

# North Marston Parish Council

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## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022

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**92.22 PRESENT:** Councillors I Mordue (Chairman), R Symonds, J Martin, A Boyt, B Newman, Cllr Phil Gomm (Buckinghamshire Council), Jan Roffe, Clerk and two members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Mrs K Du-Plessis and Mrs D Hogbin-Mills

### **93.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Newman declared a pecuniary interest in Planning item 96.22 on the agenda.

**OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS to include the 100 Club draw for November** (under adjournment)

**100 Club Draw:** 1<sup>st</sup> Prize No.30, Carrie Smythe, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize No.85, Robert Kemp, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize No. 56, Neil Mobsby.

After a brief discussion about a resident's van frequently blocking the view of oncoming vehicles on the High Street opposite The Pilgrim pub it was suggested that consideration again be given to any areas that could be converted to parking in the village.

### **94.22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October were approved and signed.

### **95.22 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL**

Buckinghamshire Councillor Phil Gomm advised of the following:

1. Buckinghamshire Council's budget for 2023/24 has yet to be agreed but it is thought that the Council will have to find in the region of £36 million in savings and that this could have an impact on Parish Council Precepts.
2. The one year agreement whereby Ukranian guests are hosted by families in Buckinghamshire has come to an end and there are no arrangements to take its place. Buckinghamshire Council is therefore helping Ukranian refugees to find employment and will act as guarantor to help them to secure private lettings.
3. Collections are continuing for battlefield medical supplies to transport to the Ukraine, but more are needed. Collections will continue for another couple of weeks. Donated supplies in North Marston can be left in a box located outside Christina Hutson's house in Hill Farm.
4. Buckinghamshire Council has agreed its road asset maintenance programme for the next four years.
  - NM Church Street repairs are 3<sup>rd</sup> on the list of projects scheduled for 2023/24.
  - A road surface dressing is scheduled for 2024/25 along Portway to protect and extend the life of the road surface.
  - Carter's Lane is considered a high priority failed road but repairs have not yet been scheduled into the programme of works.
  - There is an HS2 fund to temporarily repair roads damaged by HS2 construction, but there will not be any permanent solutions until the project end.

5. Boundary Commission update: Although still to be finalised by Buckinghamshire Council and the Boundary Commission, Councillor Gomm's suggestion that Great Brickhill Ward remains as one Ward with three councillors has been accepted. It is likely that the Ward will be called "Swanbourne and Rural Villages" in a bid to emphasise the rural rather than urban nature of the surrounds. Swanbourne is in the middle of the Ward and therefore considered a good choice to identify the Ward area.

6. There are still grant funds available via the Winslow and Villages Community Board. Councillor Gomm would like this publicised as much as possible to local voluntary groups and charities and is willing to help potential applicants with their application.

## **96.22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

22/00128/REF – Appeal - Land at rear of 25 High Street, North Marston, MK18 3PD.

**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council has no further comments to those made previously. There is therefore no need to take any action.

## **97.22 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group provided a written update read out by the Clerk. It stated that the independent examiner has forwarded his final report with his modifications to Buckinghamshire Council (BC). The Clerk has written to BC on behalf of the Parish Council (NMPC) to accept the modifications and this has been acknowledged. Buckinghamshire Council now has 5 weeks from receipt to formally consider and assess the report. After their assessment, the report, as accepted by BC, will be forwarded to NMPC. The Steering Group, on behalf of NMPC, are required to make any changes and modifications mandated by the report in order to produce and publish a final version of NMNP prior to a parish referendum. No significant changes are anticipated but detailed modifications in wording to some policies will be required to ensure they are in line with any recent changes in national legislation or BC policy.

The examiner's report should be forwarded to NM before the Parish Council's December meeting.

## **98.22 ENVIRONMENT**

### **1. Highways**

(a) Openreach C48400298: cracked inspection cover outside of the Old Police House – no update.

(b) 40180092 poor condition of footpath/pavement between 1-7 Church Street

**RESOLVED:** As advised by Councillor Gomm in his report, this is third on the list for the Highways programme of works for 2023/24,

(c) 40180122: 57, Portway drain - reported as dangerous

(d) 040184085: Drain near kerb of 47, High Street – reported as dangerous

(e) 49 Portway: - drain marked up for further work.

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Gomm to walk around the village with Councillor Symonds and to chase up repairs above with Highways as it has not been possible to arrange a mutually convenient time to date.

(f) 220130863 Replacement bridge at Crandon Farm – no update

(g) Gigaclear: replacement of access covers at side of the Wesley Centre (broken) and outside 49A Portway (trip hazard) – no update

(h) 22602552: Anglian Water – reported 4/10/22 subsidence at site of repair near 45 Portway – no update.

(i) 40202701: Poor state of pavement between 27 & 37 Quainton Road – only recently reported and no updates so far.

(j) 40204256: Reduced width of Highway between 6-12 High Street (loop road) – recently reported and no updates so far.

### **2. Street lighting**

(i) Lamp out at junction of Quainton Road and Carters Meadow.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to ask Sparkx to repair the light.

(ii) Pole 12 Portway – tidy of area and removal of old post stump by National Grid.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to contact National Grid and ask them if they can remove the old post.

### **3. Portway pathway**

**RESOLVED:** The path has been sprayed with weed killer. Clerk to report the breaking up of the tarmacadam surface on Fix My Street, but it is unlikely to be repaired until 2024/25.

### **4. MVAS**

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to research costs/obtain quotes and to apply to the Winslow and Villages Community Board for funding for two MVAS signs with integral solar chargers.

### **5. Village Pond**

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Mordue offered to look for other options for a habitat board as Fresh Print have not responded to Clerk's emails or telephone calls regarding an order.

### **6. Parsnip Pond**

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to ask on the FB NM and Granborough Community page for a volunteer working party to tidy the overgrown vegetation.

### **7. Litter bin at Portway bus stop:**

**RESOLVED:** Fixed back on to the bus stop and serviceable. Agreed no immediate action/need for replacement at this time.

### **8. Report of dead pheasants dumped at the bottom of Marston Hill**

**RESOLVED:** Without knowing who dumped them it was agreed that there is nothing to be done at this time as wild animals will eat them.

### **9. Devolution agreement:**

**RESOLVED:** Buckinghamshire Council Highways has written to say that the agreement has been extended for one year from April 2023

## **99.22 PARISH ACTION PLAN & PROJECTS**

### **Village Hall:**

(a) The wrought iron gates and fencing have been repaired and painted. Thanks to Roy Randles.

### **Play Area**

It was suggested that a sign be erected in front of the equipment for the under 5's to prevent older children from playing on it but there was concern that this might be a trip/safety hazard.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to investigate buying "suitable for Under 5's only" vinyl stickers to put on each piece of equipment.

### **Aylesbury Wild Vale Wild Project**

**Update:** The verges identified for re-wilding have been prepared for cultivation.

### **Sportsfield**

**Update:** Cllr Mordue advised that a working party had tidied the vegetation around the Sportsfield and a hedge cutter had come in to cut the hedges with a tractor and that this was completed very satisfactorily in two hours. Very efficient and very reasonably priced at £120.

## **100.22 CLERK TRAINING**

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed prior to the meeting by Councillors Mordue and Symonds that the Clerk attend a BMKALC online evening seminar/Training on The Planning Framework at a cost of £45 and that the Clerk may charge for the two extra hours required. The Clerk agreed to share the presentation slides and notes with Parish Council members.

## **101.22 FINANCE**

1. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to prepare a draft budget for 2023/24 to send out to the Parish Council within the next two weeks to be agreed at the December meeting. It was agreed that because of the

current economic climate and rising costs that the Parish Council should ask for the maximum permitted Precept increase.

2. **RESOLVED:** Agreement to change the Parish mobile contract from £10 per month Pay As You Go to £7.50 per month one year SIM only contract.

3. **RESOLVED:** Agreement to a £4.49 per month printer allowance for printer ink contract with HP Ink as from January 2022. This allows for 100 sheets to be printed per month.

## **RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS**

### **Parish Council**

#### **Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council in October**

HMRC VAT Return – Transfer of portion due to Village Hall from PC account - £214.85, no VAT

HMRC VAT Return – Transfer of portion due to Sportsfield from PC account - £732.62, no VAT

#### **Payments to be made on behalf of the Parish Council in November**

Clerk's salary £\*\*\*.\*\*, no VAT

Clerk's expenses £83.89, £6.74 VAT

Clerk Training – Planning Framework - £45.00, no VAT

Blades Turfcare – October grass cutting, verge rewilding and seeds - £3,459.90, £576.65 VAT

SLCC Annual Membership £112 no VAT

**ADDENDUM:** On the day of the meeting an invoice was received from Paul Baker for the cutting of the Sportsfield hedge. It has been agreed by Councillor Ian Mordue and the Chairman of the Sportsfield Committee, Peter Butler, that the Clerk may pay this invoice before the next meeting in a month's time to avoid any financial hardship to a small business.

Paul Baker – Sportsfield hedge cutting - £120, no VAT

### **Village Hall**

#### **Payments received on behalf of the Village Hall in October**

HMRC VAT Return – Transfer of portion due from PC account - £214.85, no VAT

GE&J Morgan – Village Hall hire, Beaujolais fundraiser – no deposit required - £42.00, no VAT

Helen Carter – Village Hall hire and deposit - £120, no VAT

Emma Ehren – Village Hall hire for Zumba classes Autumn Term - £84.00, no VAT

#### **Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall in October**

E-on Next - Electricity – Village Hall - Direct Debit £192.74, £9.18 VAT

(DD's have not covered usage and the account was in deficit for Village Hall 1st March to 21<sup>st</sup> August)

E-on Next Electricity September Schorne Room - £26,52, £1.26 VAT

#### **Payments to be made on behalf of the Village Hall in November**

PRA Randles – refurb of Village Hall wrought iron gates and fencing – £540, no VAT

**ADDENDUM:** It was agreed at the meeting to accept the increase of £60 on the original quotation as there was more work involved than at first thought.

JR Plumbing and Heating Solutions – VH boiler service - £122.40, £20.40 VAT

### **Sports Field**

#### **Payments received on behalf of the Sportsfield in October**

HMRC VAT Return – Transfer of portion due from PC account - £732.62, no VAT

#### **Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield in October**

E-on Next Electricity September - £43.69, £2.08 VAT DD (To be minuted - anomaly – +only £39.74 taken).

#### **Payments to be made on behalf of the Sportsfield in November**

000756 100 Club First Prize September Draw - £30.00, no VAT (000753 first cheque issued cancelled as incorrect name)

000754 100 Club Second Prize September Draw - £20.00, no VAT

000755 100 Club Third Prize September Draw - £10.00, no VAT

Lane's Landscape Contractors – Sportsfield maintenance supply of materials - £2,432.14, inc. £405.36 VAT

**Meeting Dates:**

- The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 8pm in the Village Hall.**

*Jan Roffe*

*(Jan Roffe, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council)*