

Minutes of the North Muskham Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 24th October 2016 at the Muskham Rural Community Centre commencing at 7pm

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

Also in attendance: 8 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from County Councillor Mrs Saddington.

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 September 2016, were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Public 10 minute session

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.01pm to allow questions from members of the public present.

No questions were raised and the meeting was reconvened at 7.02pm.

5. Planning

(a) Affordable Housing Scheme

The Chair recapped that the scheme was last discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 12th September. The item had been included on the agenda to review progress since then. It was the Chair's intention to open up the meeting for 10 minutes to hear any comments from members of the public that had not been made to date or not been sent through to the Parish Council, Newark & Sherwood District Council or Nottingham Community Housing Association. Members would then be appraised of the amendments put forward by Nottingham Community Housing Association.

The Parish Council will need to form an opinion to feed back to the District Council and Housing Association with a decision in principle regarding such a scheme. The Chair confirmed that no planning application had been received as yet.

The Chair thanked everyone for the letters of support and objection submitted so far and confirmed that a pack had been given to Members.

A time extension had been requested and accepted and, due to some Councillors inability to attend and Nottingham Community Housing Association not being available, a decision had been taken to move the Council meeting back.

A circular had been distributed around the village outlining some concerns. This had been responded to by Newark & Sherwood District Council and Nottingham Community Housing Association in the form of another leaflet clarifying some points.

An amendment had been made to the plans to mitigate concerns on impact and highways. Plots 1 and 13 had been swapped in order to reduce overshadowing and sunlight loss to the existing properties on the other side of Main Street. This also lowered the impact of the proposed scheme on the street scene along Main Street. The additional access in to the field had also been removed.

The Chair stressed that, if the proposal was to go ahead, no decision had been made, as to what form of use the community land would have. It could be for allotment use or potential use by the Church as an extension to the grave yard.

The Clerk had been seeking further clarification and confirmation of the amount of interest in the units and whether that all came from the village.

The Chair invited questions from Members on the scheme.

Councillor Mrs Hurry questioned why the community land could not be accessed through the scheme, thereby reducing the need for a further entrance.

Councillor Morris responded that the Parish Council had the power to seek a site for allotments and responsibility for providing burial grounds as the Church yard became full. It would be inappropriate for a cortege to pass through a residential road, further the land was not in the ownership of the scheme.

In terms of the closeness of the units to Main Street, Councillor Morris suggested that the whole development be moved back in to the site.

Councillor Mrs Hurry also questioned the length of the proposed footpath, which was just to the edge of the scheme and nothing beyond the turning in point. The Parish Council had been requesting a footpath towards South Muskham for some time and it would be ideal to have the footpath extended to Meadow Close.

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.15pm and invited comments and questions from the floor.

A member of the public asked if the village should be aware of the new plans.

It was AGREED that the Clerk would put the amended plans in the village noticeboards.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.16pm.

Councillor Mrs Hurry advised that her major concern was the location of the proposed scheme to the road, although the sight lines would be improved and there would be some pavement, she suggested it would not be less dangerous unless the footpath was extended.

The Chair referred to concerns raised by residents that if the development went ahead it would lead to more development. The District Council and Housing Association had made specific reference to that concern in their response letter.

Newark & Sherwood District Council and Nottingham Community Housing Association want to know whether the Parish Council were supporting the scheme in principle at this stage. The Chairman suggested support remained but depended on clear and significant need and interest being confirmed and that such interest was current and from those that reside in the village or meet the criteria. He suggested that it would be difficult to support if there was a high probability that a significant number of residents at the scheme were not from North Muskham. However, that may not be Members view and the Parish Council needed to come to a consensus to respond at the present time.

Considerable discussion then took place on whether or not the Parish Council could, at this stage, make any decision regarding the scheme.

There were still some core areas that Members needed clarification on and the Chairman suggested that the Parish Council could not pre-empt making a decision before seeing a planning application.

Councillor Morris suggested The Parish Council were not in a position to agree or disagree with the scheme. The village needed to know the exact position and details of need and confirmed interest and the only way to confirm that was through a specific planning application that could be reviewed.

After further discussion Councillor Morris proposed:

“North Muskham Parish Council maintains a positive interest in an affordable housing scheme. It has however suggested some further potential amendments to the scheme but also, importantly holds the view that the proposal now needs to go to a full planning application at which time the Parish Council will then make a decision on the application in front of it. Of significant importance to that decision making will be receipt of information or demonstration within the application confirming clearly, the number of people, either currently in North Muskham or with an acceptable association with the village who have confirmed recently that they have an interest in one of the units. One final point raised is why the number of intended rented properties when that has not been apparent in the housing survey.

The proposed amendments to the layout are:

- To move the build back in to the site to further mitigate the highway concerns raised.
- An extension of the footpath at least to Meadow Close to improve safe passage for pedestrians.

Further confirmation is required that access to the field, originally shown to the left of the scheme when viewing Main Street, has been removed.

This was seconded by Councillor Saxton. As no further proposals were put forward this was AGREED unanimously.

- (b) 16/01594/LBC – Edgefield House, Vicarage Lane, North Muskham – Proposed new link building between listed property and storage building and an extension to the front of the storage building (re-submission of 16/00885/LBC) Members noted that Tarmac had submitted a Scoping Report regarding the potential for a quarry off Great North Road. While this did not form part of the Nottinghamshire Minerals Plan, currently under review, if an application were submitted it could have major traffic implications locally.

Members considered the application and supporting documentation.

It was AGREED unanimously that the application be supported.

- (c) 16/01593/FUL – Edgefield House, Vicarage Lane, North Muskham – Proposed new link building between listed property and storage building and an extension to the front of the storage building (re-submission of 16/00885/LBC)

Members considered the application and supporting documentation.

It was AGREED unanimously that the application be supported.

- (d) Land at Langford Quarry, Newark Road, Nr Collingham – Proposed southern and western extensions to existing quarry with restoration to water, nature conservation and agriculture together with revised restoration of existing workings and retention of existing plant site and site access.

The Chair confirmed that this was a significant extension to the site, which was within the County allocation. The restoration plans were extensive and were not dissimilar to other restoration work undertaken in the County.

There will be some noise and possible dust impact, both of these issues have been raised with Tarmac previously. It will also be visible on the walk to Cromwell and the Chairman suggested that part of the proposed site actually falls within the parish boundary.

It was AGREED that the Clerk would seek confirmation from Tarmac on whether any noise assessment had been undertaken from North Muskham, given the number of residential properties to the north of the village and if so what levels were predicted.

Further Tarmac to be asked whether the footpath adjacent to the River Trent would still be accessible.

- (e) 16/1493/TPO 14 The Grange, North Muskham – Crown lift and cut back to no more than 4 metres above ground level T1 Red Norway Maple T2 Norway Maple and T3 Lime overhanging fence and garden causing deep shade. Concerns on roots.

Members noted the decision notice granting permission for the works at 14 The Grange.

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council were not being consulted on work to trees covered by protection orders in the village. A decision was being taken by the District Council and notices issued to the Parish Council advising of the decision made.

Members expressed their concern as if there was a tree with significant aesthetic value to the village, covered by a TPO, and an application was made for works to it, the Parish Council would not be aware of that until a decision had been taken. It was requested that the Clerk raise our objection with the District Council and to ask what arrangements would be made to mitigate our concerns

Members asked the Clerk to investigate whether Thompsons tree on the Holme riverbank was covered by a Tree Preservation Order due to its aesthetic and heritage value it provided and if not that the Parish Council wished for the tree to be so acknowledged. This tree was the anchorage for the boat used as the Nth Muskham to Holme Ferry up to the 1960s

6. Parish Council Matters

(a) Completion of Annual Play Area Inspection

The Clerk advised Members that the annual play area inspection had been completed and the report received. It would be reviewed with the Village Handyman and any remedial works identified.

The Clerk updated Members on the current position with the skatepark and confirmed that repair work had been completed.

A request had been made for the skatepark to be inspected at the same time as the play area, however, this had been overlooked. The Clerk was asked by the Chairman to expedite an inspection at the earliest opportunity and request that any additional cost to pay for such urgency be met by the District Council.

(b) Transparency Fund – Website Update

The Clerk confirmed that no expenditure had yet been made from the funding. The website would be built in early November to be live by the middle of that month.

Information had been gathered on businesses and a request would be made for details relevant to community organisations within the village. Members suggested that the whole of the transparency funding should now be used and a lap top suitably loaded with all PC policies and essential information made available to provide continuity and assistance to the Council in the absence of the Clerk

7. Environmental & Community Issues

(a) Footpath Update – Riverside Footpath and Section 30

The Clerk advised that an officer at the Environment Agency had looked at photographs of the impediments on the Riverside Footpath.

An inspector would investigate when they were next in the area. The Chair asked the Clerk to keep him informed when the visit was confirmed so that he could attend and explain the concerns of the Council and some residents.

(b) Skatepark Update including inspection

This had been covered under agenda item 6(a)

(c) Memorial to WW2 Village Veterans & Remembrance Sunday Event

The Clerk confirmed that the WW2 memorial was ordered and that both plaques would be installed on the memorial in readiness for Remembrance Sunday.

It was AGREED that details of the event be advertised on the Messenger and that specific invitations be sent to Mr & Mrs Frecknall, Mr Hobbs, representatives from Bathley Parish Council and South Muskham & Little Carlton Parish Council, the Muskham Rural Community Centre Committee and Members.

The Chair confirmed he was still trying to source someone for the Last Post and Reveille.

(d) Christmas Tree Lights and turn on

Arrangements were on target for the siting of the Christmas Tree on 3rd December, with a view to the lights being switched on on 4th December.

(e) Request from WI

The Clerk advised that correspondence had been received from North Muskham WI seeking permission to plant an oak tree in the village to celebrate the centenary of the Women's Institute in Nottinghamshire.

A suggested site was in the playing field near the flag pole.

It was AGREED that the Parish Council had no objection but that the request be forwarded to the Executive Committee of the Muskham Rural Community Council for consideration.

8. Public Question

The Chair suspended the meeting at 8.20pm to allow a member of the public to ask a question.

The resident explained that they were new to the village and had recently been broken in to. The resident asked if there was any way in which the Parish Council could assist them, and others in the village, in reducing the risk of burglary, i.e., were there any plans for monitoring entry routes into the village?

It was AGREED that a representative from the Police would be invited to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the current situation in the village as Members were aware that there had been a number of incidents recently.

The Chair offered to visit the resident to discuss any points that they would want to raise and would keep them informed of when the Police would be attending a Parish Council meeting.

The Chair thanked the resident for attending and raising their concerns.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.25pm

8. Highways

(a) Highways Log

Members received and noted the highways log.

Items to be added on to the log were a missing street lamp (no 7) on Waltons Lane, and a missing street name sign on Marsh Lane. The moss on Meadow Close was to be removed.

9. Financial Matters

(a) Accounts for payment:

It was AGREED unanimously that the following accounts be agreed for payment.

- Village Handyman's hours – September - £262.81
- Purchase of Staple Gun & Staples - £28.98
- Clerk's Wages – September - £231.40
- HMRC – September - £57.80
- MRCC – Contribution to electricity for outside light - £49.03
- Cartridge Save - £64.90
- Photocopying charges - £51.50
- Delivery charges - £40
- PWLB – Half Year Loan Repayment - £1,697.24
- NSDC – Annual Playground Inspection Fee - £52.20

(b) To note any Receipts:

Second Half Year Precept - £7747.50

- (c) Financial Report –28th June to 30th September 2016
Members received and noted the Council's financial position as at 30th September 2016 and the report outlining spend against budget.
- (d) Automatic Enrolment in Pension Scheme
It was noted that the Clerk had received correspondence from the Pension Regulator regarding automatic enrolment.
- (e) PAGE Gravel Fund Balances
The Clerk to liaise with the Chair to identify the correct balances prior to the November meeting.
- (f) Completion of External Audit 2015/16 Financial Year
Members received and noted the completion of the External Audit for the 2015/16 Financial Year. Comments raised by the auditor were noted and would be implemented for the 2016/17 audit.
- (g) Wren's Community Action Fund
The Clerk was asked to liaise with the pre-school play group for some ideas on suitable play equipment for toddlers with a view to submitting an application to the Wren Community Action Fund for an extension of the play area.

An approach be made to the Muskham Rural Community Centre Committee, in advance of that, to seek confirmation on whether or not any further land could be released for such an extension.

11. Notts Association of Local Council

(a) Council Tax Referendum Principles

The Chair referred to information received from the Notts Association of Local Councils regarding the government's possible extension of council tax referendum principles to parish and town councils. Currently if a Unitary, County or District Council proposed to raise its precept above 2% then this would have to go to a referendum. Those principles currently don't apply to parish and town councils.

Newark Town Council were seeking support from parishes to object to any extension of the referendum principles.

It was AGREED that any extension of referendum principles down to Parish and town Council level would be strongly objected to and that a letter of objection should go to Govt consultation site with a copy to the local MP and the Newark Town Council

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.