

North Marston Parish Council

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

MINUTES

Meeting of North Marston Parish Council

Tuesday 14th October 2025

To: Councillors I Mordue (Chairman), A Boyt (Vice Chairman), D Hogbin-Mills, K Du-Plessis, B Newman, S Hill and M Tanner.

Dear Councillors, you are hereby summoned to attend the above meeting of North Marston Parish Council to transact the following business. Members of the Public/Press are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

131/25 Present: Councillors I Mordue (Chairman), A Boyt (Vice Chairman), D Hogbin-Mills, K Du-Plessis, B Newman, and M Tanner.

Apologies were received from: Councillor Hall and Buckinghamshire Councillor, Phil Gomm

132/25 Members' Interests

There were no declarations of interest

Open Forum for Parishioners

(Under adjournment – 20 minutes total, 3 minutes per person speaking)

To include the 100 Club Draw for October 2025.

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council and all those involved in organising the Granmarstonbury event, commenting on how much it had brought the community together and how greatly it was enjoyed by all who attended during the day and evening.

100 Club draw: 1st £30 No.19 Jo Radcliffe, 2nd £20 No.84, Pete Butler, 3rd £10 No 95 Gordon Bowden

133/25 Buckinghamshire Council Update In his absence, Cllr Phil Gomm provided the following written report:

1. Speedwatch:

With the onset of winter weather, Speedwatch activity is currently paused. However, Cllr Gomm is requesting enforcement deployment throughout the Ward for those areas that have supplied data to support police activity. Cllr Gomm requested the latest data from MVAS to share with TVP.

2. Highway Failure – Quainton Road:

A repair request has been submitted for the section near The Barn on Quainton Road, where the surface is badly damaged. Although this currently acts as an unintended traffic-calming measure, additional warning signs have also been requested.

3. Capital Highways Road Programme:

Cllr Gomm's Capital Highways Programme is being updated following the creation of the new Ward, which merges two previous lists. The programme covers road resurfacing, major redesigns, and footway works. North Marston has benefited from several Highways improvements in recent years, but Cllr Gomm recognises more is needed and is happy to discuss priorities with Parish Councillors outside of the meeting.

4. Fire Service Warning:

The Bucks Fire Authority is proposing to reduce fire engines and close some stations.

Buckinghamshire Council is opposing this move. Under the proposal, one fire engine would be removed from Buckingham Station, leaving one appliance there and one (on-call) at Winslow.

Cllr Gomm raised concern that, in the event of a large-scale fire, particularly if the proposed BESS development proceeds, reduced coverage could severely impact emergency response and pose a risk to surrounding agricultural land.

134/25 Minutes

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 9th September 2025 were approved and signed as a true record.

135/25 Environmental Policy

RESOLVED: Following review and comments by Cllrs Du-Plessis and Hogbin-Mills, who hold responsibility for environmental, sustainability, and biodiversity matters, the updated Environmental Policy was approved.

An additional paragraph was added outlining the Council's future intentions: while recognising that resources and practical constraints may limit what can be achieved, the Council is committed to fostering awareness, collaboration, and positive steps towards a more sustainable and environmentally responsible community.

136/25 Compliance with Assertion 10 – Cllr Tanner

Cllr Tanner had no updates for the October meeting but will present an updated action plan at the November meeting, as previously agreed.

137/25 Planning

There had been no planning applications to consider at this meeting.

138/25 Land to the North of Quainton Road – Cllr Mordue

RESOLVED: A Parish Council statement regarding the outcome of the land ownership dispute is attached as an appendix to these minutes. **(See Appendix A)**

139/25 Parish Barn Agreement

RESOLVED: The draft agreement outlining responsibility and repairs for the Parish Barn was approved by the Parish Council. The Clerk to prepare the final document for signature by both parties.

140/25 Defibrillator and First Aid Training

RESOLVED: The Clerk has arranged **free defibrillator training** with expert trainer Alex Richards (ALR Training Ltd) to help participants build confidence in using this lifesaving equipment and to feel capable of responding effectively in an emergency situation, thereby improving local resilience and safety.

- **Dates:** Thursday 6th and Tuesday 18th November at 7:30pm
- **Venue:** North Marston Village Hall
- **Booking:** Interested attendees should email the Clerk at *northmarston@gmail.com* specifying their preferred date.

Each session can accommodate up to 20 participants. Granborough residents are welcome to attend if spaces permit.

It was further agreed that the Parish Council will subsidise a First Aid Training course, most likely in the New Year, by 50% for North Marston residents, who will be given priority. Twelve places will be available initially, with the possibility of additional sessions if demand is high. Granborough residents may attend at the full cost. The course would be held over two evening 3 hour sessions. Further details to follow nearer the time.

141/25 Property and Community Facilities

To receive relevant updates and agree any actions relating to:

1. Village Hall – to include Village Hall and Schorne Room windows as some panes are failing or broken and in need of repair and to help with energy efficiency.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to apply for planning permission to install new wood effect uPVC double-glazed windows at the Village Hall, featuring a Minster glass and faux leaded lights to remain in keeping with the building's character.

As the Village Hall is situated within the Conservation Area and listed as a Heritage Asset, planning permission and consultation with Conservation and Heritage is required before the replacement can proceed.

In the meantime, on H&S grounds, Councillor Mordue will put a piece of Perspex, or similar, over the Schorne Room window on the outside of the building to prevent the window pane from falling out. There is no danger to those using the Schorne Room itself as the windows are secondary double glazed.

RESOLVED: It was also agreed that the Clerk should arrange the annual boiler service with JR Plumbing .

2. Shop storage area

RESOLVED: Following a meeting between Cllr Mordue and the Chairman of The Shop Association Committee, it was agreed that:

- The Association will pay **£54.00** for unpaid electricity usage up to June 2025.
 - The Clerk will issue a further invoice for **£300.00** at the beginning of November to cover electricity from June 2025 to June 2026.
 - Once the Wi-Fi contract is in place, the Clerk will issue an invoice for **£180.00 (£15 per month)**, supported by relevant documentation.
 - Both parties to review usage of electricity and use of the storage area on an annual basis.
- 3.** Cllr Mordue and/or the Clerk to look into removing the smart meter for the Schorne Room and linking it to the Village Hall's main meter, to avoid paying an extra standing charge that costs more than the energy used.

4. Play Area:

Cllr Newman submitted the RoSPA monthly inspection checklist, noting that the rubber matting beneath the swing hammock is deteriorating. The picnic bench removed on health and safety grounds has been replaced with a new bench. It was also noted that movement of the goalposts is now minimal.

RESOLVED: To seek advice from Cllr Hill regarding replacement matting under the swing.

- 5. Village Pond and Parsnip Pond:** Cllr Mordue will pursue a quotation for the installation of an unmetered stand pipe to enable the pond to be refilled during periods of low water levels.

Cllr Hogbin-Mills will remove the non-native bullrushes from Parsnip Pond, which absorb large amounts of water. Cllr Mordue will dispose of the removed plants using his trailer.

6. Defibrillators

All units have been checked by volunteer Christina Hutson. No issues were reported.

142/25 Environment and Highways

To receive updates and agree any actions on the following:

1. Highways:

- **Any new or resolved road issues** – Buckinghamshire Highways are aware of the issue of the collapsed road in Quanton Road. Anglian Water have been out to look at the water leak at the top of Quanton Road/Granborough Road, but it has not been repaired.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to report again to Anglian.

- **Parking** – no issues reported other than people parking on the pavements along High Street obstructing those with pushchairs and mobility vehicles.
- **MVAS – RESOLVED:** Cllr Mordue will rotate the devices and supply data to Cllr Gomm.

- **Street lighting: RESOLVED:** Sparkx reported street light faults in Quainton Road, Schorne Lane and School Hill have been investigated by Councillors and the Clerk after dark and no faulty/lamps not working were found.
- **Bus shelters: RESOLVED:** PRA Randles quotation of £60.00 to remove ivy from the bus shelters was approved.
- **Area at the bottom of Marston Hill: RESOLVED:** The Clerk had written to Oving Parish Council to ask if it would consider joint signage to dissuade fly tipping and other waste being dumped there, but had not yet received a response. In the meantime, the area appears to have been cleared.

2. Grass and Hedges:

RESOLVED: The Clerk had written to Oving Parish Council to ask whether it would consider joint signage to discourage fly-tipping and the dumping of other waste in the area. No response has yet been received. In the meantime, it was noted that the area appears to have been cleared.

Update on Impassable Footpaths

Cllr Hogbin-Mills is awaiting an update from Cllr Gomm regarding the condition of local footpaths. It was also noted that the footpath across the fields leading to the new Pitchcott Farm Kitchen has been completely turned over by tractor activity, and there is currently no visible path up to the café.

143/25 Projects

To Receive Updates, Discuss, and Agree Any Actions on the Following

1. Replacement of Posts Around the Village's Upper and Lower Greens

RESOLVED: Cllr Mordue to obtain a firm price for 100x100mm posts with a weathered top.

2. Website – Cllr Tanner

No updates were reported.

3. New Streetlight Opposite the Sports Field Entrance – Cllrs Mordue and Hill

No further updates at this time. Cllr Mordue confirmed that a new temporary light has been positioned on the side of the pavilion.

4. Encouraging Wildlife / Aylesbury Vale Wild Project – Cllrs Hogbin-Mills and Du-Plessis

Decision on Wildflower Verges

RESOLVED: A working group of volunteer councillors will scarify and cut back the area opposite the Sportsfield in preparation for sowing native wildflower seeds and/or poppies in November.

Cllr Du-Plessis will provide the Clerk with details of the seeds to be purchased. The Parish Council approved expenditure of up to **£250.00 (excluding VAT)** for the purchase of seeds.

144/25 Sports Field

To receive relevant updates, including the successful Granmarstonbury event.

Cllr Mordue gave a brief overview of the Granmarstonbury event, which was a great success. Although the final figure is still to be confirmed, the event raised approximately **£7,860.00**, to be split 50/50 with North Marston School PTA.

Special thanks were expressed to the organisers Pete Butler, Andrew and Anneka Boyt, and Ian Mordue, as well as to all sponsors for their generous contributions. Thanks and appreciation was also given to Phil Gomm, who provided excellent entertainment as MC and DJ, contributing greatly to the success and atmosphere of the event and Brett and Nadia Newman, Oliver Mordue, and Liz Hale for their invaluable help and support.

It is anticipated that there will be an annual dog show and a bi-annual music event in the future. A full debrief will be carried out by the Sportsfield Committee.

145/25 Clerk's Resignation and Transition Planning

Jan Brandon, has resigned after over 3 ½ years as Clerk to the Parish Council. Her last working day will be 4 December 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk prepare a job vacancy advertisement for publication on the Parish Council website and Facebook page. The role will be advertised at SCP 18–23, depending on experience. The closing date for applications will be **21 November 2025**, with interviews to be conducted as and when applications are received.

146/25 Finance

1. **RESOLVED:** The summary of accounts for the period 1st April to end of September 2025 was approved (See Appendix B).

2. **RESOLVED:** The following Receipts and Payments were approved with an additional late invoice submission for £112.50 from Katherine Weatherall for September cleaning of the Village Hall:

Receipts and Payments of Accounts

Payments received by the Parish Council

Buckinghamshire Council – 2nd tranche Precept - £18,232.73

Payments made on behalf of the Parish Council

Buckinghamshire Council – mandatory contribution to Elections costs - £219.00, no VAT

PKF Littlejohn – External Audit fee - £378.00, £63.00 VAT

HP Instant ink – printer ink contract (DD) - £7.99, £1.60 VAT

Tesco Mobile – parish phone contract - £8.57, no VAT

ICO Information Commissioner's Office – Annual payment - £47.00 no VAT

Law Group LLP – Continued instruction Quainton Road - £2,796.00, £496.00 VAT

Christina Hutson – barley extract for pond -£25.95, £4.33 VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Parish Council

Clerks Salary for September - £***. ** no VAT

HMRC – Clerk's PAYE tax - £***. **

Employers N.I £**. **

Office Reimbursement for September £26.00, no VAT

Blades – August grass cutting - £882.40, £147.07 VAT

Village Hall

Payments made on behalf of the Village Hall

PRA Randles – bench and shrub removal play area - £70.00, no VAT

Mark Charman – VH deposit refund - £50.00, no VAT

VALDA Energy – Electricity VH & SR Sept/Oct - £105.43, £5.02 VAT

Payments received on behalf of the Village Hall

Schorne Preschool – Summer Term Village Hall hire - £2,383.80, no VAT

Sportsfield

Payments Received on behalf of the Sportsfield

Derralyn Coulson – Granmarstonbury stallholder fee - £40.00, no VAT

Keith Brown – Granmarstonbury - £25.00, no VAT

A Thoday – Granmarstonbury stallholder - £15.00, no VAT

Robert Johnson – Granmarstonbury stallholder fee - £40.00, no VAT

Aylesbury Honda – Granmarstonbury sponsorship - £200.00, no VAT

Abigail Lordan – Granmarstonbury stall holder fee - £40.00, no VAT

Terri Smith – Granmarstonbury stall holder fee - £40.00, no VAT

Home Farm MK – Granmarstonbury stall holder fee - £40.00, no VAT

Nunc Living – Granmarstonbury stall holder fee (NM business) - £25.00, no VAT

Sum-Up payments – Granmarstonbury on the day - £7,808.47, no VAT

Darnfine Ltd – Granmarstonbury - £259.50, no VAT

A&H Mansfield – Granmarstonbury tickets - £30.00, no VAT

North Marston Community Shop Association – donation Granmarstonbury - £955.00, no VAT
Lane and Son – Granmarstonbury purchase of excess provisions - £203.87, no VAT
Samantha Mace – private hire and deposit for SF and pavilion for football match - £165.00, no VAT

Payments made on behalf of the Sportsfield

VALDA Energy Ltd – Electricity Sept/Oct - £96.17, £4.58 VAT
Rebecca Parker -Marvellous Marigolds September cleaning - £82.77, no VAT
Samantha Mace – Deposit Refund hire of field for football match (one-off) - £100.00 no VAT
Ella O’Connell – Granmarstonbury performance - £65.00, no VAT
Joe Carter – Granmarstonbury performance - £300.00, no VAT
Steve Bennett - Granmarstonbury performance and co-ordinator - £600.00, no VAT
JNC Events – Granmarstonbury stage, lights and sound blance - £1,041.60, £173.60 VAT
Vyaundier Ltd – Granmarstonbury supply of alcohol and soft drinks - £1,688.99, £281.50 VAT
Lanes Landscaping – Granmarstonbury good supplied (skip, portaloos) - £639.65, £106.61 VAT
Pete Butler – Granmarstonbury purchase of BBQ food for event - £730.00, £121.67 VAT
James Radcliffe mower fuel – August/September - £59.96, £9.99 VAT

Payments to be made on behalf of the Sportsfield

October 100 Club Prizes

000866 100 Club 100 Club 1st prize £30.00, no VAT
000867 100 Club 100 Club 2nd prize £20.00, no VAT
000868 100 Club 100 Club 3rd prize £10.00, no VAT

147/25 Date of the next meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday, 11th November 2025 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Jan Brandon, Clerk to North Marston Parish Council, 22nd October 2025