

North Marston Parish Council

Clerk to the council: Ms Jan Roffe - Email: northmarston@gmail.com. Telephone 07933 624147

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday 14th November 2023

Present: A Boyt (Acting Chairman), D Hogbin-Mills, K Du-Plessis, B Newman, C Hutson and C Smythe., Jan Roffe, Clerk, Buckinghamshire Councillor Phil Gomm and 4 members of the public.

126/23 Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillor Mordue.

127/23 Members Interests: There were no declarations of interest.

Open forum for Parishioners: (under adjournment – 20 minutes. 3 minutes per person speaking) to include 100 Club Draws for November 2023.

100 Club Draw: 1st Prize, £30, No. 47 – Jo Radcliffe, 2nd Prize, £20, No.83 - Barry Kirwan, 3rd Prize, £10, No.88 - Tricia and Paul Mc Sweeney.

128/23 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th October 2023 were approved and signed.

129/23 Buckinghamshire Council update: Councillor Gomm did not have any updates.

130/23 The following Planning applications were considered:

(i) 23/03165/APP - Three Corners Piece, Granborough Road, North Marston, Buckinghamshire, MK18 3PP
Demolition of all existing buildings and erection of a replacement 3x bedroom dwelling and outbuilding providing residential carport and agricultural store.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council resolved that it had no objections to the application. The applicant was present at the meeting and answered the Parish Council's questions. Parish councillors were invited by the applicant to visit the site if they would like to.

(ii) 23/03304/APP - 11 Dudley Close North Marston MK18 3RA.

Householder application for erection of first floor rear balcony and staircase

RESOLVED: The Parish council resolved that it had no objections to the application. The Clerk was asked to record on the submission that the plan appears to be incorrect as the build encroaches on a neighbour's back garden.

131/23 To receive any updates and discuss actions on the following matters:

Environment

1. Highways:

(i) Councillor Smythe advised that there were no Highways updates, except that Portway will be closed for remedial works from the Tuesday 28th to Thursday 30th November from 9.30am to 3.30pm on both days.

(ii) MVAS:

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the quotation from Highway and Solar Solutions for 2 new MVAS ground sockets - £1.200.65 + VAT.

(iii) **New streetlight opposite the entrance to the Sportsfield:** The Clerk advised that she had received approval from the Local Area Technician (LAT) for the new streetlight, with certain conditions attached. The Clerk also advised that she had emailed the contractor to ask for a quotation for the supply and installation to the LAT's specification, to be agreed at the December meeting.

2. Restoration and repair of village benches:

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the quotation from Roy Randles for the maintenance of four benches at £80.00 (no VAT) each. The Clerk was asked to look at the price of a new recycled wood/plastic bench, similar in type and size to the one outside of The Pilgrim, before a decision is made about refurbishing the current one.

3. Parking: There are fewer reports of the parking of a lorry and vehicles on the verge at the junction with Gibbings Close and Granborough Road. There were no other updates.

4. Grass and hedges: RESOLVED: The Clerk agreed to update the grass and hedge specification for discussion with Simon of Blades and to ask for a quotation for budgetary purposes.

132/23 Parish Action Plan/Projects: To discuss and/or receive any relevant updates on the following:

1. Aylesbury Wild Vale Project

(i) The specified area in Quinton Road has been cultivated and sown.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to source or make up signs for all rewilding areas as “cultivated land” to discourage people from parking vehicles on them. The Clerk also to write to Mr and Mrs Morton to request that they don’t cut the hedge at the Oving end of the village as last year the seeds were damaged by the tractor. Simon of Blades will cut it if they are agreeable. Councillor Hutson had spoken to the owners of the hedges by the rewilding areas in both Quinton Road and the Granborough end of the village and they had agreed to leave Simon to cut them.

2. Playground: (i) The gravel paths have proved to be unsuitable as the gravel is in constant need of weeding and maintenance. Although swept regularly, the gravel also easily migrates to the safety matting, as per ROSPA’s findings.

RESOLVED: Councillor Du-Plessis agreed that she would research alternatives to gravel and report back at the December meeting.

(i) The shackles on the old swings need replacing as per the ROSPA report.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to research where they can be obtained and costs.

(ii) **Nets for the football goals.** Councillor Boyt advised that he could not find nets for the current goal posts.

RESOLVED: Councillor Boyt agreed to research prices for metal framed goal posts with integral nets that are wildlife friendly.

3. Provision for teenagers: The Clerk advised that the grant to the Winslow and Villages Community Board for £2k had been unsuccessful on the grounds that the board did not consider that the Teqball table would solve the issue of anti-social behaviour. The board would reconsider a match-funded application. The Community Board would also welcome discussions to explore some possible youth club options that may assist with the issues.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to submit another match-funded application as soon as is practically possible.

4. Village Hall car park:

RESOLVED: The Clerk to contact the contractors again to ask them to suggest alternative solutions to address the issue of the large muddy puddle of water accumulating at the bottom of the ramp at The Shop.

5. Village Hall:

RESOLVED: The Parish Council resolved that a cigarette bin is not required and that it should be made clear on the Terms and Conditions that cigarette ends must not be dropped on the lawn outside the Village Hall or hirers must collect them up and dispose of them. The Clerk to amend the T&Cs to reflect this.

6. Village Pond and Parsnip Pond: The Annual Charity Duck Race was won by Duck No.33. £350.00 was raised for North Marston and Granborough C of E School. Barley Straw has been added to the pond to discourage blanket weed from forming.

7. Hay Barn:

RESOLVED: Councillor Hutson agreed to ask Colin Beckett to look at the barn with a view to quoting to shore it up.

8. Defibrillators: Councillor Hutson reported that all of the defibrillators are working and are serviced by her once a month.

- 9. Sportsfield:** (i) The Clerk advised that the Sportsfield was applying to the Winslow and Villages Community Board for funding for the field drainage.
(ii) The Clerk agreed to repost the “pick up after your dog” post on the NM&G Community page.
(iii) The Annual Autumn Sportsfield Clear-Up will take place on Sunday 26th November from 10.00am until 2pm. Volunteers to take their own tools. Bacon sandwiches, cakes and drinks will be provided.

133/23 Finance:

1. **RESOLVED:** The circulated accounts for April to end October 2023 were approved.
2. **RESOLVED:** The increase in the Clerk’s pay in line with the NALC national SCP hourly pay point as from Sept and backpay to April 2023 was approved.
3. **RESOLVED:** It was agreed to hold a budget discussion meeting on **Tuesday 5th December 2023** at 8pm in the Village Hall. (The budget to be finalised and approved at the full Parish Council meeting on 12th December).

Receipts and Payments of Accounts

RESOLVED: The following payments and Receipts were approved:

Parish Council

Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council

Cleaning equipment for VH – high level feather duster – (CC) Total inc. P&P £29.82, £5.00 VAT (to be reimbursed from VH account).

Cleaning materials for VH – multi-pack toilet cleaner – Total inc. P&P £14.99, £2.50 VAT (to be reimbursed from VH account)

Tesco Mobile – Parish ‘phone contract October - £7.50, no VAT (DD)

HPI Instant Ink – printer ink contract - £6.49, £1.08 VAT (DD)

Payments to be paid on behalf of the Parish Council

Clerk Salary – October (and back payments from 1st April under NALC increase for 2023/24) £***.**, no VAT

Clerk expenses – October - office allowance, £26.00 no VAT, Consumables £14.98, VAT £2.50, stamp £1.25,

Office diary £3.00 and sundries £19.98, £2.33 VAT: Total £65.21

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

Blades Turf Care - Rewilding of area in Quainton Road plus cost of seeds - £2,064.00, £344.00 VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Parish Council

Kevin O’Donoghue – Allotment rental 2023/24 - £20.00, no VAT

Village Hall

Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall

Futurform Ltd – Two new wooden junior benches for VH garden inc. £30 delivery - £273.60, £45.60 VAT

Jade Sawyers – Deposit refund VH hire - £50.00, no VAT

Mrs Christina Hutson – new mop, bucket and disinfectant for VH cleaner - £41.40, £6.90 VAT

JR Plumbing – boiler service VH October 23 - £144.00, £24.00 VAT

Emma Lynch – Final Hall clean on 10.9.23 - £25.00 no VAT

E-on Next – Electricity 4th Sept-3rd October - £27.86, £1.33 VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Village Hall

Ashleigh Oswin – VH hire for fundraising Halloween party - £20.00, no VAT

Schorne Pre-school – donation towards new benches for VH garden - £99.00, no VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Village Hall

Kate Wetherall – weekly clean October - £150.00, no VAT

E-on Next – Electricity Schorne Room 4th Oct to 3rd Nov - £33.76, £1.61 VAT

Reimbursement to PC account for the new cleaning equipment for VH – high level feather duster – (PC credit card) Total inc. P&P £29.82, £5.00 VAT.

Reimbursement to PC account for cleaning materials for VH – multi-pack toilet cleaner – (PC Credit card)
Total inc. P&P £14.99, £2.50 VAT

Sports Field

Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield

James Radcliffe – Fuel for SF mower - £47.52, £7.92 VAT

Rebecca Parker (Marvellous Marigolds) – SF pavilion cleaning October - £82.50, no VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Sportsfield

North Marston Football Club – overdue rental 2022/23 - £924.50, no VAT

North Marston Football Club – rental 2023/24 - £1,500, no VAT

North Marston and Granborough Cricket Club – rental 2023/24 - £1,500, no VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Sportsfield

000793 100 Club 1st prize October draw, £30.00, no VAT

000794 100 Club 2nd prize October draw, £20.00, no VAT

000795 100 Club 3rd prize October draw, £10.00, no VAT

134/23 Items for the next agenda. There were no items raised for the next agenda.

135/23 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 12th December 2023 at 8pm in the Village Hall

136/23 Motion Closed Session:

MOTION CARRIED: To move into a closed session to discuss the next steps in an ongoing sensitive land issue dispute.

RESOLVED: The Clerk was instructed to send the Parish Council's letter and accompanying documentation to HM Land Registry to dispute claims of ownership of the land by another party, and also their right to register the land in question in their name.

Jan Roffe, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council

21st November 2023