

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Malcolm Denton, Caroline Garvey, Sandra Hill, Michael Hoath, Ruth Mander, James Plumb, Tanya Rosenfeld, David Walton (Chairman)
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
1 member of the public – Kieran O’Leary
Joined by Peter Steere at 8.00 p.m.

- 2019/220 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Catherine Webber (District councillor) and Richard Webber (County Councillor) who were attending a meeting of the Vale of White Horse District Council.
- 2019/221 Declarations of Interest
David Walton declared an interest in the agenda item relating to allotments in that his wife was an allotment holder.
- 2019/222 Vacancies on the Parish Council
An applicant for the vacancy, Kieran O’Leary, who was sat in the public gallery, was asked questions.
- The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of co-opting Kieran O’Leary to serve on Marcham Parish Council.
- | In favour | Against | Abstention |
|-----------|---------|------------|
| 8 | 0 | 0 |
- 2019/223 Declaration of Acceptance of Office
Kieran O’Leary signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 2019/224 Minutes of the meetings held on 11th September, 2019
The minutes were amended and signed as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2019/225 Matters Arising from the minutes
A415 resurfacing
A member of the public at the last meeting, had raised a query in regards to whether resurfacing was the whole road, or patching. The Clerk had established that the full width of the road would be resurfaced. A query was made at the meeting in regards to drainage, and to ensure that it was correct. It was noted that the culvert under the A415 west of the Church Street junction had problems and the roadway suffered from ponding of water, which was low to drain away.
- 2019/226 Public Participation
There were no other members of the public present.

- 2019/227 Planning Applications
- a) Decisions on previous applications
- No decisions had been received.
- b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting
- No applications had been received
- c) Applications for consideration at the meeting
- No applications had been received
- 2019/228 District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Mrs. C. Webber
- No report was available.
- 2019/229 Council Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Webber
- No report was available.
- 2019/230 Community Facilities
- Council received an update on the community facilities. The minutes of the meeting of MCG from September had not been received. Information as to the funding raised by the Great Marcham Weekend was awaited, however Marcham Village shop had granted £10,000 towards the costs of fixtures and fittings in the new hall. It was understood that these would cost in the region of £60,000, of which £35,000 were essential items. It was suggested that the Parish Council should back an appeal for households to contribute £10 each. This was thought difficult as the Council raised funds via the council tax, and these figures could take this into account. MCG were raising funds by grant applications to the Lottery, Gannet Foundation, and Vale of White Horse District Council new homes bonus.
- 2019/231 Peter Steere joined the meeting.
- 2019/232 Community Facilities contd.
- Discussion took place on the benefits of flood lighting for the multi-use games area, and also on the Parish Council itself undertaking the procurement for the construction of the multi-use area, and/or its lighting as there would be vat savings. Council discussed funding the planning application to see if lighting could be added to the multi-use games area. Charles Lawrence undertaking the construction of the multi-use games area could prepare the application, plans and reports at a cost of £400. He would deduct this from the cost of installation of the lighting should this proceed.
- The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of Charles Lawrence acting as agents for the Parish Council in the submission of a planning application for lighting at the Multi-use games area, and the

Parish Council funding his costs of £400, plus the planning application fee. Charles Lawrence's costs to be discounted off the cost of the lighting should the project proceed.

In favour	Against	Abstention
10	0	0

RESOLVED:

that Charles Lawrence be instructed to prepare and lodge a planning application in respect of lighting at the multi-use games area at a cost of £400

Council received a report from the s. 106 working party who had considered the draft Transfer and Lease documents. Discussion took place on the ownership of the pumping station land, and the strip of land to access it. It was generally agreed that the Council own these if they were not included in the 99 Lease of the field.

RESOLVED:

that enquiries be made as to the ownership of and management and access to the pumping station

2019/233

Interest in agenda item

Being a member of the Parochial Church Council, which was currently a tenant of the Baptist Union in regards to the Baptist Church Hall, Malcolm Denton withdrew from the decision of the following item.

2019/234

Baptist Church Hall

Council noted that the Lease between the Baptist Union and All Saints Church for the Baptist Church Hall building, came to an end in November, and the new hall would not be ready until Spring 2020. It was noted that the Fitness and Tai Chi clubs, café and some others organisations were still meeting there. The hall, previously used for election purposes, may be required again in the near future for an election. It was understood that the Baptist Union had indicated that the hall may continue to be used for storage purposes.

Council discussed the possibility of assisting financially to enable the Baptist Church Hall to continue to remain open until the new hall became operational.

It was proposed that a sum of £900 be set aside to assist with the funding of keeping the Baptist Church hall open, including its insurance, as a meeting place for local organisations. The Parochial Church Council would continue with the booking diary as at present

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in support of setting aside up to £900 to assist with the financing of the Baptist Church hall for up to 5 months (Dec-April). Some of which sum to go towards insurance provision.

In favour
7

Against
1

Abstention
2

RESOLVED

- (i) that a sum of £900 be set aside to assist the Parochial Church Council with keeping the Baptist Church hall open for use as a temporary village hall for a period of up to 5 months until the end of April 2020.
- (ii) that some of this sum be used for insurance of the building.
- (iii) that the Parochial Church Council be asked to clarify the elements that required funding assistance from the Parish Council

2019/235

Parish s. 106 Funding

David Walton gave a report on a meeting that the Council's s. 106 working party had had with 3 officers (arts officer, Leisure Officer, and s. 106 implementation officer) from the Vale of White Horse District Council. General discussions had taken place regarding available funding, what constituted art, a bespoke, commissioned original work. Indoor sport too had been discussed, and suggestions put forward. One idea from the meeting was to invite from parishioners, suggestions on how s. 106 funding could be creatively used, and then open up ideas to artists for further exploration.

2019/236

Neighbourhood Plan

Notes from a meeting hosted by the Vale of White Horse District Council in 2015 regarding Neighbourhood Planning had been circulated for the benefit of new members. General discussion followed and it was noted that completed Plans were on the website of the Vale of White Horse District Council. The merits or otherwise of undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan and consideration of what it might achieve for Marcham needed detailed consideration.

It was RESOLVED:

- (i) that Kieran O'Leary, Michael Hoath, James Plumb and Peter Steere form a working party to consider the benefits of undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan and what it might achieve for Marcham.
- (ii) that the working party report back to the Council within a 2 month timeframe.

2019/237

Play Area

Council noted advice from MRH Services who undertook the quarterly inspections of the play equipment and area. MRH Services had been monitoring the base on the spring rocker item for a couple of years, and it had not become worse. He recommended to continue to monitor it. Members, however, preferred to replace the base, and noted that this

work could be carried out within a budget of £150 provided the item could be removed without causing other problems.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the base on the spring rocker be replaced
- (ii) that a sum of £150 be set aside for the purpose

2019/238

Allotments

Council considered a request to site a greenhouse on an allotment at Cow Lane. Members assessed the difficulties previously experienced with glass panes, and glass being broken and left behind.

Council considered a request from a Parkside allotment tenant who lived adjacent to an allotment plot to create an accessway from her personal garden straight into the plot

RESOLVED:

- (i) that consent be granted to site a small greenhouse on an allotment plot provided toughened glass, or glass reinforced plastic be used.
- (ii) that permission be granted to access the Parkside allotments from the tenant's house provided, that no legal right of access was created. All breaches in the boundary enclosure to be rebuilt when the tenancy of the allotment plot ceased.

2019/239

Christmas Lights / Tree

Council considered the possibility of Christmas Lights or Christmas tree in the parish. This could be sited on the village green.

Alternatively lights could be placed on an existing tree on the village green. Questions arose as to how best to illuminate a tree. Ruth Mander offered to speak to a local electrician.

Members requested that costings be brought back to the next meeting.

2019/240

Remembrance Sunday - 10th November, 2019

Council noted that an application for the Road Closure Order had been lodged with the Vale of White Horse District Council. Malcolm Denton had requested the Police to be in attendance. The Church would site the road closed signs. Clearing works to the war memorial were planned, as was a new path, but these works would not be complete by Remembrance Sunday. The Clerk was dealing with the War Memorial Trust in regards to the grant claim for conservation work.

2019/241

Connecting Oxford

Council considered correspondence from Cllr. Yvonne Constance, Cabinet Member for Environment at Oxfordshire County Council, inviting comments on suggestions for improved transport connections into and around Oxford.

Individual comments were put forward. Members could submit their own comments if they wished.

RESOLVED:

that this Council had no comments to make.

2019/242

Correspondence

a) Vale of White Horse District Council - Code of Conduct Training

The District Council was running a course on the Code of Conduct in November, and has initially invited the Chairman and Clerk. Further places may be available once numbers of those who are attending have been assessed.

b) Strutt Parker – Information on sign board for Mactgart Mickel site off Sheepstead Rd

c) Citizens Advice Bureau – AGM and 80th Anniversary Celebrations Tuesday 15th October 6.00 p.m in the Guildhall, Abingdon.

d) Bridleway 17 – Ock Bridge at end of Mill Road

Correspondence from the County Council to confirm that it has agreed with the landowner's representatives, that emergency repairs before the Winter to stabilise the bridge would take place, with a view to undertaking the full repair and reconstruction of the structure next Summer.

e) Oxfordshire Plan 2050

To note a revised timetable for the Plan has been received. In November/December 2019, there will be engagement on key technical challenges.

f) Healthwatch Oxfordshire – Newsletter

g) Oxfordshire County Council – Community Safety Service

Notification that the service is sending out "Footsteps" guide regarding child pedestrian safety to key organisations.

h) Police and Crime Commissioner – Bulletin September 2019

i) Correspondence received from residents in regards to footpath links from the Kings Field II to Kings Field I development, and also Willow Farm development to Monks Walk development. Council noted the correspondence.

2019/243

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 3229 to 3242 and authorised payments in the sum of £8145.76 in respect of administration costs, surveyor's costs inspection of construction of new hall, grass cutting, play equipment checks, and weed spraying.

Council noted the external audit report from the external auditor Moore Stephens for the year 2018/19. They drew Council's attention to the merging of the Joint Burial Committee and Council's accounts, and therefore the reasons for the No responses in the governance statement, and an error in the adding up of the comparative restated figures. The external auditors did confirm that in their opinion the information contained within sections 1 and 2 of the annual governance and accountability return accounts was in accordance with proper practices and no matters came to their attention which gave cause for concern.

Council noted grant funds and funds within s137 Local Government Act 1972 which were available for the 2019/20 year

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the sum of £120 be awarded to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal by way of donation for 2019/2020.
- (ii) that the external auditor's report be noted, and the error in the comparative restated figures be investigated.

2019/244 Matters raised by members for information

Vale of White Horse District Council – Chairman's Awards

Ruth Mander showed a trophy plaque which had been awarded to the minibus drivers who took the elderly from the village to the town centre. A photograph of them with the plaque would be arranged to go into Marcham and District News.

2019/245 Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2019/246 Date of Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.

Signed Date