

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 13th February 2024

Present: Councillors I Mordue (Chairman), A Boyt (Vice Chairman), D Hogbin-Mills, B Newman, Jan Roffe (Clerk) and Buckinghamshire Councillor, Phil Gomm

163/24 Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllrs Du-Plessis and Smythe

164/24 Members Interests: There were not declarations of interest.

Open forum for Parishioners: (under adjournment – 20 minutes. 3 minutes per person speaking) to include 100 Club Draws for February 2024.

100 Club Draw: 1st Prize £30, No.1 Robert Webb, 2nd Prize £20, No.78, Val York, 3rd Prize, £10, Katherine Du-Plessis.

165/24 Buckinghamshire Council update: Councillor Gomm gave the following updates:

(i) £1.9m from central government to go towards EV charging points across the county.

(ii) Winslow and Villages Community Board grant awards:

- A request for an £11k grant from the North Marston and Granborough Sports field committee towards the drainage of the sports field is still going through due process.
- The Forest School has been awarded grants for new equipment and for a building on site.
- Councillor Gomm has arranged for free trees from HS2 to be delivered for planting.
- North Marston History Club has been awarded a grant of £2k for two bronze plaques commemorating those from the village who died in the Great War and subsequent conflicts.

166/24 Co-option of Parish Councillor: Buckinghamshire Council Electoral Services has confirmed that an election does not have to be called. The Parish Council therefore formally received the application from one candidate, Simon Hall, and voted to co-opt him on to the council. Simon was warmly welcomed and took his seat and read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance.

167/24 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 were approved and signed.

168/24 To update residents on the latest response from HM Land Registry regarding the dispute over the land in Quainton Road:

The Parish Council had received a reply to its second letter of 10 January from HM Land Registry's lawyers regarding the dispute over the ownership of the land to the north side of Quainton Road, apologising that HM Land Registry's standard practice was not followed and acknowledging that the extent of proof of ownership was more limited than HM Land Registry had at first thought. The Chairman read out the following update to those present:

Due to the lack of any of the requested updates or apparent progress over a very long period of time from Councillor Gomm or Buckinghamshire Council's legal team, and subsequently finding that neither the legal department nor HM Land Registry appeared to have any knowledge of the dispute over the ownership of the land to the north of Quainton Road, the Parish Council opened its own dispute with HM Land Registry in September of last year. Confirmation was subsequently received in writing from Councillor Gomm that he was not assisting the parish but only a local landowner.

Having obtained and studied over 35 documents associated with the case, the Parish Council made its initial application to Land Registry in November of last year to have the registration of the land by the Holtons revoked. HM Land Registry responded, admitting in writing that their own procedures appeared not to have

been followed correctly and that there indeed appeared to be insufficient evidence to support a legitimate claim to the land by the Holtons.

This is now being investigated further by HM Land Registry's legal team. The Parish Council has been promised an update within the next two weeks and if an objection. Until such time that this update is received, the Parish Council does not know what further action it may be necessary to take, but please be assured that the Parish Council is working very hard on behalf of the village and those affected to resolve this matter.

169/24 To discuss a response from the Parish Council about the proposed East Claydon Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Installation:

RESOLVED: After a short discussion, the Parish Council voted to object to the application. The Clerk to enter the agreed reasons for the objection on the Planning portal before the deadline of 16th February.

170/24: RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed the verification of Cynthia Hall as a trustee of the Poors Piece and Clockland Charity. The Clerk to ask the trustees how members of the parish can put themselves forward as a trustee and how they can put themselves forward to rent the land.

171/24 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 (Councillor Smythe)

The gully at the bottom of Church Street has been fixed.

RESOLVED: The Clerk was asked to report to Highways that the repair does not look satisfactory as the vent is too small for purpose.

(ii) **MVAS**

The additional sockets and pole have been ordered but the work to install them has not been carried out yet by the contractor, Highway and Solar Solutions.

RESOLVED: Clerk to chase.

(iii) **The ditch in Quinton Road**

Update: The weather has prevented the work from being carried out, but assurances have been received from the contractor that it will be carried out soon.

(iv) **Parking:** The Parish Council has been contacted by residents about the damage to grass verges being caused by people parking their vehicles on them instead of on the roads or driveways. It has also been reported that vehicles parked along the High Street Parallel Road are blocking it to traffic and emergency vehicles and are also considered a safety hazard to children obscured by the parked cars, especially during busy school pick up and drop off times.

RESOLVED: The Chairman will speak to residents again and the Clerk to investigate the cost of bollards at the Gibbings Close/Granborough Road junction. The Clerk to write to the residents of the cottages along the parallel road to remind them that it is a highway.

(v) **Any other matters:**

School Hill kerbstones: The project was funded by a generous grant from the Winslow and Villages Community Board. Councillor Gomm advised that the Community Board had paid for rough granite sets and will continue to push for the kerbstones laid to be replaced with granite sets appropriate to the Conservation Area. However, it is proving very difficult to source them. Otherwise, it is unlikely that the kerbstones will not be replaced without the parish having to pay for them.

RESOLVED: At his request, to leave the matter with Councillor Gomm as Chairman of the Community Board.

Church Street Kerbing: The Community Board is no longer funding Transport related projects.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to find out from the LAT what needs to be done to start the process of the preparation of a PID (Project Initiation Document) and to research alternative funding sources with help from the Community Board Manager.

2. Grass and hedges

Invitations to tender for the new contract have been sent out to the current contractor and to five other companies. The Clerk has asked them to respond by the end of February so that the Parish Council can make its decision at the next meeting.

172/24 Parish Action Plan: To receive any relevant updates on/discuss the following:

1. The Parish Barn:

There was a discussion about whether the Parish Council's insurance covered volunteers to carry out the repairs. There was also a query about who would then verify that the work had been done to the necessary standard?

RESOLVED: The Clerk to check if the Parish Council's insurance covers volunteers carrying out the repairs to the barn. The Clerk to also send the surveyors report to Colin Beckett and ask him to quote for the work to be done as specified in the report. The labour would then be covered under the company's liability insurance, and he would be able to verify the work. With this information the Parish Council will be able to decide how to proceed at the next meeting,

2. **Play Area:** Nothing of significance to update, except that the ground is extremely wet. It is hoped that Councillor Hall will be able to advise on the best solution regarding the migrating gravel on the path from his professional experience.
3. **Village Pond and Parsnip Pond:** Update: Thanks to Christina Hutson who has treated the pond again with barley extract. It is looking beautifully clear and free from algae.
4. **Defibrillators: Update:** Christina Hutson has also checked the status of all the defibrillators. The battery in the Wesley Centre unit was replaced last month. There is no requirement for any new pads until June when the Wesley Centre's pads will have to be replaced.

173/24 Projects: To receive any updates and/or discuss:

1. **New streetlight opposite Sportsfield entrance:** The Sports field Committee is happy to have two lights fixed to the signage at the entrance/exit gate if the Parish Council will pay for them. They would be on a button timer.
RESOLVED: On safety grounds, the Parish Council supported paying for the lighting to also help illuminate the road at the entrance/exit to the Sports field.
2. **Parish Council website upgrade:**
Update: Grateful thanks were expressed to Martin Tanner, who has kindly volunteered to upgrade the Parish Council website. Martin has already sent a first draft design/layout for the Parish Council's consideration which looks very good. Councillor Mordue will continue to liaise with him about what should be included.
3. **Encouraging Wildlife/Aylesbury Vale Wild Project:** There were no updates received.

174/24 Sportsfield: To receive any relevant updates to include Forest School upgrade.

- The Forest School had applied to the Winslow and Villages Community Board for funding to enlarge the area and have a small building built on site to make the facility useable for a longer time throughout the year/seasons.
- Once the weather has improved, the storage containers will be clad to make them more attractive, particularly from the roadside.

- The Sports field committee is waiting to hear if its application to the Winslow and Village Community Board for a grant towards the cost of drainage has been successful or not.

175/24 Finance:

1. **RESOLVED:** The following Receipts and Payments of Accounts were approved, except for the Parish Online Digital Mapping subscription for the sum of £81.00, VAT £13.50 which the Clerk was asked to cancel as it is no longer required.

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)

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

SSE Energy – Streetlighting 1st November to 30th November - £17.90, £1.98 VAT

Defibstore – Battery for Wesley Centre defibrillator - £348.00 VAT £58.00

Blades Turfcare – Grass December (late payment) £915.00, £152.65 VAT

Payments to be paid on behalf of the Parish Council

Clerk Salary – January £***.**, no VAT

Clerk expenses – January - office allowance, £26.00 no VAT, Sundry £19.00, Recorded Delivery £7.35, £2.70 postage Total: £55.05

Blades Turf Care – January grass cutting and hedge cutting - £1,365.90, £227.65 VAT

Parish Online digital mapping - £81.00, £13.50 VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Parish Council

Refund from Defibstore – ordered two sets of pads and only one set required - £49.20, £8.20 VAT

Village Hall

Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall

Katherine Wetherell – Village Hall cleaning December '23 - £150.00, no VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Village Hall

James Garey – hire of Schorne Room - £15.00, no VAT

Jenny Morgan – hire of hall for Beaujolais Nouveau fundraiser - £40.00, no VAT

Eleanor McCarthy – deposit for hire of hall for birthday party - £50.00, no VAT

Andrew Boyt – deposit and hire fee for hall for birthday party - £140.00, no VAT

Rebecca Everton – deposit and hire free for hall for birthday party - £95.00, no VAT

Alicia Peasley – deposit for hire of the hall for birthday party - £50.00, no VAT

Sports Field

Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield

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

E-On Next – Electricity Pavilion 1st-31st December - £74.37, £3.54 VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Sportsfield

The following 100 Club subscription fees :

Dean O'Connor – Donation to SF - £10.00 cash

R Kemp - £15.00 (cheque)

Worner and Smythe (1) - £15.00

Worner and Smythe (2) - £15.00

P McSweeney - £15.00

RA and CR Webb - £15.00

Mr and Mrs Simmons - £15.00

C and GR Jenner - £30.00

J Wright - £30.00
David Raynor - £15.00
CJ & PJJ Hitchin - £30.00
D Quinn - £15.00
L Hawkins - £15.00
L & K Langston - £30.00
P A & R Butler - £60.00
Peter York - £30.00
Hardman RJ & PS - £15.00
Ludlow KR - £15.00
Katherine Du-Plessis - £15.00
Ian Mordue - £15.00
Peter and Jane Dowcra - £30.00
WG McWhirter - £15.00
Jeffrey Scott - £30.00

Payments to be made on behalf of the Sportsfield

000803 100 Club 1st prize February Draw, £30.00, no VAT
000804 100 Club 2nd prize February Draw, £20.00, no VAT
000805 100 Club 3rd prize February Draw, £10.00, no VAT

176/23 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday **12th March 2024** at 8pm in the Village Hall

***Jan Roffe, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council
20th February 2024***