a pest control contractor for dealing with rats on the Cow Lane allotment site.
- (iv) that the Parish Council not become the agents for the County Council in cutting highway verges.
- (v) that spending for maintenance on the new public open spaces in the Vanderbilt development be taken from the commuted sum within the s. 106 funding.

2019/13

Parishioner of the Year Award

Nominations were being received from the Parishioner of the Year. The working party would produce a report for the next meeting.

- 2019/14 Annual meeting of electors
 Council discussed possible speakers for the annual meeting of electors, and the benefit of having a speaker. One possibility was Thomas Homes to provide and update on the progress of the community facilities. The Clerk would check with the primary school as to the availability of the school hall.
- RESOLVED:
- that Thomas Homes be invited to be the guest speaker at the annual meeting of electors to be held in May 2019
- 2019/15 Correspondence
 a) OALC update – December
 b) Environment Agency – newsletter – Flooding at Abingdon
 c) Cllr. R. Webber – Marcham By Pass – Notification that County Council Cabinet was considering delegated compulsory purchase powers for the ByPass and associated roads at its meeting on 18th December, 2018
 d) Oxfordshire Resilience Group – Communities Evening, 15th January, 6.00 p.m. at Kidlington Fire Station
 e) Vale of White Horse District Council – Business Awards – Deadline for nominations 18th January, 2019.
 f) NHS – Conference - “Delivering the long term plan” 3rd April, 2019 Mary Ward House, London.
 g) Police/Crime Commissioner newsletter – December 2018
 h) Healthwatch briefing – December
- 2019/16 Accounts
Internal Audit
 Council noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council was not offering an internal audit service to Parish Councils. One quotation had been received, and the Clerk continued to research other possibilities. It was suggested that an article be included in Marcham and District News as there were local people qualified to undertake the task.
- Council noted the list of cheques numbered 3139 to 3153 and authorised payments in the sum of £8599.78 in respect of administration costs, grants, play area checks, litter clearance and Chairman’s Allowance.
- 2019/17 Matters raised by members for information
Parochial Church Council - Cheque
 When discussing the budget for 2019/20, members had been made aware that a cheque for a grant to the PCC from 17/18 year had not cleared. Mr. Denton requested specific details of the cheque and he would make enquiries of the PCC.

Parkside – dumped van

A white van which had become damaged in North Street, and been dumped in Parkside

Cow Lane – caravan

The caravan which had been parked in the Frilford Road recreation ground car park and which had moved to Cow Lane, was still in situ. The Clerk was asked to contact Environmental Health, and to make the Police aware, as public health issues were arising with collections of detritus and general refuse occurring.

2019/18

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2019/19

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 13th February, 2019 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Signed Date