

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 9th FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 12th January 2026 at the MRCC commencing at 7pm.

Present: Councillor S Dolby
Councillor G Hobbs
Councillor I Harrison (Chair)
Councillor A Luke
Councillor S Preston
Councillor M Talbot

Also in attendance: District Councillor Mrs Saddington, County Councillor Laughton and 2 members of the public

NM120-26 Apologies for absence

There were none.

NM121-26 Declarations of Interest

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

NM122-26 Minutes

Subject to an amendment to Minute No NM113-26 (a) to reflect that Councillor Talbot had offered to drill the holes for the posts, not install them, the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 8th December 2025 were accepted as a true and correct record.

NM123-26 Public 10 Minute Session

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.02pm to allow for the public session.

No matters were raised so the meeting was immediately reconvened.

NM124-26 To consider any matters that need to be raised with District Cllr Mrs Saddington

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.03pm for Councillor Mrs Saddington's report.

Councillor Mrs Saddington extended best wishes to Members for a Happy New Year. There was very little to report from Newark & Sherwood District Council as no meetings had been held over the Christmas period.

In terms of the planning application relating to the refurbishment of the garage on the A1, Councillor Mrs Saddington asked that the Parish Council advise if there were any concerns as this could be called in to the Planning Committee if necessary.

The Chair thanked Councillor Mrs Saddington for her report and reconvened the meeting at 7.04pm.

NM125-26 Newark & Sherwood District Council

(a) **To receive details of the Rural Watch scheme**

Members noted details of the Rural Watch initiative being implemented by Nottinghamshire Police.

The Clerk was asked to highlight the scheme on the Muskham Messenger.

NM126-26 **To consider any matters that need to be raised with County Councillor Laughton**

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.07pm for Councillor Laughton's report.

Councillor Laughton advised that the County Council was in the process of setting its budget for the 2026-27 financial year. It would be the first time for the new administration setting a budget instead of the one inherited from the previous administration. Councillor Laughton would keep the Parish Council updated on progress.

Councillor Laughton was aware of the degradation of the highway. There had been a reduction in service provision that would be challenged as part of the budget process.

Members noted that funding for the resurfacing of the A1 roundabout had been requested during the 2026-27 financial year.

In response to a question raised regarding public transport, Councillor Laughton confirmed that this now sat with the East Midlands Mayor's office.

The Chair thanked Councillor Laughton for his report and reconvened the meeting at 7.13pm.

NM127-26 Nottinghamshire County Council

(a) **To receive notification from Trading Standards in relation to an outbreak of Avian Flu**

Members noted information received from Trading Standards outlining that the parish was under the 10km Surveillance Zone following recent outbreaks of Avian Flu.

The Clerk advised that there had been incidences of wildfowl affected on the River Trent and asked Members to be vigilant.

With the agreement of Members, the Chair brought forward consideration of Agenda Item 12

NM128-26 **Environmental & Community Issues**

(a) To consider arrangements for a North Muskham Village Festival

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.15pm to allow members of the public to participate in discussions on the Festival.

The Chair explained that there was a desire to hold a Festival that centred around the Riverside area of the village, but it was recognised that this could impact on any event that the MRCC might wish to arrange.

After discussion it was AGREED that the Chair raise this at the next meeting of the MRCC Trustees and get a clear mandate on what the MRCC had planned. Members considered that any Festival would need to be held before the summer school holidays.

NM129-26 Planning

- (a) 25/02087/FUL – Applegreen, Muskham Services, Great North Road, North Muskham - Demolition of existing Burger King / Greggs unit, former Travelodge motel building and HGV fuel pump island and canopy, and the erection of a new amenity building, new HGV pump island and canopy, car parking including EV charging spaces, landscaping, and associated work

Members noted the application and the proposals outlined to upgrade the existing Services.

Members were aware that residents currently walked along the verge of the A1 to access the services from the village, and how dangerous that was. There was a concern that the upgrade to the services would encourage more residents to use this route as there was no public access provided from the village.

The Chair referred to the private road that had previously been available for pedestrians, but had been closed following anti-social behaviour. After discussion it was AGREED that the owner be approached to establish if they would be willing to allow access.

After consideration, it was AGREED that no objection be raised subject to the safety concerns relating to pedestrian access to the services, and around the site itself, be addressed. Members considered that the inclusion of a gaming zone would be a draw to younger members of the community.

Councillor Mrs Saddington would be asked to call the application in for consideration by the Planning Committee.

- (b) Decision Notice - 25/01518/HOUSE – 3 Eastfield, North Muskham – Proposed rear extension, new side window and internal alterations.

Members received the decision notice outlining that permission had been granted for the development as outlined.

- (c) Decision Notice - 25/01866/TPO – Belfield House, Main Street, North Muskham – Undertake works to tree protected by TPO N291 – land to north of Willow Drive, Off Walton's Lane, North Muskham – T6 – Oak – remove two branches overhanging property boundary – REFUSED

Members noted that permission for the tree works as outlined had been refused.

- (d) To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan
Councillor Hobbs referred to the update circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Hobbs referred to the meeting with Locality that the District Council were currently looking to arrange in February.

Discussion took place regarding the survey and its circulation. Councillor Hobbs advised information would be contained within the January Muskhams Magazine. Delegated authority was given to the Vice-Chair and Clerk to progress any printing requirements.

The next meeting of the Steering Group would be held on Thursday, 22nd January.

NM130-26 Parish Council Matters

NM131-26 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:

- Clerk's Wages – December – £333.60
- PAYE – December - £83.40
- Village Handyman – December – £115.99
- Hugo Fox – Website - £20.99
- Christmas Trees – TBC
- WaterPlus - £26.06
- Amazon – Sharps Box - £5.84
- Ian Harrison – Refund for Gloves - £12

(b) To note any receipts

The following receipts were noted:

- Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery - £92

(c) Financial Report as at 31st December 2025

Members noted that the balance of the Parish Council's accounts as at 31st December 2025 was £55,106.77.

(d) To determine a budget for the financial year 2026-27 and to set a Precept

Members received and noted the Clerk's report in relation to the budget for the 2026-27 financial year.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Hobbs, seconded by Councillor Dolby that a 3.5% increase be applied to the Precept which would give an amount of £19,544 which would give a Band D rate of £46.92 using a Tax Base of £416.52. This was unanimously AGREED.

Members recognised that it may be necessary to apply an increase outside of the rate of inflation in future years to cover expenditure.

NM130-26 Parish Council Matters

(a) Allotments/Green Hub Report

Councillor Preston advised that work had started to relocate the community plot at plot 7 to plot 9. The Clerk confirmed that there would be three vacant plots after the Blooming North Muskham had tidied up plots 1, 2, 7 & 13. Members again noted that plots 1,2 & 7 would be planted with potatoes, plot 13 grassed over and herbs planted in the tyres

In relation to the rest of the work, the Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council would arrange delivery of a skip to site and timber for the fence repairs would need to be ordered through the Parish Council's account with its supplier.

To consider arranging an Allotment competition

This matter was not considered.

(b) To receive an update on the GNR Solar Park

The Chair confirmed that the deadline for responses to questions raised during the Examination Hearing was 16th January 2026.

The next round of Examination Hearings had been confirmed as:

- Tuesday, 3rd February – 10am Issue Specific Hearing 2
- Tuesday, 3rd February – 2pm Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1
- Wednesday, 4th February – 10am Issue Specific Hearing 3 on Environmental Matters
- Thursday, 5th February – 10am Continuation of Issue Specific Hearing 3 on Environmental Matters

A further response to the questions raised following the Examination Hearing would be submitted by the Parish Council.

(c) To consider documentation in relation to the Village Handyman

Members noted that the Village Handyman had given his notice to retire in July. Following discussion it was AGREED that delegated authority be given to the Clerk and Chair to raise a job specification, to include attendance and assistance at village events, and put an initial advert out to seek interest, with a view to there being a handover period from the end of May.

NM128-26 Environmental & Community Issues

(cont)

(a) Play Area

The Clerk advised that the District Council were looking into the supply of the replacement parts required for the springer pieces.

- (b) To receive an update on the Cafe / Hub project
The Chair reported that an alternative option for the proposed cafe/hub was now being pursued in partnership with the local Methodists. This would entail much lesser cost and quicker delivery times.

The Parish Council will now meet with its solicitors to agree a legal process suitable for this option and report back. When the proposal details were fully identified a public meeting would be held to consult with the North Muskham community before further progress was mandated.

- (c) To receive an update on the Emergency Plan
Councillor Hobbs referred to the update circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

The North Muskham version of the Coniston booklet had been circulated to Members for information.

After discussion, delegated authority was given to the Vice-Chair and Clerk to progress printing of the booklet.

- (d) To receive an update on 'Blooming North Muskham' in 2026
Councillor Luke updated Members on the present position with the initiative. The group were in the process of formally applying to enter the competition.

The Clerk advised that it was unlikely that the Greener Gateway would be this financial year, but would make enquiries with the District Council.

The Clerk was asked to seek the removal of the broken bench on Main Street which was a highways asset.

- (e) To consider arrangements for a North Muskham Village Festival
This item had been considered earlier on the agenda.

NM129-26 Highways

- (a) Highways Log
There were no issues currently logged.
- (b) To consider a response to the East Midlands Combined County Authority Mayor's Transport Plan
After discussion, it was AGREED that Members complete the survey individually should they wish to do so.
- (c) To note the request for a site meeting with National Highways
The Clerk advised that the MP's office was liaising with National Highways with a view to arranging a meeting for the Parish Council in relation to the A1 southbound exit into the village.

NM130-26 **Notts Association of Local Councils**

(a) January Newsletter

Members noted the January Newsletter a copy of which had been circulated to Members for information.

NM131-26 **Correspondence**

Councillor Luke reminded Members of the Dementia Talk that had been arranged for Monday, 19th January at the MRCC. Refreshments would be served.

NM132-26 **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday, 9th February 2026