

# North Marston Parish Council

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## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

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**Present:** Councillors I Mordue (Chairman), A Boyt (Vice Chairman), D Hogbin-Mills, B Newman, C Hutson and C Smythe and Jan Roffe, Clerk

Nine members of the public were present.

**137/23 Apologies:** Apologies were received from Councillors Du-Plessis and Newman and Buckinghamshire Councillor, Phil Gomm.

**138/23 Members Interests:** Councillor Hutson declared an interest in item 141/23: 23/03807/APP as a resident living in a neighbouring property to 3 High Street.

**Open forum for Parishioners:** (under adjournment – 20 minutes. 3 minutes per person speaking) to include 100 Club Christmas Draw for December 2023.

### 100 Club Christmas Draw

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - £60 No.23 Graham Jenner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £40 No.20 Elizabeth Crocker, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - £20 No.86 Sarah Howes

**139/23 Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were approved and signed.

**140/23 Buckinghamshire Council update:** In Councillor Gomm's absence there were no updates on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council.

### 141/23 To consider the following Planning applications:

- (i) 23/03304/APP – Revised application (Expiry consultation date 26<sup>th</sup> December 2023)  
11 Dudley Close North Marston MK18 3RA  
Householder application for erection of first floor rear balcony and staircase

**RESOLVED:** After a brief discussion it was resolved that the Parish Council had no objections to this application.

- (ii) 23/03540/APP (Expiry consultation date 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023)  
11, Dudley Close, North Marston, MK18 3RA  
Extension of residential curtilage and erection of detached double garage.

**RESOLVED:** After a brief discussion it was resolved that the Parish Council had no objections to this application.

- (iii) 23/03807/APP (expiry consultation date 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024)  
Land at rear of 3 High Street, North Marston, MK18 3PD  
Erection of single storey dwelling

**RESOLVED:** In principle, the Parish Council has no objections to the new plans for a bungalow on land to the rear of No.3 High Street and is pleased that some of its previous concerns have been addressed. However, the Parish Council remains concerned about parking and the danger of cars parking on the High Street. Also it has concerns about access and the danger of vehicles reversing out into High Street as there will be no room to turn. The application form is incorrect as there is a modification to the right of access and there are only four parking spaces shown on the plans and not five. There is evidence that shows that there is a diverted right of way and the application for 5 parking spaces needs to be reviewed.

**142/23 To receive any updates and discuss actions on the following matters:**

**Environment**

**1. Highways:**

(i) To receive an update on any new and resolved issues:

- The broken gully drain outside No.47 High Street has now been repaired.
- The kerb weir drain beneath the electricity pole on the junction with Church Street has been blocked with bitumen when road works to the pavement and road took place. The road is now prone to flooding. Highways are aware and have been reminded that remedial works need to be carried out as soon as possible.
- Councillor Smythe is waiting for a reply to her email to ascertain whether Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) have carried out gully cleaning works in our area.
- Councillor Smythe had received correspondence from the Local Area Technician to explain that the reason High Street had not been scheduled for any pothole patching work was because the road is to be resurfaced next year and he was mindful not to waste taxpayers' money. The potholes are shallow and were considered more annoying than dangerous. However, it has now been confirmed that patching repairs will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December with a road closure in place from 9.30am to 3.30pm on both days.

(ii) **MVAS update**

The MVAS signs have been moved to comply with Buckinghamshire Council's MVAS policy.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to order an additional pole to adhere to requirements.

(ii) **The ditch in Quainton Road**

**RESOLVED:** The ditch has been confirmed as the Parish Council's responsibility. The Clerk to contact Nick Sear and George Cheshire for quotations for its clearance.

(iv) **Parking update:** There is some improvement, but still some bad parking on verges.

**3. Grass and hedges:** The current contract with Blades Turfcare ends in March 2024.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to update the grass and hedges specification documents to prepare to send out for the tendering process in the New Year.

**143/23 Parish Action Plan: To receive any relevant updates on/discuss the following:**

1. **The Parish Barn:** Following a request for quotations for some maintenance work on the Old Threshing Barn, the suggestion is that it might be unsafe.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to commission a structural surveyor to come out to look at the barn, write a report and make recommendations for its repair to make it structurally safe and watertight. The amount agreed is up to £600.00 inc. VAT.

2. **Village Hall Car Park:** Update: Work has been completed on the surface overlay of the car park at the bottom of The Shop ramp to stop a muddy puddle from forming. The Parish Council acknowledged the Shop's kind donation of £425.00 (no VAT), representing 50% of the cost of the repairs.

3. **Village Hall maintenance:** There were no updates and nothing to report.

4. **Play Area:** The Clerk had been unable to source shackles for the play area swings without more information about the make and model required. There had also been no progress on

recommendations and quotes for a different surface to the gravel path running across the play area.

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Mordue offered to go to the play park and look at the swings and to order the appropriate shackles. Councillor Hutson offered to ask Edwards Surfacing to look at the play area path and make his recommendations for a new surface material and to quote.

5. **Village Pond and Parsnip Pond:** No updates, other than that the barley straw extract has been successful in keeping the village pond clear of blanket weed.
6. **Defibrillators:** All checked monthly by Councillor Hutson and all pads are currently in date.

**144/23 Projects: To receive any updates and/or discuss:**

- (i) New streetlight opposite Sportsfield  
The quote from Sparkx is considered too high to make the project viable  
**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to obtain further quotes. Councillor Mordue agreed to investigate the possibility of a solar powered streetlight and whether or not one would be suitable for requirements. Also, to investigate overhead power from the Pavilion.
- (ii) **Village Hall Audio-visual equipment**  
**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council resolved to put this project on hold considering the cost and the budget available.  
**Encouraging Wildlife/Aylesbury Vale Wild Project: Update:** The board walk needs to be replaced and the school would like a composting toilet as the children currently have to go across the field to the sports pavilion if they need to go to the toilet.  
**RESOLVED:** As the Parish Council owns the nature trail, it was agreed to budget £1,500 for the nature trail and Forest School area to help contribute towards costs.  
**RESOLVED:** It was agreed to shelve the idea of “No Parking” signs along the rewilded verges.
- (iii) **Website upgrade.** It was agreed that the website needs updating.  
**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to investigate the costs of professional website design companies and to advertise for a volunteer who may be looking for a website design project and report back.

**145/23 Sportsfield:** To receive any relevant updates.

- i. The Sportsfield Committee had recently met with the cricket and football clubs who have agreed to provide parking monitors during fixtures.
- ii. More volunteers have come forward for the mowing rota.
- iii. The committee is working on ideas for a fundraising event in the spring to help raise some money.

**146/23 Land at Quainton Road:** To receive any relevant updates.

Councillor Mordue gave an update on the dispute opened by the Parish Council with HM Land Registry in September 2023 over the ownership of the land to the north of Quainton Road. He explained that the Parish Council had paid £245.00 for all the documentation associated with the registration of the land and that the Clerk had written a letter to HM Land Registry on the Parish Council’s behalf, disputing the third party’s claims of ownership and enclosing documentary evidence to show that the land is Common Land.

The Clerk had chased a response from HM Land Registry and had been assured of a response soon. Councillor Mordue thanked Councillor Hutson and the Clerk for all their work on this.

## **147/23 Finance:**

1. **PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2024-25** The Parish Council discussed the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the budget for 2024-25, including Village Hall hire rates, utilities and anything else arising.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk, with the help of Councillor Mordue, to prepare the final budget spreadsheet and figures to be approved at the January meeting, together with the level of Precept to be requested.

## **2. To approve the following receipts and payments:**

### **Receipts and Payments of Accounts**

#### **Parish Council**

##### **Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council**

New Parish laptop - £858.099, £143.18 VAT (please note that there is a refund of £119.99 for Microsoft, below, under Payments Received)

Tesco Mobile – Parish ‘phone contract November - £7.50, no VAT (DD)

HPI Instant Ink – printer ink contract - £11.49, £1.92 VAT (DD) Additional printing for HM Land Registry

SLCC Membership - £146.00 no VAT

SSE Energy – Streetlighting 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September - £9.50, £1.58 VAT

SSE Energy – Streetlighting 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> October - £9.79, £1.63 VAT

##### **Payments to be paid on behalf of the Parish Council**

Clerk Salary – November £\*\*\*.\*\*, no VAT

Clerk expenses – November - office allowance, £26.00 no VAT, Recorded delivery £9.45 no VAT. Total: £35.45

Blades Turf Care – November grass cutting - £915.90, £152.65 VAT

PRA Randles – Maintenance of village benches x 4 = £320.00 no VAT

E-on Next – Electricity SR 4<sup>th</sup> November to 3<sup>rd</sup> December - £39.93, £1.90 VAT (DD)

##### **Payments received on behalf of the Parish Council**

Curry’s Aylesbury – Refund for Microsoft Subscription (PC already had subscription) - £119.99

#### **Village Hall**

##### **Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall**

Wave Water - £108.87, no VAT

Reimbursement to the PC account (paid by PC debit card) for the high-level feather duster - £29.82, £5.00 VAT

Reimbursement to the PC account (paid by PC debit card) for multi pack toilet cleaner - £14.99, £2.50 VAT

##### **Payments received on behalf of the Village Hall**

Hayley Henderson – Hire of VH for 7<sup>th</sup> January and deposit - £80.00, no VAT

##### **Payments to be made on behalf of the Village Hall**

Edward Surfacing – repair/overlay car park surface at the bottom of the Shop ramp - £1,020.00, £170.00 VAT

Kate Hurst/Wetherall – weekly clean November - £187.50, no VAT

PRA Randles – Various requested small maintenance tasks - £73.00 no VAT

E-on Next – Electricity Schorne Room 4<sup>th</sup> Oct to 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov - £33.76, £1.61 VAT

#### **Sports Field**

##### **Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield**

Wave Water – 9<sup>th</sup> August to 8<sup>th</sup> November - £79.42, no VAT

Rebecca Parker (Marvellous Marigolds) – SF pavilion cleaning November - £73.69, no VAT

**Payments to be made on behalf of the Sportsfield**

Peter Butler – expenses for Autumn Sportsfield clear up and new noticeboards - £582.54, £97.09 VAT

E-on Next – Electricity 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November - £82.77, £3.94 VAT

000797 100 Club 1<sup>st</sup> prize December Christmas Draw, £60.00, no VAT

000798 100 Club 2nd prize December Christmas Draw, £40.00, no VAT

000799 100 Club 3rd prize December Christmas Draw, £20.00, no VAT

**148/23 Items for the next agenda.** There were not items raised for the next agenda.

**149/23 Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 8pm in the Village Hall

***Jan Roffe, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council  
18th December 2023***