

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th October, 2020 held virtually via Zoom, under powers granted by the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020

Present:

Sandra Hill, Michael Hoath, Kieran O’Leary, James Plumb, Tanya Rosenfeld
Peter Steere,
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
Cllr. Catherine Webber (District Councillor)
Cllr. Richard Webber (County Councillor)
Joined by Ruth Mander at 7.35 p.m.

- 2020/178 Apologies for Absence
There were no apologies for absence
- 2020/179 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.
- 2020/180 Ruth Mander joined the meeting during the following item.
- 2020/181 Casual Vacancies
The Clerk explained the procedure for dealing with casual vacancies. The District Council had authorised the Parish Council to proceed by way of co-option for the seat previously occupied by Malcolm Denton. The vacancy created by the resignation of David Walton had been notified to the District Council and the formal Notice posted. It would be clear by the next meeting whether a formal election had been demanded.
The vacancies had been advertised locally and enquiries had been received.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that all candidates be advised that the Council would co-opt at its November meeting, and an invitation extended to them to attend.
- (ii) that in preparation for consideration for co-option all candidates submit brief information about themselves
- 2020/182 Minutes of the meeting held on 9th September, 2020
The draft minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting. The Minutes to be signed as soon as practicable.

A query was raised as to likely tenants, in regards to a planning application at 82 Howard Cornish Road, as that related to a change of use to Planning Class C3, a shared occupancy dwelling for residents in supported housing. Cllr. Richard Webber would make enquiries of the County Council as to the future occupants.

2020/183 Matters Arising from the minutes
There were no matters arising.

2020/184 Public Participation
No members of the public had logged into the meeting.

2020/185 Planning Matters

a) Decisions on previous applications

P20/V1849/LB Taking core samples from arch barrels of bridge
Noah's Ark Bridge, A338.

Permitted 1st October, 2020

P20/V1820/HH Oak Timber framed with tiled roof 2.5, to
eaves garden shed / office, sat on staddle stones. Floorspace 3 x
3.5 m. Bifold doors, windows facing garden

3 Mill Road

Permitted 29th September, 2020

P20/V1419/DPO Discharge of planning agreement in 2003
tidying dwelling house to for use of land as vineyard.

Letter issued by Vale of White Horse District Council
confirming that it was not considered that there was still a
planning reason to tie the buildings and land together.

Agreement released 8th September, 2020

b) Applications dealt with under delegated powers prior to the
meeting

P20/V2155/HH Alterations to existing detached garage to form
guest bedroom/playroom. Enlargement of first floor by
provision of two gables.

Pinetops, Oxford Rd, Frilford

Comments: Council had no objections to the building works, but
requested that materials match the existing and were in keeping
with the surroundings. It also requested a condition that, as the
garage was to be used as living accommodation, the residential
accommodation should be occupied only as accommodation
ancillary and incidental to the existing dwelling on the site, and
not be occupied separately, and that no separate curtilage should
be created.

P20/V1388/ Residential development of up to 90 dwellings
Land south of A415

Air Quality Assessment update

Comments: Council noted that the revised Air Quality
Assessment accepted that there was some impact on the air
quality from the development, but the assessment

document concluded that that was permissible. The Parish
Council disagreed stating that adverse impacts on air quality and
the consequent impact on public health were not acceptable.

c) Applications considered at the meeting

The Parish Council was not a formal consultee for the following application on land east of Kingston Bagpuize, but wished to submit comments to the Vale of White Horse District Council.

P18/V2791/O 660 homes, 70 care units, local centre with mixed usages, primary school and road construction
Land East of Kingston Bagpuize

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk in consultation with the planning working group Mike Hoath and Ruth Mander finalise comments in regards to the impact on air quality and the inappropriate use of the Gozzards Ford road.

2020/186

County Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Webber

Primary School capacity – Cllr. Webber confirmed that currently the school was considered to have sufficient capacity for any children from the proposed new 90 Houses south of the A415. Mike Hoath asked if this information were in writing from the County Council, and if so, he requested a copy.

Covid Update - Oxford city and the remainder of the county were considered to be medium risk and therefore came within the Government's Covid Alert Level of Tier 1, although the city itself had risen in terms of its risk.

Local Government Review - A planned meeting in September had been postponed. Owing to the elections due to be held in May 2021, there was no time for a wholesale review. The matter would be considered again after the elections.

Flooding – Owing to heavy rainfall, the drainage systems were not coping well, and Thames Water was under pressure. Cllr. Webber requested that he be informed if there were flooding issues in Marcham so that he could obtain photographic evidence.

Oxfordshire County Councillor – Priority Funding – Marcham's allocation of Priority Funding for 2020/21 was being given to Marcham Community Group towards the running costs of the new village hall.

2020/187

District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Catherine Webber

Dog Waste Bins – The Vale of White Horse District Council was undertaking a parish survey of dog waste bins. Currently many were

emptied by the District Council, but in future these would become the responsibility of the respective Parish Council.

Village Hall Litter Bins – The Vale of White Horse District Council considered the village hall commercial premises, as it had a bar. As such, they would not provide an emptying service for litter bins. They would, however, replace the bin on the highway sited adjacent to the entrance to the Anson Field off Morland Road.

Monks Walk / The Willows - Fly Tipping – Builders’ debris and brick rubble had been dumped into the drainage ditch between these two housing developments. It was thought to arise as residents had discovered brick rubble when digging the gardens of these new village properties, and had dumped it off site. The Vale of White Horse District Council was contacting the Management Companies of both housing developments.

Business Grants – Businesses could receive grants of £1334 per month, for properties with a rateable value of £15,000 or under, grants of £2000 per months for those with a rateable value of £15,000 - £50,000 or £3000 per months for those with a rateable value of £51,000 or over.

Electrical Charging – Electrical car charging points were being installed in a range of car parks in 2021. Also to be introduced was civil parking enforcement. There were to be 2 levels of penalty charge £70 for serious offences, and £50 for less serious.

2020/188

Community Facilities

a) Litter Bins

Council discussed at length the request from Marcham Community Group, for 3 litter bins, bearing in mind the report from Cllr. Catherine Webber as to emptying. Sandra Hill proposed, that in view of Covid restrictions and the use of the hall, that 2 bins be purchased in the first instance, and the situation be monitored. Council considered the emptying of them.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of the Parish Council purchasing two external litter bins for use in the recreation field near to the village hall, and for funding the emptying for a period of one year.

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council purchases 2 litter bins and funds the emptying of them for one year.
- (ii) that Marcham Community Group, as tenant of the land be advised that they will be expected to take over the emptying of them at the expiration of one year.

b) Direction Signage

Council noted that the County Council could assist with the provision of direction signage, but would not be able to fund it. The County Council was seeking a quotation for the provision of 3 finger pointer signs to be erected to lampposts on the A415 opposite Howard Cornish Road, in Howard Cornish Road opposite Morland Road and by the entrance into the Anson Field.

c) Pumping Station

Council noted correspondence from Thomas Homes advising that the company had collected contributions from the new residents of the houses towards maintenance of and electricity used in the pumping station. As MCG had the Lease of the land where the pumping station was situated, and the responsibility for its maintenance, Thomas Homes had been asked to pay the funds to MCG.

d) Entrance into the Anson Field

Cllr. Webber advised that he was awaiting a date from the County Council officers as to when an on site discussion could take place regarding the entrance into the field and whether changes could be made if found to be dangerous.

2020/189

Harding Way - Footpath around first public open space area, and trees at the eastern public open space/path to Howard Cornish Road

Council noted receipt of confirmation from the Vale of White Horse District Council that the application for the s.106 funding (commuted sum from Vanderbilt developers) was on the agenda for its Senior Management Team meeting on 22nd October.

Council noted that the aboricultural consultant had been instructed and the tree survey was commencing on 15th October, 2020.

The Clerk had consulted with a tarmacadam contractor in regards to the failing footpath, and also with Vanderbilt developers. The contractor's report, following an inspection of the path, was noted, as were comments from Vanderbilt Homes Ltd as to their opinion as to the cause of the failure of the path. It was noted that other paths within the development had not failed in the same way. Reference was also made to trees within the public open space area that had been snapped in two.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the position regarding the s. 106 claim be noted
- (ii) that the start date for the aboricultural specialist be noted
- (iii) that the Clerk continue to correspond with Vanderbilt Homes in an attempt to have the problems with the path rectified.
- (iv) that trees on the site be discussed at a future meeting.

2020/190

Cllrs. Catherine and Richard Webber left the meeting at 8.26 p.m

2020/191

Parishioner of the Year

Discussion took place as to the Parishioner of the Year award.

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk advertise for nominations in the next issue of Marcham and District News.

2020/192

Churchyard driveway / path

Council noted the position in regards to quotations received for works to the Churchyard.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that authority be given to the Clerk in consultation with Caroline Garvey, to negotiate with the Parochial Church Council, the required repairs to the path and driveway within the Churchyard
- (ii) that authority be given to spend up to £2250
- (iii) that the funds be vired from reserves

2020/193

Remembrance Sunday – Arrangements

Council noted comments from the Chaplain at All Saints Church, Mark Newman, in regards to the format for the Service on 8th November, and possible wreath laying afterwards. Council noted that an application had been made to the Vale of White Horse District Council for the usual road closure Order for the A415 between 10.45 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. This would minimise any impact on the bus service. A wreath had been requested from the Royal British Legion. Council considered the amount of the donation to the Poppy Appeal. Following an article in Marcham and District News residents had expressed an interest in helping clear the war memorial area. One had started clearing the garden area, and a risk assessment had been undertaken for any volunteers.

It was moved that a donation of £120 be given to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour

In favour
7

Against
0

Abstention
0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the arrangements for the format of any service and wreath laying at the war memorial be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman, Mike Hoath, and Vice-Chairman, Ruth Mander
- (ii) that a donation in the sum of £120 be given to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

- (iii) that the volunteer risk assessment be noted
- (iv) that the clearing of the war memorial garden be monitored and members offer assistance if required

2020/194

Arboretum – Litter Bin

Council considered a request to install a litter bin in the Arboretum. There had been some dog faeces left around, and litter during the Summer. As winter was approaching, the use of the area could be less. It was proposed that the situation be monitored in the first instance and the request considered again in one year's time.

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour of monitoring the litter situation and reconsidering the request for a litter bin in one year's time.

In favour	Against	Abstention
6	1	0

2020/195

Correspondence

a) Oxfordshire County Council – Footpath no. 5 Diversion Order (Hill Aggregates site). The Diversion Order had now been made.

b) OALC – September circular

c) South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau – Annual General Meeting 20th October, 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

d) Vale of White Horse District Council – Planning Policy Update

e) Vale of White Horse District Council – Safety information as to events held during Covid

f) Letter from resident regarding a flu vaccination clinic in Marcham

Council had received a letter requesting assistance in setting up a flu vaccination clinic in the village hall. This too had been sent to the village hall committee. Council was of the opinion that it would be difficult to arrange, as the village was not too far from the town centre where local GPs held their own flu vaccination clinics, so medical providers were unlikely to be prepared to hire the hall. Those residents particularly vulnerable and unable to attend doctors' surgeries were visited by the District Nurse. There were local taxis and transport services for those unhappy about using the local bus service.

RESOLVED:

that this Council advise the correspondent that it was of the opinion that village flu clinics would not be generally supported by all, and it was therefore sorry it could not assist in the setting of up flu vaccination clinics in Marcham village hall.

2020/196

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 3354 to 3359 and authorised payments in the sum of £4728.32 in respect of administration costs including insurance, play area inspections, litter pick and grass cutting. (Cheque no. 3353 related to an internal transfer). Council noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services had reached an agreement with National Employers on salary scales. A 2.75% had been agreed with effect from 1st April, 2020. Council noted that HMRC had increased the home working allowance by £2 per week with effect from April 2020.

RESOLVED:

that as the Clerk was employed under NJC terms, that the salary paid be increased by 2.75% and the additional home working allowance of £2 per week be paid. Both to be backdated to April 2020.

2020/197

Matters raised by members for information

Pizza Van

Reference was made to the possibility of a pizza van visiting the village, as this had been mentioned on the village facebook page. Ideas for suitable locations for parking were invited should this progress. Locations were suggested, including the village hall car park. The Lease would be checked as to restrictions.

Village Hall

It was suggested that this be an agenda item each month. Issues in need of checking were the snagging list and the legal documents to clarify responsibilities. A pathway had been installed. It seemed to be a thin layer of sand. Queries were raised as to whether this should be tarmac. It was thought that this path was not on the original plans but had been installed as an additional item by the developer. Mike Hoath and Ruth Mander would raise the issue of the path with Marcham Community Group.

Finance – balancing as at 30th September, 2020

The report on account figures as at 30th September, 2020 had been postponed, as the bank statement as at the end of the month had not been received in time for the calculations to be prepared, and therefore not included with the agenda.

Grant Applications – November meeting

Mike Hoath referred to a possible grant application from Marcham Community Group. He stated that he would be declaring an interest in this item and would not wish to be Chairman during discussion. Ruth Mander, as Vice-Chairman, was also connected with Marcham Community Group. He asked that members consider someone to be Chairman for this item at the next meeting, Peter Steere offered.

Budget 2021/22

The Chairman referred to the complexity of the accounts in that s. 106 funding for public open space maintenance on the Harding Way development was awaited, CIL funding was available to be claimed from the District Council, and there were also reserves in the community fund. He advised members to think about the precept claim.

Personnel Committee

The Chairman referred to the fact that he wished a meeting of the Personnel Committee to be called. He advised that the former Chairman had resigned. He would circulate a list of likely agenda items to those members on the Committee.

2020/198

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2020/199

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 11th November, 2020 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom unless owing to the Covid-19 virus, arrangements changed.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed Date