

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Monday 8th November, 2021, commencing at 7.30 p.m., held in the village hall, Barrow Close, Marcham.

Present:

Sheena Bigden, Keely Ewart-Brookes, Mark Harvie, Sandra Hill, Ruth Mander, James Plumb, Tanya Rosenfeld, and Suzanne Saunter.

Clerk: Linda Martin

Cllr. Catherine Webber (District Councillor)

Cllr. Richard Webber (County Councillor)

- 2021/185 Chairman
In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Ruth Mander, took the chair for the duration of the meeting.
- 2021/186 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Michael Hoath (Chairman), and Tony Mackelworth
- 2021/187 Declarations of Interest
Sandra Hill declared an interest in the agenda item relating to the grant application by Marcham Community Group in that her husband was a Trustee. Ruth Mander declared an interest in the agenda item relating to the grant application by Marcham Community Group in that she was a Trustee.
- 2021/188 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th October, 2021
Tanya Rosenfeld stated that she had offered apologies for the October meeting. The Clerk confirmed that these had been sent just prior to the meeting, but the email had not been seen until the following day. They were therefore not recorded.
The minutes of the meeting held on 11th October, 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.
- 2021/189 Matters Arising from the meeting held on 11th October, 2021
Hyde Copse Wood – fallen tree towards Howard Cornish Road
The landowner had now removed this tree.
- Vale of White Horse District Council – garden waste collection
The garden waste collection service had returned to being fortnightly.
- Speeding traffic
The police had offered to attend the December meeting of the Council to discuss speeding traffic and control measures.

2021/190 Working Party Membership
New member Suzanne Saunter had expressed an interest in joining the neighbourhood plan group and play area working party

RESOLVED:

that Suzanne Saunter be a member of the neighbourhood plan group and the play area working party

2021/191 Public Participation
There were no members of the public in attendance.

2021/192 Planning Matters

a) Decisions on previous applications

P21/V2541 Replacement garage with garden office
11 North Street
Withdrawn 1st November, 2021

P21/V1846/O Erection of semi-detached house
19 Mill Road
Withdrawn 29TH October, 2021

P21/V0700/FUL Replacement dwelling (amended information)
Kerranderry, Faringdon Road
Permitted 2nd November, 2021

P21/V1806/HH Front and side extension
5 Hyde Copse
Permitted 1st November, 2021

P21/V2597/PDH Single storey rear extension
3 Barrow Close

As the prior notification submission did not receive any objections from neighbouring properties, it was determined that the application fell within the limits of development permitted by Class A of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (England) Order 2015.

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

None received

c) Applications considered at the meeting

None received

- 2021/193 District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Catherine Webber
Covid update – the highest rate was within 40-49 year olds as children brought the infection home from school. The number of new cases was generally falling.
- Recycling – the Vale of White Horse District Council was 9th out of 314 councils in the ranking tables for Local Authority recycling. The District Council, with new technologies, was aiming for carbon zero by 2050.
- Abingdon – Multi-storey car park
Cllr. Catherine Webber had been contacted by a resident regarding the closure of part of the multi-storey car park in Abingdon. The top floors had been closed owing to structural issues. She was dealing with his enquiry. Members added comments regarding broken pay machines, and narrow parking bays.
- 2021/194 County Councillor's Report – Cllr. Richard Webber
A415 – Marcham Interchange – The potholes in the vicinity of the roundabout had been repaired.
- HIF 1 – Road bridge over the River Thames Didcot/Appleford
The cost of construction of this road was increasing owing to issues with the supply of building materials. The County Council had an obligation to construct the road by a fixed deadline. He raised concerns that any benefit from the new road would be lost should houses continue to be constructed in large numbers.
- Reservoir
Cllr. Webber referred to the cost of the proposed new reservoir being in the region of £2-£4 billion. Thames Water had put forward its latest proposals for the provision of water supplies. The County Council and the Vale of White Horse District Council was opposed to a new reservoir, and both councils were engaging with the Group Against the Reservoir Development who were suggesting that there was no need for the massive infrastructure, and advocating water transfer from the river Severn. This proposal would take about 3 years, whereas a new reservoir would take about 10 years to build and 2 years to fill. He suggested that the Parish Council might like to consider whether it is fully convinced as to the need for a reservoir and offer its support to GARD.
- 2021/195 Vale of White Horse District Council – Dalton Barracks Supplementary Planning Document
Council discussed the draft supplementary planning document for Dalton Barracks, and considered by notes proposed by Michael Hoath. Key issues raised were: increase in traffic during construction, loss of space for community events, a feasibility plan indicating proof of the need of these houses, the impact on protected areas, vehicle access and transport, secondary transport infrastructure, education, recreation, medical facilities, parking strategies and impact on the AQMA of vehicles in Marcham.

RESOLVED:

that the notes be sent to the Vale of White Horse District Council as the view of the Council.

2021/196

Neighbourhood Plan

Council received an update report on a meeting with a neighbourhood plan officer from the District Council. General information had been provided as to process and funding. Tony Mackelworth was calling the first meeting of the identified steering group.

2021/197

Cllrs. Richard and Catherine Webber left the meeting at 8.20 p.m. during discussion of the following agenda item.

2021/198

Community Facilities

Council noted that the community safety officer from the Vale of White Horse District Council, Lewis Vaughan, had supported Marcham community group with information on “no laughing matter” (a campaign for deterring youngsters from using nitrous oxide for fun), during half term week.

The new artwork for the entrance area to the car park, had been completed and was to be fixed on Tuesday 9th November.

Council received a report from Sandra Hill as to proposed new youth/community shelter. A site meeting had been held on Sunday 7th November, with some councillors, parish clerk, chairman of MCG’s field committee, representatives from the football club and cricket club, and a contractor. Locations had been considered. and the preferred location was west of the junior pitch area and north of the play area. Scale drawings were being prepared by the possible contractor, and he was seeking advice from a structural engineer as to the roof. It was thought that planning consent would be needed as the height could well exceed 4m. Further details were awaited.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of revising the location of the proposed shelter to north of the play area and west of the junior football pitch.

RESOLVED:

that the revised preferred location for a community shelter be north of the play area and west of the junior football pitch.

2021/199

Village Green – Christmas Tree with solar lighting

Ruth Mander gave a report on the supply of Christmas trees. ADM Trees had offered to donate both a small rooted one to be planted in the village green, and a larger cut tree which could be used this year. Lights were available from last year. These would be checked to ensure they were still functioning.

2021/200

Grant Applications

Council noted that one application from South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau had been received by the deadline, one from Marcham

Community Group after the deadline. A third applicant, Be Free, had indicated that an application was to be sent following the half term week, but it had not been received.

Council considered the application from South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau, and noted that 82 Marcham residents had been supported. It was proposed that a grant of £1000 be offered.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of awarding £1000 to South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau.

In favour	Against	Abstention
8	0	0

RESOLVED:

that under s. 142 Local Government Act 1972 a grant of £1000 be awarded to South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau

Council considered the grant application from Marcham Community Group for grounds maintenance. Queries were raised as follows: the time period for which the application related and whether this was a retrospective application, the lack of written quotations for the work involved, and the lack of invoices for the current season which would indicate expenditures involved. Queries were also raised as to whether there were other ways of managing the contracts for maintenance on an area which was used for public recreation.

RESOLVED:

that the application be deferred to allow for further information to be sought from Marcham Community Group

As the expected application from Be Free had not been received it was

RESOLVED:

that this be deferred until the detailed application had been submitted.

2021/201

Vale of White Horse District Council – Arrangement for assessing allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct

Council noted and considered the draft document for the arrangements for assessing allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED:

that Council had no comment that it wished to submit to the Vale of White Horse District Council

2021/202

Climate Emergency

Council considered the request from Zero Hour Oxfordshire to support the Climate Emergency Bill. Central Government was handling the climate emergency strategy, and whilst recognising Zero Hour as a lobby group, members were of the opinion that individuals could support them if they wished. The National Association of Local Councils had published “What can Local Councils do on climate change”. James Plumb was considering this document, as he had previously offered to look at possible local action on climate change matters, and would report back.

Council noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council had available trees for planting on land in its ownership, in accordance with its tree policy. Any third party would need to maintain and water them.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that this Council not support the request from Zero Hour to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill.
- (ii) that the Council’s green group consider whether trees would be required.

2021/203

Oxfordshire County Council – Parish Council workshops on priorities

In the absence of the Chairman, his report on this event which he attended was deferred.

2021/204

Website/Emails/Storage

Council considered the proposal for a new website, email addresses and the quotations received. It also considered possible options for future working for the clerk and cloud storage of Council documents.

The Chairman called for a show of hands of those in favour of Vision ICT and for setting an allowance of £2000 for the cost of a new website

In favour
8

Against
0

Abstention
0

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the cost estimates from Vision ICT be accepted for the design of a new website.
- (ii) that a sum of up to £2000 be agreed for the creation of it
- (iii) that discussion as to storage be deferred until the next meeting

2021/205

Standing Orders

The duration of the meeting had been 2 hours and it was RESOLVED to suspend standing order 3x to allow business to continue.

2021/206

Correspondence

a) GigaClear

Community online event on 2nd November when information as to the programme of works was provided.

Letter from resident

Council considered a letter from a resident regarding the siting of a very large GigaClear cabinet which had been poorly sited in a conservation area near the Church.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a site plan of the cabinet locations and details be obtained from GigaClear
- (ii) that the matter be referred to planning enforcement at the Vale of White Horse District Council

b) Oxfordshire County Council – Drayton Recycling Centre

Centre would be closed Wed 9th and Thursday 10th November.

c) Oxfordshire County Council – A415 Kingston Bagpuize - road

closure - The section of road between Co-operative store and A420 would be closed between 22nd November and 3rd December to allow for sewer connections.

d) Oxfordshire County Council – Road Closure North Street

The section of North Street A415 The Crown public house to the vehicle access into Sweetbriar would be closed between 10th January 2022 to 14th January 2022 to allow for replacement gas main. A bus diversion would be in operation.

e) Oxfordshire County Council – A338 – Temporary speed restriction

14th March 2022 – 29th April 2022, to 20 mph to allow for repairs to Noah's Ark bridge.

2021/207

Accounts

Council received a report on budget monitoring and the accounts with bank reconciliation, as at 30th September, 2021.

The list of payments had been circulated to members, and Council noted the cheques numbered 3457 to 3464 and authorised payments in the sum of £3489.33 in respect of administration costs, play area checks, litter picking, and grass cutting.

RESOLVED:

that the budget monitoring report and balances in the Council's accounts as at 30th September be noted.

2021/208

Matters Raised by Members

Oxfordshire County Council – “Super user”

James Plumb advised that he was attending on line training on 9th November, for being a “super user” and reporter for highway issues.

Sheepstead Road - mud

It was reported that there was mud on Sheepstad Road north of Cow Lane, at the point where vehicles came out of the field, on the eastern side. Pigs were being kept in the field. The Clerk would mention this to the farm.

Thames Water - Reservoir

The Council had previously expressed concerns regarding the reservoir, and the Clerk was asked to re-iterate these following the item put forward by Cllr. Richard Webber.

2021/209

Items for Marcham and District News

The Clerk would prepare an article for MAD News.

2021/210

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be on Monday 13th December, 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall, Barrow Close.

Council discussed arrangements for considering the budget for 2022/23, and noted that the precept was required to be set by full Council at a meeting open to the public. This was usually held once the tax base information had been received from the District Council. In order to have input into the preparatory process, the Clerk was asked to set up a virtual session for members to raise issues.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Signed Date