

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 8th JULY 2024 MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday, 10th June 2024 at the MRCC commencing at 7pm.

Present: **Councillor I Harrison (Chair)**
 Councillor S Dolby
 Councillor A Oliver
 Councillor S Preston
 Councillor M Talbot

Also in attendance: **12 members of the public and District Councillor Mrs Saddington**

NM025-25 Apologies for absence

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

NM026-25 Declarations of Interest

Subject to a non-pecuniary interest being declared by Councillor Oliver in Agenda item 11(c), it was AGREED that any further declarations of interest would be stated by Members as required during the meeting

NM027-25 Public 10 Minute Session

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.31pm for the public session.

No questions were raised so the meeting was immediately reconvened.

NM028-25 Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 13th May 2024 were accepted as a true and correct record.

NM029-25 To consider any matters that need to be raised with District Cllr Mrs Saddington

This item would be taken if and when District Councillor Mrs Saddington arrived.

NM030-25 Newark & Sherwood District Council

(a) There were no matters to consider.

NM031-25 To consider any matters that need to be raised with County Councillor Laughton

The Clerk advised that Councillor Laughton had requested Members be updated regarding the A1 Roundabout. Councillor Laughton had escalated the condition to senior officers with a request for urgent action.

Councillor Talbot referred to the recent resurfacing works on Main Street, to the south of the village, which had not been completed. Neither had work been undertaken to alleviate flooding to 'The Cottage'. The Clerk advised that the works had ceased at the request of the Police following an incident at South Muskham Level Crossing. Via were

aware that the work was not complete and an Inspector was scheduled to come out and inspect. The situation at 'The Cottage' had also been highlighted. Members would be updated when any further information was received.

The Chair noted that the pothole at Mill Lane, on the west side of the road, where a resident had suffered an accident while on a bicycle, had yet to be repaired.

NM032-25 Nottinghamshire County Council
(a) There were no issues to consider.

NM033-25 **Planning**

(a) 24/00633/HOUSE – Green Ridges, Crab Lane, North Muskham - Two storey side and two storey and single storey rear extension and existing dormer windows changed to pitched

Members noted that the previous application, which had been supported by the Parish Council, had been turned down on the basis that it would be harmful to the character of the area.

After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Talbot, seconded by Councillor Dolby, that the application be supported. This was unanimously AGREED.

(d) To receive notes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held on 30th May 2024
The Steering Group to put together a Neighbourhood Plan had reconvened with a view to putting together a draft plan to bring back to the Parish Council after consultation with the village and with the District Council.

The Steering Group consisted of 8/9 residents, including two from the Parish Council. The Group would look to undertake some consultation at the Village Feast on the 13th July.

An application for funding had been made to Locality to assist with the costs of a planning consultant to help with the process.

It had been concluded that the Group would wish to extend the boundary for the plan to include Burrige Farm, even though that was within South Muskham. Consultation may also take place with Bathley due to the relationship with the solar farm and previous interest with the gravel extraction plan.

The Clerk advised that the District Council would be allocating an officer to work with the group.

NM034-25 **Parish Council Matters**

(a) Allotments/Green Hub Report
Councillor Preston extended thanks to Councillor Talbot for undertaking repairs to the access road.

Paint for the shed had been purchased using donations from one of the community seed swap/allotment promotional events.

It was AGREED that the Parish Council should undertake an inspection of the allotments. Councillor Preston would arrange a convenient date.

(b) To receive an update on the position with the North Marsh Community Ownership Bid

The Chair advised that the Parish Council had not been the preferred bidder in the bid to secure the North Marsh land. The Agent had suggested that the land had been sold to a responsible owner and would want to enter into discussions with the Parish Council. To date no contact had been made.

It was AGREED that an item be placed on the July agenda to review the area, including rights of way.

The Community Ownership Fund had been advised that the bid had been unsuccessful, as had the Public Works Loan Board.

(c) To note a letter of complaint re the MRCC

The Chair referred to a letter received from a local business expressing concerns at the direct competition and risk to them if the MRCC proceeded with its plan to show the Euro 2024 matches. A copy had been circulated to Members for information.

With both parties being present, the Chair asked if any resolution had been reached and it was confirmed that a compromise had been reached that suited both parties. It had also been agreed that moving forward there would be communication around any major events so that both parties could generate revenue.

(d) To receive an update on proposals for a Community Village Hub

The Chair referred to ongoing discussions between the MRCC, Methodist Church and the Parish Council looking at the possibility of a joint project for a community hub. If the project came to fruition, it would be run by an independent Community Benefit Society.

The Methodist Church were looking to leave a lasting legacy in the village, should the Church have to close.

All matters, including a concern expressed by a resident regarding having a single faith based organisation involved with the MRCC, would be considered.

(e) To receive an update on the GNR Solar Park & consider mandating a contribution for specialist planning advice

The Chair updated Members on the two meetings that had taken place with the joint parishes. The group were encouraging all Parish Councils to engage with Elements Green while in the pre-application period. After an application had been submitted parishes would not be able to mitigate or engage with Elements Green.

Many of the parishes, North Muskham included, had not yet agreed a response, but a decision would be required at the statutory consultation stage, which was expected to be October/November.

Both the District and County Councils would be statutory consultees in the process and would be looking to parishes to raise any relevant points of interest that would need to be considered.

The Chair advised that NASSAG (Newark & Sherwood Solar Action Group) was made up of independent people. A meeting had recently been held with their Chair and it had been agreed that the two groups would work in collaboration going forward.

When the process progressed to the statutory consultation stage the Parish Council would need to send in a response that was of calibre and reasonable. The retention of a specialist planning consultant had been discussed at JPAG, with any cost based on the level of Precept, as had been applied during the gravel extraction process.

The Chair reflected that there did not appear to be much interest in the Elements Green proposals within the community at the moment. An additional Parish Council meeting had been arranged for Monday, 12th August 2024 and it was hoped that more parishioners would engage with the Parish Council at that time.

Members were asked to consider whether they would determine, in principle, financial support for a planning consultant.

It was proposed by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Talbot, that financial support be sanctioned, subject to it being reasonable.

NM029-25 (cont) **To consider any matters that need to be raised with District Cllr Mrs Saddington**
With the arrival of District Cllr Mrs Saddington, the Chair suspended the meeting at 7.33pm for her report.

Councillor Mrs Saddington referred to a recent Planning Committee meeting at Newark & Sherwood District Council where the two applications for solar farms at Knapthorpe Lodge and Muskham Wood that were subject to a planning appeal had been considered.

Councillor Mrs Saddington considered it imperative that the Parish Council receive the best advice possible when considering its response to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Chair thanked Cllr Mrs Saddington for her report and reconvened the meeting at 7.47pm.

(f) To confirm arrangements for the Village Feast and Parish Council participation
The Parish Council would have a table at the Village Feast with information available on the Community Hub, Neighbourhood Plan and Great North Solar Park.

The Parish Council had also agreed to provide the BBQ.

Councillor Oliver advised that final details were being agreed at a meeting on 11th June. Thereafter details would be communicated to the village.

NM035-25 Environmental & Community Issues

(a) Play Area

There were no issues to report.

NM036-25 Highways

(a) Highways Log

This matter had been covered under Minute No NM031-25.

NM037-25 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 – May - £299.60
- PAYE – May – £74.80
- Village Handyman – May - £266.65
- Mayor of Newark's Earl Haig Poppy Appeal – D Day Wreath - £20
- Primary Care Supplies – 2 x Defib Batteries – £691.20
- Amazon – Union Flag - £20.99
- R A & E E Ingram – Basketball Base - £78
- MRCC – 50% Electricity - £31.17
- MRCC – Room Hire - £13.75
- BMB Financial Services – Internal Audit - £75
- Clear Councils – Insurance Renewal - £614.67

(b) To note any Receipts

The following receipts were noted:

- Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery – £150
- Allotment Rents - £134.65

(c) Financial Report – to 31st May 2024

Members noted the financial report to 31st May 2024. The Clerk advised that the financial report at the end of June would show a reduction as the balances would reflect the return of the donations made for the North Marsh project.

(d) To note progress regarding the return of donations made towards the North Marsh project

The Clerk advised that all those who had replied to the request for bank details had now had their donations returned to them. The rest would be progressed when replies were received.

NM038-25 Notts Association of Local Councils

(a) May Newsletter

Members received and noted the May Newsletter.

NM039-25 Correspondence

(a) National Highways – A46 Dualling Development Consent Order

The Clerk referred to correspondence received from National Highways regarding the submission of the Development Consent Order to the Planning Inspectorate. A response was required by 14th July 2024.

The Clerk had circulated a link to the documentation to Members.

The Chair considered that the Parish Council would be particularly interested in the impact of access into Newark and asked the Clerk to contact the Project Manager to determine which document addressed that particular issue.

The item would be placed on the July agenda for consideration and to determine a response.

NM040-25 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 8th July 2024

The meeting closed at 8.13pm.