

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 14th January 2025

Present: Councillors A Boyt (Acting Chairman), D Hogbin-Mills, K Du-Plessis, B Newman, and S Hill and four members of the public.

1/25 Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted by the Parish Council from Councillors I Mordue and Buckinghamshire Councillor, Phil Gomm. Martin Tanner (co-option candidate) also sent his apologies.

2/25 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 for January 2025

100 Club draw: 1st Prize No.67 Rob Worner, 2nd Prize No.7 Bill Osborne, 3rd Prize No.87 David Higgins.

- (a) Parishioners present and affected by the land dispute to the north of Quainton Road said that they were pleased that the Tribunal had now responded and had suggested mediation in the first instance.
- (b) The flooding across Quainton Road, due primarily to the lack of maintenance to the ditch behind the Parish Barn, was a great concern to those present and living in Quainton Road. The Parish Council re-iterated that the ditch is the responsibility of the landowner, and not the Parish Council and until the legal dispute over the ownership of the land and ditch is resolved the ditch cannot be cleared.
- (c) A new application for another Planning proposal for battery Electricity storage off Hogshaw Road, Granborough, was brought to the Parish Council's attention. The Parish Council has not been approached as a consultee in this matter and an extraordinary meeting would have to be called by the Chairman in order for the Parish Council to comment.

3/25 Co-option of Parish Councillor: RESOLVED: In the absence of the candidate for co-option, the Parish Council agreed to postpone the co-option until the February meeting.

4/25 Buckinghamshire Council update: In his absence, Councillor's Gomm's email update was given at the meeting. In it Councillor Gomm drew attention to the latest BESS application 24/03262/APP at Land to South of Hogshaw Road, encouraging parishioners to comment as soon as possible before the 31st January deadline. He is also trying to set up an Action with Speeding group consortium with other villages and hopes for TVP speed enforcement presence in the village and not just warning letters to those caught speeding.

5/25 Minutes: RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th December 2024 were approved and signed.

6/25 To consider the following Planning application:

24/03747/APP - NORTH MARSTON

The Old Matronage 11 Church Street North Marston Buckinghamshire MK18 3PH
Householder application for demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension (deadline for comment 5th February)

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

7/25 Land to the north of Quainton Road (i) to decide whether or not to accept the judiciary's offer of mediation (ii) To acknowledge the Property Chamber's Order and note actions and deadlines to be met prior to a hearing date being set by the Tribunal Office.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Parish Council accepted the judiciary's offer of mediation (ii) that the Parish Council acknowledged the Property Chamber's Order and deadlines contained therein. (iii) It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council go into a closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss legal representation in this matter. Proposed by Councillor Boyt and seconded by Councillor Du-Plessis.

8/25 To discuss the Parish Barn project and decide on the next steps (Councillor Hall and John Spargo).

RESOLVED: As John Spargo has sadly had to withdraw from overseeing the project for the barn to become a heritage centre, it was agreed that a working group consisting initially of Councillors Boyt, Hall and Hogbin-Mills, meet at the barn to assess what needs to be done to best preserve the building. The Parish Council will then decide whether to pursue the heritage centre project or preserve the barn as a community asset.

9/25: To receive relevant updates and agree any actions on the following:

1. Village Hall - no updates
2. Shop storage area – no updates
3. Play Area – (i) The fencing to stop children from exiting between the hedging onto Quainton Road has still to be installed. (ii) Councillor Du-Plessis to provide Councillor Newman with the tool/key to lift the toddler trampoline to clear the debris from underneath it.
4. Village Pond and Parsnip Pond – no updates
5. Defibrillators – all status checked by Christina Hutson and no issues reported.

10/25 To receive any updates and agree any actions on the following:

Environment

1. Highways

- (i) Any new and resolved road issues
Councillor Hogbin-Mills reported a large pothole at Dead Man's Corner and wondered whether it was in North Marston Parish. She will report it on Fix-My-Street
- (ii) Ditches and flooding (landowners are responsible for ditches bordering their land)
As discussed during the Open Forum, neither the Parish Council, nor the adjacent landowner is able to do anything until the ownership of the land to the north of Quainton Road has been resolved.
- (iii) Parking – no updates
- (iv) MVAS – Councillor Gomm has again asked for the data from MVAS from Councillor Mordue. The Clerk will remind Councillor Mordue.
- (v) Streetlighting – no issues reported.

2. Grass and Hedges – To discuss additional charges for extra cuts of the Village Pond.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that there had been a misunderstanding and that the costs of the additional cuts at the Village Pond during the summer months had been divided into 12 equal payments of £30 per month across the year (total £360.00) and not £30 added on to the invoices from May to September only (total £150.00). The Clerk was asked to confirm when two cuts are required and the cost, for agreement by the Parish Council for 2025-26.

3. CCTV – no updates

4. Tree enclosed within the Church Street Spinney

RESOLVED: Two quotations were received and the Parish Council agreed to the quotation from Barnes and Wells Tree Care for £960, £160 VAT.

11/25 Projects: To receive updates and agree any actions on the following:

- (i) Website – no updates
- (ii) New streetlight opposite Sports field entrance – no updates
- (iii) Encouraging Wildlife/Aylesbury Vale Wild Project – no updates except that the ecological impact on the area of the BESS storage proposal should form part of any objections to it.

12/25 Sportsfield: To receive any updates from Councillor Mordue

In Councillor Mordue's absence there were no updates, but the Clerk reminded those present of the forthcoming Race Night to be held on Saturday 1st February in the Village Hall from 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Gordon Bowden at gorden.bowden@qhfp.co.uk or Pete Butler at pbswanbourne@aol.co.uk Admission ticket cost £5.00. There will be an auction and raffle prizes.

13/25 To approve the following Payments and Receipts:

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the following payments and receipts:

Receipts and Payments of Accounts

Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council

SSE Energy – streetlighting 01/11 – 31/11 - £18.20 £1.99 VAT

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

Tesco Mobile – parish phone contract - £8.09, no VAT

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

McAfee – internet security renewal via PC debit card - £34.99, no VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Parish Council

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

HMRC – Clerk's PAYE tax - £***.**

HMRC Employers N.I due - £38.88, no VAT

Office Reimbursement for December- £26.00, no VAT

Sparkx – replace streetlight photocell outside 12 Schorne Lane - £295.80, £49.30 VAT

Hostinger UK – website domain transfer new website - £12.16, £2.03 VAT

SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) annual subscription - £183.00, no VAT

Village Hall

Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall

Jennifer Biggerstaff – VH deposit refund £50.00, no VAT

Elizabeth Beckett - Refund VH deposit and £30 partial hire refund heating/boiler issues - £80.00, no VAT

E-on Next - electricity Village Hall – 1st- 30th November - £199.05, £9.48 VAT

E-on Next - electricity Schorne Room – 1st- 30th November - £57.71, £2.75 VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Village Hall

Matthew Jennings – deposit and balance for VH hire on 4th January - £95.00, no VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Village Hall

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

Matthew Jennings – Deposit refund for hire of VH 4th January - £50.00, no VAT

Sportsfield

Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield

Rebecca Parker-Marvellous Marigolds December cleaning - £82.50, no VAT

0825 - 100 Club 2nd Prize September – £20.00, no VAT

0821 - 100 Club 1st Prize August - £30.00, no VAT

0824 - 100 Club 1st Prize September - £30.00, no VAT

0835 – 100 Club 3rd Prize December - £20.00, no VAT

E-On Next - Electricity 1/11-30/11 – £65.01, £3.10 VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Sportsfield

100 Club subscriptions (all no VAT)

Mobsey - £15.00

Putman £15.00

Butterworth - £30.00

Hall - £15.00

Finnemore - £15.00

Hutson - £15.00

Rowland - £30.00

Bowden - £15.00

Osborne- £15.00

Bowden for Warner - £30.00

McWhirter - £60.00

Cresswell - £15.00

Williams - £30.00

Wright - £30.00

Kelly - £15.00

Du-Plessis - £15.00

Lane - £45.00

Bunyan - £30.00

Langston - £30.00

Worner & Smythe - £15.00

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Gouldstone - £30.00

Dancer - £15.00

Keegan - £45.00

Callendar - £30.00

Guiver - £15.00

Webb - £15.00

Bagni - £15.00

Bowden for Mordue - £15.00

Bowden for O'Connor - £15.00

Roffe for Brandon - £15.00

Payments to be made on behalf of the Sportsfield

000836 100 Club 1st prize £30.00, no VAT

000837 100 Club 2nd prize £20.00, no VAT

000838 100 Club 3rd prize £10.00, no VAT

14/25 Date of the next meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

15/25 Closed Session – to discuss the dispute over the land at Quainton Road.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed to seek legal representation in this matter. Initial costs of up to £4k were approved.

Jan Roffe, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council, 23rd January 2025