

North Marston Parish Council

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

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL Tuesday 13th June 2023

Present: Councillors Andrew Boyt (Vice Chairman and Chair of meeting), D Hogbin-Mills, K Du-Plessis, A Boyt, B Newman, Buckinghamshire Councillor, Phil Gomm and Jan Roffe (Clerk).

15 members of the public.

75/23 Apologies: Apologies were received from the Chairman Councillor Ian Mordue.

76/23 Members Interests:

Councillor Boyt declared an interest in 77/23: Co-option of Parish Councillors, as he is related by marriage to one of the candidates. There were no further declarations of interest until the co-option of councillors had taken place, at which time, newly appointed Councillor, Christina Hutson, declared an interest in Planning applications nos. 23/01588/APP and 23/01540/ALB as the owner of a property in neighbouring Hill Farm and as she had given her comments and concerns during the Open Forum.

Open forum for Parishioners: (under adjournment) to include 100 Club Draw.

(a) Parishioners' comments on planning applications

(b) A parishioner brought a proposed giant battery plant installation at a farm on Hogshaw Road, near to the village of Granborough, to the Parish Council's attention.

(c) Cleaning of the village gates – to be added to July agenda

(d) Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for the lovely display of wildflowers at the village gates.

100 Club draw: First prize: £30, No.93 Sarah Forsyth; 2nd Prize: £20, No.31 John Hillier and 3rd Prize, No.65 Vic Turner.

77/23 Co-option of Parish Councillors

Having declared an interest, Councillor Boyt handed over the Chairing of this item to Councillor Hogbin-Mills and left the room.

The applications from three candidates were formally received to fill two parish councillor vacancies. All three candidates were asked to leave the hall, and each invited back in turn to address the Parish Council and answer questions – the same two questions were posed to each candidate:

1. Do you have a particular area of interest if co-opted to serve on the Parish Council?
2. Do you have, or are you aware of any concerns in the village that you feel need to be addressed?

All three candidates were out of the room when the Chair asked for proposers and seconders for the three candidates. Christina Hutson and Carrie Smythe were proposed and seconded. Christina: Proposed by Brett Newman. Seconded by Katherine Du-Plessis. Carrie: Proposed by Diana Hogbin-Mills and seconded by Brett Newman.

RESOLVED: That Christina Hutson and Carrie Smythe be co-opted on to the Parish Council by a single composite resolution.

Both read and signed the Declarations of Acceptance before taking their seats with the rest of the councillors.

Thanks were expressed to all three candidates for standing for co-option.

78/23 Minutes:

(a) The minutes of the Parish Council Annual Meeting held on 9th May 2023 were approved and signed.

(b) The minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on 9th May 2023 were approved and signed.

79/23 Buckinghamshire Council

A following Buckinghamshire Council updates were received from Councillor Phil Gomm:

(a) Councillor Gomm advised that he has been elected as Chair of the Winslow and Villages Community Board and gave an update on the Community Board funds available of £103k for 2023/24. He encouraged all the spread the word about the funds available and for local voluntary organisations to apply.

(b) With the opening of the new Winslow train station later this year, there is a two-year project plan to regenerate and reenergise the village of Winslow. Plans include more markets, entertainment, and activities. Parking and community transport are being carefully considered. Buckinghamshire Council wants to encourage people to get off the train and visit Winslow.

(c) Potholes remain a priority throughout the whole of Buckinghamshire and there is some funding available from the Government to help with this. Unfortunately, North Marston has been dropped down the priority list for pothole remedial work this year, but Councillor Gomm reported that he is fighting this.

80/23 Planning Applications:

Councillor Hutson left the room as she had declared an interest and commented on the applications during the open forum. The Parish Council then considered the following applications:

1. 23/01588/APP - 3 High Street, North Marston, Buckinghamshire, MK18 3PD

Land rear of 3 High Street, North Marston, Buckinghamshire, MK18 3PD

Erection of 1 dwelling.

RESOLVED:

In principle, the Parish Council is not opposed to a small in-fill development on the site, in keeping with the NM Neighbourhood Plan. However, it does consider the plans to be an over-development of the site on the grounds of its scale and proportion, height of the elevations, access, loss of Right of Access for No.5 High Street, parking arrangements and noise nuisance from the heat pump. The Parish Council therefore does not support the detail of the application in its current form.

2. 23/01540/ALB – 3 High Street, North Marston, Buckinghamshire, MK18 3PD

Listed building application for renovation and conversion of attached barn to provide additional habitable accommodation.

RESOLVED:

As the footprint of the barn is not changing, the Parish Council has no objections in principle to the application. However, the Parish Council wished to re-iterate its concerns (given in its response to the related application for development of this site No. 23/01588/APP), that the legal Right of Access provision for No.5 High Street and the parking arrangements for the re-development, need to be reconsidered and revised. The Parish Council therefore does not support the detail of the application in its current form.

81/23 Defibrillator at Marston Fields

(a) **RESOLVED:** That the ownership of the defibrillator at Marston Fields is transferred to Tuckett's Farm. The Parish Council has been reimbursed in full and Mary and Neil Tuckett will now take full responsibility for the registration and maintenance of the defibrillator on their land. It will still be available to the community living in this more remote part of the village. HMRC will be reimbursed the VAT claimed by the Parish Council on the original purchase in February.

(b)**RESOLVED:** Grateful thanks to Councillor Hutson who kindly agreed to take on the job of checking the Village Hall, Wesley Centre and Sportsfield defibrillators to make sure that they are “rescue ready” in case of emergency. This is necessary approximately every 6 weeks when requested by The Circuit. Thank you to Jon Martin who carried out this task previously. Christina agreed to ask Jon to show her what needs to be done.

82/23 Provision for teenagers:

The curved Teq Ball table was considered a good idea by councillors.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk apply for a Community Board £1k grant towards the costs of purchasing a curved Teqball table (total cost £2540 inc.VAT) and that a committee be formed to put some other proposals together.

83/23 MVAS:

Councillor Gomm confirmed that the Community Board will not be considering applications for the larger project grants for transport projects but that the Clerk could apply for a £1k small grant award towards the costs of £4,500 (exc. VAT and shipping), for two MVAS signs.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk apply for a £1k grant from the Community Board towards the costs.

84/23 Environment :

1. Highway: There were no updates on the following:

- (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 Quanton 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.

RESOLVED: Councillor Smythe agreed to walk around the village with Councillor Gomm to look at the Highways repairs needed. Councillor Gomm said he would then follow up with Highways on all repair works still to be completed.

UPDATE:

(xi) 23709184 Anglian manhole cover in triangle of grass leading to Schorne Lane behind Portway bus stop – Anglian water visited but apparently could not find the manhole cover.

RESOLVED: Clerk to again submit the need for the repair to Anglian Water.

2. Destroyed fluorescent verge markers, Portway (Marston Hill end) To agree action to be taken (BC responsible for Highways).

RESOLVED: Clerk to report to Highways on Fix My Street and send photographs of the destroyed verge markers.

3. Hedge cutting:

(i) Complaint from resident of overgrown No.4 footpath.

RESOLVED: Clerk to refer to the devolved services map to find out if the Parish Council is responsible.

85/23 Parish Action Plan/Projects: The following updates were received:

1. Playground:

Kompan could not attend to repair the climbing frame on 6th June, as expected, as they did not have the part. It has been re-ordered and they are now attending on the 28th June.

2. **Village Hall** – Car Park: Councillor Boyt advised that the Buckinghamshire Council website does not appear to have a list of recommended contractors and he has been unable to provide any recommendations to the Clerk.

RESOLVED: Clerk to research contractors and obtain quotes.

3. **Village and Parsnip ponds:**

Blanket weed continues to be a problem. Linda York kindly agreed to ask the ecology manager, at the company where she works, for advice on how to manage it and send it through to the Clerk. Volunteers will be needed to clear them.

4. **Aylesbury Wild Vale Project**

The wildflower displays have been much appreciated and admired and many compliments received. Thanks to Councillors Du-Plessis and Hogbin-Mills for devising the project and to Simon Brown of Blades for cultivating and sowing the areas. Expanding the project and the possibility of helping to regenerate the Forest School area with some seeds was discussed.

RESOLVED:

To expand the project to cover other sites. To find out who to contact regarding the Forest School area and investigate the possibilities. The Clerk to ask Simon of Blades to give an estimate of costs for making this a long-term project over the next 3 to 4 years.

5. **Sportsfield**

There were no updates in Councillor Mordue's absence.

86/23 Finance:

1. Two quotations from Blades for the herbicide spray of the play area and cutting of the pond and village hall hedges were considered.

RESOLVED: The Parish council approved both quotations.

2. It was acknowledged that permission had been given via email for the Clerk to purchase two additional Gopak tables - one 6ft (£133.20 inc. VAT) and one 4ft (£109.20 inc. VAT). Total £242.46, inc. £40.40 VAT to be delivered on Thursday 15th June.

3. It was noted that the Chairman has given the Clerk £26.11 cash in respect of Coronation Street Party donations. These had been deposited into the VH account.

4. To agree the release of NMPC small grants to successful organisations.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk may release the grant payments to the three successful applicants on condition that invoices are sent to the Clerk when the equipment purchases have been made.

Receipts and Payments of Accounts

Parish Council

Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council

nPower - reimbursement for overcharged streetlighting - £1,059.91, no VAT (remittance advice not received and requested by Clerk for audit).

VAT Return portion to Sportsfield – Transfer from PC to SF account - £1,322.82 no VAT

HPI Instant Ink – printer ink contract - £9.49, £1.58 VAT

nPower Business - £204.11, £9.72 VAT

Wickes Building – Rock salt for The Shop salt bin - £77.00, £12.83 VAT

Avery – Stickers for Play Area Under 5's equipment - £30.30

Majestic Wine – wine for internal auditor in lieu of payment - £92.88, £15.48 VAT (as per receipt)

NBB Recycled furniture – new bench for village pond area - £792.00, £132.00 VAT

Sundries for Annual Village Meeting (tea/coffee/biscuits) – parish debit card - £10.60, no VAT

Christina Hutson – Coronation Party expenses - £418.02, £36.33 VAT

Payments to be paid on behalf of the Parish Council

Clerks Salary - £**.***, no VAT

Clerk's expenses – office allowance, mileage and printer paper - £55.47, no VAT

Blades Turf Care - May grass cutting - £915.90, £152.65 VAT

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

Payments received on behalf of the Parish Council

HMRC VAT Return - £6,515.20 no VAT

Tuckett Farm – donation for defibrillator - £277.60

Village Hall

Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall

Wave Water - £106.73, no VAT

Buckinghamshire Council Premises License - £70.00 no VAT

Furniture at Work – 2 x Gopak folding tables - £242.40, £40.40 VAT

Churches Fire – Extinguisher check - £141.32, £23.55 VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Village Hall

Sarah Briggs – VH deposit refund - £50.00 no VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Village Hall

Sarah Briggs – hire of VH and deposit - £95.00 no VAT

Sports Field

Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield

Wave Water - £126.62, no VAT

E-on Next - £173.78, £8.28 VAT

RT Machinery Ltd – new ride-on mower - £8,274.00, £1,379.00 VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Sportsfield

000778 100 Club 1st prize £30.00, no VAT

000779 100 Club 2nd prize £20.00, no VAT

000880 100 Club 3rd prize £10.00, no VAT

North Marston Parish Council – HMRC portion of VAT Return transfer from PC account - £1,322.00

North Marston and Granborough Cricket Club – donation PVC matting - £1,496.00, no VAT

Ray Smith Engineering – Henderson Premier Door - £126.50, no VAT

The following invoices had been received after the date of the publication of the agenda, which had to be published early because of the Clerk’s Annual Leave. The Parish Council agreed that they could be paid by the Clerk:

Parish Council

nPower – final streetlighting invoice before new contract - £201.95, £9.62, VAT

More -Solutions – website hosting - £86.40, £14.40 VAT

Village Hall

PRA Randles – pond bench, unblock drain and reattach bin to bus shelter - £169.00, no VAT

Emma Lynch – VH cleaning April/May - £175.00, no VAT

87/23 Date of the next meeting and August recess:

1. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council will recess in August, but, if necessary, will convene to discuss any urgent planning matters.
2. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 8pm in the Village Hall

***Jan Roffe, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council
20th June 2023***