

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 July 2024

Present: Councillors I Mordue (Chairman), A Boyt (Vice Chairman), D Hogbin-Mills, K Du-Plessis, B Newman, and S Hill. Jan Roffe, Clerk and seven members of the public

237/24 Apologies: To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor Phil Gomm, Buckinghamshire Council

238/24 Members Interests: To record any declarations of interest from Members.

There were no declarations of interest declared.

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

100 Club Draw:

1 st Prize:	£30	No.10	Lisa and Bradley Simmons
2 nd Prize	£20	No. 93	Sarah Forsyth
3 rd Prize	£10	No.51	Andy Keegan

- Residents were complimentary about the resurfacing work that had been carried on in Church Street and School Hill and about the teams carrying out the work who were described as always courteous and helpful.
- There were some complaints about overgrown hedges, picked up at item 245/24 (2)

239/24 Buckinghamshire Council update: In his absence, Councillor Gomm had sent an email update. This was read out by the Chairman, and in brief, mentioned the following:

- Highways: Church Street and School Hill resurfacing has been completed and looks good. This was Councillor Gomm's Member's Choice. He sorted out all the problems associated with it. The High Street and side roads will be resurfaced a later date.
- The large Granite sets at the bottom of School Hill blend in better following the resurfacing. Councillor Gomm therefore has no intention of requesting that Highways change them.
- Councillor Gomm and others are in the process of setting up a new speeding project in the area and he has eager volunteers from North Marston.
- Councillor Gomm queried why he has not been asked to help with the land at Quainton Road. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council is still waiting to hear the result of the First-Tier Tribunal and has therefore not required any input from him (see 243/24).

240/24 Minutes

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th June 2024 were approved and signed.

241/24 Verification of Sue Chaplin as a trustee of Poors Piece and Clockland Charity.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council was very happy to verify Sue Chaplin as a Trustee of the Charity.

242/24 Update on Parish Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk advised that she had readvertised the vacancy but had received no expressions of interest. The advert will remain on the parish noticeboard and website. Those present at the meeting were asked if anyone would like to be co-opted, but nobody came forward.

243/24 Update on the land to the north of Quainton Road

The Parish Council had received notification on 2nd July from the Tribunal Service to confirm that it had received notice of the case from HM Land Registry and that the Respondent has been asked to provide some additional information before the case is considered.

244/24 To acknowledge and discuss the following Planning Appeal:

App Ref: 24/01081/PAHAS Appeal Ref: 24/00045/FTHA Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/J0405/D/24/3346072 Site Address: Three Corner Piece, Granborough Road, North Marston, Buckinghamshire, MK18 3PP. Proposal: Prior approval application for construction of additional storey to create first floor living accommodation, height of 6.45 metres.

RESOLVED: After a short discussion, the Parish Council agreed that it need not take any further action as the Parish Council's original objection on the grounds of over-development of the site had been noted in the appeal document.

245/24 To receive any updates and discuss actions on the following matters:

Environment

1. Highways

(i) Update on any new and resolved road issues

The Parish Council was pleased that the resurfacing of Church Street and School Hill had been completed, looks good and that the Highway's team was helpful, and residents were not too inconvenienced. There is no news on the dates that the High Street will be resurfaced, but it is thought it will most likely be in September.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the Clerk would pass on the Parish Council's thanks to Highways and to the teams carrying out the work.

RESOLVED: Clerk to report on Fix My Street that the road is failing approx. 10 metres past Parsnip Pond and that large potholes have formed.

(ii) MVAS and the possible reintroduction of Speed Watch.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council will share MVAS data with Councillor Gomm to help with the set-up of a new speed watch initiative. The Parish Council supported the idea.

(iii) Update on Church Street Road sign

RESOLVED: The Local Area Technician had confirmed to the Clerk that a replacement sign is on the job list but was unable to give a timescale as to when this might be done.

(iv) Streetlights at the bottom of School Hill and top of Church Street/Marston Fields junction
The Clerk is still sourcing alternative quotations to that provided by Sparkx.

2. Grass and Hedges

(i) To discuss Blades quotation for an additional cut (two cuts per month) of the Village Pond during the summer months.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the quotation of £30.00 per additional cut. The Clerk to write to Blades to request that the Village Pond grass is cut twice per month during the summer months, identified as May, June, July, August and also September.

(ii) Hedge along path between Portway and Shorne Lane.

RESOLVED: This is Fair Hive's responsibility. The Clerk's had already sent a request to the housing association to request that the hedge is cut back, but having heard nothing other than an acknowledgement, the Clerk had also sent a further email. The Clerk to also write to Hill Farm House to ask the owners to cut back the hedge that is encroaching on to the pavement opposite the Village Hall.

3. Other

(i) To discuss progress since the last meeting regarding CCTV

Update: Research on this is still in progress by Councillor Du-Plessis.

(ii) To agree action regarding a dead tree along Footpath No.4 behind Elmers Meadow

RESOLVED: The Chairman had looked at the tree and does not consider it a danger. The Parish Council agreed that it would budget for the footpath and overhanging trees to be cut back in next

year's budget. In the meantime, there were no objections to the residents pruning the tree down to below fence level to improve their view, but this would be at their own risk.

(iii) To agree action regarding the tree enclosed within the Church Street Spinney growing up into the branches.

RESOLVED: The tree is thought to be on Common Land. The Clerk to contact the electricity company to request they prune it. Clerk also to write to Tony Franklin to ask him to confirm in writing that the spinney is not owned by him.

(iv) To consider Roy Randles quotation for the maintenance of the bus shelters and village gates

RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed Roy Randle's quotation for the maintenance of the bus shelters and gates using Sadolin rather than a water-based paint - £565.00 inc. VAT

246/24 Parish Action Plan: To receive any relevant updates on/discuss the following:

1. The Parish Barn and 2. Update on the Memorandum of Agreement

Councillor Hall is in contact with John Spargo who is working on drawing up a Memorandum of Agreement between the Parish Council and the History Club.

RESOLVED: That John Spargo share the Memorandum of Agreement for the Parish Council's perusal when it has been drafted, and before the September meeting, if possible.

2. Village Hall

(i) Update on the purchase and installation of storage shelving for Parish Council use in the back extension.

RESOLVED: The installation is in progress, but Councillor Mordue is waiting for some parts that were missing. Once received, he will complete the job.

(ii) Update on the purchase of a PA system for the use of those who hire the hall.

RESOLVED: The PA system has been ordered and will be installed by Councillor Mordue during August. It is easy to use. The Monday Club will be able to use it for its guest speakers and will be shown how to operate it.

(iii) New Yoga class on Friday evenings.

Update: There is a new Yoga class taking place on Fridays in the Village Hall between 7pm-8.30pm.

3. Play Area

(i) To discuss Kompan's quotation for parts for the junior play frame

RESOLVED: The Clerk to forward the 10-year warranty to Kompan and ask why the Parish Council would therefore be charged for parts. Councillors Newman and Hall will look for alternative fixings in the meantime.

(ii) Update on the bin by the octagonal shelter.

RESOLVED: The Clerk had written to Streetscene who had apologised that the bin had not been emptied as per the contract. They will arrange for the bin to be included in the emptying round.

Village Pond and Parsnip Pond

Thanks were expressed to Christina Hutson, who was present at the meeting, for the kind donation of algae treatment and for clearing algae from the pond. Thanks were also expressed to David Heffer for clearing Parsnip Pond.

RESOLVED: As he was not present at the meeting, the Clerk to write to David to thank him on behalf of the Parish Council and residents.

It was agreed that volunteers should try to keep the vegetation around the pond down so that the job is more manageable.

The Clerk was asked to clarify with Blades that the back hedge to Parsnip Pond should be cut as annually by hand as per the specification.

4. Defibrillators

- (i) Permission for the Clerk to purchase a new battery for the Village Hall defibrillator £330.00 (inc. £55.00 VAT).

RESOLVED: Purchase approved.

247/24 Projects: To discuss or to receive updates on the following:

- (i) Church Street kerbing - grant funding

RESOLVED: The Parish Council cannot afford this project, which will only go ahead if grant funding can be found. As this is in a Conservation Area, the Clerk has approached The National Lottery Heritage Fund and is awaiting a response.

- (ii) Bollards to protect some verges – discuss quotation from Highways and next steps.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council cannot afford the £14k quoted and there is no grant funding available. A smaller-scale project would be in the region of £5-£7k and this was also considered too expensive. The Clerk to write to Highways to ask if there are any cheaper solutions that would be agreeable to Highways on a Highways owned verge.

- (iii) New streetlight opposite Sports field entrance

Update: This is still being researched by Councillor Mordue and Councillor Hall.

- (iv) Website upgrade

Update: This is nearing completion. Martin Tanner had sent the Parish Council a link to the new website for comments and additions.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to ask local groups for up-to-date content to be included on the website.

- (v) Encouraging Wildlife/Aylesbury Vale Wild Project

There was a brief discussion about the very tall weeds that have grown up amongst the lovely flowers at the Granborough end of the village and what may be done to keep them at bay in future.

RESOLVED: Councillor Hogbin-Mills agreed to research.

248/24 Sportsfield: (i) Finances (ii) Maintenance of trim trail (iii) Mower Maintenance (iv) Forest School (v) Any other updates from Councillor Mordue.

Updates: The Sportsfield's funds are depleted having contributed £6k to the drainage project. Fundraising initiatives are under discussion. (ii) There is no money at the moment to maintain the trim trail and hardly anybody is using it. (iii) The SF Committee had agreed the maintenance of the new mower as a priority. It is overdue a service. (iv) There were no updates from the Forest School.

249/24 Finance:

- (i) Confirmation of the dates of the Exercise of Public Rights to view the accounts.

RESOLVED: The 30-day window for the public to view the previous year's accounts was confirmed as 24th June to the 2nd of August 2024. This has already been advertised on the website, Face Book and on the parish noticeboard.

- (ii) To discuss the introduction of Scribe accounting software requested by the Clerk.

RESOLVED: After a discussion the Parish Council agreed that an Excel Spreadsheet should be sufficient for a parish this size and that the Parish Council could not afford a £500.00 per year subscription for Scribe. It was agreed that the possibility of a bookkeeper would be looked into to take the pressure off the Clerk who is finding the spreadsheet difficult to manage across four accounts as it taking up to much of her time to find and correct any formulaic errors/corruptions.

- (iii) To agree change of use of the grant funds of £150.00 awarded to The Shop.

RESOLVED: The change of use of the grant to cover electrical installation and shelving costs was agreed.

- (iv) To agree the purchase of a case of wine for the internal auditor of up to £110.00 exc. VAT.

RESOLVED: Agreed under the Chairman's Allowance.

RESOLVED: The following Payment and Receipts were approved:

Receipts and Payments of Accounts

Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council

Blades – June grass cutting - £846.40, £141.07 VAT

ROSPA Play Safety – inspection fee - £194.40, £32.40 VAT (Includes ROSPA maintenance check list)

Sparkx Ltd – fault Morton Close - £295.80, £49.30 VAT

Men In Sheds – donation for making mud kitchen - £50.00 no VAT

Defibstore – Pads for Wesley Centre defibrillator - £79.20,

SSE Energy – streetlighting 01/05 – 31/05 - £18.80 (£2.06 VAT)

Highway and Solar – Installation of MVAS ground sockets x 2 - £1,849.26, £308.21 VAT

HP Instant Ink –ink contract - £7.49, £1.25 VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Parish Council

Clerks Salary - £***.**, no VAT

Office Reimbursement - £26.00, no VAT for April (missed payment)

Office Reimbursement - £26.00, no VAT for June, Poly Pocket files £6.99 – Total £32.99

Payments received on behalf of the Parish Council

The Shop – peppercorn rental - £1.00, no VAT

Jon Martin – Parish Barn Rental 2024-25 - £210.00, no VAT

Village Hall

Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall

Katherine Wetherell – VH cleaning April - £187.50, no VAT

Lovell Fuels – oil - £300, £15.00 VAT

E-on Next - SR electricity 4th May – 3rd June - £26.97, £1.28 VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Village Hall

T Griffin – VH hire for party deposit- £50.00, no VAT

T Griffin – VH hire for party balance - £45.00, no VAT

Sportsfield

Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield

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

E-On Next – Electricity 1st April to 31st May - £145.16, £6.91 VAT

Lanes Landscaping – Supply and delivery of fence posts - £276.78, £46.13 VAT

Pete Butler – handtowels for pavilion - £59.84, £9.97 VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Sportsfield

000818 100 Club 1st prize £30.00, no VAT

000819 100 Club 2nd prize £20.00, no VAT

000820 100 Club 3rd prize £10.00, no VAT

250/24 Date of the next meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 8pm in the Village Hall. The Parish Council will recess for the month of August.

***Jan Roffe, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council
10th July 2024***