

# North Marston Parish Council

Clerk to the council: Ms Jan Roffe

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## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

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**102.22 PRESENT:** Councillors I Mordue (Chairman), R Symonds, K Du-Plessis, J Martin, A Boyt, B Newman, Councillor Phil Gomm (Buckinghamshire Council), Jan Roffe, Clerk, and 5 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Hogbin-Mills and Michael Lane, Chair of the NM Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

### 103.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest

**OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS to include the 100 Club Christmas Draw** (under adjournment)

There were no questions or comments from parishioners.

**100 Club draw:** 1<sup>st</sup> Prize No. 73 Stuart and Jane Dell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize No. 59 Andrew Boyt, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize No.46 Pip Hitchen

### 104.22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### 105.22 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillor Phil Gomm, Buckinghamshire Council Councillor, advised that there was very little to report since the last meeting in the quieter weeks in the lead up to Christmas, except that:

1. The Boundary Commission has accepted all of Buckinghamshire Council's suggested amendments to its constituency proposals for the region. Consultation has now ended and will be followed by the Boundary Commission's final recommendations by 1 July 2023.
2. Gritters had been out in force to help to make the roads safer following the recent snow fall and icy temperatures.

### 106.22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received since the last meeting.

### 107.22 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

In his absence, Michael Lane, Chair of the NM Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, provided a written update to the Parish Council which was read out by the Clerk. The most important points to note are:

1. The Plan will now go forward to local referendum which will take place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in the Schorne Room at the Village Hall.
2. A majority of those voting is required for the Plan to come into force.
3. If the Plan passes the referendum, then the policies and contents of the North Marston Neighbourhood Plan and of the North Marston Design Code will be used by Buckinghamshire Council to decide all Planning applications relevant to North Marston parish from Friday 10 February 2023. The full written update is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to produce a newsletter to go out in early January publicising the referendum date and encouraging residents to vote. The newsletter to also highlight upcoming vacancies on the Parish

Council, promote local clubs and societies and encourage people to take an active part in village life to help sustain its lifeblood.

## 108.22 ENVIRONMENT

### 1. Highways

(a) Parking – Parking continues to be an issue. Councillor Gomm’s Facebook campaign/posts regarding parking have been successful in reducing the number of cars parked on the verges, particularly along High Street. The Parish Council is aware that there are one or two vehicles that continue to park too near to junctions causing a danger to drivers and pedestrians.

**RESOLVED:** As this is a Highways matter, and as advised by Councillor Gomm, there is no further action to be taken by the Parish Council at this time except to continue to look for solutions to provide more parking in the village.

(b) Animal trough sited on High Street Loop Road

**RESOLVED:** Highways has advised that the animal trough placed on the High Street Loop Road is not obstructing a Highway maintained by Buckinghamshire Council and that it can remain in place. Highways have suggested that fluorescent reflective strips are put along the sides of the trough so that it can be seen by vehicles and pedestrians when it is dark.

#### **(c) To receive any updates on the following Highway items:**

(i) Openreach C48400298: cracked inspection cover outside of the Old Police House.

(ii) 40180092 poor condition of footpath/pavement between 1-7 Church Street – reported as dangerous

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

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

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

(vi) 220130863 Replacement bridge at Crandon Farm

(vii) Gigaclear: replacement of access covers at side of the Wesley Centre (broken) and outside 49A Portway (trip hazard)

(viii) 22602552: Anglian Water – reported 4/10/22 subsidence at site of repair near 45 Portway.

(ix) 40202701: Poor state of pavement between 27 & 37 Quainton Road

(x) 40204256: Reduced width of Highway between 6-12 High Street (loop road).

**RESOLVED:** There were no updates on any of the above. Councillor Gomm advised that once the new Highways contract with Balfour Beatty comes into force in April 2023 he hopes that these repairs will be attended to as soon as logistically and practically possible.

**RESOLVED:** That the following item be added to the list:

(xi) 40207528 Road subsidence on Portway near field gate (Marston Hill end)

### 2. Street lighting

(i) Update received: The Church Street streetlight has been repaired, is working and the repair paid for. Schorne Lane and Quainton Road/Carters Meadow streetlights were apparently both repaired and new lamps fitted on 21 November, but both are still not working. The Parish Council has been invoiced for these repairs. The contractor has been made aware and has said that another team will be sent out to repair the lights as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk does not pay the invoice until both the Schorne Lane and Quainton Road streetlights are repaired and working.

(ii) Update on untidy area along Portway following work by National Grid: Although left in an untidy state, National Grid will not take responsibility for the debris found in the hedges when work was carried out at a resident’s request on farmland along Portway.

**RESOLVED:** It is not the Parish Council’s responsibility to clear the debris found in hedges on privately owned land.

### **3. Threshing Barn**

During a brief discussion the Parish Council was advised that the Threshing Barn would need shoring up before the roofing is replaced or it is liable to collapse.

**RESOLVED:** As a competent person in the field, Councillor Boyt agreed to take a preliminary look at the barn and advise the Parish Council on what needs to be done to preserve its integrity. The Parish Council, in consultation with Councillor Gomm, will then decide whether or not it is necessary to involve Buckinghamshire Council's Conservation and Heritage team in the restoration of the barn. It is intended to apply for grant funding from the Winslow and Villages Community Board once the scope of the work and costs are known.

### **4. Bus stops**

(i) **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council approved Roy Randles' estimate for £120 for wood treatment to internal and external faces of the village bus shelters and £110.00 for the removal of the existing top layer of roofing felt and to replace with new at the Portway bus stop (Total estimate £230).

### **5. Defibrillator:**

The Parish Council had been notified that the trustees of the Poores Piece Charity had agreed to fund a new defibrillator in the Marstonfields Farm area to support twelve houses nearest to it that are somewhat remote in the village.

**RESOLVED:** After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Clerk write to thank the trustees and also arrange for an open day training session sometime in the New Year on how to use a defibrillator, to be facilitated by the First Responder.

### **6. Grass and hedge cutting**

**RESOLVED:** After a brief discussion it was decided to revisit the grass and hedge cutting specification as part of the budget setting process to see where money might be saved.

## **109.22 PARISH ACTION PLAN & PROJECTS**

To receive updates on the following:

### **1. Village Hall**

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed that the Clerk purchase a new water boiler/urn for the VH kitchen 30 litre capacity - £109.99

### **2. Play Area**

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed that the Clerk may spend up to £35 for waterproof vinyl stickers for the under-fives play area equipment.

**3. Aylesbury Wild Vale Project – Update:** the wildflower verges have been seeded.

### **4. Sports field**

(i) **RESOLVED:** Roy Randles' quotation for gate catches for Sports field wooden swing gate - £90, no VAT was agreed.

(ii) **RESOLVED:** It was agreed that Councillor Mordue would register the SF defibrillator and place it in the cabinet on the outside of the pavilion once registered.

### **5. Village Pond**

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed that the Clerk purchase a lifebuoy for £34.99 (£41.99 inc VAT)

## **110.22 Pre-School Rent Review**

There was a brief discussion about the increase in oil and utility bills for the Village Hall and how these may be covered.

**RESOLVED:** To discuss how these may be covered in a closed session. The Clerk to collate all costs to the VH and ask for all financial details from the pre-school before proceeding.

## **111.22 FINANCE**

1. **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council proposes to ask for a 5% increase in the Precept request for 2023/24 to help cover rising costs.

2. **RESOLVED:** That the budget and Precept request be finalised at a closed budget meeting to be held on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm in the Village Hall.**
3. **RESOLVED:** The NJC/NALC pay increases for 2021/22 were acknowledged. It was agreed that the Clerk's pay should increase in accordance with the SCP11 pay point from December 2022 and be backdated to July 2022 when the Clerk's three-month probationary period ended at the agreed salary. It was also agreed that the weekly working from home allowance increase to £6 in line with HMRC recommendations.

## **RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS**

### **Parish Council**

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

National Grid - - £154.29, £7.35 VAT. NB. This payment was made in error instead of to nPower and is to be refunded by National Grid.

nPower Business Solutions – Street lighting 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October - £154.29, £7.35 VAT

National Grid – Replacement box and electrical connection Church Street Light - £523.24, £87.21 VAT

Sparkx – Lantern and bracket replacement Church Street light - £779.46, £129.91 VAT

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

Clerk's salary £\*\*\*.\*\*\*, no VAT

Clerk's expenses £33.50 (office reimbursement and telephone contract)

Blades Turf Care – November grass cutting and annual hedge cutting - £1,755.90, £292.65 VAT (Circulated)

nPower Business Solutions – Street Lighting 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November - £170.50, £8.12 VAT

Sparkx – repair of Schorne Lane and Carters Meadow streetlights - £595.93. £99.32 VAT

### **Village Hall**

#### **Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall in November/early December**

Wave Water (DD) 9<sup>th</sup> Aug to 8<sup>th</sup> Nov - £105.47, no VAT

E-on Next Electricity – (DD) - Schorne Room – 1<sup>st</sup> Oct to 16<sup>th</sup> Nov - £30.24, £1.44 VAT

Lovells Fuels - £448.35, £21.35 VAT

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

Helen Carter - £50 deposit refund for hire of the Village Hall

**RESOLVED:** At the meeting the Parish Council agreed to accept a late invoice submission from Emma Lynch for the cleaning of the Village Hall in October and November of £225.00, no VAT

### **Sports Field**

#### **Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield in November/early December**

E-on Next Electricity – (DD) - October - £34.06

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

Wave Water – (DD) – 9 Aug to 8 Nov - £14.47, no VAT

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

Peter Butler – expenses - £226.68, £37.78 VAT

E-on Next Electricity – (DD) – November - £55.68, 2.65 VAT

000760 100 Club First Prize December Draw - £60.00, no VAT

000761 100 Club Second Prize December Draw - £40.00, no VAT

000762 100 Club Third Prize December Draw - £20.00, no VAT

#### **Meeting Dates:**

- The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 8pm in the Village Hall.**
- A closed meeting to agree the Precept and finalise the budget for 2023/24 will be held on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm** in the Village Hall.

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

## **NORTH MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**13 DECEMBER 2022**

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**

Buckinghamshire Council (BC) have assessed the independent examiner's final report on the North Marston Neighbourhood Plan (NMNP) and have accepted his recommendation that the Plan should go forward to local referendum, subject to the adoption and inclusion of a number of technical modifications to some policies to ensure complete compatibility with national and local conditions for neighbourhood plans.

A final "referendum version" of NMNP containing the required modifications is currently being produced by the Steering Group and this will be forwarded to BC no later than Wednesday December 21 2022. The Referendum NMNP will also be posted on the village website at the same time.

The examiner has made no significant changes to the impact of the policies and contents in NMNP, and he has endorsed the Plan's approaches to development in the parish, and the protection of the countryside, heritage, and community facilities. At his instruction, the North Marston Design Code (NMDC) will also be integrated more closely with NMNP and become an Annex to the NMNP itself giving it more legal force.

Following publication of the Referendum NMNP, the local parish referendum will take place on Thursday February 9 2023 in the Memorial Hall with all North Marston residents on the electoral roll entitled to vote. A majority of those voting is required for the Plan to come into force.

If the NMNP passes the referendum, then the policies and contents of both NMNP and NMDC will be used by BC to decide all planning applications relevant to North Marston parish from Friday February 10 2023.

Michael Lane  
North Marston Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Chair