

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 26th April, 2021, commencing at 7.30 p.m. 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:

Caroline Garvey, Sandra Hill, Michael Hoath, (Chairman), Tony Mackelworth, Ruth Mander, James Plumb, Tanya Rosenfeld

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

Cllr. Richard Webber (County Councillor)

- 2021/63 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Sheena Bigden.
- 2021/64 Declarations of Interest
Michael Hoath and Ruth Mander both declared an interest in the agenda item relating to Community Facilities in that they were Trustees of Marcham Community Group, the tenant of the facilities.
- 2021/65 Minutes of the meeting held on 10th March, 2021
The draft minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting. The Minutes to be signed as soon as practicable.
- 2021/66 Matters Arising from the minutes
- Casual Vacancy
The Vale of White Horse District Council had confirmed that no election had been demanded following the resignation of Kieran O’Leary, and that the Parish Council may proceed to co-opt to fill the vacancy.
- Lodge Hill – A34 Junction
Council noted that the Clerk, under delegated powers had submitted comments on the Lodge Hill/A34 junction proposals to the County Council. Concerns had been expressed that the plan only covered the interchange itself, and there was no indication as to how the road system would link into that required for the Dalton Barracks development. Owing to the lack of a wider road strategy, the eventual impact on Abingdon, and Marcham could not be assessed.
- 2021/68 Community Facilities
Council noted the updated snagging list as at 31st March. Marcham Community Group, as the tenant, too was monitoring the minor outstanding points and discussing them with Thomas Homes, the developer. Council noted the report on the pitches from the Council’s

appointed agronomist. Council considered whether it thought there were any outstanding requirements in regards to the completion of the project, sufficient to prevent the release the balance of the grant sum, £20,000, to the Anson Trust. Items mentioned were mostly identified in the snagging list and Thomas Homes had undertaken to rectify these, and in addition, had agreed to add one further item to the list. The Council was also in possession of a commitment from Marcham Community Group that if, for any reason, the actions due from Thomas Homes were not able to be completed in a timely manner, or to a sufficient standard, then Marcham Community Group would provide a back-stop position, and would use their best endeavours to complete any unfinished actions. They had agreed not to allow any unresolved issues to remain in the medium term.

As the Council's agreement was with the Anson Trust, the Council considered whether including further obligations on the Trust, such as ensuring that snagging items were resolved, in order to release the balance of the grant, were possible. The Chairman clarified the content of the contract with the Anson Trust. To introduce further obligations was thought not possible.

Discussion followed on handing over the balance of the grant, but with a separate email expecting the items on the snagging list to be fully fixed. Council was made aware it needed to satisfy the conditions in the contract between the Parish Council and the Vale of White Horse District Council, for access to the s. 106 funding. It was suggested that in the separate email, a note be made of the Council looking forward to the co-operation of the Anson Trust and Thomas Homes in providing outstanding information (if any) which had to be submitted to the District Council. Thomas Homes needed a viability statement for the social housing element of their housing project in the parish. This issue would be discussion at a future meeting.

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in support of releasing the sum of £20,000 to the Anson Trust without further encumbrances

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	0	0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the undertakings by Thomas Homes and Marcham Community Group to sort any items referred to in the Agronomist's report and on the snagging list be noted and accepted

- (ii) that the balance of the grant to the Anson Trust in the sum of £20,000 be released to the Anson Trust
- (iii) that a separate email/letter be sent to the Anson Trust, Thomas Homes and Marcham Community Group in the near future requesting that the items on the snagging list be fixed and requesting their co-operation in supplying any information needed by the Parish Council, in order to meet its obligations to the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Council considered correspondence from Marcham Community Group in regards to items fixed within the hall which required Landlord's consent, and how to determine which items or works would need the Landlord's consent in the future. MCG had suggested a joint working Party with representatives from MCG and the Parish Council to discuss hall matters in the future.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that as Landlord, Council gives permission for items already affixed within the hall
- (ii) that the details of what would expressly require the Landlord's consent be discussed by a future working party and recommendations put to Council.
- (iii) that the setting up of the working party and terms of reference be discussed at the annual meeting of the Council.
- (iv) that the village hall nameplate proposed for outside of the hall be discussed, in the first instance, by that working party.

2021/69

Future Meetings

Council noted that the period permitted 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, which allowed remote Council meetings, would come to an end on 6th May. A court case decision, from the High Court, as to the interpretation of whether the Local Government Act 1972 could be interpreted as referring to remote meetings was awaited. It was noted that the Council may have to meet face to face after 6th May.

Council discussed delegation to the Clerk to limit any time spent at face to face meetings, in order to protect those attending.

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour of delegating all actions necessary to the Clerk, in the event of being unable to meet remotely.

In favour	Against	Abstention
7	0	0

Council considered the 2021 annual meeting for electors, and owing to difficulties meeting face to face and Covid 19, agreed that the annual parish meeting not be held in 2021.

RESOLVED:

(i)

That Council agrees to allow the Clerk delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the Council where such decision cannot reasonably be deferred, and must be made in order to comply with deadlines. The delegation does not extend to matters expressly reserved to the council in legislation or in its Standing Orders or Financial Regulations. Any decisions made under this delegation must be recorded in writing and must be published in accordance with the relevant regulations.

(ii) that the 2021 annual meeting for electors not be held, and that this meeting be reviewed in 2022.

2021/70

Accounts

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 3399 to 3410 and an invoice to be paid from the cemetery account, and authorised payments in the sum of £9623.00 in respect of administration costs, play area checks, litter pick, subscriptions, allotment water rates, bus shelter cleaning, village hall insurance, agronomist report on playing fields, and grass cutting works in cemetery.

2021/71 Matters Raised by Members

Frilford Road Recreation Ground

A member referred to the village gateway feature – white painted gate-
which was in a poor state and condition.

Merging outdoor tasks and possible new contractors

Checks into this were ongoing.

2021/72 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 5th May
2021 via Zoom if Councils were required to meet face to face after 6th
May, otherwise it would be on Wednesday 12th May via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Signed Date