

MINUTES OF THE NORTH MARSTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

TUESDAY 19TH MAY 2009 AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT: Cllrs Finnemore, Martin, Williams, Gomm, Parks and Gillett and Sue Mordue (Clerk) and 9 member of the public attended.

1. **Election of Chair:** Cllr Alison Finnemore was elected to chair this meeting.
2. **Apologies** – Cllrs Symonds.
3. **Minutes** – the minutes of the last meeting held on 20th May 2008 were approved as a true record.
4. **North Marston Church of England School Report:** The school had reached Travel Plan Level 3 and once the plan is in pace then there is more funding available. A shelter had been built to encourage parents to walk and it is used by the children as well. There is a high % now walking and taking the bus with cycling encouraged and training is being given from this funding. It is hoped to get some money to fund cycle racks. Early Years Provision – there is lots of emphasis on learning outdoors in all weathers and the shelters assist this. There are strong links with other community organisations such as Schorne Pre-School. They visit the sports field and intend to do a lot more of this. The Big Tidy Up happens in September and they will try and link with the community on this. The whole school enjoyed watching the Tour of Cycle Race come through the village and they hope to carry on being involved with the community.
5. **Village Shop Committee report** – A taster day had been held with £108 raised and well attended. Focus is on getting the shop open and people appreciated the task ahead. Information about the progress is on the website. www.northmarstonshop.co.uk. Lots of fund raising plans and it should be open in 2 years in a temporary wooden structure on the village hall site with the Parish Councils agreement. Local volunteers would manage the shop with opening hours to suit and selling everyday items, local produce, and some mail facilities. Feedback from comments made will appear on the website. The Forge building is an option and BCC Highways are happy with this location and the Village Hall location.
6. **North Marston Website Report:** Alan Williams reported that the site was going well and a leaflet had been distributed to publicize it and people are now approaching him to put information onto the site. Most local organisations are now linked to the site and Jo Radcliffe has kindly given northmarston.com to the village and will assist Alan with some works on the current site northmarston.org.
7. **Cricket Club:** report from Gordon Bowden: New season is going well with 10 fixtures booked which at the moment are all away games however next season will be at home on the new sports field. Monday nights is adults practice and Friday nights is junior nets. This is attracting some 25 children aged 5-16 every week and as it is so popular they need some additional volunteers to assist in the training. Big Lottery Fund money had been spent and their auditor came to view the site and was very impressed with the whole sports field area and the fact that the community and school had all been so involved in it. They are hoping to hold a family cricket event later in the summer.
8. **Village Hall:** The committee still has some concerns over the roof and continue to monitor it. The Chestnut tree is diseased and it is recommended that it is removed for safety. This year the hall was decorated by Roy Randles and it has improved the look of the interior and it is hoped the kitchen may be refurbished next year. Currently a replacement is being advertised for booking clerk to replace Paul Young.
9. **Football Club:** Currently they are putting together a grant application for the sports field from Awards for All. They continue to play on a Wednesday night and occasional matches at weekends.

10. **MADS:** This year they put on a very successful pantomime which was enjoyed by full houses at each performance. Also this year many new members joined the cast and it was good to see such support from the village.

11. **Church:** The Ecumenical Church Council is proving successful with a range of services being offered. Congregation size has increased of late with sometime 60-70 members of the congregation in attendance. Photo exhibition was held and was well supported raising some £700 for the Church Restoration Fund.

12. **Parish Council report** – The Council have supported the establishment of a village website, the sports field and the shop and encouraged the committees. They have purchased, jointly with other members of the NAG, a Community Speed watch device and this will be used frequently with volunteers required to man it. New signage has been put up at the Play Area and the equipment has been painted. A new notice has also been put outside the Church to try and stop parking blocking the road. New notice boards have been put up in the bus shelters and there is currently a planning application in for a new notice board outside the School. After a successful meeting with BCC Biodiversity Officer and parishioners it has been decided to try and clear and tidy the pond in October. The junction of Carters Lane continues to be unresolved however we have lobbied our District and County Councillors to try and get something done about the hedge at this junction.

13. **Date of next meeting** would be May 2010. The meeting closed at 8.10pm