

North Marston Parish Council

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

MINUTES

Annual Meeting of North Marston Parish Council Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 8.45pm in the Village Hall

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

64/25 To elect the Chairman of the Parish Council

RESOLVED: Ian Mordue was elected as Chairman, proposed by Councillor Andrew Boyt and seconded by Councillor Du-Plessis. The Chairman then received and read the Declaration of Acceptance and signed it.

65/25 To elect the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council

RESOLVED: Andrew Boyt was elected as Vice-Chairman, proposed by Councillor Mordue and seconded by Councillor Du-Plessis. The Vice-Chairman then received and read the Declaration of Acceptance and signed it.

66/25 It was confirmed that councillors had received a Register of Pecuniary Interests form to complete and return to the Clerk by the 25th May 2025. All forms to be uploaded on to the website.

67/25 To receive apologies for absence: No apologies had been received

68/25 Members Interests: There were no declarations of interest.

69/25 Minutes: To approve minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th April 2025.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed

Open forum for Parishioners: (under adjournment - 3 minutes per person speaking) to include 100 Club Draw for May 2025

100 Club winners: No. 9 – Jayne Dancer, No.99 – Gill Warner and No.78 – Val York

70/25 Confirmation of the election result for Unitary Councillor – Quainton Ward

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Phil Gomm following his election as Unitary Councillor for the new Quainton Ward.

71/25 Buckinghamshire Council update, Councillor Phil Comm

Buckinghamshire Councillor, Philip Gomm, congratulated the Councillors present on the uncontested election result and gave a round-up of some of the good things that he felt had been achieved over the past four years. He highlighted:

- (i) the significant road improvements made in the village, including the resurfacing of High Street, Portway, Church Street, School Hill, and, more recently, Carters Lane and his pride in the grants awarded during his tenure as Chair of the Winslow and Villages Community Board, most notably for the Sportsfield drainage project and for the installation of brass plaques commemorating villagers who lost their lives in World War I.
- (ii) Village footways are included in the Highways Capital Programme. While resurfacing may still be several months away, residents are encouraged to contact him with any issues in the meantime.

- (iii) Speeding continues to be a concern across local villages. However, it is hoped that a team of volunteers will soon be active throughout the ward. Data collected by the team will be shared with Thames Valley Police, with enforcement action expected in some cases.
- (iv) The proposals for solar farms in the area remain a significant topic of concern. However, at this stage, the companies involved appear to be gauging interest rather than moving forward with development. Substantial progress is unlikely until the new substation is constructed in East Claydon.
- (v) Buckinghamshire Council continues to face considerable financial pressures. The coming years are expected to be particularly challenging in terms of budgeting and available resources.
- (vi) North Marston Parish will now fall under the remit of the Waddesdon and Haddenham Community Board.
- (vii) He acknowledged that parking at the Sportsfield remains an ongoing issue and confirmed that work is underway on a major project to address it. Plans are progressing to utilise part of an adjacent field, owned by Buckinghamshire Council, as a designated parking area.
- (viii) Buckinghamshire Council's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 21st May. During the meeting, a new Cabinet and select committee members will be appointed.

72/25 Working Groups: The following were appointed members to serve on the under-mentioned working groups as required:

RESOLVED:

- Sportsfield Committee – Councillor Ian Mordue
- Playground – Councillor Brett Newman
- Planning – Councillor Andrew Boyt
- Marketing and the promotion of the village – Councillor Martin Tanner.

73/25 To appoint representatives on the under-mentioned bodies as required:

RESOLVED:

- a. Village Hall Trustees (must be Chairman) – Councillor Ian Mordue
- b. Village Hall Committee - Councillor Mordue and Jan Roffe (Clerk)
- c. Community Board – Jan Roffe, Clerk
- d. North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium – Councillor Andrew Boyt
- e. Parish Liaison Meeting – Councillors to rotate

74/25 To verify the review of the under-mentioned Parish Council documents for 2025/26:

RESOLVED: It was agreed that this item would be postponed to the July meeting as all policies are currently under review to make sure that they meet current legislation.

75/25 To consider the following Planning applications:

(i) 25/00854/APP - NORTH MARSTON

Land Off Marston Fields Road North Marston Buckinghamshire.

Change of use of mobile home from short overnight stays to residential use (retrospective)

RESOLVED: In considering this application, the Parish Council was mindful that the applicant is a vulnerable member of the community who has been residing in the mobile home since 2021 and would otherwise be at risk of homelessness if evicted.

However, the Council also expressed concern that permitting residential use of a mobile home in this instance may set a precedent, potentially encouraging similar applications that could lead to further development in time. In light of these considerations and noting that this was a personal planning application with associated restrictions, the Parish Council resolved to

support the application, understanding that there would be a strict condition that no further development is permitted on the site, now or in the future. Furthermore, once the applicant ceases to occupy the mobile home for any reason, the site is fully restored to its original state as fields and pastureland.

(ii) 25/01203/VRC - NORTH MARSTON

Little Marston, Marston Fields Road North Marston Buckinghamshire MK18 3PG

Variation of condition 2 (materials) 8 (plans) relating to application
20/01539/APP (Remodelling of existing garage and store with construction of
new single-storey link extension to existing single-storey dwelling)

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

(iii) Any updates regarding Solar Farm/BESS proposals in the area.

There were no updates.

76/25 Update: Land to the north of Quainton Road

The Chairman reported that both he and the Clerk had attended a mediation session, accompanied by the Parish Council's solicitor. The mediator was a specialist tribunal judge with expertise in land registration and residential property disputes. While a settlement was not reached on the day, there is hope that negotiations will continue with the aim of reaching an agreement before any legal court hearing.

MOTION:

A motion was carried to move into a closed session at the end of the meeting to further discuss the proposed settlement terms following mediation.

Proposed by Councillor Boyt; seconded by Councillor Du-Plessis.

78/25 To discuss the applications received from local organisations for a Parish Council Small Grants scheme and agree the awards to be made. (Excel spreadsheet circulated)

RESOLVED: The following awards were agreed: The History Club for a new laptop: £200.00, NM School PTA for a new metal storage shed: £500.00 and the ECC towards a new sound system for the church: £300.00. **TOTAL £1,000**

78/25 Short debrief following the Parish Council's VE Day celebrations "Picnic in the Park" on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May

The event was a great success, despite the slightly chilly weather. It brought together all generations of the village, with families enjoying picnics in the play area and older residents gathering in the hall for refreshments, cake. All were fascinated by the special VE Day Exhibition mounted by the History Club. Special thanks to Sue Chaplain, Janet Gowin and their team for their work on the exhibition, and to Clare Johnson for her popular family photography sessions. Thanks also to the Clerk for organising the event, and to everyone who supported it by coming along, baking cakes and helping with setup and clear up. It was a warmly received and memorable community celebration.

79/25 To discuss/agree Energy Tariffs as the end of electricity and streetlighting 2-year contracts approach.

RESOLVED: With a saving of over £800.00 it was agreed to change supplier to VALDA for a 3-year fixed period.

80/25 To receive relevant updates and agree on any actions on the following:

1. Village Hall

RESOLVED: The Clerk to ask Roy Randles to stick down loose floor blocks which have been taped to identify them.

2. Shop storage area. Update: Discussions about rent are taking place.
3. Play Area – Update: ROSPA has carried out its inspection with some minor maintenance to be carried out, which Councillor Newman will oversee. It was noted that there is still a gap in the hedge onto Quainton Road for which a solution needs to be found.
4. Village Pond and Parsnip Pond: Councillor Hogbin-Mills said that as soon as the water level allows, she will try to dig out the bull rushes, which dry out the pond.
5. Defibrillators: All cleaned and serviced monthly by volunteer, Christina Hutson, for which thanks were again expressed.

81/25 To receive any updates and agree to any actions on the following:

Environment

1. Highways

- (i) Any new and resolved road issues

Update: The new village gates have been installed at the Marston Hill end of the village.

That heavy HGVs and farm vehicles continue to damage road surfaces was discussed, especially in warm weather when the tarmac is softer. Councillor Gomm acknowledged the ongoing issue of HGVs cutting through villages and expressed hope that the proposed 7.5-ton weight restriction will help reduce both the volume of heavy vehicles on unsuitable roads and the resulting surface damage.

- (ii) Parking - no updates

(iii) MVAS – It is hoped that it will be possible to download data, which will be shared with Councillor Gomm to help inform TVP.

(iv) Streetlighting – **RESOLVED:** To stay with the current supplier, SSE.

2. Grass and Hedges – no updates.

82/25 Projects: To receive updates, discuss and agree to any actions on the following:

- (i) To discuss/agree to the replacement of the posts around the village's upper and lower greens with posts or boulders.

Update: It was agreed that the boulders kindly offered by Mary Tattam are too small for the intended use, and that the quotes for chamfered bollards are too costly.

RESOLVED: Councillor Mordue will explore alternative options, and the Clerk will liaise with the Community Board manager about possible grant funding towards the chamfered bollards.

- (ii) The Parish Barn (Councillor Hill)

RESOLVED: Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would seek guidance regarding the Parish Council's liability should a community member assume responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the Parish Barn, and to clarify the necessary steps to be taken before any agreement is made.

- (iii) Website (Councillor Tanner)

Update: The new website is up and running and is receiving about 150 hits a week. The online booking form has gone live, which is hoped will streamline the booking process.

- (iv) New streetlight opposite Sports field entrance (Councillors Mordue and Hill) – no further updates since the last meeting.

- (v) Encouraging Wildlife/Aylesbury Vale Wild Project (Councillors Hogbin-Mills and Du-Plessis)
No further updates since the last meeting.

83/25 Sportsfield: Relevant updates

Date for residents' dairies: North Marston School PTA and the church will be holding a joint fundraising event on for the community on Saturday, 13th September 2025 at the Sportsfield. Details tbc.

84/25 FINANCE

- 1. RESOLVED:** Receipt of the Parish Precept of £18,232.73 (tranche one of two) was acknowledged.
- 2. RESOLVED:** The Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 was approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 3. To agree Insurance quotation from Ecclesiastical (if received before the meeting)** – Not received in time for the meeting.
- 4. RESOLVED:** The Asset Register for 2024-25 was approved.
- 5. RESOLVED:** The VAT Return 2024-25 was approved.

RESOLVED: The following receipts and payments were approved:

Receipts and Payments of Accounts

Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council

SSE Energy – streetlighting 01/03– 31/03 - £18.80, £2.06 VAT
HP Instant Ink – Printer ink contract 18/03-18/04- £5.49, £0.92 VAT
Blades – April grass cutting - £882.40, £147.07 VAT
Law Group LLP – Counsel's fees land at Quainton Road drafting of supplementary Statement of Case - £1,440, £240.00 VAT
Law Group LLP – Solicitor's fees March - £444.00, £74.00 VAT
Ebay – Winner rosettes for VE Day teddy bear competition - £11.64, no VAT
Amazon – various purchases for VE Day celebrations – Total: £63.20, £10.52 VAT
Amazon – paper tablecloths for VE Day event - £23.97, £3.99 VAT (all invoiced)
Amazon – 24 cupcake toppers - £5.99 no VAT
Amazon – Magic bubbles prizes - £17.70, £2.96 VAT
Ian Mordue – expenses in connection with the VE Day event – tbc and agreed at meeting

Payments to be made on behalf of the Parish Council

Clerks Salary for April - £***.**, no VAT
HMRC – Clerk's PAYE tax - £***.**
Employers N.I £**.**
Office Reimbursement for April and VE Day expenses £26.00 and £32.80 – Total £58.80, no VAT
Reimbursement to Clerk for Employers N.I. contributions mistakenly deducted from Clerk's pay £106.70 no VAT
Law Group LLP – Solicitor's fees for preparation and attending a full day's mediation – £7,123.20, £1,187.20 VAT
Tesco Mobile – parish phone contract - £8.09, no VAT
Christina Hutson – Barley straw extract for pond and 3 x barley straw bales - £38.94, £6.50 VAT

Payments received by the Parish Council

Buckinghamshire Council – Precept (1 of 2 tranches), £18,232.73, not VAT

Village Hall

Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall

Katherine Wetherell – VH cleaning April - £112.50, no VAT
North Marston Community Shop – hire of VH for AGM - £36.00, no VAT
E-on Next - electricity Village Hall – 1st- 31st March - £89.95, £4.28 VAT
E-on Next - electricity Schorne Room – 1st- 31st March - £62.00, £2.95 VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Village Hall

S.O’Gorman, hire of VH for birthday party and deposit - £114.00, no VAT

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

Rebecca Parker-Marvellous Marigolds April cleaning - £67.50, no VAT

James Radcliffe – mower fuel and trim trail - £293.21, £48.87 VAT

Payments Received on behalf of the Sportsfield

North Marston & Granborough Football Club – hire of facilities 2025.26 - £1,500

Payments to be made on behalf of the Sportsfield**May 100 Club Prizes**

000851 100 Club 100 Club 1st prize £30.00, no VAT

000852 100 Club 100 Club 2nd prize £20.00, no VAT

000853 100 Club 100 Club 3rd prize £10.00, no VAT

85/25 Date of the next meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday, 10th June 2025 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

86/25 CLOSED SESSION – To discuss next steps following mediation over the land at Quainton Road.

As this is an ongoing legal dispute, the terms of the proposed settlement cannot be disclosed at this time, as to do so could compromise the case.

Jan Roffe, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council, 19th May 2025