

# North Marston Parish Council

Clerk to the council: Ms Jan Roffe - Email: [clerk@northmarston.org](mailto:clerk@northmarston.org) or telephone 07933 624147

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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Present: Councillors I Mordue,, (Chairman), Andrew Boyt (Vice Chairman), B Newman, C Hutson and C Smythe. Buckinghamshire Councillor, Phil Gomm and Jan Roffe (Clerk).

5 members of the public.

**88/23 Apologies:** Apologies were received from Councillors D Hogbin-Mills and K Du-Plessis

**89/23 Members Interests:**

Councillor Boyt declared an interest in item **92/23 (a)** as the householder.

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

**100 Club draw:** First prize: £30, No.3 Richard and Tam Butterworth, Second Prize: £20: No.17 Pete Butler, Third Prize £10: No.46 Pip Hitchen

**90/23 Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were approved and signed.

**91/23 Buckinghamshire Council**

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

(a) Potholes remain a priority throughout the whole of Buckinghamshire but there were no further updates for North Marston at the moment.

(b) At Buckinghamshire Council's Full Council meeting the budget for 2024/25 was discussed.

Although not yet finalised, Councillor Gomm advised that it will be a tight budget and that more savings will have to be made. This is likely to affect the money available for parish precepts.

(c) Parking opposite bus stops in the village was briefly discussed and could be considered an obstruction. Councillor Gomm agreed to check the Highway Code on this point.

**92/23 Planning Applications**

**(a) Appeals:**

1. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78

Site Address: 10 Portway North Marston Buckinghamshire MK18 3PL

Proposal: Householder application for part demolition of existing house and garage and erection of two storey side extension, erection of orangery and garage

Application Ref: 22/04222/APP Appeal Ref: 23/00031/NONDET

Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/J0405/W/23/3316735

**RESOLVED:**

The Parish Council had no objections to the original planning application and has no further comments to make to the Appeals Planning Inspectorate.

2. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 APPEAL UNDER SECTION 174

Site Address: Hillview Paddocks, Carters Lane, North Marston Buckinghamshire MK18 3GY

Breach: Appeal against without planning permission, the material change of use of a building to a single residential dwelling.

Enforcement Ref: 20/00094/CON3 Appeal Ref: 23/00050/ENFNOT Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/J0405/C/23/3323146

## **RESOLVED**

The Clerk to write to the Appeals Planning Inspectorate with the Parish Council's comments regarding the apparent development on the site which is not related to the original permission granted for the change of use of an agricultural building to a residential dwelling.

## **(b) RESOLVED**

It was agreed that Councillors Newman, Boyt and Hutson act as a joint working party on behalf of the Parish Council on Planning matters and report back and advise the Parish Council as appropriate.

## **93/23 Environment**

### **1. Highway**

#### **RESOLVED**

For clarity and to provide relevant information on the status of Highways issues in the village, it was agreed to remove the long list of issues from the agenda. In future, only issues newly reported on Fix My Street will be included on the agenda. Councillor Smythe agreed to update the Parish Council on any remedial action taken by Highways. It was agreed that she will also provide a list of issues and their status as reported on Fix My Street and this to be shared with Councillor Gomm and to act as an appendix to the minutes.

### **2. Stratera Battery installation**

Councillor Hutson had attended the consultation meeting with Stratera held at Granborough Village Hall and shared the following information from the meeting:

- Location: The installation would be built behind the existing National Grid substation near East Claydon.
- Construction: The construction period is expected to be about 18 months.
- Purpose: The purpose of the installation is for green energy storage which will allow surplus energy generated during off peak times to be stored for later use.
- Traffic: There are expected to be in the region of 9 lorry deliveries a day associated with the project.
- Access: Stratera are looking at changing the access away from Granborough following local concerns.
- Leakage and fire risk: The batteries would be double skinned to prevent leakage. There is some fire and toxic gas risk with a thermal system, but multi levels of safety protection would be in place.
- Impact: It is considered that North Marston would not be impacted.

#### **RESOLVED**

It was agreed that Councillor Hutson would ask Stratera why North Marston residents were not consulted and/or leafleted. It was agreed that she would make parishioners aware of the Stratera Battery Installation website where parishioners may register their opinions.

### **3. Grass and hedges:**

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk was asked to get two quotes for clearing the overgrown vegetation along Footpath 4 (side of Elmers Meadow/Gibbings Close). The Clerk also to obtain a quote from Simon of Blades for spraying the weeds along the Portway pathway.

### **4. Parking on grass verges:**

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Smythe agreed to draft a standard flyer asking people not to park on grass verges, explaining that this is Parish Council land and that parking on pathways and verges impedes those with a disability and causes a visual obstruction near a junction. If the cars are not moved, offending vehicle registrations will be reported to the local PCSO.

## **94/23 Parish Action Plan/Projects:** To discuss and/or receive any relevant updates on the following:

### **1. Playground**

The recent ROSPA inspection and report puts the overall **play area site risk as very low**. The swings need a new bearing, and the roundabout ground clearance is still inadequate, despite remedial work by Kompan last year. Two of the wooden benches are rotten and beyond

economical repair. It was suggested that a replacement memorial bench may be something to consider. Regular monitoring of equipment is ongoing by Councillor Newman and there are some minor jobs to attend to.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to go back to Kompan to complain that the roundabout continues not to have the required ground clearance and that it has not been right since its installation. Clerk to order a replacement cap for the frame of the toddlers' swing nest. Clerk to also ask Roy Randles to remove two rotten wooden benches and to put a post on Facebook asking if anyone would like to sponsor a memorial bench in memory of a loved one, or similar, as a replacement. It was agreed that more research should be done to find a suitable maintenance plan, to be discussed at a future meeting.

## **2. Provision for teenagers**

The Winslow and Villages Community Board manager has informed the Clerk that the Teqball table is something that fits with the Community Board project grant criteria under youth provision and that the Clerk had just received an application form to complete and submit. There was a brief discussion about looking at youth provision in the village as a larger project and applying for funding.

**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council to give more consideration to provision for teenagers in the village and discuss it in more detail at a later meeting.

### **Village Hall**

**RESOLVED:** The PIR light on the back wall of the Village Hall works and does not need replacing. It must remain switched on at the switch located above the fire exit in the back storage area to work.

## **3. Village Hall car park**

**RESOLVED:** Having considered two widely differing specifications and quotations for the work to alleviate the large puddle crossing the car park in wet weather, it was agreed that Councillor Boyt would find out more about the work necessary from both contractors and report back to the Parish Council for a decision at the next meeting.

## **4. Village Pond and Parsnip Pond**

Grateful thanks were expressed to volunteers Jennifer and David Heffer for clearing the overgrown vegetation at Parsnip Pond and for disposing of it. Thanks were also expressed to Janet Gowin and Cheryl Eaton for helping to clear the village pond of blanket weed.

(a) **RESOLVED:** It was decided that a standpipe is not needed at the moment.

(b) **RESOLVED:** The new dog bin by the village pond would be installed by Streetscene in the week beginning the 15<sup>th</sup> July.

(c) **RESOLVED:** Councillor Hutson kindly agreed to dig out the bull rushes which absorb vast amounts of water and contribute to the pond drying out. The blanket weed is regularly removed by a group of volunteers.

## **6. Village gates cleaning**

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to ask Roy Randles to quote for cleaning the village gates and village signs and bus shelters.

## **7. Aylesbury Wild Vale Project**

**RESOLVED:** the Clerk to ask Simon of Blades for clarification of costs for the two new areas to be cultivated and the cost to maintain the two areas already cultivated at either end of the village. Councillors Du-Plessis and Hogbin-Mills to identify and define the exact new areas to be cultivated with advice from Simon. Councillor Boyt to mark these new areas on a map.

## **8. Hay Barn**

**Update:** The roof has been patched by Adler Roofing

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Boyt to shore up the corner with a concrete pillar as soon as is practically possible.

## 9. Defibrillators

Councillor Hutson has checked and cleaned all the defibrillators and has entered all status checks on The Circuit portal. She advised that the defibrillator at the Wesley Centre does not have pads that can be used on children under 8 years of age and that a stock of AAA batteries is required for the light inside the cabinet.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to order paediatric pads up to £100 inc. VAT. and purchase AAA batteries.

## 10. MVAS

**RESOLVED:** To accept and thank Sarah Kettley and Nick Sear (who run Manor Farm and Animal Antiks), for their generous offer to donate full funding towards one of the two Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) for the village. It was agreed that the Clerk could purchase the MVAS initially from Parish Council funds before the end of July, whilst there is an offer on the Elan City solar charged model. It was agreed that this MVAS would be permanently located in Quainton Road to help alleviate speeding.

The Clerk to research funding for the other sign as the Winslow and Villages Community Board has confirmed that it is no longer funding Transport projects

## 11. Sportsfield

**Update:** The Sportsfield committee has purchased a new ride-on mower as the old mower was no longer fit for purpose.

(b) The NM & Granborough 1<sup>st</sup> Scouts have approached the Sportsfield to ask if another storage container could be put on the field next to the existing one. They have asked for a decision as quickly as possible to have it installed and in use through the rest of the playing season.

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Boyt to check whether Planning is required. The Chairman to call an extraordinary meeting for the public to have the opportunity to give their views on a new container on the site.

## 95/23 Finance:

1. **RESOLVED:** To bank reconciliations/accounts for the quarter April to end June 2023 had been circulated and were approved.
2. **UNRESOLVED:** As time was short, the process for checking invoices and which councillor would take on this responsibility had to be left until the next meeting.
3. **RESOLVED:** The following receipts and payments were approved:

## Receipts and Payments of Accounts

### Parish Council

#### Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council

More solutions Ltd. – Website hosting - £86.40, £14.40 VAT

nPower – streetlighting 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May - £201.95, £9.62 VAT

HP Instant Ink – printer ink contract - £5.49, £0.92 VAT

nPower Business - £204.11, £9.72 VAT

PRA Randles – removal and installation of pond bench and fix bus shelter bin - £109.00 no VAT

NBPPC – Annual subscription - £20.00, no VAT

#### Payments to be paid on behalf of the Parish Council

Clerks Salary - £\*\*\*.\*\*, no VAT

Clerk's expenses – office allowance - £26.07 no VAT

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

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

Sparkx – 12 Schorne Lane streetlight repair – £275.40, £45.90 VAT

#### Payments received on behalf of the Parish Council

Jon Martin – Barn Rental - £210, no VAT

The Shop – Annual peppercorn rent - £1.00 no VAT

## **Village Hall**

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

PRA Randles – unblock foul drain - £60.00 no VAT

Mrs E Lynch – Village Hall cleaning April/May - £175.00, no VAT

E-on Next – Electricity SR 4<sup>th</sup> May-3<sup>rd</sup> June - £24.50, £1.23 VAT

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

Mrs J Sawyers – VH hire deposit - £50.00, no VAT

Mrs J Wolfenden – VH hire - £45.00, no VAT

PO Counters – Coronation Party donations - £26.14, no VAT

## **Sports Field**

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

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

E-on Next – Electricity 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May - £110.97, £5.55 VAT

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

000781 100 Club 1<sup>st</sup> prize £30.00, no VAT

000782 100 Club 2nd prize £20.00, no VAT

000783 100 Club 3rd prize £10.00, no VAT

**96/23 Items for the next agenda.** There were no items raised.

### **97/23 Date of the next meeting and August recess:**

The Parish Council will recess in August but will convene to discuss any urgent Planning applications.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

*Jan Roffe*, Clerk

19<sup>th</sup> July 2023