

# North Marston Parish Council

Clerk to the council: Ms Jan Roffe - Email: [northmarston@gmail.com](mailto:northmarston@gmail.com). Telephone 07933 624147

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024

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Present: Councillors I Mordue (Chairman), A Boyt (Vice Chairman), D Hogbin-Mills, K Du-Plessis, B Newman, and S Hill. Jan Roffe, (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

**224/24 Apologies:** Apologies were received from Councillor Phil Gomm (Buckinghamshire Council)

**225/24 Members Interests:** There were no declarations of interest from Members.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize:** £30.00 - No. 86 – Sarah Howes

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** £20.00 – No. 47 – Jo Radcliffe

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** £10.00 – No. 71 – Paul Bagni

**226/24 Buckinghamshire Council update:** In his absence, Councillor Gomm had sent an email to explain that in this pre-election period of political sensitivity (formally known as Purdah), he did not have any updates, but that he is there to help and with projects, if needed.

**227/24 Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were approved and signed.

**228/24 Update on Parish Councillor Vacancy:** The Clerk advised that she had not received any expressions of interest in the vacancy and will advertise it again on Facebook. It is already on the Parish Council website and advertised on the Parish Council Noticeboard.

**229/24 Update on the land to the north of Quanton Road:** The Clerk advised that the only update received from HM Land Registry is a formal notice that now both parties have had the opportunity to put their case, it will now go forward to the First-Tier Tribunal. A date has not yet been notified.

**230/24 To consider the following Planning Application:**

**24/01289/APP - NORTH MARSTON**

Stonehill Farm Quanton Road North Marston Buckinghamshire MK18 3JZ

Demolition of existing lean-to conservatory. Conversion of detached barn/stable for residential use with erection of porch and associated works.

Change of use of land to residential garden and parking.

**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council had no objections to this application.

**231/24 To receive any updates and discuss actions on the following matters:**

### Environment

#### 1. Highways

(i) Any new and resolved issues: Updates: Councillor Boyt advised that Anglian Water had been out to look at the problem of the sewerage leak into the ditch outside Franklin's Farm. They have found a damaged pipe and will hopefully repair or replace the section of pipe concerned. Also, the ditch opposite the Old Police House has been cleared, but the drain is still blocked.

(ii) MVAS: Two additional ground sockets for the MVAS have been installed – one in Quanton Road and one on Portway, Marston Hill end.

(iii) Parking: A PCSO has been in touch with the Clerk, but no action has been decided yet. Concern was expressed about parking right on the corner of the junction of Quainton Road and High Street/Granborough Road causing a danger to pedestrians and other motorists.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to write on behalf of the Parish Council to encourage guests to the property to park away from the corner.

(iv) Church Street Road sign: The Clerk has been in touch with the Local Area Technician to remind him and has received confirmation that it is on the list of jobs. The road signage team has been working in other Buckinghamshire areas and have replaced over 250 street name signs but have not got to our area yet. The replacement of the village gate was also spoken about as it has now been some months since it was demolished by a motorist

**RESOLVED;** The Clerk to ask the Local Area Technician for an update on the replacement of the village gate.

Streetlight at the bottom of School Hill: **RESOLVED:** Clerk to source another quotation for comparison before the Parish Council makes a decision.

(v) CCTV

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Du-Plessis agreed to research what other villages are doing regarding CCTV and the regulations around it and will report back to council at the next meeting.

## **232/24 Parish Action Plan: To receive any relevant updates on/discuss the following:**

### **1. The Parish Barn**

(i) Update on the History Club's proposal and next steps.

John Spargo shared an updated version of the proposed project plan.

**RESOLVED:** That John continue to investigate Heritage Lottery funding and what the funding might cover of the repairs to be made before the Parish Council makes a decision on the next steps. The Clerk to go back to the structural engineer to confirm the integrity of the building in the meantime. Councillor Hall agreed to oversee the project in liaison with John Spargo and report back to council.

Village Hall

(i) **The Shop's use of back area of Schorne Room.**

A door has now been installed between the Schorne Room and the storage area.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to email the Committee to say that the door between the two must be able to be unlocked at all times on Health and Safety (fire) grounds. A key on a hook in the Schorne Room would allow access in an emergency.

(ii) Purchase of storage shelving for Parish Council use

Councillor Mordue has purchased the shelving and will install it as soon as possible.

(iii) PA system

Councillor Mordue is looking into which PA system would best serve everyone's needs.

(iv) Fire Extinguisher service by Churches

This had been discussed and resolved at a previous meeting and was an error on the agenda.

### **2. Play Area**

Councillor Newman had completed safety checks on the play area from the ROSPA check list compiled by ROSPA especially for North Marston's play area.

**RESOLVED:** (i) The bolts to the rope net in the junior play area are coming loose. The Clerk to alert Kompan and ask if they can supply the correct parts for Councillor Newman to install.

(ii) The Clerk to keep a record of the checks and maintenance tasks on file.

It was also noted that children are getting through a gap in the hedge at the bottom left of the play area as a short cut onto Quainton Road. This is a Health and Safety concern.

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Mordue and Councillor Boyt offered to install livestock posts and wire to prevent children getting through.

The bin that is the responsibility of Buckinghamshire Council to empty by the pergola is not being emptied.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to email Street Scene as it should be emptied as part of the contract.

**Village Pond and Parsnip Pond.**

The Village Pond has successfully been cleared of most of the blanket weed using barley extract. There are a lot of newts and other pondlife present, including great crested newts. Thank you to Christina Hutson and other volunteers for their hard work. The grass is currently only cut once a month as per the specification and may need to be cut more often in the summer months.

Parsnip Pond is now in need of clearance again and after a brief discussion about whether to ask Blades to maintain the whole Parsnip Pond area, it was decided that volunteers should continue to do so.

**RESOLVED:** (i) David Heffer kindly volunteered to trim around Parsnip Pond. The Clerk to ask for volunteer work parties for this and other similar tasks. (ii) Councillor Mordue to email Blades to ask for a quotation for cutting and strimming the grass around the village pond twice a month during the summer.

3. **Defibrillators** – all status checked, and The Circuit updated by Christina Hutson. The Clerk was reminded to order defibrillator pads for the Sports field unit as they expire on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2024.

**233/24 Projects: To receive any updates and/or discuss:**

**(i) Church Street kerbing**

**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council agreed that it could not fund the project from reserves at an estimated cost of over £14k even if completed as part of the resurfacing work in Church Street. The Clerk to request that Buckinghamshire Highways therefore continue with the resurfacing work in the High Street and Church Street area as originally planned for the end of June/early July and not to wait for grant funding. The Clerk to continue to look for grant funding to help support the costs of the installation of additional granite sets at a future date.

- (ii) Bollards to protect verges at Gibbings Close junction** - The Clerk had emailed the LAT again and is waiting for a response.
- (iii) New streetlight opposite Sports field entrance** – it should be possible to install PIR's on the Sports field signage by the gate to illuminate the area. Councillors Mordue and Hall are still investigating the possibilities.
- (iv) Website upgrade** – ongoing, but none of the local groups had responded to the Chairman's emails asking for updates for the new pages.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to email all local groups again and ask them to send their updates to the website creator/designer, Martin Tanner.

- (v) Encouraging Wildlife/Aylesbury Vale Wild Project** – the wildflower areas are flowering well, including the new area in Quainton Road. It was commented upon that the variety of flowers in Quainton Road does not appear to be as great as those at the Granborough and Portway ends of the village.

**234/24 Sports Field:** (i) Drainage project – the drainage project is now complete and Blades have done a great job. The paid invoices have been sent to the Community Board Manager so that the grant funding can be paid back into the Parish Council account. (ii) Sports field fencing - James Radcliffe is replacing the areas where the posts are rotten, and the wire fencing has fallen over. (iii) Forest School – no updates since the last meeting.

**235/24 Finance:**

To acknowledge receipt of the Internal Auditor's Report and comments

**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council had received a copy of the Internal Auditor's report and had noted its contents.

1. To approve the AGAR and accounts 2023-24 for Clerk to submit to external auditor.  
**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council approved the AGAR and accounts for 2023.24 to submit to the external auditor.
2. To approve the VAT Return for 2023-24 for Clerk to submit to HMRC  
**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council approved the VAT Return for 2023.24 to submit to HMRC.
3. To agree the following Receipts and Payments of Accounts:  
**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council approved the following Payments and Receipts:

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

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

Tesco Mobile Parish Phone Contract - £8.09 no VAT

HPI Instant Ink – printer ink contract - £12.49, £2.08 VAT

Highway & Solar Solutions Ltd – MVAS sockets - £1,849.26, £308.21 VAT

Blades – May grass cutting - £846.40, £141.07 VAT

Blades – Sportsfield drainage project sand delivery - £10,200, £1,700 VAT

Blades – Sportsfield drainage project final instalment - £9,600, £1,600.00 VAT

(Both the above to be reimbursed back to the PC account when SF receives the grant funding of £12,375.00 from the Community Board and pays the remaining balance of £4,125.00, no VAT, from SF funds)

Manor Farm – Quanton Road ditch clearance - £420.00, £70.00 VAT

Dave Catling – MVAS Socket No.171 license fee - £386.00, no VAT

Buckinghamshire Council - Premises Licence VH - £70.00, No VAT

SSE Energy – Streetlighting 1 April to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 - £18.80, £1.99 VAT, CCL £0.06.

Clear Council Insurance - £1,670.32, no VAT

North Marston History Club – PC grant award - £300.00, no VAT

Nag-O-Wombles – PC grant award - £200.00, no VAT

Parish Council re Sportsfield – PC £2,000.00 donation 23/24 and 24/25

More Solutions – Domain renewal - £60.00, £10.00 VAT

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

Clerks Salary - £\*\*\*.\*\*, no VAT

Clerk’s expenses – office allowance £26.00 no VAT, consumables £23.99, £4.00 VAT (box printer paper), £1.25 stamp HM Land Registry letter and mileage to and from internal auditor x2 = £11.20 Total: £64.44.

Sparkx – call out and photocell repair outside 1, Morton Close - £295.80, £49.30 VAT

1<sup>st</sup> Granborough Scouts – PC grant award - £100.00, no VAT

Buckinghamshire Council for North Marston C of E School grant award - £250.00, no VAT

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

Transfer from VH to PC account for reimbursement of premises licence - £70.00 no VAT

Buckinghamshire Council - Hire of Schorne Room for Police Commissioner Election - £250.00, no VAT (to be reimbursed to VH account).

### **Village Hall**

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

PRA Randles – VH maintenance and manhole cover for car park - £346.00, no VAT

Charlotte Wilson – refund for hire of VH for party - £50.00, no VAT

Katherine Wetherell – VH cleaning April - £150.00, no VAT

E-On Next – Electricity 22<sup>nd</sup> August 22 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 24 for Village Hall - £75.88, £12.18 VAT

E-on Next – Electricity 4<sup>th</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> April 24 for SR - £39.35 £1.87 VAT

Anglian Water – 9<sup>th</sup> Feb to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 VH- £107.34, no VAT

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

Mark Charman – balance for hire of VH for party - £45.00, no VAT

Aeysha King – deposit for hire of VH for party - £50.00, no VAT

500461 - £160.00 to be identified

**Sportsfield**

**Sports Field Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield**

Rebecca Parker – Marvellous Marigolds May cleaning - £67.50, no VAT

Oakpark Alarms – Pavilion alarm servicing contract - £166.80, £27.80 VAT

James Radcliffe – mower fuel - £84.19, £14.04 VAT

**Payments received on behalf of the Sportsfield**

Granborough Parish Council – donation to Sportsfield - £1,000.00, no VAT

North Marston Parish Council – donation to Sportsfield for 2023/24 and 2024/25, £2,000.00, no VAT

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

000815 100 Club 1st prize £30.00, no VAT

000816 100 Club 2nd prize £20.00, no VAT

000817 100 Club 3rd prize £10.00, no VAT

E-on Next – Electricity 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> May 24 - £127.64, £6.91 VAT

**236/24 Date of the next meeting:** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

*Jan Roffe, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council*

*17<sup>th</sup> June 2024*