

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 12th November 2024

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

278/24 Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hogbin-Mills and Buckinghamshire Councillor, Phil Gomm.

279/24 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 Draw for November 2024.

There were no matters brought to the Parish Council's attention during the Open Forum.

100 CLUB NOVEMBER DRAW RESULTS

1st Prize, no.19 £30 Jo Radcliffe, 2nd Prize no.14 £20 Pat Robinson, 3rd Prize no.8 £10 Jeff Scott

280/24 Buckinghamshire Council update: In his absence, Councillor Gomm had sent a copy of the most relevant points from Councillor Martin Tett's recent Buckinghamshire Council update. As long, these are attached at the end of the minutes. Councillor Gomm also hoped that all are pleased with the Quainton parish scheme to resurface Carters Lane, which also benefits NM, and reiterated that he can be contacted when required. Email Philip.gomm@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

281/24 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th October 2024 were approved and signed.

282/24 Any relevant updates received from the Tribunal Office regarding the land to the north of Quainton Road.

The Respondents have submitted their response to the Parish Council's case. The Tribunal Office has advised that both parties must now wait for further instructions from the judiciary.

283/24 To consider the following Planning Application:

24/03232/APP - NORTH MARSTON

1 Church Street North Marston Buckinghamshire MK18 3PH

Householder application for rebuilding of brick garden wall

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

284/24: To receive any relevant updates on/discuss the following:

1. The Parish Barn

Councillor Hall advised that he has asked John Spargo for a full scope of the costs involved so that sufficient grant funding is applied for.

2. Village Hall

- (i) The Clerk advised that the numbers have been low and that sadly, Zumba classes will not be continuing.
- (ii) The hall has been booked by Buckinghamshire Council for the local elections on Thursday 1st May 2024. The Sports Pavilion is available to the Preschool if they would like to make use of it on that day.
- (iii) The lock on the main front double doors to the hall has had a temporary fix but it needs to be replaced. Ivy is growing up the external walls of the building and around the windows and is beginning to grow back over the oil tank.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to ask Roy Randles to buy and install a new lock and to remove the ivy. Materials and labour costs were approved up to the sum of £150.00 (no VAT)

(iv) **RESOLVED:** The Clerk to order 500 litres of oil.

3. Play Area

Councillor Newman submitted the ROSPA checklist for the month. Clearing the toddler trampoline of leaves and litter under it remains a small issue. Councillor Newman also advised that Street Scene has missed emptying the bin again. The Clerk will email Street Scene again. The Parish Council briefly discussed the installation of a more permanent barrier along part of the hedge on the Quanton Road side as children are climbing through it.

RESOLVED: Councillors Mordue, Newman and Boyt to install an appropriate fence/barrier.

4. **Village Pond and Parsnip Pond** – no updates except that the village pond remains clear of algae.

5. **Defibrillators** – All three have had their monthly status check carried out by Christina Hutson.

6. **MVAS** – It is time to move the signs again. Councillor Mordue needs to obtain the charger from a former councillor who has it. He also agreed to look to see if there is any useful data to pass to Councillor Gomm to help inform TVP for a new speed/Sentinel project.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to ask the LAT for traffic calming options and the costs involved.

7. Any other matters - none

285/24 To receive any updates and discuss actions on the following matters:

Environment

1. Highways

(i) Any new and resolved road issues

The Clerk advised that, the footway outside nos. 1-7 Church Street had been reported on Fix My Street by a resident as failing and dangerous. This had also been reported by the Clerk last year. The response from Highways is the same as previously; that it is responsible for over 1,500 miles of footpaths and this footpath is not considered dangerous nor a priority. The Clerk said that she would reiterate that it is used by a lot of elderly residents using mobility vehicles and is considered a danger for them.

(ii) Parking

There was a short discussion about parking in the village, acknowledging the comments on Facebook. There are problems with vehicles parking inconsiderately, particularly on the bend into High Street (Portway end). The Parish Council can do very little except write to residents and appeal to their better nature. The Clerk contacted Thames Valley Police (TVP) and was advised that if residents believe that a vehicle is parked illegally or dangerously, then it should be reported to them, otherwise to Buckinghamshire Council. TVP has some very helpful advice about what is illegal or dangerous parking as opposed to “inconsiderate” parking, and who to contact in each instance at: [We need to talk about parking | Thames Valley Police](#).

Residents complaining, particularly on Facebook, are invited to attend the Open Forum at the beginning of a Parish Council meeting and suggest solutions to the problem.

(iii) Streetlights

The Clerk advised that she has contacted the contractor to report that the lights at the junction of Morton Close/Schorne Lane and outside no.12 Schorne Lane, are on again during the day. Both had their photocells replaced earlier this year, so should not have failed. The light at the bottom of School Hill has recently been repaired. Please report any street light defects to the Clerk at:

northmarston@gmail.com

2. Grass and Hedges

Safety issue: Following a discarded sharps box being found mown over on a verge, spreading the contents across the grass, the Parish Council issued a reminder to please dispose of sharps in a yellow sharps box provided by your pharmacy, and seal and return it to the pharmacy or your local GP surgery when full.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to the school to suggest that they warn the children about the dangers of touching/picking up discarded clinical waste.

3. CCTV

RESOLVED: The Clerk to ask Winslow Town Council about its CCTV, grant funding, its contractor and how it got over privacy issues.

4. Tree enclosed within the Church Street Spinney encroaching upon telephone wires.

The Clerk advised that she has received one quotation from Village Tree Surgeons and that, in their opinion, a cherry picker would be required as some of the branches are dead and unsafe.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to chase another quote already in the pipeline. The Parish Council will then decide which to accept at the December meeting.

5. Any other matters

RESOLVED: The Parish Council will continue to post agendas, minutes and important information on Facebook, but will NOT respond to comments on Facebook. If residents would like help, guidance on matters within the jurisdiction of the Parish Council, or signposting to the agency responsible, please contact the council through the Clerk at northmarston@gmail.com

286/24 Projects: To discuss or to receive updates on the following:

(i) Website upgrade – approval to launch.

The Parish Council expressed its gratitude and thanks to Martin Tanner for all his work on the new website. It is ready to launch and additional information will be added as it develops. Once launched, all groups are invited to make sure that the information about their group is up to date and to send Martin any amendments. Photographs to add interest on your group's page would be helpful to include to make the pages more interesting.

Please send any amendments and photos to: mdtanner@hotmail.co.uk

RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed the launch of the new website. The Parish Council also agreed to pass the management of the site over to Martin and that Councillor Mordue would ensure that all that Martin needs is sent to him from the current website host.

(ii) New streetlight opposite Sports field entrance

RESOLVED: Councillor Mordue has identified an appropriate light and will organise its installation with the help of Councillors Boyt and Hall. It was agreed to allow up to £1,500 for this project.

(iii) Encouraging Wildlife/Aylesbury Vale Wild Project

The wildlife verges have had their autumn/winter cut and tidy.

287/24 Sportsfield:

It was confirmed that the Sportsfield Committee will be holding a fundraising Race Night on Saturday 1st February 2025. Local businesses are invited to sponsor the event by donating a raffle prize or sponsoring a race for £50.00. Other raffle donations are also welcome. At the meeting, Councillor Hall kindly offered Adsum Sports to sponsor a race.

288/24 Finance:

1. The revised NALC/local government pay agreement pay-scales for the Clerk were noted and are to be back-dated to April 2024.

2. Draft budget setting for 2024-25 financial year.

- (i) The Finance Committee and the Clerk had met to put together a draft budget, but it was not quite ready to circulate.

RESOLVED: Councillor Mordue agreed to circulate the draft budget as soon as possible to councillors to be considered/agreed at the November meeting.

- (ii) It was noted that The Shop is now making an agreed financial contribution towards the increased electricity costs for the Schorne Room since it began to use the back area for storage and freezer. The freezer has already made a huge difference the shop's stock levels. Some of The Shop's profits will continue to be donated back into the community for various projects.

- (iii) The Parish Council also discussed changing electricity supplier at the end of the current two-year contract with E-On, which ends in May 2025. This could save in the region of £900 at current prices. However, the reviews for the suggested new supplier, Tomato, are not very favourable.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed that more research needs to be done into Tomato before locking into a contract with them.

3. Receipts and Payments of Accounts

RESOLVED: The following Payments and Receipts were approved:

Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council

SSE Energy – streetlighting 01/09 – 31/09 - £18.80 £2.06 VAT

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

Tesco Mobile – August 24 - £8.09, no VAT

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

PKF Littlejohn – External Auditor - £378.00

Payments to be made on behalf of the Parish Council

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

Office Reimbursement for October - £26.00, no VAT and office diary purchase £8.99. Total: £34.99

HMRC PAYE October - £***.** no VAT

Village Hall

Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall

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

Eleanor McCarthy – VH hire deposit refund - £50.00, no VAT

E-on Next - electricity Village Hall 1/9-30/9 - £106.98, £5.35 VAT

E-on Next - electricity Village Hall 1/9-30/9 - £66.71, £3.34 VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Village Hall

Katherine Wetherell – VH cleaning October - £150.00, no VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Village Hall

Zoe Cusack – VH hire Summer Term for Yoga classes - £108.00, no VAT

Jenny Wig-Morgan – hire of Village Hall for Beaujolais Nouveau evening - £40.00, no VAT

The Shop contribution to Schorne Room electricity costs 1st July – 31st December 2024 - £246.00, no VAT

Eleanor McCarthy - VH hire balance - £45.00 no VAT

Jennifer Biggerstaff – VH hire deposit and balance - £95.00 no VAT

Sportsfield

Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield

Rebecca Parker-Marvellous Marigolds October cleaning & cleaning sundries £67.50+£9.39 = £76.89, no VAT

Alan Still – 100 Club 1st Prize October – £30.00, no VAT

Carolyn and Mark Scholes - 100 Club second prize October - £20.00, no VAT

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

E-on Next – Electricity 1/9-30/9 – £67.14, £3.20 VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Sportsfield

November 100 Club Prizes

000830 100 Club 1st prize £30.00, no VAT

000831 100 Club 2nd prize £20.00, no VAT

000832 100 Club 3rd prize £10.00, no VAT

289/24 Date of the next meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 10th December 2024 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

290/24 CLOSED SESSION

The Clerk left the meeting to enable the Parish Council to confidentially discuss and agree the Clerk's pay point in line with NALC recommendations.

Jan Roffe, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council

18th November 2024

Our roads this winter

Hopefully you will have seen that we have made significant progress with our rolling £110 million four-year investment programme in our roads, with many roads resurfaced and thousands of potholes filled. However, wet and cold weather can still lead to new potholes and other defects, particularly on older surfaces and those being damaged by heavy goods vehicles. Although our roads repair programme continues, our focus over winter switches to less weather dependent work and often we need to operate a ‘make safe’ approach to road repairs during winter weather, so as not to waste precious time and resources doing substantial repairs that simply won’t last or aren’t practical on wet or frozen surfaces. This means we will carry out many more ‘temporary repairs’ to potholes during winter; these aren’t pretty and are just that – a temporary fix to make the road safe. We then carry out more permanent repairs and improvements during the spring and summer. Our road repair programme is designed using a combination of professional technical assessment, alongside local knowledge and priority from ward councillors on behalf of their residents.

<https://enews.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/c/AQj0xw4Qwt50GOMGkBggu4TSFz1IScFUGBsz0Vi1NdsOtFkaoAlcjFxxiV7pC09BjWgj>).

During the winter months our teams will also focus on keeping the roads safe in colder and icier conditions, gritting where we need to and making safe any defects that open up as well as responding to severe weather and flooding.

The Council ‘steps in’ with Pension Credit surgeries

Following the government’s surprise decision to withdraw the Winter Fuel Payment from nearly all Buckinghamshire pensioners we are doing everything in our power to support local residents of pensionable age who could now be struggling to pay bills and buy food. . As you may well be aware, this year’s Winter Fuel Payment will now only be made to pensioners on certain benefits and who are in receipt of Pension Credit. A significant concern with this is that it’s known that nationally some 900,000 people receiving the state pension who are eligible for this benefit are not currently claiming it. This means these people, who really do rely on their Winter Fuel Payment, will not get it.

It’s critical that people of pensionable age do check whether they’re eligible for Pension Credit and make an application if so. As is often the case, the application form can appear somewhat complicated, so we have organised face to face ‘surgeries’ in many of our libraries and other council buildings where expert support will be on hand to help people fill out the required form, if they would like some help or guidance. This is all completely free and confidential. Anyone who needs this support is invited to click here for more information including times and locations., our give me a call 07778 177647

<https://enews.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/c/AQj0xw4Qwt50GOMGkBgguITSFwaTzdYcRX36cJ8oGekRmRVq q2DA48982Yb56JpgOaH6>)

Christmas appeals

This is also the time of year where we turn our attention even more closely to people in need. Of course, protecting the vulnerable is a key, year-round priority of this council and this work continues 365 days a year through our various support and care services. I do however also want to let you know of some specific news about how we are supporting our residents who need it most this Christmas.

We have just launched our new ‘Christmas Angels’ campaign, highlighting five key local charities that we hope residents, if they are in a position to do so, can consider donating to this Christmas. One of these ‘Christmas Angels’ is ‘Inspire Bucks’, set up by local Buckinghamshire Councillor Paul Irwin. They run the annual Christmas Toy appeal for local children who otherwise might not get a gift this Christmas. Year after year, I am blown away by the sheer difference this campaign makes to our local children and I am incredibly grateful for the generosity of our communities – so I urge you once again, if you are able to do

so, to give to this incredibly worthy appeal. You can click here to donate.

(<https://enews.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/c/AQj0xw4Qwt50G0mGkBggyYTSF3UFNSBWEC05CdhIFNmd44wZckGFi5AZfmU9EgVC10rO>)

Alongside Inspire Bucks, our other 'Christmas Angels' also provide very significant support to local residents. They include 'Heart of Bucks' currently running their 'Together Against Poverty' appeal (<https://enews.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/c/AQj0xw4Qwt50G0mGkBggyvTSF2rIUADanBlk70KmZfR5w8xulrD9Ug8cUoFVIhfrEM8n>) supporting local people facing hardship. The One Can Trust Foodbank (<https://enews.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/c/AQj0xw4Qwt50G0mGkBggy4TSF-Cif1ykIYnjOxRLNyqjmCnS-LwColwG82mmG-bWSu48>) is based in High Wycombe and provides free weekly emergency food parcels to anyone in High Wycombe and South Bucks who finds themselves in need.

Aylesbury Vineyard Storehouse

(https://enews.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/c/AQj0xw4Qwt50G0mGkBggyITSF7NTL5w39Q96YdW-n-wScDjFSWBW-CcEu-OcKulq2L_Q) and Chiltern Foodbank (

<https://enews.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/c/AQj0xw4Qwt50G0mGkBggyYTSF6XSzsd4how1z3brwwaET4evJDebFHagIVh7LAdGA1XA>) also provide similar support to people in those areas too. Together, our 'Festive Five' make a massive difference to local people who may be facing real challenges this Christmas.

We do want to be clear too that while we have highlighted these five charities, there are many other amazing local organisations doing great work in their communities and we also include these on our Christmas Angels webpage

(https://enews.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/c/AQj0xw4Qwt50G0mGkBggywoTSF_zealbgn4o3vICo0Bs6oC3LjAnYLXfK0fsDs20GYB-A) in case you want to see how you might help and support some of these other organisations too.

Enhanced online help for adults and carers

Continuing the theme of helping and supporting people who need it most, I want to draw attention to some significant work we've done alongside residents using our Adult Social Care services to introduce new resources for both these residents and carers. This aims to support their independence and personal management of their care needs.

We provide assistance to more than 5,000 adults with varying degrees of support. Our new measures focus on making it easier for them to get online information and advice about their adult social care needs. It also enhances the level of online support for the many carers supporting people who need additional help. Importantly, we've designed these new resources alongside the people we're supporting, so that they directly reflect what service users tell us they need.

We've launched our new-look Care Advice Bucks website

(https://enews.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/c/AQj0xw4Qwt50G0mGkBggy4TSF_ULLaXg02BEIqgNUJz9Ho5Gzfta2HPIo0PawzDg_4k0) to include content that outlines how to go through the care assessment process, how individuals can arrange and pay for their care and guidance on what home support and equipment is available, as well as some helpful health and wellbeing advice.

Alongside this, the council has also improved the online resources available to carers in Buckinghamshire, joining up for the first time with 'Mobilise'

(https://enews.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/c/AQj0xw4Qwt50G0mGkBggyITSF3YrBnx1_x1BKtIWQbDSpVxVNK06wXII4YFlgAJ4_GhM), providers of specialist support for people who are caring for others. 'Mobilise' offers Buckinghamshire carers free access to online support sessions, one to one support from a dedicated carers coach and access to a network of other carers to provide invaluable support and a listening ear.

Philip Gomm Buckinghamshire Unitary Councillor covering YOUR Parish.