

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 11th March 2025

Present: Councillors A Boyt (Vice Chairman and acting Chair), D Hogbin-Mills, K Du-Plessis, B Newman, and M Tanner. Jan Roffe, Clerk, and 3 members of the public

32/25 Apologies: Apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Parish Council from Councillors Mordue and Hill. Buckinghamshire Councillor, Phil Gomm, also sent his apologies.

33/25 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 March 2025

100 Club winners for March:

No: 25 – Karen Brooke, No.87 – David Higgs and No.1 - Robert Webb

Open Forum: A resident expressed his concerns about Planning application 25/00262/APP (below at item 37)

34/25 Buckinghamshire Council update: There were no updates in Buckinghamshire Councillor Gomm's absence.

35/25 Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 were approved and signed.

36/25 Buckinghamshire Unitary and Parish Elections to be held on 1st May 2025

The Clerk confirmed that the Village Hall would act as the Polling Station on the day and would be open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. for voting. (The Preschool had been notified well in advance and offered use of the Sports Pavilion, if required). The Clerk also reminded members that their nomination papers must be delivered to Electoral Services at The Gateway, Gatehouse Road between the dates of Tuesday 2nd March and no later than the 4pm Wednesday 2nd April deadline. All nominations must be proposed and seconded by those who are on the Electoral Roll and also witnessed. The Clerk offered to deliver the nomination papers to the Electoral Office, as is permitted in the rules.

37/25 To consider the following Planning application:

25/00262/APP - NORTH MARSTON

Land At Hillview Paddocks Carters Lane North Marston Buckinghamshire MK18 3GY

Change of use of land for the siting of 1 x mobile home for tourism accommodation (retrospective) (Deadline extended by the Case Officer for Parish Council's consultee comment to 12th March)

RESOLVED: The Parish Council **objects** to this application on the grounds that the mobile home was originally sited without Planning permission to act as a place to reside whilst construction/conversion works were carried out on a barn on the site for residential purposes. The Parish Council believes that now the work on the barn is complete, that the mobile home should be removed. It also considers that it is not in keeping with the open countryside.

38/25 Land to the north of Quainton Road: Update: The date for mediation has been set by the Property Chamber as Wednesday 23rd April 2025 at the Civic Offices in St Albans. The Clerk and the Chairman will attend.

RESOLVED: Councillor Boyt proposed that the Parish Council go into a closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss and confirm its terms for any settlement which may come out of mediation and to decide whether to have its solicitor present at mediation. This was seconded by Councillor Du-Plessis.

39/25 To confirm the opening and closing dates for the Parish Council's Small Grants Scheme and invite applications.

Update: The Clerk has already advertised the Parish Council's Small Grants Scheme 2025/26 on the website and on the NM&G Community Page and has emailed local groups who may wish to apply. The scheme opened on Monday 3rd March and applications for funding may be submitted until midnight on Friday 2nd May deadline. The Parish Council will make its funding decisions at its 13th May meeting. Applicants will be informed of the outcome by the Clerk very shortly afterwards.

40/25 To receive relevant updates and agree any actions on the following:

1. Village Hall

- (i) To ratify the suggested increased charges for the hire of the Village Hall as from 1st April 2025.

RESOLVED: The hire charges for use of the Village Hall have not increased for two years, and the proposed new hourly hire fees were approved. It was also resolved that the Parish Council may allow parties/events on Saturday evenings for under 16's for local residents only and at the Clerk's discretion for a higher deposit.

- (ii) **Update: New Yoga classes starting soon** – the Clerk advised that new Yoga Classes, run by Olivia Spinelli, will be starting in the Village Hall on Sundays from 2-4pm on the following dates (please note **not** weekly):

16th March, 6th and 27th April, 18th May and 8th June.

Please contact Chantel Odonoghue for further information.

Guttering overflowing and sticking fire door.

RESOLVED: Councillor Mordue has agreed to clear the gutter and hopefully repair the door upon his return from leave.

2. **Shop storage area** – the Clerk advised that an agreement regarding WiFi costs is still to be drawn up and will seek Councillor Mordue's input +upon his return from leave.
3. **Play Area** – Councillor Newman submitted this month's RoSPA check list and advised that the debris under the trampoline has still to be cleared. Councillor Du-Plessis to supply Councillor Newman with the tool for the removal of the trampoline to access the debris underneath.
4. **Village Pond and Parsnip Pond** – no updates
5. **Defibrillators** – all kindly status checked monthly by Christina Hutson and nothing to report.

41/25 To receive any updates and agree any actions on the following:

Environment

1. Highways

- (i) Any new and resolved road issues
A pothole near the Schorne Well has been repaired.
- (ii) Update on tree at Spinney in Church Street – work completed.
- (iii) Parking – no updates or actions
- (vi) MVAS – no updates or actions
- (v) Streetlighting – no updates or actions

2. Grass and Hedges – no updates or actions

42/25 Projects: To receive updates and agree any actions on the following:

- (i) To discuss options for the possible replacement of the posts around the village upper and lower greens.
RESOLVED: To replace the current posts with similar, but slightly larger and possibly fewer. The Clerk to obtain quotations for both oak and soft wood options.

- (ii) To discuss the organisation of VE Day celebrations in the village and which councillor will take responsibility.
RESOLVED: To hold a “Picnic in the Park” event at the Village Hall, garden and play area on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May 2025, 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. for residents/families to meet and mingle and bring their own picnic lunch. Clerk to book a bouncy castle and approach the History Club to ask of the club would like to mount an exhibition. 1940’s themed ideas still to be considered. Clerk to put up a Save The Date notice on the website and FB whilst the details are worked out.
- (iii) The Parish Barn (Councillor Hill)
RESOLVED: Councillors to meet at the Parish Barn on Saturday 15th March at 3.30 p.m. to assess what needs to be done and what its future use could be. Clerk to arrange access with Jon Martin and email Councillor Hill about the meeting.
- (iv) **Website:** Councillor Tanner updated the council on the new online Village Hall booking system which is being tested by the Clerk before going live in the next few days.
- (v) **New streetlight opposite Sports field entrance** (Councillors Mordue and Hill). Councillor Du-Plessis advised that this is much needed on dark evenings. 14 children had to cross the road in the dark very recently and it would have been helpful to have it.
RESOLVED: That this project is completed as soon as possible even though the evenings are getting lighter, to ensure that it is in place for the autumn.
- (vi) Encouraging Wildlife/Aylesbury Vale Wild Project (Councillors Hogbin-Mills and Du-Plessis) – no updates.

43/25 Sportsfield: There were no updates in Councillor Mordue’s absence.

44/25 Finance

- (i) **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council acknowledged that it would receive a Devolution payment of £2,155.59 for 2025/26 under its Devolution Agreement with Buckinghamshire Council.
- (ii) **To confirm the proceeds from the Race Night held on 1st February.**
Gordon Bowden had emailed the Clerk to confirm a fabulous profit of **£1,764.31** from the Race Night. This will be used to contribute towards the Sportsfield utility and other bills in the coming year. Thanks again to all involved. A great result!
- (iii) To approve the following Payments and Receipts:
RESOLVED: The following Payment and Receipts were approved:

Receipts and Payments of Accounts

Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council

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

HP Instant Ink – Printer ink contract 18/01-18/01- £5.49, £0.92 VAT

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

Wellers Law Group – Legal counsel land to north of Quainton Road excess over that held on account - £96.00.

Payments to be made on behalf of the Parish Council

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

HMRC – Clerk’s PAYE tax - £***.**

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

Office Reimbursement for February - £26.00, no VAT

Microsoft subscription – 2025-26 - £84.99

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

Wellers Law Group – 2nd stage - preparation of file for the Property Chamber etc. - £1,554.00, VAT £259.00

Village Hall

Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall

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

Anglian Water - £132.39, no VAT

E-on Next - electricity Village Hall – 1st- 31st January - £113.01, £5.38 VAT

E-on Next - electricity Schorne Room – 1st- 31st January - £67.62, £3.22 VAT

Sportsfield

Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield

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

Anglian Water - £21.44, no VAT

E-On Next - Electricity 1st – 31st January - £78.26, £3.73 VAT

Oakpark Alarms Security – annual maintenance contract - £176.40, £29.40 VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Sportsfield

P. Cockton – 100 Club Subs - £15.00

J&M Saunders – 100 Club Subs - £15.00

A Boyt – 100 Club Subs - £75.00

G Bowden for Howe – 100 Club Subs - £30.00

G Bowden for Stephenson – 100 Club Subs - £15.00

Private Donation - £45.00

Payments to be made on behalf of the Sportsfield

March 100 Club prizes

000842 100 Club 1st prize £30.00, no VAT

000843 100 Club 2nd prize £20.00, no VAT

000844 100 Club 3rd prize £10.00, no VAT

45/25 Date of the next meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

46/25 CLOSED SESSION

Land to the north of Quainton Road – RESOLVED: The Parish Council confirmed its terms for mediation (which are confidential whilst the legal dispute is live/ongoing) and agreed to legal representation at mediation and the associated fees.

Jan Roffe, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council, 12th March 2025