# **Minutes of the North Marston Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall**

# **Tuesday 12th April 2022 at 8.00pm**

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**Attendees:** Cllr Mordue, Cllr Symonds, Cllr Newman, Cllr Martin, Cllr Du Plessis, Cllr Boyt, Cllr Gomm, Clerk Jan Roffe & 4 members of the public

The Chairman cordially welcomed and introduced Jan Roffe as the new Parish Clerk.

**100 Club January Draw:** 1st prize 15 Kate Langston, 2nd prize 31 John Hiller, 3rd prize 96 Barry Kirwan

**33/22 Attendance and apologies;** Cllr Hogbin-Mills

**34/22 Members Interests:** There were no declarations of interest

**35/22 Minutes:** Approved the Minutes of the meeting dated 8th March 2022

**36/22 Planning Applications:**

* Application 22/00818/App at Wheatsheaf Farm: Approved with no issues

**37/22 Buckinghamshire Council** – Update from Cllr Phil Gomm

* Cllr Gomm also welcomed the new Parish Clerk and offered his assistance with any matters where he might be able to help.
* Cllr Hogbin-Mills to pass information about speeding school bus to Cllr Gomm to follow up.
* Community Boards just about to start up again - new financial year but funding down to £140k and structure is different. Quick “micro” grants of £1k to be available.
* More power cuts in the area are likely as Western Power had not yet found the fault.
* Buckinghamshire Council are looking at alternative ways to address speeding, particularly in the villages. Only two TVP speed camera vans in the whole of Thames Valley area so NM would not be a priority area. Parish council to set up a new Speed Watch working party.
* North Marston Hill area – Cllr Gomm asked if the parish council would support a campaign to regenerate the area and get it tidied up? Clerk to liaise with Cllr Gomm, and Oving Parish Council who own the land.
* Cllr Gomm advised that the efficiency of the Planning Department at Buckinghamshire Council is still problematical and that councillors are aware that it is not good enough.
* Land at Quainton Road – no update available as the BC officer responsible is away until 13 April.
* Very good turn-out for the school Easter hat competition, judged by Cllr Gomm. He said it had been a very enjoyable and happy occasion.

**38/22 Neighbourhood Plan:**

* The parish council formally accepted the completed Neighbourhood Plan.
* Intention to submit to BC with the relevant documentation immediately after Easter. BC then take over the process. Once submitted there can be no other comments.
* All documentation to go on to the North Marston Parish Council website as soon as practically possible.
* Groundwork grant closed. £4034.90 was spent and the remaining balance of £695.10 has been refunded.

**39/22 Environment :**

* Highway**:** No action has been reported on the following items

**40131558 White lines at Junction of Schorne Lane & Church Street**

40132835 drain cover broken 71 Quainton Road still broken

40180122 57 Portway drain

40180092 Between 1-7 Church Street – footpath/pavement

40184085 Drain near kerb 47 High Street

Xx 49 Portway pot hole

* Cllr Gomm offered to follow up on the poor repair of potholes on Portway and the drain outside of No.57.
* There is a child sized foot gap between the service box and pavement outside of No.10, Old Police House. A child has already wedged their foot between the gap.
* Cllr Gomm advised that the Transport for Buckinghamshire contract with Buckinghamshire Council is up for renewal and that there are plans to bring services back in-house.
* **Street Lighting**:

1. Quotation from Sparkx of £125 +VAT approved for shields for residential lights at the junction of Church Street/School Lane.
2. Failed light opposite Dudley Close and (c) Bracket for light on Church Street

The parish council agreed up to the sum of £400 to be allocated to both (b) and (c) and for the Clerk to arrange that all three jobs (a), (b) and (c) are carried out together to prevent additional call-out charges.

* **Update on kerbing**:

The parish council agreed to bridge the price gap of £15.84 between the cost of the scheme at School Hill (£11,561.84) and the budget allocated by the Community Board (£11,546). Clerk to write to the Community Board Co-ordinator to progress the Purchase Order and installation.

* **Wooden posts** – Clerk to get quotes for more robust replacement wooden posts on the village green which have been run over.
* **Grant funding - Improving Safety on UK roads**: This funding was highlighted by a resident with a view to repairing potholes in the village. The Clerk advised that it is not designed to fund Highway repairs but for local road safety initiatives/schemes. The Clerk agreed to look at the possibility of applying for an additional “smiley face” speed awareness sign for the village but advised that from her research this is also unlikely to qualify.
* **Rowan and Hazel sapling trees offered by Rachael McRobbie** - Clerk to write a holding email to Rachael McRobbie to say that the parish council are looking for a suitable plot of land for sapling planting.
* **Road to Ruin Festival** – Written concern from a resident on grounds of access and affect upon horses and livestock in the vicinity. Cllr Gomm advised that he and his fellow local councillors are aware and are working with the organisers to arrange a meeting with those most affected. A robust management plan of the event would have to be submitted to BC by the organisers to include a traffic flow plan. If a licence is granted the Parish Council recognised that traffic flow through the village is likely to increase but it was agreed that with a maximum number of 499 festival goers it would not be a significant enough increase for North Marston Parish Council to object. Clerk to reply to the resident concerned advising of the meeting to be arranged by Cllr Gomm and he agreed that further concerns could be addressed to him.

**40/22 Parish Action Plan/Projects:**

1. **Playground**

* **No response from Kompan regarding the safety of the equipment prior to the RoSPA inspection in May. Clerk to chase.**
* **Clerk to establish the date of/book the annual RoSPA equipment safety inspection.**
* **Cllr Boyt now has the necessary tools to tighten the zip wires on the zip line and will do so.**
* **Cllr Mordue agreed to purchase and fix a new basketball net as the current one has been torn.**

1. **Jubilee – Cllr Mordue advised that nobody turned up to the meeting to discuss a village event and that there would therefore not be any events organised by the parish council.**
2. **Village Hall**

* **Cllr Mordue has ordered four new fire extinguishers to meet the required safety regulations.**
* **The end toilet has been checked following reports of a smell but none was evident – to be monitored.**
* **A leak under the kitchen sink was found to be causing mould and damp – Cllr Mordue to repair it over the Easter period.**
* **Cllr Mordue to send the Clerk the meter readings**

1. **Aylesbury Wild Vale Project**

* **Cllrs Du Plessis and Hogbin-Mills to liaise with the contractor about re-wilding the verges and sourcing bird and bat boxes.**
* **Sourcing a pond education insert has proved difficult. Cllr Du Plessis and Clerk to continue to research possibilities. Cllr Symonds suggested Osis Displays.**

1. **Hedgehog Highway Project – Clerk to look at the inclusion of a local nature page on website as soon as is practically possible.**
2. **Sportsfield CCTV:**

* **Cllr Mordue to liaise with Helen Shotton to see if it is possible to connect the Sportsfield to the internet.**
* **Cllr Gomm agreed to contact Gigaclear about a connection to the internet.**

**41/22 Retiring Parish Clerk**

* **The Chairman, on behalf of the parish council, expressed his thanks to Rachel Callander for her outstanding hard work and commitment in the role of Parish Clerk for the last 5 years. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for a gift to be given to Rachel as a mark of the parish council’s gratitude and appreciation.**

**42/22 Finance:**

* The expenditure of £342 was agreed by Cllrs Mordue and Symonds for a new defibrillator battery.
* It was noted that it is not the responsibility of the parish council to maintain allotment hedges, but that of the tenant. The parish council therefore did not approve payment of an invoice of £25 from the tenant for hedge cutting.

**Receipts and Payments of Accounts:**

**The following has been paid for the Village Hall (2021/2022)**

E.on (01.11.2021-28.02.2022) £186.99, £8.90 VAT included

Emma Lynch (13.02.22-26.02.22) £75.00, no VAT included

Anneka Boyt refund 15/03/22 £98.00, no VAT included

Tricia Mc Sweeney Party refund 14/03/22 £32.00, no VAT included

E.On Next (01.02.2022-28.02.2022) £23.85, £1.14 VAT included

**The following has been received for the Village Hall (2021/22)**

NM Pre School £2,393.94, no VAT included

David Allen (Guitar lessons) £101.61, no VAT included

**The following will be paid for the Village Hall (2022/23)**

Melanie Hastings party deposit refund £50.00, no VAT included

Katherine Du Plessis party deposit refund £50.00, no VAT included

Mandy Burton party deposit £50.00, no VAT included

Emma Lynch (06.03.22-27.03.22) £100.00, no VAT included

**The following have been paid for the Sports Field (2021/22)**

IPM £624.30, £104.05 VAT included

E.on Next (01.02.2022-28.02.2022) £133.16, £6.34 VAT included

**The following will be paid for the Sports Field (2022/23)**

CT Mowers £400.00, no VAT included

000732 100 Club 1st prize £30.00, no VAT included

000733 100 Club 2nd prize £20.00, no VAT included

000734 100 Club 3rd prize £10.00, no VAT included

**The following have been paid for the Parish Council (2021/22)**

Chapman Planning (Neighbourhood Plan) £3,972.50, no VAT included

LERC Online (Neighbourhood Plan) £62.40, £10.40 VAT included

Defibshop £342.00, £57.00 VAT included

Groundwork UK (Neighbourhood Plan) £695.10, no VAT included

SparkX Ltd (Street Lighting Repairs) £3,030.16

**The following will be paid for the Parish Council (2022/23)**

Clerk April salary £\*\*.\*\* no VAT included

Michael Lane (Neighbourhood Plan) £164.96, £27.50 VAT included

NBPPC membership £20.00, no VAT included

nPOWER (Street Lighting) 1st January–31st January £191.52 and 1st February–28 February £165.55.

**Total - £357.07**

**The parish council is in receipt of the following**

Buckinghamshire Council Devolution £1,902.51

* It was agreed that the Clerk would look at the possibility of simplifying the system around the booking and deposit for the hire of the Village Hall.

**43/22 Next Parish Council meeting:**

* Tuesday 10th May at 8pm in the Village Hall
* Annual Village Meeting Tuesday 17th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

***Jan Roffe, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council***