

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th January, 2020 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Malcolm Denton, Caroline Garvey, Michael Hoath, Kieran O'Leary, Ruth Mander, James Plumb, Tanya Rosenfeld, Peter Steere, David Walton (Chairman)

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

Cllr. R. Webber (Oxfordshire County Council) and Cllr. Mrs. C. Webber (Vale of White Horse District Council)

12 Members of the public.

The Chairman announced the recent death of former parish councillor Mrs. Christine Ricketts. A minutes silence was observed in her memory. The Clerk to write a letter of condolence to her family on behalf of the Parish Council.

- 2020/1 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs. Sandra Hill.
- 2020/2 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.
- 2020/3 Minutes of the meetings held on 11th December, 2019
The draft minutes were amended and signed as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2020/4 Matters Arising from the minutes
North Street – pavements
Photographs of uneven surfaces had been sent to the County Council. An acknowledgement had been received, but with comments that these were a duplication of earlier similar reports, and that the matter had therefore been logged previously. There had been no agreement to undertake works. Cllr. Richard Webber (County Councillor) would raise the matter with the County Council.
- 2020/5 Public Participation
Planning Application amendments – 13 The Farthings.
A member of the public spoke regarding District Council parking guidelines which were not being followed. Parking problems already existed, owing to 11 houses having access off The Farthings at the end of a Y shaped cul-de-sac, and their visitors parking in the head of the cul de sac. A new dwelling would increase the demand for extra spaces, particularly as the proposal was to lose the garage of no. 13 and the new property also not having a garage provided.
- Harding Way – Lamppost
A member of the public asked whether Harding Way had now been formally adopted since it had been noticed that a lamppost had been installed. The Chairman replied that this Council did not have that information, and the enquiry should be made of the County Council.

Harding Way – Open Space

A member of the public asked questions about public open space areas on the Harding Way development. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council maintained the two larger open areas, but had not been offered the 3rd narrow strip parallel to Sheepstead Road by the developer.

Sheepstead Road – traffic calming

Comments were made regarding Sheepstead Road being a dangerously fast road and questions asked about possible traffic calming. It was noted that the 30 mph limit as far as the Council was aware, was to go to Cow Lane as part of the Mactaggart Mickel housing development. The Clerk would raise the question of possible traffic calming with Cllr. Richard Webber.

Harding Way path to Howard Cornish Road

Questions were asked about who maintained the path from Harding Way to Howard Cornish Road. The Chairman confirmed it was the Parish Council and that the Council was currently investigating possible solar lighting.

2020/6

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

No planning decisions had been received

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

P19/V3148/FUL Proposed new 4 No. 10m high floodlighting columns to multi-use games area
Anson Field

Comments: As the Parish Council was the applicant, and future owner of the site, it had advised the planning officer that it would not comment on the application.

c) Planning Applications for consideration at the meeting

R3.O128/19 Travel Plan for Marcham Primary School pursuant to condition 3 of E3.0008/19 – two classrooms
Marcham Primary School, Morland Road

A copy of the Travel Plan had been circulated to members. It had been noted that there was an Action Plan contained within it, and questions were asked as to who would monitor and enforce the actions required.

RESOLVED:

that this point be submitted to the County Council as the view of the Parish Council.

P19/V2478/FUL Demolition of existing garage, replacement new parking, amenity space and associated dwelling (amended plans and information)
Land at The Farthings

Council noted its comments on the previous application and considered whether the revised drawings addressed those concerns. The previous concerns regarding loss of amenity, parking, impact on the street scene had not been addressed. The Chairman called for a show of hands for those who objected to the application

Object	Not object	Abstention
7	0	2

RESOLVED:

- (i) that this Council continues to object to the application on the grounds of insufficient parking, impact on the street scene, and neighbouring amenity.
- (ii) that the comments to the District Council also include that the arboricultural officer be asked to confirm that there was no impact on trees on, and immediately adjacent to the site.

2020/7

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

Planning Application 13 The Farthings P19/V2478/FUL – Cllr. Mrs. Webber advised that she would ask for this application to be called in and to be determined by committee should the planning officer be minded to approve it.

Vale of White Horse District Council – Budget – The District Council was currently looking at its budget requirements and possible savings that it could make.

Anson Field – earth pile

Cllr. Catherine Webber had been approached regarding the possibility of using the large pile of earth left from the Anson field development site, for a skatepark, but not necessarily in the Anson field. It was noted that planning consent was required to increase ground levels. Council noted the suggestion but was unaware of any such plans, and understood that the developer would be removing the surplus soil from site.

2020/8

Councillor's Report – Cllr. Richard Webber

County Council Budget / Members Priority Fund – The County Council too was considering its budget, and its finances appeared healthier than in previous years. The Members' Priority Fund was being extended into

20/21 financial year. From this year's allocation Marcham had benefitted from enhancement of the beacon lighting at zebra crossing, new white lining, and a likely speed reduction from 60 mph to 50 mph, on the A415 between the village and the A34. This latter matter had received 20 comments when it had been out for consultation by the County Council. 15 people had been in support, and 5 not supporting, but of those 5, 3 people had requested a further reduction to 40 mph, and 2 believed it would cause more traffic jams in the middle of Marcham. A decision on the proposed speed reduction would be made by the member with Portofolio for Transport.

It was suggested that if the Priority Fund was to be in place for next year, then perhaps some focus could be on a chicane, or vehicle activated sign for the Sheepstead Road to reduce the speed of vehicles coming from the north entering the village. Cllr. Richard Webber would speak to the County Council regarding this.

Bridleway 17 – Mill Road

Cllr. Richard Webber confirmed that he would be speaking to the landowner in regards to the closed bridleway. Cllr. Webber was advised that there was a hole in the road near Marcham Mill, and whilst the County Council was responsible for repairs in Mill Road, it would be preferable to wait until the repairs to the bridge had been carried out as more large vehicles were expected.

2020/9 Cllrs. Richard and Mrs. Catherine Webber left the meeting at 8.20 p.m.

2020/10 Community Facilities

Members had not been to meetings of MCG just prior to Christmas, so no report was available. Members noted an update on the multi-use games area in that electricity for lighting, should planning consent be granted, would be from the supply connected for the construction site and not the hall supply. This would mean that access to the plant room to switch lighting on and off would no longer be required. Members noted that the third organisation approached to provide a quotation for inspections of the muga during construction, had declined to provide a quotation

RESOLVED:

that the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association be instructed to supervise the construction of the multi-use games area.

2020/11 Neighbourhood Plan

Council received a report from the Neighbourhood Plan working party. The costs and benefits had been explored. It was recommended that funds be included in the budget and to carry on research as to what might be in a Neighbourhood Plan for Marcham and to identify the areas which could be subject to a particular focus. It was suggested that Neighbourhood Planning could be the topic for a speaker at the annual meeting of electors.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the working party report be accepted
- (ii) that further research into boundary areas and topics be undertaken
- (iii) that some funding be set aside in the budget

2020/12

Risk Assessment

Council noted the risk assessment as drafted. This had been brought forward from last year, and issues relating to the cemetery included, as risk assessment was not a task to be undertaken by the Cemetery Committee.

The Council was to become the owner of the new hall, car park and multi-use games area in the Anson field, and take a lease of the sport pitch area. In turn these would be let to the Marcham Community Group. It was thought appropriate to review the risk assessment in September or October to see if adjustments were necessary.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the risk assessment be accepted as drafted
- (ii) that the risk assessment be reviewed in September or October once the Transfer and Leases of the community facilities were completed.

2020/13

Budget 2019/20

Council carefully considered the current balances, the likely balances at the year end, and the budget for 2020/2021. Discussion was had as to becoming paperless as far as meetings were concerned, the awarding of more than one parishioner of the year certificates, the drawing down of s. 106 allotment funding, and the need for a pressure washer which would possibly have uses at the new hall site and may be able to be used for cleaning the bus shelter.

RESOLVED:

- (i) any unspent sums from 2019/20 be taken into reserves
- (ii) that the precept for 2020/21 from the Vale of White Horse District Council be set at £67600
- (iii) that an increased sum be included for parishioner of the year expenses, in case more than one certificate were awarded
- (iv) that the drawing down of available s. 106 money for the allotment be investigated

2020/14

Parishioner of the Year Award

Council noted nominations were being received for the Parishioner of

the Year Award. The working party would produce a report for the next meeting.

2020/15

Annual Meeting of Electors

It was suggested that as the Council was considering the undertaking of a neighbourhood plan, the topic for the guest speaker should be neighbourhood planning. It was also suggested that perhaps the meeting could be held in the new hall once opened.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a speaker be found for the topic of Neighbourhood planning
- (ii) that depending on the availability of the speaker, the meeting be held in the new hall or school hall.

2020/16

Correspondence

a) Emails from Fyfield and Tubney Parish Council regarding the A420
Council noted correspondence regarding traffic, and the impact on the A420.

RESOLVED:

that the correspondence be noted and considered at a later date if appropriate

b) OALC Update – December

c) South Central Ambulance Service – Newsletter Foundation Times

d) Police/Crime Commissioner Newsletter – December 2019

2020/17

Accounts

Council considered the draft Investment Policy for Council's funds. It also considered the position of the Joint Burial Committee in regards to being the Lead Authority.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those who supported the adoption of the Investment Policy

In favour	Against	Abstention
9	0	0

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those who supported the Council as being the lead Authority in regards to the operation of the Joint Burial Committee

In favour	Against	Abstention
9	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Investment Policy be adopted
- (ii) that this Council act as lead Authority in regards to the operation of the Marcham and Frilford Joint Burial Committee

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 3269 to 3275 and authorised payments in the sum of £3053.78 in respect of administration costs, surveyor's costs inspection of construction of new hall, grass cutting, and play area checks.

2020/18 Matters raised by members for information

North Street – opposite to junction with Howard Cornish Road – ivy

It was reported that the double decker buses travelling northwards up North Street had to go into the middle of the road to avoid ivy which was growing over the wall from properties in The Farthings. The bus, in the middle of the road, restricted traffic heading southwards or leaving Howard Cornish Road at the junction.

Street Lighting

It was reported that the County Council's contractor had been seen repairing street lights in the village.

2020/19 Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2020/20 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 12th February, 2020 in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed Date