

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 8th April 2025

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

47/25 Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted by the Parish Council from Councillor Hogbin-Mills and Councillor Tanner.

48/25 Members Interests: To record any declarations of interest from Members.

Councillor Newman expressed an interest in Planning application 25/00737/APP as the owner of the ancillary building concerned.

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

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

100 Club Draw Results for April: No.39 Ian Mordue, No.4 Mandy Putman and No.24 Katherine Du-Plessis (the winning numbers were drawn by a member of the public present at the meeting).

49/25 Buckinghamshire Council update

Buckinghamshire Councillor, Philip Gomm, congratulated the Councillors present on the uncontested election result. Considering the upcoming Unitary elections on 1st May, he gave a round-up of some of the good things that he felt had been achieved over the past four years and highlighted the significant road improvements in the village which include the resurfacing of High Street, Portway, Church Street, School Hill, and more recently, Carters Lane. He is also proud of the grants awarded under his Chairmanship of the Winslow and Villages Community Board for the Sportsfield drainage project and for the brass plaques commemorating those who lived in the village and died World War I. Further updates included:

- (i) Buckinghamshire Council's budget is tight and it is going to be a hard couple of years financially.
- (ii) HGV's cutting through villages continues to be a problem and Highways are looking at putting a weight restriction in place to help alleviate the problem.
- (iii) The proposals for solar farms in the area also continues to be a big issue, but the companies are just testing the waters and there is unlikely to be much by way of development until the new substation is built in East Claydon.
- (iv) Improving footways is in the pipeline as part of Buckinghamshire Council's/Highways capital programme.
- (v) Councillor Gomm has a lot of large, strong saplings donated by HS2, including English Oak. Anyone who would like some please contact him.

50/25 Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th March 2025 were approved and signed.

51/25 Update the Buckinghamshire Unitary and Parish Elections to be held on 1st May 2025

The Clerk confirmed that there had been seven nominations for the seven seats on the Parish Council and that she had received a Notification of the Uncontested Election from Electoral Services. All the following are therefore elected as Parish Councillors: Ian Mordue, Andrew Boyt, Diana Hogbin-Mills, Katherine Du-Plessis, Brett Newman, Simon Hall and Martin Tanner. Congratulations were expressed to all.

52/25 To consider the following Planning application:

(i)25/00737/APP - NORTH MARSTON

The Bell PH (The Pilgrim) 25 High Street North Marston Buckinghamshire MK18 3PD
Reinstatement of ancillary outbuilding

RESOLVED: The Parish Council had no objections to the reinstatement of this building.

(ii) To discuss any relevant updates or actions regarding Solar Farm/BESS proposals in the area.

Update: The Clerk advised that she has not received any official Planning notifications about further solar farm developments in the area and confirmed that application 24/03262/APP for the erection of a Battery Energy System (BESS) on land to the south of Hogshaw Road, Granborough, had been withdrawn.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to Planning to ask that North Marston is consulted on all new applications in the area/neighbouring areas.

53/25 Land to the north of Quainton Road: Update: The Parish Council's solicitor is in discussion with the Respondents' representative about a possible settlement prior to mediation to save costs. If this is unsuccessful, the Clerk and the Chairman will attend mediation on 23rd April with the Parish Council's solicitor acting on the Parish Council's behalf.

54/25 Update on Small Grants Scheme applications (Clerk)

Update: The Parish Council's Small Grants Scheme is now open to applications and will close at 5pm on Friday 2nd May. The Parish Council will make its funding decisions at its Annual Meeting on 13th May and applicants will be informed of the outcome shortly afterwards. To date, two applications had been received with another in the pipeline.

55/25 Update on arrangements for/need for volunteers to help with the VE Day celebrations "Picnic in the Park" on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May

Update: The following are confirmed: Bouncy Castle, facepainting, the opportunity for family photography and a special History Club VE Day exhibition in the hall or Schorne Room. Refreshments and cakes will be served in the hall.

RESOLVED: Councillors to take turns to man the bouncy castle and splat the rat. Cake donations to be requested. Councillor Mordue to oversee music. Arch Dancer kindly agreed to supply hay bales for seating in the play area. Clerk to ask Karen and Dean Bunyan if the Parish Council could borrow some family activity games. All activities to be free (photographic sessions free but photographs to be purchased by private arrangement). Clerk to complete a risk assessment for the event.

56/25 To discuss Energy Tariffs as the end of electricity and streetlighting 2-year contracts approach.

RESOLVED: This item will be discussed at the next meeting when tariffs have been compared.

57/25 To receive relevant updates and agree any actions on the following:

1. Village Hall

Update on clearing gutters and sticking fire door - Councillor Mordue has been away and will see to both as soon as possible.

(ii) System for ordering oil and thanks to Arch Dancer – there is a probe system in place which has been reinstated following a hiatus and the need for an emergency oil purchase. Thanks were expressed to Arch Dancer for his invaluable help and going to collect oil to bridge the gap until the tanker delivery.

2. Shop storage area (i) Wi-fi agreement

RESOLVED: Councillor Mordue will purchase Wi-Fi equipment on behalf of the Parish Council.

3. Play Area (i) emptying of bin by Street Scene

RESOLVED: Street Scene has assured the Clerk that the bin will be included in the rounds from now on and apologised for the missed collections.

(ii) Trampoline clearance and any other matters

RESOLVED: (i) Councillor Newman has cleared the area under the trampoline of leaves and litter and submitted the monthly ROSPA inspection checklist at the meeting.

- (ii) The gap in the hedge on the Quainton Road perimeter of the play park remains. Councillors Mordue and Hill said that they would use appropriate fencing materials to extend across the gap at the weekend.
- 4. Village Pond and Parsnip Pond – no updates other than Great Crested Newts can be seen in the pond.
- 5. Defibrillators – all status checked by Christina Hutson monthly and no issues reported.

58/25 To receive any updates and agree any actions on the following:

Environment

1. Highways

- 1. Any new and resolved road issues

Update: There are a lot of defects marked up with white squares around them. Repairs should take place within the next 28 days.

(ii) Parking – no reports or actions

(iii) MVAS – Councillor Mordue will move the MVAS to their alternative positions soon.

(iv) Streetlighting – no issues reported.

2. Grass and Hedges – no updates nor issues reported

59/25 Projects: To receive updates, discuss and agree any actions on the following:

- (i) Update on replacement of the posts around the village upper and lower greens.

Update: The Clerk has met with two different contractors and quotes are in the pipeline for replacing the present posts with a more attractive alternative. These are needed to protect the greens from cars parking on them or parking with their wheels up on the perimeters of the greens causing considerable damage.

(Whilst discussing the village greens, the Parish Council agreed to a request that a bench be installed to the memory of Jim Tattam on the lower green).

- (ii) The Parish Barn (Councillor Hill)

Update: Councillors Boyt, Hill and Hogbin-Mills had met at the barn to assess what might need to be done for it to remain as it is. It would be in the region of £11k to do the necessary work to keep it standing. Discussions continue as to what would be the most cost-effective solution.

- (iii) Website (Councillor Tanner) **Update:** Populating the website continues. The new online booking system for the hall is being tested and should be available soon.

- (iv) New streetlight opposite Sports field entrance (Councillors Mordue and Hill) **Update:** Councillor Mordue said that it will be installed by the autumn and before the daylight hours get shorter again.

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

60/25 Sportsfield:

- (i) Trim Trails maintenance/balance beam and any other updates (Councillor Mordue)

Update: The unsafe section of the balance beam has been removed, and the Sportsfield Committee has given the go ahead for its repair. Councillor Mordue advised that it is however, hard to justify the cost of maintaining and replacing other components given the trim trails lack of use.

- (ii) Following the success of the last Dog Show at the Sportsfield, there will be a similar event on 13th September 2025.

61/25 Finance

(i) To approve the following Payments and Receipts:

Receipts and Payments of Accounts

Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council

SSE Energy – streetlighting 01/02– 31/02- £15.08, £1.87 VAT-

HP Instant Ink – Printer ink contract 18/02-18/02- £5.49, £0.92 VAT

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

A1 Bouncy Castle – VE Day celebrations - £165.00 no VAT

Speedy Fuels – oil delivery made on PC debit card 3205 - £344.25, £17.21 VAT

Defib store – paediatric pads for Wesley Centre defibrillator - £102.00, £17.00 VAT

Barnes and Wells Tree Care – Coppicing of tree at Spinney in Church Street - £960.00, £160 VAT

The Range – cleaning supplies for VH cleaning on PC debit card 3205 - £11.18, no VAT

Wellers Law Group LLP – Solicitor professional charges Land at Quainton Road - £444.00, £74.00 VAT

PRA Randles – maintenance to shed/padlock and hall floor and removal of ivy - £126.00 no VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Parish Council

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

HMRC – Clerk’s PAYE tax - £***.**

Employers N.I £**.** (if any payments are due on Gov.uk HMRC)

Office Reimbursement for March - £26.00, no VAT

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

Payments received by the Parish Council

Receipt of reimbursement from VH account for oil purchase from Speedy Fuels - £361.46, £17.21 VAT

Receipt of reimbursement for oil collected from Lovells to tide over – £104.33, £7.83 VAT

Village Hall

Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall

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

E-on Next - electricity Village Hall – 1st- 28th February - £97.44, £4.64 VAT

E-on Next - electricity Schorne Room – 1st- 28th February - £53.35, £2.67 VAT

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

Reimbursement into PC account for oil purchase made on debit card 3205 - £361.46 (no VAT recorded for reimbursement)

Reimbursement into PC account for emergency collection from Lovell’s Fuels - £104.32, £7.83 VAT

Sportsfield

Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield

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

E-On Next - Electricity 1st – 28th February - £62.97, £3.15 VAT-

Payments Received on behalf of the Sportsfield

Gordon Bowden for Stephenson – 100 Club subscription - £15.00, no VAT

Gordon Bowden for Howe – 100 Club subscription - £30.00, no VAT

Andrew Boyt – 100 Club subscriptions - £75.00, no VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Sportsfield

February 100 Club prizes

Please note re-issue of February cheques as incorrect names put on cheques

000845 100 Club 1st prize £30.00, no VAT

000846 100 Club 2nd prize £20.00, no VAT

000847 100 Club 3rd prize £10.00, no VAT

(Please note: Cheque numbers 000839, 000840 and 000841 have been cancelled)

April 100 Club Prizes

000848 100 Club 100 Club 1st prize April £30.00, no VAT

000849 100 Club 100 Club 2nd prize April £20.00, no VAT

000850 100 Club 100 Club 3rd prize April £10.00, no VAT

62/25 Date of the next meeting: The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7.30pm–8.45pm on Tuesday 13th May in the Village Hall and will immediately be followed by the **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**. At 8.45pm (Tea and coffee will be served from 7.15pm)

63/25 CLOSED SESSION

RESOLVED: To move to a closed session to confirm the Parish Council's terms for mediation following further advice from the solicitor. Proposed by Councillor Mordue and seconded by Councillor Newman.

The terms for a possible settlement prior to mediation were also agreed. As this is an active case, the details of these to be kept confidential at this time.

Jan Roffe, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council, 15th April 2025