

Minutes of North Muskham Parish Council held on Monday, 24th July 2017 at the Muskham Rural Community Centre

Present: **Councillor I Harrison in the Chair**
 Councillor S Dolby
 Councillor Mrs J Hurry
 Councillor N Hutchings
 Councillor D Saxton

Also in attendance: District Councillor Mrs Saddington and 7 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from County Councillor Laughton, Councillors P Beddoe and P Morris.

2. Declarations of interest

It was AGREED that any declarations of interest would be stated by Members as required during the meeting.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 12th June 2017, were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Public 10 minute session

The Chairman suspended the meeting at 7.01pm to allow members of the public present to raise any questions.

None were raised and the meeting was reconvened at 7.02pm.

5. District Councillor Session – Cllr Mrs S Saddington

The Chairman suspended the meeting at 7.03pm for Councillor Mrs Saddington to present her report.

Councillor Mrs Saddington that there was very little to report from District level but she would remain at the meeting for the planning items.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Mrs Saddington and reconvened the meeting at 7.04pm.

6. County Councillor Session – Cllr B Laughton

As apologies had been given no report was presented.

7. Planning

- (a) 16/01885/FULM – Land at Main Street, North Muskham - Proposed development of 16 new affordable homes

The Clerk reported that enquiries had been made of the Case Officer to determine the

reason behind the significant change of layout. A response had been received from the Duty Planning Officer, as the Case Officer was on annual leave, who considered that the changes were due to concerns raised by the Conservation team on design and layout issues with the original submission.

After deliberation, Members considered that their questions relating to 'local need' had still not been answered and, in their opinion, the 'local need' identified in March 2015 was no longer there.

Reference was made to the final paragraph of the Conservation Officer's comments which stated that:

'Whilst Conservation is sensitive to the perceived public benefit in meeting a local need, in its current form, Conservation is not convinced that the submitted proposal represents the optimum design or layout approach in the context of historic environment constraints. Section 66 of the Act requires special regard to be given to the objective of causing no harm to the setting of listed buildings. The decision-maker will need to be convinced therefore that the proposal represents sustainable development beyond social and economic objectives'.

The Chairman suspended the meeting at 7.08pm to allow questions from the members of the public present which can be summarised as follows:

- concern at the impact on pedestrians if footpaths were on both sides and the amount of heavy traffic that was already mounting the verges when needing to pass other vehicles
- query regarding the letter submitted by NCHA which referred to the playing field previously being considered as a viable site. A question was asked whether the Parish Council owned the land.
- concern that site notices were put up late, impacting on the time available for residents to respond

The Parish Council has been seeking to establish the "identified proven local need" (as defined within Spatial Policy 3) within the community it serves, given the impact the scheme will have on the village. Unfortunately, despite repeated requests for that information, the Parish Council has become increasingly frustrated that a response has been unable to be provided.

The Parish Council is concerned that while a need may have been outlined in the survey undertaken in 2015, when further clarification has been sought that need has not been verified and the Parish Council hold the view that the need is not there.

It is the intention of the Parish Council to continue to represent the views of its community and it will continue to object to the application given the lack of information demonstrating an "identified proven local need". However, if that need can be demonstrated prior to the Planning Committee on the 8th August it would be prepared to reconsider its views.

It was AGREED that a letter would be sent to the Chief Executive of Newark & Sherwood District Council outlining the Parish Council's concerns about the lack of information demonstrating an "identified proven local need".

It was further AGREED that the Parish Council's would continue to object to the application referring to the concerns of the District Council's Conservation Officer on the impact on adjacent significant Heritage assets and conflict with Core Policies 1 and 2 regarding local need.

- (b) 17/01077/FUL – Tresco, 5 Main Street, North Muskham, NG23 6EZ -Householder application for replacement of boundary hedge with 1.8m high fence (retrospective)
Members considered the application, which it was noted had been submitted following intervention from the Enforcement Team at Newark & Sherwood District Council.

After discussion, it was AGREED that objection be raised to the application on the grounds that the fence was too high to be along the highway so was in contravention of planning policy. The height should be restricted to 1m.

The meeting was suspended at 7.55pm for a 5 minute break, reconvening at 8pm.

- (c) Minutes of PAGE Meeting – 7th June 2017
Members received and noted the minutes of the PAGE meeting held on 7th June. The withdrawal of the Nottinghamshire Minerals Plan had been authorised as the County Council were not happy with the current plan. A new consultation process was scheduled to start in August.
- (d) Consultation on Planning Applications – Information from Newark & Sherwood District Council
Members noted the information received from Newark & Sherwood District Council which outlined how to respond to consultations on planning applications. The information had been circulated to Members.

Newark & Sherwood Publication Amended Core Strategy Development Plan Document – Representation Period

The Chair referred to correspondence received from Newark & Sherwood District Council. The main core strategy will go forward, with the Gypsy and Traveller strategy to follow.

It was AGREED that the Clerk would review the consultation and establish if it impacted on North Muskham, either now or in the future.

Planning Enforcement Matters

Members noted that there were a number of issues in the village currently being investigated by the Enforcement Team at Newark & Sherwood District Council:

Land at Dickinson Way

Trees had been cut down and a fence erected close up to the footpath. Notts Wildlife Trust had confirmed that they were no longer owners of the land and the new owners were the residents.

It was AGREED that any response received from the Enforcement Team would be circulated to Members. An invitation to be extended to the Notts Wildlife Trust to attend the November meeting of the Parish Council.

Ferry Pub

Overnight parking of motorhomes on the car park was currently being investigated. Councillor Mrs Saddington requested that correspondence from Enforcement be forwarded to her for information.

8. Parish Council Matters

(a) Muskham & Sutton-on-Trent Safer Neighbourhood Group

Members received the minutes of the Safer Neighbourhood Group held on 6th April 2017. It was noted that Councillor Saxon was unable to attend until the November meeting.

(b) Update on Play Area Project

The Clerk advised that a quotation for a new seat was awaited before submitting the application to WREN.

(c) Update on Capturing Memories Project

Members noted the update on the present position with the project.

(d) To note the resignation of a Member and proposals for advertising the vacancy

It was with regret that Members received and noted the resignation from Councillor Hutchings, who had served the Parish Council for 8 years. The Chair extended his thanks to Councillor Hutchings for his service and support over the years. He would be sorely missed.

The Clerk was liaising with Newark & Sherwood District Council to advertise the Casual Vacancy.

The Clerk was asked to seek confirmation from Councillor Morris on his intention to continue as a Councillor. The Clerk confirmed that as long as the Council recorded that it accepted apologies from Members there was no limit on time.

9. Environmental & Community Issues

(a) Feedback from Annual Footpath Inspection

The annual footpath inspection had identified that Footpath No 3 was blocked. The matter had been reported to the County Council's Rights of Way team.

(b) Update on Section 130A Submission

The Chair sought permission from Members for a retrospective mandate to agree to the 21 day extension of time requested by Nottinghamshire County Council. The extension was requested in the hope and expectation that the matter will be resolved.

An initial meeting had taken place and confirmation was awaited from Nottinghamshire County Council on the agreed measures. A copy would be circulated to Members once received.

Members unanimously AGREED to the 21 day extension of time as requested.

(c) Skatepark Update

The Clerk updated Members on the cost now that the works had been completed. The total cost of the work was £6,142 held in the accounts for the repairs, with a response awaited from Newark Youth Trust. There was a shortfall of £2,775 which would need to be met from reserves.

Nottinghamshire County Council had been contacted and confirmed that they would make a site visit to discuss the concerns of the Parish Council, especially regarding the information fed back from the contractor that the material originally used may not have met specification as it was marked 'material should not be used outside unless treated'.

It was proposed from the Chair, seconded by Councillor Hutchings, that the account be settled. This was unanimously AGREED.

It was further AGREED that two members of the Parish Council, together with the Clerk, should meet with the County Council and report back to a future meeting.

(d) Playing Field & Potential Bowling Green

The Chair referred to a request circulated from a villager seeking greater use of the playing field for sports.

It was pleasing to note that a running club had now started from the field.

It was AGREED that the request would be circulated one more time.

(e) Tree Charter & Legacy Tree

The Clerk advised that the Council could now claim a tree to plant as it saw fit.

It was proposed by the Chair that an Oak tree be requested and that permission be sought from the MRCC to plant it by the flagpole on the playing field. Councillor Hutchings to raise with the MRCC and report back to the Parish Council.

The Clerk was asked to liaise with the County Council regarding replacement of the trees that had been removed on the boundary of 'The Grange' and 'Great North Road'. The trees had provided a noise attenuation break from the A1.

(f) Dog Bin – Marsh Lane

The dog bin on Marsh Lane was in poor repair and also in the wrong location as it can't be seen. It was also noted that an additional bin was needed at the lakes.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should seek quotations for a replacement and new bin.

Councillor Mrs Hurry offered to sponsor the bin on Marsh Lane.

10. Highways

(a) Highway Repair Log

Members received and noted the highways repair log. Overhanging vegetation on Great North Road to be added to the log.

(b) Advance Roadworks Bulletin – Church Lane Level Crossing – 30th July 2017

Notification of the closure of the Church Lane level crossing on 30th July 2017 was noted. A copy had been circulated to Members for information.

(c) Warning Signage on A1 for Deer Crossing

After discussion it was AGREED that this matter should not be pursued.

(d) Electrical Works on Main Street

Members noted that work had commenced on 24th July and was scheduled to run for a period of 6 weeks.

11. Financial Matters

(a) To consider an increase in the Chairman's Allowance to £155

The Clerk asked Members to consider an increase in the Chairman's Allowance from £150 to £155 to reflect the additional duties being undertaken by the Chair.

Acceptance of the increase was proposed by Councillor Mrs Hurry, seconded by Councillor Hutchings and AGREED unanimously.

(b) Accounts for payment:

AGREED unanimously that the following accounts be agreed for payment.

- Clerks wages – June - £231.90
- Payment to HMRC for Clerks wages – June - £tbc
- Mileage Expenses for Clerk - £338.67
- Village Handyman – June - £221.40
- Village Handyman – Insurance Renewal - £161.86
- MRCC – June Hire & Refuse - £31.75
- A Plant – Hire of Heras Fencing – £625.13
- Payment of Chairman's Allowance - £155
- South Muskham & Little Carlton Parish Council – Repayment of PAGE funds - £300

(c) Receipts:

- MRCC - £1,500 (contribution to PWLB)

(d) Financial Report – to 30th June 2017

Members received and noted the Council's financial position as at 30th June 2017.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Luncheon Club to establish their current financial position.

12. Notts Association of Local Councils

(a) 72nd Annual General Meeting – Wednesday, 15th November 2017

Members received and noted the details of the 72nd Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 15th November 2017.

13. Correspondence

There were no items to report.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 11th September 2017

The meeting closed at 8.45pm