

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th February, 2019
in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.50 p.m.

Present:

Miss. R. Atkins, Mr. M. Denton, Mr. M. Hoath, Miss R. Mander, (Chairman),
Mrs. S. Hill, Mr. P. Steere
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Cllr. R. Webber (County Councillor)
Joined by Mr. D. Walton at 8.20 p.m.

- 2019/20 Apologies for Absence
Apologies had been received from Mr. I. Charles, 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.
- 2019/21 Declarations of Interest
Miss. R. Atkins, Mr. Denton, Mr. Hoath and Mr. Steere declared an
interest in the planning application for 9 Kings Avenue in that they all
knew the applicant.
- 2019/23 In view of the fact that Cllr. Webber had to leave early, Council agreed
to bring the County Council report forward to an early agenda item.
- 2019/24 County Councillor's report – Cllr. R. Webber

Budget and Funding
The County Council had a budget in place. The Vale of White Horse
District Council was underfunded and was indicating to central
government that it would be in financial difficulties within 3 years.
West Oxfordshire District Council too, working in conjunction with 5
councils was finding waste contracts were costing more and as a result
their finances were in a difficult position.

Thames Water - Water Resources Management Plan
Cllr. Webber stated that as far as he was aware Marcham Parish
Council had not responded to the Water Resources Management Plan
consultation. Cllr. Catherine Webber had met with the Group Against
the Reservoir Development and GARD was asking whether Marcham
could respond to the forthcoming consultation from 1st March issued by
Affinity Water.
- 2019/25 Cllr. Webber left at 8.07 p.m.
- 2019/26 Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January, 2019
The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting,
Miss Atkins referred to the minutes of the December 2018 meeting, and
asked about:

A415 cycle track – weeds and lack of white painted line. This had been reported to the County Council.

Wootton – Speed Detection Gun - It was noted that Council had previously agreed not to allocate funds within the budget for this purpose. Discussion took place on whether funds donated to the Parish Council for community use could be used to purchase a speed gun. The Clerk reminded members that Council had resolved to create a list of possible projects for future consideration and not deal with items on a piecemeal basis. A group of residents from Hanney, who had access to a shared speed gun, had offered to demonstrate the operation of it in Marcham. Mr. Denton would pursue this. The Clerk would check with the Chairman of Wotton Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to add this to the list of possible projects and include the list within the clerk's notes.

A415 CotSDale hedging – This hedge was still overhanging. In view of the gas works compound and heras fencing at the junction of A415 and Howard Cornish Road,

A415 – Speed limit reduction – An update from Cllr. Webber was awaited.

2019/27 Matters arising from the meeting held on 9th January, 2019

Anson Field – Litter Bins

Council noted that these were not enclosed within the heras fencing and could not be used.

Mill Road – Light for path to west of the village green

A solar light had been fitted by residents in the vicinity of Sharrards Barn to assist with the lighting of the path.

Street Lights not functioning

A list of street lights not working had been sent to Oxfordshire County Council and acknowledged by them.

Annual Meeting of Electors

Council noted the school hall was available on 15th May, 2019.

2019/28 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

2019/29 Mr. D. Walton joined the meeting

2019/30 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P18/V2967/HH Single storey rear infill extension
52 North Street
Permitted 18th January, 2019

P18/V3064/LB Minor internal alterations to the ground floor of the house
Morland Sheepstead Road
Permitted 21st January, 2019

P18/V2545/FUL and P17/V2546/LB
Conversion of barn to new 3 bed detached dwelling
12 Frilford Road
Withdrawn 29th January, 2019

b) Planning Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

P19/V0255/T29 Notification by Open Reach to Vale of White Horse District Council of the intention to install cabinet at the junction of Howard Cornish Road and North Street to support fibre broadband
The Council had no comment to make

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

P19/V0052/HH Erection of single storey rear extension
9 Kings Avenue

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	0	0

RESOLVED:

that the Council has no objections and supports the application

d) Planning Enforcement

Council noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council had met on site with Pye Homes and discussed the issue of the missing paths/link to the Matthew Homes site. Discussions were taking place for the link to be sited on the South side of the stream. Reference was made that the planning drawings showed 3 links, one to the north, one central and one to the south of the site. Members were of the opinion that if a link had to be lost, then the central one was less important. Members were of the opinion that Matthew Homes should not do anything to affect the joining of the links on their side of the development.

2019/31 A415 – Zebra Crossing

Council noted comments from residents that whilst crossing the road from south to north, a car from the Abingdon east side had stopped, but a car from the west Frilford direction did not. A second car from that direction had screeched to a halt. Discussion centred around contacting the highway authority to register concerns over the number of near misses for pedestrians using the crossing, whether the lighting on the crossing could be improved, whether CCTV would assist with tracking drivers, and the provisions of the Highway Code in using zebra crossings.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Mr. Denton place an article in MAD News regarding the near misses on the crossing and reminding residents of the provisions of the Highway Code.
- (ii) that enquiries be made of the Anson Trust to see whether the camera facility on the former Institute site was available.
- (iii) that a letter be written to the County Council to express the Parish Council's concerns regarding the number of near misses and accidents on the zebra crossing.

2019/32

Oxford Cambridge Expressway

Council discussed the documents issued at the exhibition for councillors held in November 2018. Council noted an invitation from Sunningwell Parishioners Against Damage to the Environment to attend an initial meeting with other local parishes, to discuss the position of the western parishes, should the selected route of the expressway affect the immediate area. Mr. Denton and Mr. Hoath offered to attend a meeting to listen in the first instance.

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Denton and Mr. Hoath represent the Council and attend a meeting of parishes, hosted by Sunningwell Parishioners Against Damage to the Environment, to consider the Oxford Cambridge Expressway.

2019/33

Community Facilities

Council received an update report. The minutes of a meeting of Marcham Community Trust had been received and circulated to members. Council considered the appointment of a surveyor. Quotations had been received and queries raised on them. In order to progress the appointment of a surveyor, Council discussed delegating to the Clerk in consultation with the s. 106 working party authority to spend a maximum sum and select the surveyor. Council noted the draft Agreement between the Vale of White Horse District Council and the Parish Council for access to the s. 106 funding being held. The lack of a detailed specification of products and materials being used in the construction of the new facilities was of concern.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in agreement with delegating to the Clerk in consultation with the s. 106 working party, the selection of a surveyor to monitor the construction of the facilities, and for authority to be given to spend up to £20,000

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that authority be delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with the s. 106 working party, to spend up to £20,000 as per the Council's 2019/20 budget for consultants, to appoint a surveyor jointly with the Anson Trust
- (ii) that an example specification used in the construction of another hall elsewhere be obtained if possible.
- (iii) that the Clerk progress the matter of finalising the Agreement with the Vale of White Horse District Council as far as possible, and continue to liaise with the Council's solicitor regarding the new Agreement between the Parish Council and The Arthur Anson Memorial Trust

2019/34

Cow Lane Allotments

Council considered the terms of the contract to undertake regular checks on the allotments for rats. The contract had been drafted by the organisation and required one annual payment in advance. Concerns were raised about the lack of reference to products used, insurance, as well as the requirement to pay annually before the work had been carried out.

RESOLVED:

That the Council enter into a contract for pest control services on the Cow Lane allotments provided:

- a) the advance payment was for only 6 months at a time.
- b) reference to the contractors insurance was included
- c) reference to any products used be included

2019/35

Parishioner of the Year Award

Council considered the nominations submitted and those unsuccessful nominations from previous years. Discussion was had on the merits of each, other awards available, and the likely recipient of the 2018 award. It was suggested that, before making a final decision, research be undertaken as to the precise parish involvement of the likely recipient, and a draft produced of any possible citation. Miss Atkins offered to undertake further research as to the detailed involvement within the parish, of the possible recipient. It was noted that one unsuccessful nominee brought forward from a previous year was no longer carrying out the same roles and should be deleted from the list.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Miss Atkins undertake further research into the stated activities within the parish of the likely recipient, and

- liaise with Mr. Steere regarding a draft citation
- (ii) that the previously unsuccessful nominee who had ceased volunteering in the parish be deleted from the list.
- (iii) that the selection of a recipient for the 2018 award be deferred to the next meeting.

2019/36 Oxfordshire Plan 2050 – Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
Council noted the Scoping Report and

RESOLVED:

that this Council makes no comment on the report.

2019/37 North Street Footway
Council noted that the matter of the North Street footway had not been prioritised, as the Council had no authority to undertake works on the highway, and the Clerk's time had been more than used on other parish issues. Members discussed that s. 137 Local Government Act 1972 could be used to prepare a design of the footway, and the developer undertaking the development of the Kings Field phase II housing could be asked to undertake the construction.

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk instructs MJA Consulting to progress the design of the North Street footway.

2019/38 Correspondence
a) Oxfordshire Community First – newsletter Winter update
b) Vale of White Horse District Council – waste tour dates
c) Keep Britain Tidy – Spring Clean 22nd March – 23rd April, 2019.
Mr. Denton stated that he would like to co-ordinate a litter pick event around this time.
d) Aspire Oxford – Sleep Out 16th March fund raising event
e) South Oxfordshire Citizens Advice Bureau – newsletter
f) Oxfordshire County Council – Cothill Road closure 18th February to 22nd February, 2019

2019/39 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 and associated guidance. A risk assessment had been carried out within the last 12 months.

It was noted that a new internal auditor would be required, following

the retirement of the previous auditor, and Council considered the quotations received and recommendation of the working party. In view of the requirement for a new auditor, the terms of reference and Audit Plan would be reviewed once the new auditor was in place.

- (i) that the report and recommendations of the Working Party be accepted
- (ii) that IAC Audit and Consultancy be appointed internal auditor for the account year ending 31st March 2019.
- (iii) that the Terms of Reference and Audit Plan be reviewed once the new internal auditor was in place

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 3154 to 3161 and authorised payments in the sum of £4225.61 in respect of administration costs including legal fees, play area checks, litter clearance and replacement grant cheque mislaid by the recipient.

2019/40

Matters raised by members for information

A415 – Gas trench - backfilling

It was reported that the firm undertaking trenching in order to lay new gas pipes in the A415, had dug a trench across the road just east of the lane leading to Hyde Farm Nursery. This had been very poorly filled with a deep drop and cars damaging tyres and wheels. The Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of SGN gas networks.

Verges junction of A415 and Howard Cornish Road

It was reported that the verges at the junction of the A415 and Howard Cornish Road were in a poor state and condition owing to SGN having a compound on one side and builders' vans undertaking work at a property on the A415 on the other side. Vision was difficult for motorists leaving Howard Cornish Road as it was problematic to see up and down the A415. The clerk was asked to write to the County Council advising about the poor visibility, and advising that the Parish Council expects the verge to be fully restored when works were complete.

Electricity Power Cuts

Several electricity power cuts had been experienced recently. This was a nuisance for residents who were having to re-set clocks and appliances. Members thought that the latest power cut was due to a problem in The Farthings where several houses had suddenly lost power supply. North Street, near the junction of Howard Cornish Road was being dug up by SSE. The Clerk was asked to try and find out how many power cuts there were in Marcham over the past year.

North Street – Post Office parking

General issues were raised regarding a van that parked half way on the path and half way into the road in North Street in the vicinity of the shop. This prevented pedestrians getting past.

Items for Agenda

The Clerk reminded members that “Matters raised for information” were just that, and no discussion or resolutions should take place. Members wishing Council to debate an issue relevant to the parish were asked to contact the Clerk to ensure that the item be placed on the agenda. The deadline was one week before the meeting date.

2019/41

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2019/42

Date of Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

Signed Date