

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 11th April 2023 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors I Mordue (Chairman), R Symonds, J Martin, A Boyt, Jan Roffe (Clerk), Councillor Phil Gomm (Buckinghamshire Council), and nine members of the public

39.23 APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Councillors Hogbin-Mills, Newman and Du-Plessis

40.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Symonds and Martin declared an interest in item 48.23 as trustees of the Poor Piece and Clocklands Charity.

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

100 Club draw: 1st Prize No.80 Barbara Guiver, 2nd Prize No 60, Pip Hitchen, 3rd Prize No 42, Elaine Kelly

41.23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th March 2023 were approved and signed.

42.23 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillor Phil Gomm, Buckinghamshire Council Councillor, gave an update on the following:

(a) The recent roadworks along Marstonfields were official Highways works. Two cattle grids are being decommissioned. Highways are liaising with the farmer, Neil Tuckett.

(b) The new Highways contractors, Balfour Beatty, have spent time speaking to Buckinghamshire Council Highways staff about operations and priorities and are now ready to move forward with Highways projects.

(c) Councillor Gomm is aware of the two new potholes in Church Street and the one along Marstonfields. He is dealing directly with Highways about these to get them repaired using the appropriate machinery for the job.

(d) The next Community Board meeting is scheduled for 25th April 7.30-9.00pm in the St Laurence Room, Winslow. Applications for funding from community groups are encouraged. There is £103k in the budget to distribute this year.

(e) The kerbing installed on School Hill is not in keeping with the Conservation Area and Councillor Gomm has asked the Parish Council to allow him to deal directly with Highways about this.

(f) There have been further reports of boom box music being played very loudly late at night and into the early morning by young people from North Marston and Granborough villages. Parents are being consulted to try to find an amicable and helpful solution.

43.23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) There have been no planning applications received since the last meeting.

(b) Correspondence from a resident regarding an alleged breach of Planning and reported to Enforcement was acknowledged. The Parish Council has no powers in Enforcement matters and has no comment to make unless officially asked to do so by Enforcement.

44.23 PLANNING FOR THE CORONATION EVENT: The event co-ordinator gave a brief update and reported that all plans are progressing well.

45.23 ENVIRONMENT

1a. Highways

The School Hill kerbing stones had already been discussed under Councillor Gomm's update. There were no updates on the Highways items apart from requesting that the Clerk remove (ii) from the list as the drain has been repaired. The three new potholes in Church Street and Marstonfields were again highlighted. The current list of remedial work to be carried out is as follows:

- (i) School Hill Kerbing Project – kerbing stones used.
- (ii) 040184085: drain near kerb of 47, High Street – reported as dangerous
- (iii) 49 Portway: - drain marked up for further work.
- (iv) 40202701: Poor state of pavement between 27 & 37 Quainton Road
- (v) 40207528 Road subsidence on Portway near field gate (Marston Hill end of village)
- (vi) 40221096 Pothole in centre of road in Church Street
- (vii) 40222510 1 metre square pothole outside of No.4 Church Street
- (viii) 4391939 1-metre square and deep pothole in Marstonfields 100 yards after first cattle grid.

2. Street lighting: The new two-year contract with SSE is due to start on 1st June 2023, saving over £3k on the price quoted by nPower. A rebate of £1,028.00 is due to the Parish Council as it has been overcharged since the changes to LED lighting. This will reduce slightly as the charges for streetlighting in March/April and May have still to be charged and will be taken from the credit amount.

46.23 THE SHOP

- (i) A green grit/salt bin has been ordered to serve the Village Hall/Shop car park.
- (ii) Subsidence at Village Hall/The Shop car park:

It was suggested that there should be a discussion around making provision for any future repairs needed to the car park and about some form of shared responsibility with The Shop for this. Councillor Gomm suggested that Community Board funding may be available for the project on this occasion and encouraged the Clerk to submit an application once the costs are known.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to obtain quotes for the remedial work necessary to the Village Hall/Shop car park. Councillor Boyt agreed to send the Clerk the names of possible contractors who could be approached.

47.23 PARISH ACTION PLAN & PROJECTS

The following updates were received:

1. Village Hall

- (i) The Clerk advised that the new folding chairs, trolleys and two new 6ft Gopak folding tables have been delivered to the hall. The chairs are padded and very comfortable.
- (ii) The exterior back wall light to the Village Hall appears not to be working.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to obtain a quotation from Ian Carnell Electrical for the repair of the exterior sensor light. (UPDATE: upon leaving the hall the light **did** appear to be working so further investigation required)

(iii) The Chairman has prepared a final specification for audio-visual equipment and will send that to the companies who have already quoted.

2. Threshing Barn – inclement weather has so far prevented the patching of the roof being carried out by Alder Roofing.

3. Village and Parsnip Pond – the overgrown vegetation and dead trees around Parsnip Pond were recently cleared by a group of local volunteers and the new pond habitat info graphic has now been installed at the village pond.
4. Aylesbury Wild Vale Project – no updates
5. Play Area – no updates
6. Sports field – the steps down to the field have been extended for safety reasons and a new concrete ramp has been installed at the brick store to make ground maintenance equipment more easily accessible.

48.23 POOR PIECE & CLOCKLANDS

Correspondence had been received from the Reverend Petra Elsmore requesting that the Parish Council verify the appointment of Peter York as a trustee. This would be to fill a casual vacancy for the unexpired term of the appointee's predecessor which comes to an end in September this year. As Councillors Martin and Symonds declared an interest as trustees of the charity, there was not the required minimum three councillors to vote on the matter.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council vote on the appointment at the May AGM meeting.

49.23 FINANCE

(a) The receipt of the Parish Devolution payment from Buckinghamshire Council of £2,073.74 was acknowledged.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to liaise with Councillor Gomm to ensure that the Parish Council is receiving the correct amount in accordance with the services devolved to the parish.

(b) **RESOLVED:** The Asset Register was approved for the forthcoming 2022/23 internal and external audits.

(c) The Parish Council considered the three applications for funding from its small grants scheme for 2023/24. £950.00 is available to distribute.

RESOLVED: That 1st Granborough Scouts to receive funding of £400 towards the costs of camping equipment. The EEC and North Marston C of E School each respectively receive £275.00 towards the costs of new hymn books and colourful playground signage promoting good manners and positive values. Funding to be released upon the receipt of invoices for the purchases.

50.23 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS

Parish Council

Receipts on behalf of the Parish Council

Buckinghamshire Council – Devolution payment for 2023/24 - £2,073.74

Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council

Donation to Sportsfield - £1,000

Amazon Marketplace – Catering teapot for VH - £27.99, £4.67 VAT (transferred back to PC account from VH account on 04/04/23)

HPI Instant Ink- monthly contract - £5.49

Tesco Mobile – Parish phone contract - £7.50, no VAT

Sparkx Ltd – INV 4594 – Replacement street light programme - £1,288.80, £214.50 VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Parish Council

Clerk's salary and 3 hours FiLCA training £***.**, No VAT

Clerk's expenses - £26.07 office allowance

Hutson's Property Maintenance – move Parsnip Pond dog waste bin - £93.50, no VAT

Blades Turf Care – March grass cutting - £915.90, £152.65 VAT

Village Hall

Receipts on behalf of the Village Hall

Monday Club – VH hire 2023/24 – cheque 500469 - £180.00, no VAT

Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall

Furniture at Work – Chairs and trolleys - £3,206.40, £534.40 VAT

Furniture at Work – 2 x Gopak 6ft tables - £266.40, £44.40 VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Village Hall

Emma Lynch – VH cleaning March - £100.00, no VAT

E-On Next – Schorne Room electricity 4th March-3rd April - £44.87, £2.14 VAT

Sportsfield

Receipts on behalf of the Sportsfield

North Marston Parish Council – donation - £1,000, no VAT

Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield

Stuart Canvas Group – County Cage - £2,064.00, £344.00 VAT

Cartwrights Sports – PVC backed cricket mats - £2,714.00, £452.33 VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Sportsfield

000772 100 Club First Prize January Draw - £30.00, no VAT

000773 100 Club Second Prize January Draw - £20.00, no VAT

000774 100 Club Third Prize January Draw - £10.00, no VAT

51.23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A resident drew attention to a broken manhole cover on the small triangular green on the pathway leading into Schorne Lane. Councillor Symonds said he would investigate who is responsible for it for the Clerk to arrange repair/replacement. (It transpires that it is Anglian Water)

52.23 DATE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL AGM & ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING:

(a) Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 17th April at 8pm in the Village Hall to discuss Planning application 23/00846/CPE **only**.

(b) Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council AGM on Tuesday 9th May in the Village Hall at the earlier time of 7.30pm. Tea/coffee would be served from 7.15pm. All welcome.

Jan Roffe

(Jan Roffe, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council)