

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 10th December 2024

Present: Councillors I Mordue (Chairman), K Du-Plessis, S Hall and three members of the public.

291/24 Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillors Hogbin-Mills, Boyt and Newman.

292/24 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 “Double Prize Money” Draw for December 2024.

100 Club results for the Christmas double prize money draw:

1st Prize £60 No.7 Bill Osborne, 2nd Prize £40 No.34 Jean Wright, 3rd Prize £20 No.73 Paul Cockton

- A member of the public reported that the footpath and its bridge opposite No.49 Quainton Road is not accessible, and the bridge is dangerous.
- The Rotary Christmas Float will be in North Marston on the evening of Tuesday 17th December and in Granborough on Wednesday 18th December.
- Ditch and website queries are addressed under items 297 and 298, below.

293/24 Buckinghamshire Council update: In Councillor Gomm’s absence there was not a Buckinghamshire Council update this month.

294/24 Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2024 were approved and signed.

295/24 Any relevant updates received from the Tribunal Office regarding the land to the north of Quainton Road.

None received.

296/24: To receive any relevant updates on/discuss the following:

1. Village Hall

- (i) Roy Randles has been asked to glue loose blocks in the flooring and will do this when he can conveniently gain access around the Preschool’s use.
- (ii) Councillor Mordue is investigating the possibility of a wi-fi connected heating system that can be controlled in advance of events. The cost would be in the region of £350.00 exc. VAT.

2. Shop storage area

RESOLVED: The Clerk to ask the Shop to supply the Pre-school with a key to the storage area.

3. Play Area

RESOLVED: Councillor Hall volunteered to supply and install close board fencing to close the gap in the hedge on to the Quainton Road. Councillor Mordue offered to help. This was agreed.

4. Village Pond and Parsnip Pond

No updates

5. Defibrillator updates

All status checked by Christina Hutson. Nothing to report.

297/24 To receive any updates and discuss actions on the following matters:

Environment

1. Highways

(i) Any new and resolved road issues

The Local Area Technician has confirmed that the white line that appeared across the highway at the beginning of the south central green/High Street parallel road, does not conform to Highways regulations and will be replaced by a white broken line at the bell mouth. This will replace the white broken line that was previously there.

(ii) Ditch clearance responsibilities

Following recent flooding in Quainton Road, the Parish Council has had the ditches checked. The ditch running immediately alongside the play area, for which the Parish Council is responsible, was dredged earlier this year and is running well. The blockage appears to be behind the Parish Barn. Landowners are responsible for ditch clearance on their land.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council cannot clear a ditch on Common Land until ownership is established and will consider this again when the ownership of the land to the north of Quainton Road is resolved. In the meantime, the Clerk/Councillor Mordue to approach the landowner to ask if the matter of the ownership of the ditch was ever resolved.

(iii) Parking

The Parish Council has received correspondence from a resident to ask if parking in Elmers Meadow could be improved by a parking area/layby where there is currently hedgerow. The Highways Local Area Technician has confirmed that the land is not Highways owned, but is owned privately, most likely by the developer. Unfortunately, this is not something that the Parish Council nor Highways could pay for.

RESOLVED: If the residents of Elmers Meadow would like to investigate ownership of the land, pay for the works and put a proposal together to present it to the Parish Council, the Parish Council would not have any objections.

(iv) MVAS: Councillor Mordue will shortly move the MVAS units around.

(v) Streetlights: The Clerk has chased Sparkx again regarding streetlights that are burning all day outside of No.12 Schorne Lane and at the junction of Schorne Lane and Morton Close.

RESOLVED: Councillor Mordue to put asset tags on all the streetlights so that they can more easily be identified.

2. Grass and Hedges – no updates

3. CCTV – Research has established that CCTV can be expensive, unreliable and that TVP are not interested in engaging. However, it is still considered a good idea to have cameras at each of the three entrances/exits to the village.

RESOLVED: To continue to research the possibilities and costs.

4. Tree enclosed within the Church Street Spinney.

The Clerk is to meet with a tree surgeon on Wednesday morning, 10th December, to obtain a second quote.

298/24 Projects: To discuss or to receive updates on the following:

(i) Website

The website has been launched. Grateful thanks to Martin Tanner for all his work on the project. The possibility of paid advertising by local business was briefly discussed and considered a good idea to generate income, but strictly on the proviso that the Parish Council is not endorsing any businesses that advertise.

A problem when scrolling from a drop down was also reported by a member of the public.

RESOLVED: Clerk to ask Martin to investigate the problem with scrolling and to advise on how the Parish Council might best advertise local businesses on the website.

(ii) Parish Barn

Unfortunately, John Spargo has had to step back from overseeing the Parish Barn project for health reasons. The Parish Council discussed whether it wished to continue with the

project or not, and the next steps. Grateful thanks were expressed to John for all he has done so far.

RESOLVED: To ascertain from John whether he has anything in writing from the Heritage Lottery Fund to confirm that funding is likely for this project and/or whether the list of items on the “to do” list is definitive. Also, whether all the items on the list are required to be costed before a preliminary application can be submitted.

If the Parish Council agrees to go ahead with the project, it was agreed that the division of responsibilities to submit an application for funding and to manage the project will be agreed in January.

The Clerk to write to Jon Martin to let him know that he is welcome to continue to use the barn on a rolling contract as from 31st March 2025 when the present agreement terminates.

(iii) **New streetlight opposite Sports field entrance:**

Councillor Mordue advised that the streetlight, groundwork and installation of the new light will be in the region of £900.00 exc. VAT.

RESOLVED: Councillor Mordue to submit a quote for the Parish Council to consider in time for agreement at the next meeting in January.

(iv) Encouraging Wildlife/Aylesbury Vale Wild Project – no updates since the last meeting.

299/24 Utilities contract from May 2025.

RESOLVED: Clerk to request a competitive quote from E-on early next year.

300/24 Sportsfield: 100 Club subscriptions of £15.00 per number are now due for 2025-26. All funds are invested back into the upkeep and running of the Sportsfield for the benefit of the community. There are still numbers left, so please help to support this valuable community asset. Contact Gordon Bowden or the Clerk for further information.

301/24 Notification that the BESS Stratera Strategic Site Meeting will be held on Thursday 19th December in The Oculus in Buckinghamshire Council’s Gateway Offices. The Claydons Solar Action Group would very much appreciate support by attendance at the meeting.

302/24 Finance:

1. The Parish Council discussed the budget and Precept for the 2025-26 financial year.

RESOLVED: After a couple of amendments, the Parish Council approved the budget for 2025/26.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council also approved a Precept increase request of 5%.

2. To ratify the Parish Council’s agreement that the Clerk’s pay point be increased to in line with NALC pay scales and BMKALC’s assessment of the role.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council formally approved the increase in the Clerk’s pay point to SCP20 in line with BMKALC recommendations of between SCP20-23 for the responsibilities of the role. This to be effective as from September 2024.

3. **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council approved the following Payments and Receipts:

Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council

SSE Energy – streetlighting 01/10 – 31/10 - £18.80 £2.06 VAT

HP Instant Ink – Printer ink contract - £5.49, £0.92 VAT

Tesco Mobile – £8.09, no VAT

Blades - November grass cutting - £882.40, £147.07 VAT

McAfee – internet security renewal via PC debit card - £34.99

Payments to be made on behalf of the Parish Council

Clerks Salary for November - £***.**, no VAT

Office Reimbursement for November- £26.00, no VAT

Ian Mordue – Storage shelving. Asset tags for streetlights, clips for streetlights - £686.53, £100.98 VAT

Village Hall

Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall

Katherine Wetherall – VH cleaning October - £112.50, no VAT

Katherine Wetherall – VH cleaning November - £150.00, no VAT

E-on Next - electricity Village Hall – 1st- 31st October - £74.60, £3.55 VAT

E-on Next - electricity Schorne Room – 1st- 31st October - £49.16, £2.34 VAT

Lovells Fuels – 27/11 delivery T1160415 - £294.00, £14.00 VAT

JR Plumbing – annual boiler service – £144.00, £24.00 VAT

Wave Anglian Water - £124.51, no VAT

Ian Mordue – Purchase of PA system for Village Hall, oil monitor & batteries for heating system - £1,245.69, £205.96 VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Village Hall

Emma Ehren – Hire of VH for Zumba classes - £84.00, no VAT

MADS – hire of hall for rehearsals and production - £280.00, no VAT (cash)

Sportsfield

Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield

Rebecca Parker-Marvellous Marigolds November cleaning - £67.50, no VAT

Jo Radcliffe - 100 Club 1st Prize November – £30.00, no VAT (0830)

Pat Robinson - 100 Club 2nd Prize November - £20.00, no VAT (0831)

Robert Webb - 100 Club 3rd Prize November - £10.00, no VAT (0829)

Robert Webb - 100 Club 3rd Prize October - £10.00, no VAT (0823)

E-On Next - Electricity 1/10-30/10 – £69.70, £3.49 VAT

Wave Anglian Water – 8th August to 8th November - £11.14, no VAT

Ian Mordue – SF Mower fuel and toilet seat for sports pavilion - £128.34, VAT £17.18

Payments received on behalf of the Sportsfield

100 Club subscriptions (all no VAT)

Cartwright - £15.00

Putman £15.00

Butterworth - £30.00

Spargo - £15.00

Chaplin - £15.00

Forsyth - £30.00

Radcliffe - £15.00

Radcliffe (2) - £15.00

Symonds - £15.00

Brooke - £15.00

Hitchen - £15.00

Devas - £15.00

Payments to be made on behalf of the Sportsfield

December 100 Club double Prizes

000833 100 Club 1st prize £60.00, no VAT

000834 100 Club 2nd prize £40.00, no VAT

000835 100 Club 3rd prize £20.00, no VAT

303/24 Date of the next meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

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