

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 13th JANUARY 2025 MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday, 9th December 2024 at the MRCC commencing at 7pm.

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

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

NM117-25 Apologies for absence

There were none.

NM118-25 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

NM119-25 Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 11th November 2024 were accepted as a true and correct record.

Subject to an amendment to reflect that this was an Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council, the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 25th November 2024 were accepted as a true and correct record.

NM120-25 Public 10 Minute Session

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

No questions were raised so the meeting was immediately reconvened.

NM121-25 To consider any matters that need to be raised with District Cllr Mrs Saddington

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.04pm for Cllr Mrs Saddington's report.

Cllr Mrs Saddington advised that a new Conservative Group Leader had been appointed, with Councillor Jack Kellas taking up the role. He would take over at the next Council meeting.

In response to a question from the Chair, Cllr Mrs Saddington confirmed she remained a Member of the District Council's Planning Committee.

Councillor Hobbs advised that he had attended the last meeting of the Planning Committee. The 'cumulative effect' with respect to solar farm applications was referred to. It appeared that the District Council could not take a position on this yet as they did not have a full picture of all the solar farms planned.

Councillor Mrs Saddington finished her report by wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

The Chair returned those good wishes and reconvened the meeting at 7.14pm.

NM122-25 Newark & Sherwood District Council

- (a) To receive feedback on the recent consultation regarding the siting of the Kiddey Stones
The Clerk advised that this was an item on the District Council's Cabinet agenda that was scheduled to meet on 10th December.

NM123-25 To consider any matters that need to be raised with County Councillor update Cllr Laughton
This item would be taken if and when Councillor Laughton arrived.

NM124-25 Nottinghamshire County Council

- (a) There were no matters to consider.

NM125-25 Planning

- (a) To receive the North Muskham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Terms of Reference
Councillor Hobbs advised that, following a recent post on the Muskham Messenger, there were now 17 people on the Steering Group. Five of those were Parish Councillors.

Councillor Hobbs referred to the circulated Terms of Reference for the Group, together with a Code of Conduct, which would govern the group. These were considered and AGREED.

The first meeting of the new Steering Group was scheduled for the 12th December. It will report back to the Parish Council.

(b) Neighbourhood Plan Update

Members noted the update circulated by Councillor Hobbs which outlined the steps that would need to be taken throughout the process.

Councillor Hobbs outlined that the first step would be to designate the area. This would normally be the parish boundary but there were other options that could be considered, including a plan for multiple parishes. However, agreement would be needed from other parishes and, if they agreed, this would lengthen the process.

It was noted that there were changes to the National Planning Policy Framework that were due to come out on in December which would have to be taken into consideration.

Members acknowledged that putting a Plan together would be hard work but would be beneficial to the village and would increase Community Infrastructure Levy payments.

The Chair thanked Councillor Hobbs for his work on the project so far.

NM126-25 Parish Council Matters

(a) Allotments/Green Hub Report

Councillor Preston confirmed that the water had now been turned off at the allotments.

There were currently two plots vacant, with a further two potentially becoming available in the New Year. In response to a question raised by Councillor Talbot, the Chair confirmed that priority would be given to prospective tenants who lived in the village. However, applications from outside the village would be considered if there was no interest from residents.

Councillor Talbot advised that the Sub-Committee had provided information for the Parish Council's website and that was now live on the site.

(b) To consider the appointment of a Vice-Chair for the remainder of the Civic Year 2024-25

Members noted that, with the resignation of Councillor Beddoe, no Vice-Chair was currently in place.

It was proposed by Councillor Preston, seconded by Councillor Dolby that Councillor Hobbs be appointed as Vice-Chair. This was unanimously AGREED and Councillor Hobbs confirmed his acceptance of the role.

(c) Solar Developments:

- GNR Solar Park - Update including crowdfunding
- GNR Systra Construction Traffic Summary update
- Foxholes Construction Traffic Management Plan update

Members noted that a crowd funding page had been set up to try and raise funds to assist with the costs for the shared costs of a Planning Consultant to respond to the Development Control Order for the GNR Solar Park. It has been highlighted on the Muskham Messenger and the link would also be shared on social media.

The next meeting of JPAG will be held on Thursday, 19th December at which members will select and appoint a consultant.

A revised Construction Traffic Summary had been received from Elements Green, with the request for all traffic to use the Ashiana roundabout to access Vicarage Lane, rather than the A1 slip road at the north end of the village and over the A1 bridge, being accepted. The plan had been revised to reflect this. However, no response had been received to other concerns raised.

After discussion, it was AGREED that data on accidents on the A1 should be sought from National Highways given the impact these have on traffic coming through the village.

The Clerk confirmed that the comments on Foxholes had been submitted to Newark & Sherwood District Council. No response had yet been received from the Chief Executive of Newark & Sherwood District Council, or the Director of Planning, from the letter submitted by the Clerk.

(d) To receive an update on the Emergency Plan and to consider allocating a budget to the purchase of resilience items required

An update on the present position with the Emergency Plan had been circulated to Members by Councillor Hobbs. Members were content with the update provided.

It was noted that the hand held radios, which would be funded through the Resilience Grant provided by Newark & Sherwood District Council, had been received. The generator, which was also included, had been ordered.

Discussion took place regarding the best way of storing the radios, whether that be distributed to named personnel or held centrally. It was AGREED that these would be retained by Councillor Hobbs but that a system be put in place to ensure that they would always be available in case of holidays/sickness, etc.

Councillor Hobbs also referred to the Community Flood Plan which, while a separate document to the Emergency Plan, would work in tandem with it. The document has to be approved by Nottinghamshire County Council and would need to include areas/maps of roads that would need to be closed during a flood event. It was AGREED that the Chair and Vice-Chair would liaise with Councillor Talbot to determine these areas.

The second phase of the plan would be to establish a private register of vulnerable people within the community.

NM127-25 Environmental & Community Issues

(a) Play Area – To receive any outcome on the application made to the Local Communities Fund

The Clerk advised that no response had yet been received to an enquiry seeking to establish when the outcome of the application to the Local Communities Fund would be advised.

Members noted the fundraising efforts by residents through a JustGiving page and the generous donation of a £1,000 from a local business owners charity raffle towards the resurfacing.

It was AGREED that the Chair speak to the contractor to establish if resurfacing could be undertaken on a piecemeal basis. It was acknowledged that this would be weather dependent.

(b) To consider Member attendance at a Playground Safety Course

It was AGREED that Councillor Hobbs attend a Playground Safety Course organised through Notts ALC at a cost of £306.

(c) Update on proposal for community cafe and hub at the MRCC in partnership with the Methodist Church

The Chair advised that the MRCC would support the proposals in principle. There would be a requirement to join the Plunkett Foundation (£200) and, if a consultant was retained from the Foundation, this could be a further £700.

The Chair had contacted local businesses who were supportive. A survey was in the process of being drafted which would be circulated to Members on receipt.

In response to a question by Councillor Hobbs, the Chair confirmed that provision of a community café and hub was supported by the Parish Council, regardless of whether the Methodist Church was involved.

NM128-25 Highways

(a) Highways Log

It was noted that the light on the path through to Waltons Lane from the Ashiana roundabout had now been fixed.

Councillor Hutchings referred to the continued degradation of the surfaces on Great North Road and Waltons Lane. The Clerk would raise this again with Via.

Members noted that the streets within the village had recently been swept, but that had not included Great North Road or Waltons Lane. The Clerk would make a request for the street sweeper for these areas.

(b) Street Lighting issues – Manor House Drive and Ferry Lane

Temporary repairs had been undertaken to the street lights on Manor House Drive, with the lanterns removed. The Clerk was asked to determine the location of the lanterns and to seek reassurance that they would be returned once the obsolete fittings had been resolved.

The Clerk was asked to establish if additional lighting could be installed on Ferry Lane.

(c) To note proposed works on the A1 from Apleyhead to Newark

Members noted the proposed works on the A1 from Apleyhead to Newark which included:

- Resurface the northbound and southbound carriageways including laybys and slip roads.
- Refresh road markings and install road studs and high friction surfacing.
- Carry out vegetation and overburden clearance.

This would be delivered over four phases:

- Phase 1 Southbound from 6th January 2025 to 10th February 2025 (*A1 Closure from Apleyhead to Newark*)
- Phase 2 Southbound from 11th February 2025 to 12th March 2025 (*A1 Closure from Markham Moor to Newark*)
- Phase 3 Northbound from 13th March to 20th March 2025 (*A1 Closure from Newark to Markham Moor*)
- Phase 4 Northbound from 24th March to 23rd May 2025 (*A1 Closure from Newark to Apleyhead*)

with work taking place between 8pm until 6am, Monday to Friday.

The Clerk was asked to promote this on the Muskham Messenger and on the News Section of the website.

NM129-25 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 – November - £323.30
- PAYE – November – £80.80
- Village Handyman – November - £148.72
- NALC – Employer Governance Training - £45
- NALC – New Cllr Training - £45
- Timpson - Additional keys for Resilience Container - £18.00
- B&Q - Plastic containers - £38.00
- B&Q - Batteries for torches - £9.45
- Newark Locksmiths – Police approved key safe - £75
- Amazon – Torch Batteries - £19.94
- Etsy - Small stencil 'North Muskham Parish Council' - £9.00
- John Miller – Christmas Trees - £200
- Newark Town Council – Hire of Gazebos - £110
- Marine Superstore – Hand Held Radios - £689.70
- Generators Direct – Hyundai Diesel Generator - £1,399
- Generators Direct – Manual Transfer Switch - £87.54
- Amazon - Crusader main supply unity with 3 sockets and 15 meters cable £42.11
- Amazon - Rigidon 300V tripod stand LED lighting - 3 x £89.99 = £269.97
- MRCC – Room Hire October & November - £27.50
- Ian Harrison – Refund Remembrance Sunday Costs -

(b) To note any Receipts

The following receipts were noted:

- Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery - £124

The Chair explained how the Community Lottery worked and how it could be spent. The Clerk was asked to forward the Constitution to Members.

(c) Financial Report as at 30th November 2024

The financial report as at 30th November 2024 was received and noted by Members.

The Clerk advised that a VAT return for the financial year ended 31st March 2024 was in the process of being submitted.

(d) To determine budget priorities prior to considering the 2025-26 budget at the January meeting of the Parish Council

Members noted that there would be a requirement to determine the 2025-26 budget at the January meeting and to consider setting a Precept.

In terms of priorities these were considered as:

- Play area resurfacing
- Planning Consultant fee for GNR
- Emergency Planning (£500)
- Café hub legal costs (£1,500)
- Neighbourhood plan (£2,000)
- Plunkett Foundation (£1,000)
- V E Day Celebrations

Councillor Mrs Luke asked if consideration could be given to support defib training. Councillor Talbot asked if consideration could be given to include costs for painting the container at the allotment. Councillor Preston suggested an inspection of the allotments to review if there would be any further requirements and would liaise with Members on a convenient date.

The Clerk reminded Members of the undertaken given at the time of setting the 2024-25 Precept that levels would be returned to the 2023-24 level given the North Marsh project did not proceed. The budget would be drawn up with this in mind, but the Precept would need to be set to cover anticipated expenditure.

The Clerk would liaise with the Chair and Vice-Chair in advance of the January meeting to ensure a robust budget was presented to Members.

NM130-25 Notts Association of Local Councils

(a) December Newsletter

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

(b) To receive details of the Subscription rate for 2025-26

The Clerk advised that the subscription rate for 2025-26 would increase to £278.74. This would be included within the budget preparation.

NM131-25 Correspondence

Councillor Mrs Luke advised that she had attended the Health Consultative Group meeting on 6th December. The 'Ask for Newark' campaign was discussed which was designed to encourage residents to ask for their appointment to be held at Newark. For the next meeting representatives have been asked to take back three items they would wish to be considered.

Discussion took place around the future of the defib cabinet at the north of the village as the business was scheduled to close at the end of December. Councillor Mrs Luke advised that the property owner was content for the defib to remain on the building after the business has closed. The Clerk was asked to highlight on the Muskhams Messenger and social media that the defib would remain in place.

NM132-25 Date of Next Meeting
Monday, 13th January 2025

The meeting closed at 9pm