

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 9th MARCH 2026 MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 9th February 2026 at the MRCC commencing at 7pm.

Present: Councillor G Hobbs (Chair)
Councillor N Hutchings
Councillor A Luke
Councillor M Talbot

Also in attendance: County Councillor Laughton (arr 7.43pm) and 5 members of the public

NM133-26 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Dolby, Harrison and Preston and District Councillor Mrs Saddington.

NM134-26 Declarations of Interest

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

NM135-26 Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 12th Janua 2026 were accepted as a true and correct record.

NM136-26 Public 10 Minute Session

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.01pm to allow for the public session.

Residents raised questions in relation to the extension of the Cromwell Quarry Works towards Ness Farm, as they had a concern in relation to the archaeological significance of one of the fields. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the resident outside of the meeting in relation to the application.

A resident had questioned where responsibility for the outer area of the playing field lay. The Clerk had confirmed this was the responsibility of the MRCC and the Chair of the Trustees had been made aware of the query.

As the next question was in relation to highways matters, with the agreement of Members, the Chair brought forward Agenda item 13(a) Highways Log.

NM137-26 Highways

(a) Waltons Lane, Willow Close & Great North Road

A resident expressed a number of concerns in relation to the lack of a footpath on Waltons Lane and an increase in commercial traffic along the route. An increased number of children using the road was a concern.

Concern was also expressed at the degradation of the surface of the road.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.25pm.

The Chair referred to the Neighbourhood Plan survey currently circulating where residents could raise any issues they considered to be a concern within the village and encouraged the resident to include this in their response. In the meantime, the Parish Council would continue to log the degradation of the surfaces with Via.

NM137-26 To consider any matters that need to be raised with District Cllr Mrs Saddington
No report was presented as District Cllr Mrs Saddington had given her apologies.

NM138-26 Newark & Sherwood District Council

(a) **To note further briefing sessions arranged in relation to Local Government Re-Organisations**

Members noted that further briefing sessions had been arranged in relation to Local Government Re-Organisation. These would be held virtually at 6pm on Thursday, 26th February and Monday, 2nd March. Members were asked to advise the Clerk should they wish to be booked on to one of the sessions.

NM139-26 To consider any matters that need to be raised with County Councillor Laughton
This item would be taken if and when Councillor Laughton arrived.

The Clerk was pleased to advise that a donation of £400 had been pledged from Councillor Laughton's Divisional Fund towards the Interpretation Board at the Memorial Cross, should Members agree to progress that initiative.

NM140-26 Nottinghamshire County Council

(a) There were no matters to report.

NM141-26 Planning

(a) To ratify further comments in relation to 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 works.

The Clerk referred to further concerns raised in relation to this application. It was AGREED that the below comments be ratified, with the Council's position shifting from 'support' to 'objection':

Members consider that there is the potential for a severe and fatal risk to local pedestrians from vehicles travelling on the south bound carriageway of the adjacent A1. Currently villagers, and in particular young people, are being attracted to the fast food facilities using the A1 verge as access. The risk likelihood will be significantly increased with the proposed gaming area. There have been at least 2 pedestrian fatalities in the last two years in this location. An alternative safe pedestrian route

may be an option by seeking agreement with the owner of the small service road from Main Street to the services.

- (b) Decision Notice - 25/01348/HOUSE – 12 Mackleys Lane, North Muskham – To form a two-storey extension, internal alterations with 2 roof lights to the rear roof slope.
Members received the decision notice outlining that permission had been granted for the development as outlined.
- (c) To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan
Councillor Hobbs referred to the update circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

The survey was now in circulation, with 101 responses received so far. Members were asked to encourage people to fill in the survey. A letter of thanks had been sent to the Muskham Magazine team who had delivered the survey.

It was disappointing to note that the meeting scheduled to be held with Locality, organised through the District Council, had been postponed. The Clerk advised that Officers would continue to be chased for new dates.

NM142-26 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 – January – £333.60
 - PAYE – January - £83.40
 - Village Handyman – January - £134.31
 - Hugo Fox – Website - £20.99
 - Christmas Trees – TBC
 - Muskham Magazine – Donation re Neighbourhood Plan - £255
 - JPAG Consultant - £2,535.30
 - Tuxford Lawnmower Centre – Equipment Servicing - £527.64
 - ICO – Data Protection Fee £47
 - MRCC – Room Hire - £165
 - Newark & Sherwood District Council – Play Area Inspection - £114
- (b) To note any receipts
The following receipts were noted:
- Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery - £112
- (c) Financial Report as at 31st December 2025 & 31st January 2026
Members noted that the balance of the Parish Council's accounts as at 31st December 2025 was £55,38.59 and were now balanced and reconciled. The balance as at 31st January 2026 was £54,827.36.

NM143-26 Parish Council Matters

(a) Allotments/Green Hub Report

The Chair was pleased to note that a new hedge had now been planted around the site.

The Clerk confirmed that invoices for the 2026-27 year had been issued to ploholders. An expression of interest in taking a plot had been received, with plot 14 offered as it had been cultivated most recently. A response was awaited.

To consider arranging an Allotment competition

This matter was not considered.

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

The Chair advised Members that a meeting had been held with Robert Jenrick MP on behalf of JPAG. Four actions had been raised for the MP to progress. Monthly meetings would now be held.

A second round of issue specific hearings had been held, with more actions being placed on the developer by the Planning Inspectors. Site visits had been arranged around the area.

The examination process closes on the 28th April 2026.

The Chair referred to an amended application being received in relation to the Foxholes Farm Solar Farm, specifically in relation to highways, who now supported the application.

After discussion, it was proposed by the Chair that the JPAG Planning Consultant be asked to review the application in relation to transportation given the potential impact on Vicarage Lane. This was AGREED, with a delegated spend of £400. The Clerk would refer back to Council dependent on any fee quoted.

NM139-26 To consider any matters that need to be raised with County Councillor Laughton

(cont) With the arrival of Councillor Laughton, the Chair suspended the meeting at 7.48pm for his report.

Councillor Laughton referred to the continued deterioration on the road network, with £4.5m being removed from the winter maintenance budget by the current administration. This was having a significant impact on repairs. Members were asked to keep reporting any issues via the MyNottsApp.

A 3.9% increase in council tax was being proposed by the administration. The opposition were setting an alternative budget with a 3% increase.

The Chair thanked Councillor Laughton for his kind donation from his Divisional Fund. The meeting was reconvened at 8.00pm.

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

This item was deferred for consideration at the March meeting.

(d) To consider arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk advised Members that an Annual Parish Meeting had to be held between 1st March and 1st June every year. This was separate to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council where the Chair and Vice-Chair were elected for the Civic Year.

The Annual Parish Meeting could be used as a forum for the Parish Council to engage with the local community. Given the number of projects that the Parish Council were currently engaged in, the Clerk considered that there was opportunity to review the Annual Parish Meeting to make it more interactive with the community. Refreshments could also be provided.

After discussion, the Clerk was asked to book the Main Hall for the May meeting and bring a further report back to the March meeting.

(e) To note correspondence received from the Canal & River Trust in relation to the Clapper Gates

Discussion took place in relation to the correspondence received from the Canal & River Trust. Members noted that the survey of the clapper gates along the River Trent had not yet commenced.

In relation to the donation of £500 Members had agreed to donate to the Canal & River Trust for repair to the clapper gate, it was AGREED that this be retained by the Parish Council and used to effect repairs on site.

Councillor Talbot would establish the present situation of the clapper gates and liaise with the landowner on repairs.

(f) To consider liaising with Historic England in relation to an Interpretation Board for the Muskham Cross (a scheduled monument)

After discussion, it was AGREED that an Interpretation Board be progressed by the Clerk and Chair. Two options would be considered, to the rear of the site and Main Street.

Councillor Hutchings would provide the OS data to use with the submission.

NM144-26 Environmental & Community Issues

(a) Play Area

The Clerk advised that the annual inspection report had been received. A report would be brought to the March meeting after it had been reviewed. A copy would be forwarded to Members for information.

(b) To receive an update on the Cafe / Hub project

This item was deferred to the March meeting. Councillor Hutchings advised that a

request had been received from the Steering Group to produce a design based on 3 containers as an option.

(c) To receive an update on the Emergency Plan

Councillor Hobbs referred to the update circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

Discussion took place in relation to the delivery of the Household Emergency Plan. It was AGREED that this be considered at the March meeting. Members were keen that it not be 'lost' with the Neighbourhood Plan survey.

(d) To receive an update on 'Blooming North Muskham' in 2026

The written update provided by Councillor Luke would be forwarded to Members for information.

The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Village Handyman to apply a green wood preservative/stain to the Gilbert's Field allotment entrance gate.

Councillor Luke advised that Floral Media would be attending the next meeting on 25th February.

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

This item was deferred for consideration at the March meeting. The Chair would liaise with external partners outside of the meeting to establish the present position.

NM145-26 Highways

(a) Highways Log

This matter had been taken earlier on the agenda.

(b) To note the request for a site meeting with National Highways

The Clerk advised that no response had yet been received in relation to the request for a site meeting with National Highways. This was being co-ordinated with the MPS's office.

(c) To note the response from Notts Wildlife Trust in relation to adding a path across their land to the Definitive Map

Members noted that confirmation had been received from Notts Wildlife Trust that the senior management team were happy to upgrade the status of the footpath to the rear of the reserve to a public right of way. They recognised the importance of protecting the path legally to ensure the local community had easy and continued access to the wider countryside.

This had been forwarded to the Rights of Way Team at Nottinghamshire County Council to enable the required legal process to commence.

NM146-26 Notts Association of Local Councils

(a) There were no matters to report.

NM147-26 **Correspondence**

Councillor Talbot referred to the Safer Neighbourhood Group held on 5th February 2026. Oil and bike thefts had been reported with residents asked to be vigilant.

Speeding had been raised as an ongoing issue. The Clerk advised that Via would provide 'It's 30 for a reason' signs to go on lamp columns. Members were asked to confirm how many would be required.

Dog waste was also an issue. Members AGREED that the use of a marker stencil be used to establish if it had an effect in reducing fouling.

It had been disappointing that only 6 people had attended the Rural Watch meeting recently.

NM148-26 **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday, 9th March 2026

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.