

North Marston Parish Council

Clerk to the council: Ms Jan Roffe Email: clerk@northmarston.org or telephone 07933 624147

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 14th February 2023

12.23 PRESENT: Councillors B Newman (Chair of meeting), R Symonds, K Du-Plessis, J Martin, Councillor Philip Gomm (Buckinghamshire Council), Jan Roffe (Clerk) and eight members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors I Mordue, D Hogbin-Mills and A Boyt

13.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Symonds and Martin declared an interest in item 22.23 on the agenda as trustees of the Poors Piece and Clocklands Charity.

OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS which included the 100 Club Draw (under adjournment)

100 CLUB DRAW: 1st Prize, No.14, Pat Robinson, 2nd Prize, No.98, Bob and Pauline Hardman, 3rd Prize, No.21, Michelle Nixon

14.23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th January 2023 were approved and signed.

15.23 RESULT OF THE REFERENDUM ON THE NORTH MARSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN and any other relevant updates

(i) It was confirmed that residents had voted a resounding “Yes” to the adoption of the North Marston Neighbourhood Plan. The results were as follows:

YES votes - 301 (94%)

NO votes - 18 (6%)

NUMBER OF VOTES CAST - 319

Total number eligible to vote: 569

Turn out 56%

The North Marston Neighbourhood Plan has now become part of the Development Plan for the whole of Buckinghamshire as of 10th February 2023.

(ii) The Chair of the NMNP Steering Group, Michael Lane, informed the meeting that the Steering Group had been disbanded and that all email addresses used by its members had been discontinued. All enquiries about the Plan are to be directed to the Parish Clerk. The Parish Council now has the responsibility of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan and the Design Code and of applying the policies and contents of both documents in its consideration of all planning applications. Buckinghamshire Council will be following the same procedures.

(iii) In answer to a question, Councillor Gomm explained that decision making on planning applications will still rest with the local planning authority. The community leads on preparing the plan and setting out the policies for development in the area but it is the LPA that will grant planning permission in accordance with those policies, and be responsible for enforcing them.

(iv) On behalf of the Parish Council, Councillor Newman expressed grateful thanks to Michael Lane and the members of the Steering Group for all their hard work and commitment over the past four years to develop the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Gomm also offered his thanks and congratulations for such a thorough, well researched and very well received Neighbourhood Plan with the interests of the village at its heart.

16.23 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillor Phil Gomm, Buckinghamshire Council Councillor, gave updates on the following:

(i) Potholes: Transport for Bucks has very recently made repairs to as many potholes as possible, but not all. There is a to be surface topping along Portway some time in 2023/24, so Transport for Bucks is reluctant to spend more on temporary repairs, but no dates are scheduled yet.

(ii) The School Hill kerbing project is underway and should be completed by the 17th February.

(iv) Advance notice that there will be some HS2 lorry traffic coming through North Marston in the coming weeks to deliver donated materials to Animal Antiks. Councillor Gomm will post on Facebook about this.

(v) Councillor Gomm informed the meeting that he has stopped giving advance notice of road closures on social media. This is because planned closures are often changed at the last minute. Based on the information given, drivers find alternative, and often longer routes, only to find that the advertised road closure either doesn't happen or is only a partial closure allowing vehicles to pass.

17.23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

23/00394/APP – two-storey rear extension at 45, Quainton Road.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council had no objections to this application but asked whether the size of the extension might be an over-development of the plot. It was also noted that the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board, as a Statutory Consultee, had responded to say that the location was out of its area. The Parish Council is concerned that this has been its response to several recent planning applications in the North Marston area and that flood risk and water level management is therefore not being properly assessed, as is legally required.

18.23 PLANNING FOR THE CORONATION EVENT

The following Resolutions were made:

(i) The Parish Council gratefully accepted Christina Hutson's offer to co-ordinate arrangements and a sub-committee of volunteers to plan the event. It was agreed that a representative of the sub-committee would report back to the Parish Council about how plans are progressing at both the March and April meetings.

(ii) The event is to be a Coronation Street Party akin to the Jubilee party held last year. It would once again be held along the parallel road to the High Street. The sub-committee is to arrange a cake competition and other activities for the celebrations.

(iii) The Street Party will be held on Sunday 7th May between 2pm and 4pm. Early liaison with the owners of The Pilgrim to take place so that celebrations can continue at the pub from 3pm onwards.

(iv) The Parish Council confirmed that it has set a budget of £525.00 aside for the event.

(v) The Clerk will complete and submit road closure forms to Buckinghamshire Council Highways starting from 9am to allow for set up, until 5pm to allow for de-rig and clearance.

19.23 ENVIRONMENT

1. Highways

Updates received on the following items:

(i) School Hill Kerbing Project: As per Councillor's Gomm's update, the project is underway.

- (ii) Gigaclear access cover has been lowered outside of 49A Portway as it posed a trip hazard.
- (ix) 22602552: Anglian Water – pothole near the Marston Hill gates has been filled, but subsidence is occurring again.

RESOLVED: To add an additional pothole to Fix My Street at the junction of Church Street and High Street.

RESOLVED: Councillor Gomm and Councillor Symonds to take another walkabout the village to identify what is still in need of repair.

2. Street lighting

(i) RESOLVED: Sparkx quotation of £2,506.00 (no VAT) was approved to complete the five year streetlight replacement programme. Clerk to organise.

(ii) RESOLVED: The streetlight at the junction of Carters Meadow and Quanton Road has had the live electricity feed reconnected by National Grid. The Clerk may now pay the outstanding Sparkx invoice, payment of which was withheld until the light was fully repaired and working.

20.23 PARISH ACTION PLAN & PROJECTS

1. Village Hall

(i) RESOLVED: Approved PRA Randles estimate for the repair of sidelight to Village Hall windows so that they open - £40.00 (no VAT)

(ii) RESOLVED: JR Radwell's invoice for VH pipework of £312.00, £52.00 VAT was approved in a short, closed session at the end of the meeting.

(ii) RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the purchase of audio-visual equipment for the Village Hall and awaits quotations. The possibility of purchasing some stage lighting was also considered, but not resolved.

(iv) RESOLVED: After a short discussion, the Parish Council agreed that the Village Hall and Pond hedges are not in immediate need of attention. The Clerk to request that Blades postpone the cutting until late spring.

2. Threshing Barn

RESOLVED; The Parish Council approved Alder Roofing's estimate of £200 for the patching of the barn roof with bitumen. Clerk to ask Alder Roofing to liaise with Councillor Boyt regarding the concreting in of the rotten corner post and whether this should be done before the roof is repaired.

3. Pond

(i) RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved PRA Randles quotation of £60 to install the lectern/information board at the Village Pond.

(ii) RESOLVED; The Parish Council approved the latest quotation from DAB Graphics for a habitat information board – Total £250 exc. VAT. The quotation includes an A1 Aluminium board, Graphic Licence fee and delivery.

(iii) RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed that it is unfortunately too late to do anything about the tractor ruts on the seed cultivated area of soil at the Marston Hill end of the village. In future the Clerk to contact the relevant farmers when soil near to their fields and hedges has been prepared and cultivated and to consult with Blades Turf Care to decide on the best approach for hedge cutting in the area concerned and liaise with the farmers.

There were no updates on the following two items:

4. Play Area

5. Sports field

21.23 ANNUAL DUCK RACE

RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed the use of the Village Pond for the annual Duck Race fundraising event on Saturday 25th March from 3pm. Clerk to inform the organisers.

22.23 POOR PIECE & CLOCKLANDS

(i) RESOLVED: The Parish Council could not take a vote on whether to verify Andrew North as a trustee of the Poores Piece and Clocklands Charity as Councillor Symonds and Councillor Martin declared an interest as trustees themselves. This left only two councillors to vote and three are required.

(ii) The question was asked whether a trustee who does not live in the village of North Marston could stand for election.

RESOLVED: Councillor Symonds agreed to check the rules and report back to the Parish Council in time for the next meeting, when a vote will be taken.

(ii) RESOLVED: The defibrillator for Marstonfields is on order.

23.23 PURCHASE OF A VILLAGE STANDARD FOR THE ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE PARADE

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the purchase of a new standard for the annual Remembrance Parade of up to £300. It was suggested that donations given at the Coronation event could also be used towards the purchase of a flag and a pole, if the existing British Legion pole cannot be used.

24.23 FINANCE

(i) RESOLVED: To ratify the budget and Precept request for £33,075, representing a 5% increase, agreed at the budget meeting on the 18th January 2023.

(ii) RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved a request from John Spargo to underwrite the printing costs of x40 booklets to help those in the village who are unfamiliar with Facebook.

(iii) RESOLVED: The Clerk had thought that the refurbishment quotation of £120 per bus shelter was for two bus shelters and not four. This, together with the re-felting of the roof of one of the shelters means that the final invoice is for £580.00 and not £230 as originally thought. The Parish Council approved the final invoice for £580.00, no VAT.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS

Parish Council

Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council

nPower – streetlighting 1st-31st December '22 - £189.71, (£9.03 VAT)

Sign Wizzard – Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Banner - £176.22 (£29.37 VAT)

Amazon Business – new water boiler/urn for VH paid by PC debit card £109.99, £18.33 VAT

Amazon Business – cleaning materials for VH paid by PC debit card £63.44, £10.60 VAT

PRA Randles – Refurbishment of 4 x bus shelters (£580.00) and supply and fit catches to SF gate (£105.00) –

Total £685, no VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Parish Council

Clerk's salary £***. **, no VAT included

Clerk's office reimbursement, consumables, and expenses £58.39, no VAT

BMKALC - Clerk Audit training - £70.00, no VAT

Blades Turf Care – Grass cutting – January - £915.90, £152.65 VAT

nPower – Streetlighting 1st Jan – 31st Jan '23 - £185.03 (£8.81 VAT)

PRA Randles – installation of lifebuoy at pond and padlock for shed - £58.00, no VAT

Sparkx – attend and repair streetlights in Schorne Lane and Carters Meadow - £595.93, £99.32 VAT

Village Hall

Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall

Transfer of £109.99 back to PC account for water boiler.

Transfer of £63.44 back to PC account for VH cleaning products

Payments to be made on behalf of the Village Hall

JR Radwall & Heating – Heating pipe work - £312.00 (£52.00 VAT)

Emma Lynch – VH cleaning – 7 Jan – 29 Jan '23 - £100.00, no VAT

E-on Next Electricity – (DD) - Schorne Room – 4th Jan-3rd Feb -£49.93, £2.38 VAT.

Ian Carnell Electrical – repair of one and replacement of another outside wall light - £125, no VAT

Lovell's Fuels – 500 litres oil - £441.00, £21.00 VAT

Sports Field

Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield

E-on Next – Electricity Pavilion 1st December – 31st December – £226.29, £10.78 VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Sportsfield

000766 100 Club First Prize January Draw - £30.00, no VAT

000767 100 Club Second Prize January Draw - £20.00, no VAT

000768 100 Club Third Prize January Draw - £10.00, no VAT

E-on Next – Electricity Pavilion 1st January-31st January - £147.40, £7.02 VAT

25.23 MEETING DATES:

- The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 14 March 2023** at 8pm in the Village Hall.
- NBPPC Zoom meeting Thursday 16th February at 7.30 pm,

Jan Roffe

(Jan Roffe, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council)