

North Marston Parish Council

Clerk to the council: Ms Jan Roffe - Email: northmarston@gmail.com. Telephone 07933 624147

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors I Mordue (Chairman), A Boyt (Vice Chairman), K Du-Plessis, B Newman, S Hill and Jan Roffe, Clerk.

191/24 Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillor Hogbin-Mills and from Buckinghamshire Councillor, Phil Gomm.

192/24 Members Interests: There were no declarations of interest received.

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

The Parish Council wished it logged that a resident has reported that sewerage is once again leaking into the ditch on the corner of Franklin's Farm and that this has been reported to the Environment Agency.

100 Club Draw winners:

First Prize £30 No.68 Pete Howes

Second Prize £20 No.63 Debbie Scott

Third Prize £10 No.81 Des and Jan Quinn

193/24 Buckinghamshire Council update: In his absence, Councillor Gomm had sent the following points in an email update:

1. There will be a Buckinghamshire Council meeting on Wednesday 17th April 2024 at 4pm in the Oculus, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, which is open to the Press and public or via webcast. The meeting will be interesting and will include the following presentation and topics:

- (a) Presentation from Bucks Fire & Rescue Service.
- (b) Corporate Plan refresh.
- (c) Buckinghamshire Housing Strategy 2024-2029.
- (d) Select Committee Annual reports.

2. Work is scheduled to start at the end of June on the resurfacing of North Marston High Street from the bell mouth of Church Street to the junction of Carters Lane. There will be road closures in place, including in Church Street and other side roads. The finer details are to be announced nearer the time.

3. Winslow and Villages Community Board. North Marston groups have been awarded grants. The Sports Field has been awarded a grant of £12,375.00 towards the project to improve the sports field drainage and the Forest School has been awarded approximately £1k for tools and equipment to help educate the younger ones of our community, on top of the tree saplings acquired from HS2. Councillor Gomm will update fully at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

4. Dementia Awareness Day will be held at Winslow Library on Monday 13th May.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Councillor Gomm: Philip.Gomm@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

194/24 Minutes: To minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th March 2024 were approved and signed.

195/24 Update on Parish Councillor Vacancy: The vacancy has been advertised and expressions of interest invited. The Clerk is waiting to hear from Buckinghamshire Council's Electoral Services (after the required 14-day deadline period due to end on the 11th April), whether there will be an election of whether the Parish Council is able to co-opt.

196/24 Update on the land to the north of Quainton Road: The Clerk advised that HM Land Registry had written to say that it has received an objection to the Parish Council's submissions from the claimant to the land. The Parish Council was asked to confirm whether it wished the matter to proceed to a Tribunal by completing a form. As this had already been agreed at the previous meeting, the Clerk had already completed and sent off the required form to Land Registry.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to HM Land Registry by the 25th of April deadline to request that ALL the documentation the Parish Council submitted to support its case is passed to the Tribunal.

197/24 To consider the following Planning Application:

24/00894/APP – 47, Quainton Road, Buckinghamshire MK18 3PR

First floor side extension above existing extension. Single storey side extension to form new entrance area and single storey rear extension.

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

198/24 To receive any updates and discuss actions on the following matters:

Environment

1. Highways:

(i) Request for a councillor to take responsibility for updates on new and resolved issues

RESOLVED: After a discussion it was agreed that any highways issues reported directly to the Parish Council during the Open Forum, would be logged as an appendix to the minutes and updated as and when remedial works had been carried out. Residents are still encouraged to report any problems on Buckinghamshire Council's website on Fix My Street: [FixMyStreet \(buckinghamshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/fixmystreet)

(ii) **MVAS update** – Councillor Mordue confirmed that the MVAS signs had been swapped around on the six-week rota basis. The Clerk has chased the contractor who has yet to install the new MVAS sockets again, but he has been on leave and the Clerk is still waiting for a response.

(iii) **The ditch in Quainton Road update** – The Clerk had emailed Nick Sears and he has responded to say that he will clear the ditches now that the weather is dryer.

(iv) **Grass and hedge cutting**

Blades has accepted the Grass and Hedge Cutting Contract for another two years at the price quoted and has asked for a map highlighting the specific area of verge along St John's Lane that is to be allowed to grow to encourage wild flowering.

RESOLVED: Clerk to arrange for a map to be sent.

(v) **Parking**

Following the Highways meeting on 13th March, the Local Area Technician has advised that any highways project proposals can be outlined to him in the first instance. He will then forward them on to the new mailbox to be reviewed by the Commissioning Team.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to outline proposals for the Church Street kerbing project as a priority, and also the bollards at the Gibbings Close/Granborough Road junction in order to protect the verge.

(vi) **Any other matters**

There was a short discussion about the problem of the grass verge in Quainton Road being severely damaged by tractors/large vehicles driving over it to avoid parked cars.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to ask the Local Area Technician whether it would be viable to install grasscrete to protect the verge and if so, how to proceed.

199/24 Parish Action Plan: To receive any relevant updates on/discuss the following:

1. The Parish Barn

Update on the History Club's proposal.

John Spargo was unable to attend but had sent an email outlining the next steps to be in a position to present a full proposal to the Parish Council at a later date.

Update on quotations for work to be done to surveyor's specification.

The Clerk advised that MW Contractors had agreed to quote for the work and was still making enquiries of other builders.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed that it should still proceed with work to make the barn safe whilst the History Club continues with the preparation of its proposal and investigates the possibility of Heritage grant funding to include repair work to the barn.

2. Village Hall

(i) Request from The Shop for freezer and shelving space at the Village Hall

RESOLVED: It is proposed that the back kitchenette area behind the Schorne Room is made into an area for a chest freezer and shelving to enable The Shop to increase its stock. Staff and volunteers will be able to use the back door so as not to disturb the Preschool. It will however be necessary to come to an agreement about payment for the electricity used.

(ii) Purchase of storage shelving for Parish Council in Village Hall back extension

RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed that up to £1k be allocated towards the purchase of shelving and a lockable filing cabinet(s) for the storage of Parish Council archive material that is currently being stored by the Clerk and other councillors.

(iii) Fire Extinguisher service by Churches

The requirement is for the extinguishers to be checked on a regular basis. The current extinguishers were only purchased in 2022 and are still within their five-year warranty and lifespan and are checked on a regular basis by Councillor Mordue.

RESOLVED: It was decided to continue with the regular safety checks and service checks by Councillor Mordue on a three-monthly basis. Councillor Mordue will keep a record of the checks made for the Village Hall and the Sports field extinguishers and inform the Clerk when the checks have been carried out.

3. Play Area update: Two recycling bins have been taken out of commission and there is no longer a need to buy a new lid as the old lid has been found. ROSPA is due to carry out its next unannounced inspection soon, usually in May.

RESOLVED: Councillor Newman agreed to research and check that the Parish Council is meeting its Health and Safety responsibilities and checks according to ROSPA's guidelines. Councillors Mordue and Hall agreed to look at the swing shackles, which are proving hard to source because of their age.

It was agreed to remove some of the gravel nearest to the junior play area to help prevent it migrating onto the safety matting around the play equipment.

4. Village Pond and Parsnip Pond

Great Crested Newts are currently to be seen in the Village Pond.

The willows are growing over Parsnip Pond again. Councillors Mordue (and Hogbin-Mills via email prior to the meeting), have volunteered to cut them back, but it was agreed that the summer would be the best time.

5. Defibrillators – All have been status checked by Christina Hutson. No current issues.

200/24 Projects: To receive any updates and/or discuss:

(i) New streetlight opposite Sports field entrance

RESOLVED: To take this on as a local project and to continue to research the best type of lighting solution to be installed on the sports field side of the road. This to be activated by a PIR sensor. Councillors Mordue and Hall agreed to report back to council with further details and a quotation.

(ii) Church Street kerbing and (iii) Bollards to protect some verges

RESOLVED: As per item 198/24 (v), the Clerk to write to the Local Area Technician with both the above project proposals for him to advise and forward to the Commissioning Team.

(iii) Encouraging Wildlife/Aylesbury Vale Wild Project – no updates

201/24 Sportsfield: (i) Progress on sports field tidy update – the Scouts have been asked to tidy the area around the storage containers and to complete the cladding. Illness has prevented this from progressing. There was a brief discussion about the disposal of the branches and vegetation from the autumn clear-up.

RESOLVED: Councillor Mordue agreed to speak to Trevor Lane about more environmentally friendly ways to either use or dispose of the branches, logs and vegetation left in piles for burning.

(ii) The possibility of an artificial pitch – this and various other options were discussed, but Councillor Hall advised that the costs would be around the £1million mark and the field is also used for cricket. For the foreseeable future it is therefore hoped that the drainage project will improve the conditions, although it will not solve the problem in the longer-term.

RESOLVED: Councillor Boyt agreed to investigate the possibility of someone from the FA coming to look at the Sports field to advise on what could be done.

(iii) Community Board drainage grant update: As per Councillor Gomm's email update, the Parish Council acknowledged and thanked the Winslow and Villages Community Board (also on behalf of the Sports field Committee) for its grant of £12,375.00 (63% of the final costs) towards the drainage project.

(iv) Forest School update: In addition to the grant from the Community Board, the Forest School has also taken delivery of a mud-kitchen commissioned by the Parish Council. The Parish Council thanked Men in Sheds for making it. The kitchen will be in situ when the weather has improved, and some groundwork has been carried out to the area.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed to make a £50.00 donation to Men in Sheds.

202/24 Finance:

1. The Parish Council acknowledged receipt of Devolution payment of £2,073.74 (no VAT) from Buckinghamshire Council.
2. The Parish Council acknowledged and thanked Michael Finnemore for the donation of coins collected from Schorne Well totalling £23.08 (No VAT).
3. The Parish Council approved the following Receipts and Payments of Accounts:

Receipts and Payments of Accounts

Parish Council

Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council

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

HP Instant Ink - £8.49, £1.42 VAT (DD)

Blades Turfcare – Grass March '24 £915.00, £152.65 VAT

SSE Energy - Streetlighting 1st – 29th February 2024 - £17.56, £1.93 VAT and £0.05 CCL (DD)

Payments to be paid on behalf of the Parish Council

Clerk Salary – March £***.***, no VAT

Clerk expenses – March - office allowance, £26.00 no VAT 1st Class stamp £1.25. Total £27.25

Sparkx – Repair of streetlight at bottom of School Hill - £275.40, £45.90 VAT

North Bucks Parish Planning Consortium membership 24-25 - £20.00, no VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Parish Council

Buckinghamshire Council Devolution Payment - £2,073.74, no VAT

Donation from Michael Finnemore from Schorne Well - £23.08, no VAT

Village Hall

Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall

Katherine Wetherell – Village Hall cleaning February 24 - £187.50, no VAT

E-On Next – Electricity SR 4th January-3rd February - £43.11, £2.05 VAT

Wave Anglian Water - £69.09, no VAT

Lovell's Fuels – Oil - £437.85, £20.85 VAT

Rebecca Everton – deposit refund VH hire - £50, no VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Village Hall

Anneka Boyt – Deposit refund VH hire - £50, no VAT

Neil Holley – Deposit refund VH hire - £50, no VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Village Hall

Emma Ehren – Hire of village hall for Zumba Spring Term - £120.00, no VAT

The Shop – VH hire for social event for volunteers - £30.00, no VAT

The Shop – VH hire for AGM - £20.00, no VAT

Craig Wilson – VH hire for party balance - £75.00, no VAT

Sports Field

Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield

Rebecca Parker (Marvellous Marigolds) – SF pavilion cleaning February '24 - £67.50, no VAT

E-On Next – Electricity Pavilion 1st-29th February '24 - £66.77, £3.18 VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Sportsfield - none

Payments to be made on behalf of the Sportsfield

000809 100 Club 1st prize March Draw, £30.00, no VAT

000900 100 Club 2nd prize March Draw, £20.00, no VAT

000901 100 Club 3rd prize March Draw, £10.00, no VAT

203/24 Date of the next meeting

1. The Annual Village Meeting will take place on Tuesday 14th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.
2. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will also take place on Tuesday 14th May immediately after the Village Meeting.

The Press and Public are welcome to arrive from 7.15pm for tea/coffee and biscuits.

***Jan Roffe, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council
16th April 2024***