

Minutes of the North Muskham Parish Council held on Monday, 11th June 2018 at 7pm in the Muskham Rural Community Centre

Present: Councillor I Harrison, in the Chair
Councillor P Beddoe
Councillor E Catanach
Councillor Mrs J Hurry
Councillor D Saxton

Also in attendance: 17 members of the public

NM01-19 Apologies for absence

Received and accepted from Cllr S Dolby and P Morris and District Councillor Mrs Saddington

NM02-19 Declarations of interest

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

NM03-19 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 31st May 2018 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

NM04-19 The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.01pm and welcomed Michael Peacock, Head of People and Wildlife with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. The Trust own and manage the lakes off Manor House Drive.

The Chair explained that the Parish Council were very keen to reinvigorate the relationship between the Parish Council and the Trust, understand current management and any future plans for the area.

Mr Peacock thanked the Parish Council for the invitation and explained his role within the Trust. The Trust had 67 different nature reserves across the County, of which the lakes were one. There was a conservation team which managed the reserves and engaged with the local community.

The Muskham reserve was one of the smaller ones in the Trust's portfolio so didn't receive intensive management. The designated Officer was Chris Kennedy who would lead any activities arranged on site. The team was much smaller than it used to be, having reduced from 12 to 7, due to budget pressures and restricted funding streams.

Mr Peacock explained that it was useful for him to meet with the Parish Council and residents and he would endeavour to answer any questions. It would be helpful to understand how the local community used the site. However, there may be issues he would have to take away and respond back to through the Parish Council.

The Chair explained that the Parish Council was seeking to establish the Trust's commitment to the ongoing management of the site going forward.

The Parish Council were aware that the area was a valuable asset to the community and that the school were involved in planting and visiting the site. The Chair was meeting with the Headteacher before the end of June and would have a greater understanding of its relationship with the reserve after that time.

Mr Peacock advised that the site at North Muskham was a designated nature reserve and wholly owned by the Trust. Land holdings were being reviewed, but the Trust were committed to sites that they owned. However, how the site was managed could be a matter for discussion.

The Chair advised that a particular concern was the condition of the footpath that ran along the side of the reserve and asked if Mr Peacock could clarify if it formed part of the footprint of the site.

Mr Peacock confirmed that the footpath fell within the site. Management of it by the Trust had been quite nominal as the County Council had picked up maintenance previously.

The Chair also referred to the lakes that were to the north of the reserve. Discussions had previously been held with the land owner of this area who was happy for residents to have free and open access to the land. As far as the Parish Council were aware there was nothing planned for that area, but the Chair wondered if the Trust would look to take over this area in the future.

Mr Peacock explained that the Trust were actively looking to reduce their number of sites, but if it was approached to take it over, supported by a significant sum to secure future management, then it would be considered.

The Chair thanked Mr Peacock for his report and invited questions from the residents present.

The following questions were asked:

What management was in place for the control of vegetation?

Was any control of the pike planned as it was felt that they regularly took fledgling birds? Could local fishermen help with control?

Was there any reason for the reduction in the frog and toad population which once was flourishing but now appears to be non-existent? Had the mesh fence contributed to this decline?

Were there any sign of otters?

Mr Peacock responded that, in terms of the vegetation, the Trust tried to control shrub in certain areas but not stop it. By using systematic control it prevented the shrub from taking over.

The roving flock had previously been at the reserve but was unlikely to be used in the future. Use of the flock had been reduced due to the nature of management, but also the need for fences and boundaries to be robust enough to prevent dogs, etc.

The management plan acknowledged that there will be a number of pike in the lakes, along with fresh water fish. Depending on the number of fish they may take some young, but it was difficult to comment without any monitoring. Local knowledge would be beneficial in establishing if they were diminishing more than would be expected. Even if it were happening the response may be limited.

Using local fishermen was something that could potentially be looked at, but control was not as simple as taking the pike out and moving them across to the River Trent. There would have to be a discussion about whether this could take place on Trust sites. Mr Peacock would be happy to include this as part of an ongoing conservation between the Trust and the Parish Council, albeit that it may not progress further.

It was difficult to comment on the decline in the frogs and toads as Mr Peacock had no evidence on how they might be declining. It was hoped that management of the reserve had maintained the status quo.

Otters had been spotted up and down the Trent, with recent sightings at Attenborough Nature Reserve. Mr Peacock was not aware of any specific sightings at North Muskham, but they were definitely making a comeback and extending their range in major rivers.

Mr Peacock summarised that it would be useful to understand how people used the amenity and what level of appreciation there was for it within the community. Were people actively involved or was there more that the Trust could do to encourage that?

A resident commented that there would be villagers who would be happy to help with voluntary management of the site and suggested that an open morning would be beneficial to talk about the site and its management. The Chair suggested that this could perhaps be incorporated in to the annual village litter pick.

The Chair thanked Mr Peacock for attending and advised that the Clerk would summarise the points from the community and feed them back to the Trust.

In closing, the Chair had been asked to remind everyone about increasing tick bites in the area and the importance of inspecting dogs for ticks and removing them with a tick remover.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.40pm

NM05-19 Planning

(a) 18/0090/FUL – Silver Service Carers, Sandy Lodge, Bathley Lane, North Muskham – Proposed access/egress alterations and staff car

Members discussed the application and agreed that, as a local business, it needed to

be viable. The comments from the Tree Officer were noted.

Councillor Mrs Hurry proposed, seconded by Councillor Catanach, that the application be supported. This was AGREED unanimously.

NM06-19 Parish Council Matters

(a) To Consider Standing Orders

The Clerk had circulated two versions of Standing Orders. The first demonstrated Those that had previously been adopted, the second the NALC Model Standing Orders.

It was AGREED that Standing Orders be updated, to include only information that was required to ensure the Council met its statutory obligations, and circulated to Members for consideration at the July meeting.

(b) Potential Parish Council Conference

The Chair continued to liaise with Newark & Sherwood District Council and had submitted suggested suitable agenda items specific to Parish/Town Councils. The matter was ongoing and Members would be updated as and when information was available.

(c) WW1 Centenary Commemorations

The Chair reported on the extensive support given by villagers to the lamp post poppy appeal. This meant that the scheme could be extended to more areas of the village. Councillor Saxton had already counted the lamp posts on Main Street and would now count the total number in the village.

Councillor Saxton had liaised with the Vicar of St Wilfrid's and the Methodist Church Minister. Given the success of the event last year they were proposing to hold a unitary Remembrance Service in the Community Centre. This would dispense with the Church/Chapel service.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should liaise with the MRCC to ensure it was available on Remembrance Sunday and that Councillor Saxton should arrange a meeting between all parties to plan the service.

The Chair referred to funding that was available for a commemorative beacon. It was AGREED that the Clerk should investigate availability and report back to the July meeting. If funding was available then permission would need to be sought from the landlord of the Ferry.

NM07-19 Environmental & Community Issues

(a) Update on Section 130A Submission

The Chair advised that a meeting would be arranged with the Rights of Way Officer on his return from annual leave. Final measures that the County Council will include as conditions of the licence would be agreed.

The Chair would be seeking County to instruct that all chains, etc, that prevented

access be removed, with work to the hedges and shrubs at the end of bird nesting season.

(b) Monitoring of development on land adjacent railway line off Great North Road

There were no issues to report at this time.

(c) Rural Bus Service

Councillor Saxton had, on behalf of a resident, requested information on how rural bus services were scheduled as there were none at the weekend, nor after 7pm in the evenings.

The Clerk had requested information from the Transport Services Team at the County Council and a reply was awaited. Any response would be circulated to Members.

The Chair advised that Marshalls were increasing the number of late night buses from Nottingham. It was AGREED that the should Clerk contact Marshalls and ask if it would be possible to extend the late night service to the village as it was understood that the buses were garaged on Vicarage Lane.

NM08-19 Public 10 Minute Session

The Chair suspended the meeting at 8pm to allow members of the public present to raise any questions.

A resident advised that Marshalls had altered one timetable to provide a service to Balderton. There was an opportunity to help the village if the same could apply to North Muskham.

The Chair advised that there was nothing further to report on the affordable housing application. There were Planning Committee meetings on 3rd and 24th July and the Clerk had asked for confirmation from the Planning Officer on which agenda it was likely to be included.

No further questions were raised and the Chair reconvened the meeting at 8.05pm

NM09-19 District Councillor Session

As apologies had been received, no report was presented.

NM10-19 County Councillor Session

This matter would be taken if, and when, Councillor Laughton arrived.

NM11-19 Highways Log

The Clerk referred to the circulated log. An update had been requested on the repainting of the markings on Nelson Lane. County had confirmed they were aware but had not given any indication of timescale for completion.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should highlight the problems with parking and the lack

of clear signage was impacting public safety. Cllr Catanach also highlighted the lack of a barrier on the community centre side of the road which needed to be addressed.

Cllr Catanach reported that the surface of Waltons Lane was particularly bad, with potholes along its length that needed to be added to the log.

It was reported that the dog bin at the end of Waltons Lane was overflowing. The Clerk to contact the District Council to report and ensure that they were all being emptied on a weekly basis.

NM12-19 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 Cover for May meeting - £85.00
- MRCC – Hire of Hall & Refuse – May - £31.75
- Chairman’s Allowance - £160.00

(b) To note any receipts

- None

NM13-19 Notts Association of Local Councils

(a) Council News – Judicial Review

Members noted receipt of the Judicial Review, a copy of which had been circulated to them for information.

NM14-19 Correspondence

(a) Decision Notice - 18/00124/FUL – Tresco, 5 Main Street, North Muskham -
Householder application for single storey side extension, porch and loft conversion
Members received and noted the decision notice refusing planning permission.

(b) Capturing Memories Project

The Chair introduced Mr & Mrs Readman to Members who would be undertaking the capturing memories project. A report would be presented to the July meeting.

(c) Resignation of Councillor Mrs Hurry

The Chair noted that this was Councillor Mrs Hurry’s final meeting as a member of the Parish Council. Thanks were extended to Mrs Hurry for her service and the Chair presented her with a bouquet of flowers as a token of appreciation.

NM15-19 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 9th July 2018

The meeting closed at 8.10pm