

North Marston Parish Council

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

MINUTES

Meeting of North Marston Parish Council

Tuesday 8th July 2025

100/25 Present and Apologies:

Present: Councillors I Mordue (Chairman), A Boyt (Vice Chairman), D Hogbin-Mills, S Hill and M Tanner. Also present were Buckinghamshire Councillor, Phil Gomm, Clerk, Jan Brandon, and four members of the public.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillor Du-Plessis and Councillor Newman

101/25 Members Interests: To record any declarations of interest from Members.

There were no declarations of interest.

Open forum for Parishioners: (under adjournment – 20 minutes. 3 minutes per person speaking) to include 100 Club Draw for July 2025

100 Club draw: 1st Prize £30 No.26 Andy Lane, 2nd Prize £20 No. 88 Tricia and Paul McSweeney, and 3rd Prize, £10 No. 90 Robin Cartwright.

102/25 Buckinghamshire Council update: Buckinghamshire Councillor Phil Gomm gave the following updates:

- Due to recent changes, the number of councillors has been reduced from 147 to 97 as of 1st May 2025. As a result, individual councillors now serve on more committees. Councillor Gomm currently sits on 14 committees, including: the Standards Committee, Licensing, Health and Adult Social Care, Planning (Central and North Bucks), Strategic Sites, Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel, Bucks and Milton Keynes Fire Authority and he is also Chair of the new West Bucks Community Board

County-Level Developments

- Significant financial changes introduced by the Government are impacting the County Council's budget.
- Greater collaboration is expected with parish and town councils to assess priorities and determine the best allocation of financial resources.

Infrastructure and Local Projects

- A new electricity sub-station will be built at East Claydon, with completion expected within four years. An exhibition and public consultation will be held.
- Quainton Road is scheduled for surface dressing under the capital works programme and this should address some current issues. However, a completion date has not yet been set, but Councillor Gomm will keep us informed.

103/25 – Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 10th June 2025 were approved and signed.

104/25 – Planning Applications

Application: 25/01865/APP – Wings Farm, Marston Road, Granborough, MK18 3JX

Proposal: Erection of a solar farm with ancillary development.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council objects to the application, citing concerns over the visual impact, loss of agricultural land, unsuitability of rural roads for construction traffic, potential harm to wildlife habitats and

ecosystems, concerns about the carbon footprint, decommissioning and waste, and the precedent set for future developments

A full objection statement will be submitted via the Planning Portal.

25/01575/APP - PITCHCOTT

Barnhill View Pitchcott Hill Pitchcott Buckinghamshire HP22 4HT

Householder application for demolition of existing conservatory and erection of rear extension

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

105/25 Dispute over the land to the north of Quainton Road

The Parish Council updated the meeting with the dates set for the Tribunal (Court) hearing. These have been set for the 14th and 15th of October, with a site visit on the 7th of October 2025.

106/25 To discuss and agree Parish Barn and allotment use and invoicing.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed in principle to transfer responsibility for the Parish Barn to Kevin O'Donoghue, subject to a mutually acceptable agreement being drafted and signed by both parties.

While some details remain to be finalised, the key terms are as follows:

- Tenure: Five years
- Break Clause: A three-year break clause will be included
- Work Schedule:
 - (i) Essential structural work to stabilise the building must be completed within one year
 - (ii) All required works must be completed within three years

The Clerk has sought legal advice, and it is confirmed that:

- Mr O'Donoghue must obtain his own Public Liability Insurance a copy of which must be sent to the Parish Council.
- Mr O'Donoghue must ensure that any contractors employed must carry their own Public Liability Insurance
- The barn remains uninsurable until all remedial works, as specified in the building surveyor's report, have been completed and certified as meeting the required standard.

A formal agreement will be prepared to reflect these terms and discussed with Mr O'Donoghue.

Rental of Parish Barn and Allotment

It was resolved that the annual rental for the parish barn will remain at £210.00, to be payable monthly, until repairs to the barn are completed. The rental for the allotment to remain at £20.00 per year with the tenant responsible for paying for the cutting of the hedge.

107/25 – Streetlighting Contract with SSE

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved a 2-year contract with SSE, commencing 14th July 2026, for a total of £1,914.63. This will involve a transition to a metered supply, as unmetered supplies are being phased out due to regulatory changes requiring fair and accurate electricity usage monitoring.

108/25 – Updates and Actions

1. Village Hall

RESOLVED: (i) PRA Randles will be asked to provide a quote for repointing loose bricks at the front corner of the hall and for remedial work to a crack in the path, which poses a trip hazard. This work is to be carried out during the summer recess before preschool resumes.

(ii) The Clerk will also contact Aylesbury Glass to arrange the replacement of the leaded light windowpane that has become dislodged.

2. Shop Storage Area

RESOLVED: The Clerk will send recent electricity invoices to Ian Lenham, as requested. A discussion will be held with Peter Dowcra, Chair of the Shop Committee, regarding rent payments for the

storage area and contribution toward Wi-Fi costs, as the Parish Council is unable to share the shop's Wi-Fi connection.

3. **Play Area**

RESOLVED: Significant cracks have developed in the goal area, creating a health and safety risk. Councillor Boyt will fill the cracks with builders' sand.

4. **Village Pond and Parsnip Pond**

RESOLVED: Councillor Hogbin-Mills volunteered to remove the bullrushes from Parsnip Pond. Councillor Mordue will investigate the possibility of installing a metered water supply to the Village Pond and will arrange to top up the water level, which has dropped due to the recent hot weather.

5. **Defibrillators**

All defibrillators have been checked by Christina Hutson, with no issues reported.

109/25 – Environmental Matters

1. **Highways**

(i) **Road Issues**

Concerns were raised about speeding along Carters Lane and Quainton Road, with many vehicles believed to be linked to HS2 construction.

RESOLVED: Councillor Hogbin-Mills agreed to liaise with HS2.

2. Buckinghamshire Councillor Phil Gomm confirmed ongoing collaboration with Thames Valley Police and community volunteers to address village speeding in the Ward through a new initiative.

(ii) **Parking** – No updates.

(iii) **MVAS** : **RESOLVED:** Councillor Mordue will relocate the MVAS from Quainton Road to its designated position on Granborough Road.

(iv) **Streetlighting Repairs**

RESOLVED: Councillors will inspect the lights on Schorne Lane, School Hill, and Quainton Road that have been identified by Sparkx as either non-functional or requiring new lanterns. The Parish Council will decide on necessary maintenance actions at the September meeting.

3. **Grass and Hedges**

It was reported that a parishioner had mowed the pond area between scheduled cuts by the Council's contractor, leaving a pile of grass cuttings near the bin.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council will request that the person who cut the grass leave the mowing to the Parish Council's contractor, as frequent cutting may prevent Blades from completing the scheduled and paid for bi-weekly service effectively.

Concerns were raised regarding overgrown and impassable footpaths, as well as maintenance issues affecting footbridges, which pose safety risks to both walkers and horse riders. It was also noted that clarification is needed on who holds responsibility for the upkeep of these paths, the landowners or Buckinghamshire Council. **RESOLVED:** Buckinghamshire Councillor Phil Gomm will meet with Councillor Hogbin-Mills to inspect the local footpaths and compile a report outlining their condition and any required actions.

110/25 – Projects

(i) **Replacement of Posts around Village Greens**

RESOLVED: Councillor Mordue will arrange for the purchase of the agreed replacement posts from UK Timber and oversee installation. The Council approved a budget of up to £3,500 plus VAT for completion of the project in early October.

(ii) **Parish Barn**

See resolution above under Rental of Parish Barn and Allotment.

(iii) **Website (Councillor Tanner)**

No updates.

(iv) **New Streetlight – Sports Field Entrance**

No updates.

(v) Wildlife and Aylesbury Vale Wild Project.

The cost to fully cultivate and seed the area opposite the sports field, along with overseeding of the two additional areas, has been estimated at £1,550 plus VAT, with an additional £750 plus VAT for seed costs. The Parish Council expressed a preference for a lower-maintenance, more sustainable solution, using native seed species that will hopefully grow more naturally in the local environment.

RESOLVED: Councillor Hogbin-Mills will research alternative options, focusing on native species and long-term sustainability, and report back to the Council with recommendations for consideration at the September meeting.

111/25 Sportsfield relevant updates (Councillor Mordue)

A reminder that *Grandmarstonbury*—a family-friendly music event and dog show—will be held at the Sportsfield on **Saturday, 13th September**.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will add the event to the **News** section of the website. As this is a joint event between the Sportsfield Committee and the North Marston School PTA, someone from the organising team is to provide the Clerk with the necessary details and content to be included.

112/25 Finance

To approve the following Receipts and Payments of Accounts:

Receipts and Payments of Accounts

Payments received by the Parish Council

The Shop NM – Peppercorn Rent 2025-26 - £1.00 no VAT

Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council

Law Group LLP – continued instruction regarding Quainton Road land dispute - £504.00, £84.00 VAT

VALDA Energy Ltd – Electricity charges 21st May-20th June VH - £151.76, £7.22 VAT (to be reimbursed to PC account from VH account – account to be corrected)

BMKALC and NALC Subs - £125.40, no VAT

SSE Energy streetlighting supply 1st-31st May - £67.32, £3.21 VAT

HP Instant ink – printer ink contract 18th May-17th June - £6.49, £1.08 VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Parish Council

Clerks Salary for June - £***. ** no VAT

HMRC – Clerk's PAYE tax - £***. **

Employers N.I £**. **

Office Reimbursement for June £26.00, no VAT

Tesco Mobile – parish phone contract May/June - £8.57, no VAT

VALDA Energy – VH electricity charges 21st June – 20th July - £100.57, £4.97 VAT (to be reimbursed to PC account from VH account – account to be corrected)

Blades – June grass cutting - £882.40, £147.07 VAT

Village Hall

Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall

Katherine Wetherell – VH cleaning June - £150.00 no VAT

Shannon O'Gorman – VH hire refund - £50.00

PRA Randles – Repair to VH floor blocks - £40.00, no VAT

E-on Next - electricity Schorne Room – 4th – 31st May - £33.79, £1.61 VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Village Hall

It was agreed by the Parish Council to accept a late invoice from Kate Wetherall for June cleaning of the Village Hall - £187.50, no VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Village Hall

Olivia Spinelli – VH hire for Yoga classes - £94.00, no VAT

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

E-On Next Ltd - SF electricity 1st-31st May '25 - £52.13, £2.49 VAT

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

Payments Received on behalf of the Sportsfield

North Marston and Granborough Cricket Club – use of facilities 2025-26 - £1,500, no VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Sportsfield

James Radcliffe – mower fuel and waste bin bags - £62.47, £9.50 VAT

July 100 Club Prizes

000857 100 Club 100 Club 1st prize £30.00, no VAT

000858 100 Club 100 Club 2nd prize £20.00, no VAT

000859 100 Club 100 Club 3rd prize £10.00, no VAT

113/25 Date of the next meeting: The Parish Council will recess in August. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday, 9th September 2025 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Jan Brandon, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council, 14th July 2025