

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 6th APRIL 2020 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the North Muskham Parish Council held on Monday, 9th March 2020 at the Muskham Rural Community Centre, Nelson Lane, North Muskham

Present: Councillor I Harrison, in the Chair
Councillor P Beddoe
Councillor S Dolby
Councillor N Hutchings
Councillor P Morris
Councillor D Saxton

Also in attendance: Three members of the public

NM131-20 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Jones and District Councillor Mrs Saddington.

NM132-20 Declarations of interest

Councillor Hutchings declared a prejudicial and pecuniary interest in agenda item 8(a).

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

NM133-20 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 10th February 2020 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

NM134-20 Update on Issues

Members received and noted the updated issues document, attached to the minutes as Appendix 1.

Cllr Saxton confirmed that there would be a tea dance, organised by the Church, as well as participating in the national bell ringing event at 7pm. The Chair confirmed that a beacon would be lit in the evening at The Ferry.

NM135-20 Public 10 Minute Session

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.03pm to allow questions from the public.

A resident referred to the drain at the Ashiana, which was again causing problems. The Clerk confirmed it had previously been on the highways log and advice had been received that it had been inspected and the issue closed. It was AGREED that the drain again be logged on the portal.

A problem with Marshalls Coaches parking on Nelson Lane during the day was raised. The No 39 service parks up to wait for the connection with the No 37, three to four times a day, sometimes for up to 45 minutes. It caused a problem with cars exiting the MRCC and narrowed the road for agricultural traffic. It was AGREED that the Clerk write to Marshalls to raise the issue and see if an alternative waiting site could be identified.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.06pm.

NM136-20 District Councillor Session

No report was presented as Cllr Mrs Saddington had given her apologies.

NM137-20 County Councillor Session

No report was presented as County Cllr Laughton was not present.

NM138-20 Planning

- (a) 20/00141/FUL – George’s Cottage, Main Street - Householder application for single storey rear extension

Councillor Hutchings had declared an interest in this item and withdrew himself from the discussions.

After consideration, it was proposed by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Beddoe that the application be supported.

- (b) Decision Notice - 20/00285/TPO – 12 The Grange, North Muskham - Undertake works to Tree protected by TPO 96 W1 Under 5 day exemption - work to reduce the branch back to relieve the weight on 1 No. Oak tree

A copy of the decision notice granting permission for the tree works had been circulated to Members for information.

While not attached to this property, Councillor Morris referred to a tree at The Grange that had fallen in the storms and not been removed. It was AGREED that the Clerk investigate further and report as appropriate.

NM139-20 Parish Council Matters

- (a) **Local Improvement Scheme – Application Outcome**

The Chair circulated a design of the village gateway sign received from the designers. After consideration, Members confirmed that the design was a fitting representation of the village. The Clerk would now confirm that to the designer and put a timeline together for installation of the sign and circulate to Members.

The Clerk to confirm what the cost of planters underneath each sign would be.

- (b) **Muskham Futures – Results from Survey on Community Shop**

The survey had closed on 28th February for responses. There had been 20 paper surveys returned, and 196 completed through Survey Monkey, the majority of which were positive. The responses had been analysed and results circulated to Members for information. Fifty people had indicated they were willing to assist with the running of the shop, including some from outlying villages. People with significant experience in retail had come forward for the Steering Group, including a resident who had previously worked for the Plunkett Foundation.

The Chair was now looking for recommendations on how to proceed and suggested a mandate

to form a Steering Group. It was noted there had been no formal confirmation from the MRCC but it was considered the Trustees were waiting for a report from the Steering Group on feasibility, which would require the help of the Plunkett Foundation. The Steering Group would respond to the Parish Council and the MRCC.

The Chair had contacted the Co-Op but they would only look to invest in a shop with 2,000 residents. Councillor Morris noted that there were other companies that could be approached, i.e., Nisa and also asked if any information was available on the proposal for a shop in South Muskham.

Councillor Dolby asked if it would be worth reaching out to villages that have had success with shops?

Councillor Saxton asked what the role of the Parish Council was.

The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council were owners of the land only, any progression would be up to the trustees of the MRCC. As the land was leased by the MRCC from the Parish Council, there may be alterations needed to the lease and there may be a sub-lease required for the shop. The position of the shop within the MRCC as a whole may need to be reviewed.

Given the positive responses, the Chair proposed that the Parish Council would support a community shop, subject to the Steering Group finding it feasible. The Steering Group would need to do an evaluation and feasibility to put a structure and governance in place for a Board to be formed.

This was proposed as acceptable by Councillor Dolby, seconded by Councillor Beddoe and carried unanimously.

The Clerk to write a formal letter and Councillor Harrison and Hutchings to attend the next meeting of the MRCC to discuss in more details.

At this point the Chair allowed a question from a member of the public regarding the Muskham Futures initiative, and whether any consideration had been given to installing turbos for the village, particularly hydro-electrical.

Councillor Hutchings confirmed that turbines were considered when the MRCC was built but the topography was not suitable.

The Chair referred to the application submitted for a hydro-electric plant at Cromwell Weir. It was considered that this type of work could only be undertaken by a specialist company as it was a massive investment, but thanked the resident for their suggestion.

The Chair reflected that the shop was seen as a catalyst of change in the village, with a volunteer group having already taken over litter picking.

(c)

Parish Council Website

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council owned the domain name

www.northmuskhamsvillage.co.uk, with the current website provided through Hugo Fox, who provided free sites to parish councils and community organisations.

The Chair referred to there being a number of different websites, by a number of organisations in the village and there may be an opportunity to bring them all together under one site. The Chair to raise at the next meeting of the MRCC.

NM140-20 Environmental & Community Issues

(a) Skatepark and Play Area Update

The Chair referred to the special meeting held recently to discuss options for the skatepark, given the report received from Streetwise Environmental.

As requested, the Clerk had sought advice from the Council's insurers who had confirmed that the Council's liability would still cover any injuries if a member of the public happened to trespass and happened to injure themselves. It was noted that some of the signs had been removed, which the Clerk would replace. The insurers had also advised that volunteers would be covered if they worked on the skatepark, provided they were risk assessed and were not doing anything they were not capable of doing.

Councillor Beddoe confirmed that he had met with a specialist skatepark contractor on Friday, 6th March. In his opinion, there was nothing materially wrong, the skatepark was structurally sound and, while it was wet now, it would dry out as the weather improved. However, there was remedial work that needed to be done. A decision needed to be made on three key issues:

- what was required in the short term to re-open the skatepark
- what was required to extend its life for 5 years
- what was the longer term plan going forward

A concrete solution was possible but would be expensive. While an indication of cost was awaited, Councillor Beddoe's view was that the skatepark should be retained while a longer term solution was investigated. A dedicated Facebook page had been created, and the two posts had received 5,500 interactions which had led to a number of offers of support.

After discussion it was AGREED that no decision could be taken until an outline of the work was received, together with a confirmed price and a completion date. Once received, this would be circulated to Members and a meeting convened if deemed necessary.

The Chair considered that finding a project manager was key to the success of the work and Councillor Beddoe agreed that he would take on that role in the short term.

The Chair was aware that there might be an opportunity to obtain used skatelite panels from a skatepark in Newark that was due to be dismantled.

Regarding the play area, the Clerk confirmed that a meeting had been scheduled with the fundraisers at the end of March.

(b) Free Tree Scheme

The Clerk confirmed that the 50 free trees were now ready for collection from Newark &

Sherwood District Council. It was understood they were 'whips' and would need planting as soon as possible.

The varieties were Rowan, Hawthorn, Silver Birch, Field Maple and Oak.

It was AGREED that the Clerk advertise the trees were available on the Messenger and also liaise with Members and the MRCC on what they required.

(c) **Corona Virus – Government Advice & Planning Actions**

The Chair advised there was likely to be further information issued by Government over the next few weeks.

The Parish Council needed to be aware and may be required to assist in any emergency planning that takes place within the village.

Both the Clerk and Chair would keep Members updated.

NM141-20 Highways

(a) **Highways Log**

Members received and noted the highways log. Councillor Hutchings reported that there was a pothole on Main Street, to the south side of Nelson Lane which needed adding to the log.

The Clerk advised that confirmation had been requested regarding the resurfacing of Main Street once the development was complete.

Referring to the new development, it was noted that completion was scheduled for some time in March. The Chair suggested that, in conjunction with the Clerk, a welcome pack be put together to welcome new residents to the village. This was AGREED.

A decision would need to be made on the use of the Community Land once transferred. Councillor Morris asked if written confirmation could be sought on the number of grave spaces available in the Church yard. Once full, the responsibility for providing burial land would lie with the Parish Council. Councillor Saxton agreed to liaise with the Church to obtain information.

(b) **Temporary Road Closure - Vicarage Lane, North Muskham – between its junctions with Bathley Lane, Norwell and Slip Road A1 Northbound Carriageway – Tuesday, 10th March to Saturday, 14th March 2020.**

Members noted the temporary road closure details as circulated to Members.

(c) **Feedback from Combined Parish Meeting with Network Rail**

A copy of the notes from the meeting had been circulated to Members for information, and to all those that had been invited to attend. A deadline of Friday, 13th March had been given for any comments. A copy would then be sent to all agencies involved and Network Rail.

NM142-20 Financial Matters

(a) **Accounts for payment:**

The Chair referred to the accounts for payment. It was AGREED unanimously that the following accounts be agreed for payment:

- Clerks wages – February- £248.88
- Payment to HMRC for Clerks wages – February- £62.22
- Village Handyman – February – £117
- Mr I Harrison – Repay Printing - £96
- Ms J Saunders – Repay Survey Monkey Fee - £99
- Microsoft Office – Renewal – £59.99
- MRCC – January Hire & Refuse and PAT testing - £37.15
- MRCC – February Hire & Refuse and Network Rail meeting - £49.65
- MRCC – March Hire & Refuse - £32.15
- MRCC – 50% grass cutting charge – Oct to Dec 2019 - £109.47
- MRCC – 50% grass cutting charge – Jan to Mar 2020 - £109.50
- Fenland Leisure Products - £41.40
- Streetwise Environmental Ltd – Skatepark Inspection - £410.28

(b) **To note any Receipts:**

There were no receipts to note.

(c) **Financial Report to 28th February 2020**

Members received and noted the financial report as at 28th February 2020.

The Clerk referred to correspondence received from Nottingham Building Society, which outlined they would be closing accounts which were held for purposes other than personal savings. The Parish Council's account would be closed prior to the end of September 2020. It was AGREED that the Clerk, in conjunction with Councillor Dolby, look to open an account with the NatWest Bank where all other accounts were held.

NM143-20 Correspondence

(a) **Resignation of Councillor Morris**

Councillor Morris advised that, due to personal reasons, he would be resigning from the Parish Council with effect from 5th April 2020.

On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chair thanked Councillor Morris for his dedication and service over the years. His professional input and insight would be a loss to the Council.

(b) **Housing Needs Survey**

NM144-20 Date of Next Meeting

As the second Monday of April was a Bank Holiday, the Clerk advised that the date would need to be changed. After discussion, it was AGREED that the meeting be held on Monday, 6th April.

The meeting closed at 8.24pm