

NORTH MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Marston Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Tuesday 21st April 2009 at 8.00pm

Attendees: Cllrs Symonds (Chair), Finnemore, Gomm, Williams, Martin, and Sue Mordue (Clerk). 6 members of the public attended.

169. Receive Apologies: Cllr Gillett.

170. Open Forum:

- a. Alan Williams advised that the website was up and running with village information on it including Parish Council pages and it will be further expanded. The website is: *northmarston.org* and it has 2 email addresses on it – one for the Clerk of the Parish Council and one for website queries and information on how to advertise.
- b. Complaints of dog fouling on the side road between the pub and School Hill, and on the grass verges along Marstonfields Road before the cattle grid. Cllr Gomm advised that the NAG is currently working on setting up a dog watch which would allow residents to report directly to the Police to enforce. Note to be put in the magazine requesting dog owners to pick up after their animals and be kept on a lead at all times.
- c. Graham Payne advised he would like to stand for co-option as a Councillor under item 176b.

171. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda: Cllr Gomm declared his personal interest in items 173a, 173b, 174 c, 179c and his prejudicial interest in item 174a.

172. The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 17th March 2009 were approved as correct.

173. To update on matters arising from the minutes of the last meetings including:

- a. Confirmation of the contents of the letter from Clark Construction: the Clerk read out the letter and it did not state any denial of speeding or use of mobile phones so the Council agreed that the February minutes were correct and no changes were required.
- b. Confirmation of the minute date when Cllr Gomm agreed to undertake work at the pond the Clerk advised that the minute reference for the pond was 21/08/07 minute reference 13. *"Pond Area – Quotation from Richard Carter of £100.00 to remove the bulrushes with a digger and Cllr Gomm agreed to have the debris put on his muck heap at no charge – the Council agreed to this."* Therefore it was 18 months ago that the 'decision' was made for the clearance work to commence, and Cllr Gomm stated that he 'started' the work 12 months ago due to the restrictions on when work is allowed to be done on a pond due to wildlife cycles.

174. To consider correspondence and other communications received since last meeting including:

- a. Invoice and list of donors received from Cllr Gomm re Bulbs: it was agreed that this was not a Parish Council project but was Tricia McSweeney's project to which the Council had merely agreed to donate up to £100 towards. Therefore it would not be down to the Parish Council to collect any funds promised in relation to this.
- b. The Council had received an application from Karen Parks to be considered for the vacant Councillor position. Graham Payne had put his name forward in the Open Forum.

Graham Payne was asked to leave the room for this agenda item.

The Council voted and Karen Parks receive 3 votes, Graham Payne 1 vote and there was 1 no vote.

Therefore the Council agreed to co-opt Karen Parks to the position of Councillor.

- c. Minutes – to agree the format of future minutes following Cllr Gomm's email to the Clerk regarding them – it was agreed that some information as well as just the decision would continue to be recorded, and changes could be made to draft minutes at the meeting under the agenda item if agreed by a majority of Councillors.
- d. Truepath had written requesting putting a clothes recycling container at the village hall. The Council resolved this was not required as bags were distributed and collected from residences already.

175. Notice boards:

- a. The Clerk advised that Roy Randles had put up all the noticeboards and cork boards in the bus shelters.
- b. Update from Clerk re Planning Permission for new Notice board – the Clerk advised this application had been accepted by AVDC and would now be following the normal planning application procedure.

176. Pond Area: Cllr Finnemore advised that a meeting had been held with Paul Holton AVDC Biodiversity Officer along with herself, Cllr Symonds, the Clerk, Janet Gowin and Noel Harvey and it was agreed that the best approach for the pond was to organise a team of village volunteers to assist the Vale Volunteers in clearing the pond. This would be on Wednesday 28th October in half term week. Prior to this date the project team would need to remove all the goldfish and re home them; arrange for containers to collect the waste in (bags/skips) and get a team of volunteers together for this day. AVDC could provide a grant towards cost for the pond. If this project was not successful in removing sufficient reeds from the pond then the situation could be reviewed again.

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Cllr Gomm advised that he and Richard Carter would not be billing for the work they had done at the pond to date and he was thanked by Cllr Symonds on behalf of the Council for this.

177. Play Area:

- a. The Council resolved to accept the quote from Roy Randles to sand down and paint all the woodwork on the Play Area (on Health and Safety grounds) following 2 reports of children getting splinters from the equipment. They agreed it should be painted again next year as it has become very dried out.
- b. Cllr Martin and Gillett had been doing regular checks on the Play Area and Cllr Martin confirmed he would be happy to continue these checks.

178. Highways, Footpaths & Footways, Street Lighting: The following issues and repairs were reported: Portway opposite the bungalows there is a large hole/trench along the verge where it has been eroded and again along Granborough Road beyond the village sign which also needs filling.

179. North Marston and Granborough Community Sports field:

- a. Update from Cllr Martin on progress:
 - i. Football club is working on an application for funding for the pavilion. A requirement for this is that there is a long term agreement for the football club to use the facility. Therefore the Council resolved that in principle it would agree to a sublease to the Sports field Committee who could then provide a lease to the Football Club thus entitling them to apply for funding.
 - ii. Agripower had finished most of the drainage works and the cricket square is greening up.
 - iii. Clear up day very successful with the whole field area looking great with the boardwalk through the nature trail.
 - iv. Fundraising is continuing.
- b. The Council resolved to transfer £1,000 from Parish Council account for 2008/09 which was budgeted and precepted for.
- c. Letter to Cllr Gomm asking him to accept responsibility for items removed from the Sports field –Cllr Gomm refused to sign the letter accepting responsibility for items removed and advised that he would not return them either (but they could be collected) as he would not sign to accept responsibility for them.

180. Finance:

- a. The Council resolved to issue the following cheques:

Parish Council chqs:	Glasdon	chq 830	£55.80
	Sign Wizzard	chq 831	£34.68
	AVDC	chq 832	£226.04
	PRA Randles	chq 833	£118.00
	Lynch Garden Services	chq 834	£65.00
	Weedon Parish Council	chq 835	£30.41
	Lynch Garden Services	chq 836	£65.00
	AVALC	chq 837	£30.00
	E-On	chq 838	£202.11
Sports field chqs:	EJ Tattam	chq 029	£455.00
	R Bradshaw	chq 030	£325.00
	Linnell Bros Ltd	chq 031	£672.84

- b. The Clerk confirmed that the speed watch device, and users of it, is now covered on the Insurance policy.

181. NAG:

- a. Cllr Gomm confirmed he had been testing the new Speed watch device on 2 mornings and the average speed in the village was 37mph and the speeders were local residents, however no action had been taken on these occasions. He would advertise to request volunteers to be trained on using the equipment. He hoped to have an open meeting at the end of May in the village to advertise the device and recruit volunteers. There are now 22 parishes in the NAG and hopefully they will all have access to a device by the end of the year.
- b. As Chair of the NAG he had a meeting with Superintendent Richard List who went through the procedures of the NAG and talked of the Police handing over more responsibilities to these committees.
- c. Youth Event plans are going well and volunteers are needed to assist on the day with 70 exhibitors.
- d. Farm Watch will be up and running by Bucks County Show (end August).
- e. Dog Watch now starting up as detailed in the open forum.

182. Date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 19th May 2009 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm with the Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 8.00pm. Cllr Symonds sent his apologies for these meetings. Invites to be sent to groups to attend.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm