

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 10th FEBRUARY 2025 MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday, 13th January 2025 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 S Preston
Councillor M Talbot

Also in attendance: 5 members of the public, District Councillor Mrs Saddington & County Councillor Laughton

NM133-25 Apologies for absence
There were none.

NM134-25 Declarations of Interest
There were none.

NM135-25 Minutes
The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 9th December 2024 were accepted as a true and correct record.

NM136-25 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.

NM137-25 To consider any matters that need to be raised with District Cllr Mrs Saddington
This matter would be taken if and when Cllr Mrs Saddington arrived.

NM138-25 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 – December - £323.30
- PAYE – December – £80.80
- Village Handyman – December - £tbc
- NALC – Play Area Inspection Training - £317
- Allotment Deposit Refund - £50
- Hugo Fox Website Renewal - £287.86

- Cromwell Services – Diesel for Generator - £23.07
- Ian Harrison – Remembrance Sunday Expenses - £41.29
- Ian Harrison – Chairman’s Allowance – £350
- Tuxford Lawnmower Centre – Ride-On Mower Service - £491.46
- NALC – Code of Conduct Training - £45

To note any Receipts

The following receipts were noted:

- Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery - £124
- Crowdfunder - £294.76

Members noted the amount donated during the recent Crowdfunding initiative to raise funds towards the costs of a planning consultant to respond to the application for the GNR Solar Park. With the Parish Council now committed to making an investment in the consultant, it was proposed from the Chair that the money donated be returned. This was AGREED. Thanks were expressed to Councillor Hobbs for the work done on setting up and promoting the crowdfunding.

(b) Financial Report as at 31st December 2024

The financial report as at 31st December 2024 was received, with Members noting a balance of £53,567.12 across all the Council’s accounts.

NM137-25 To consider any matters that need to be raised with District Cllr Mrs Saddington

(cont) The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.08pm for Cllr Mrs Saddington’s report.

Councillor Mrs Saddington reported that at the last Full Council meeting a motion had been put forward to the ruling administration with regard to the Inheritance Tax on Farmers. The proposed motion was supported and the Leader of the Council had now written to the Government to ask that the proposal be withdrawn.

There was currently no overall party in control at Newark & Sherwood District Council with various Members moving parties.

Councillor Mrs Saddington referred to recent burglaries in and around the village and urged residents to be vigilant and report any incidents to the Police.

The Chair asked a question regarding food waste recycling as it was understood the District Council would be introducing the service, and that there would also be a standardisation of recycling across the country. Cllr Mrs Saddington advised that no details on either proposal was available at the moment.

Councillor Hobbs asked if there was any update available on the GNR Solar Park as it was now logged on the District Council’s Planning Portal. Councillor Mrs Saddington advised it was not on the Planning Committee agenda scheduled for Thursday, 16th January. However, a solar application at Kelham was on for deliberation.

Councillor Hobbs referred to the response from Newark & Sherwood District Council in relation to concerns raised regarding the cumulative impact of all the solar farms in the area.

Councillor Mrs Saddington referred to the potential for change at Staythorpe Power Station. It was understood details of a consultation would be released shortly.

The Chair thanked Councillor Mrs Saddington for her report and reconvened the meeting at 7.13pm.

NM138-25 Financial Matters
(cont)

To consider a draft budget for the 2025-26 financial year and the setting of a Precept

The Chair referred to documents circulated from the Clerk in relation to a draft budget for the 2025-26 financial year. Members were reminded of the commitment undertaken at the time of setting the budget for the 2024-25 financial year to reduce the Precept should the Parish Council not be successful in its bid to buy North Marsh.

The Chair advised that there were a number of projects that the Parish Council was looking to pursue over the next financial year. These included the Neighbourhood Plan, the Emergency Plan and Community Flood Plan and the Community Café Hub. As previously referred to, a commitment had been made to contribute towards a planning consultant in relation to the GNR Solar Park.

The Clerk had included new lines in the budget, but was recommending that projected costs for the Community Café Hub in the sum of £2,555 and Neighbourhood Plan of £1,783 be taken from reserves.

Members noted that an amount of £437.31 was held in reserves for Capturing Memories and the Clerk was asked to seek clarification as to whether that was still required.

The draft budget allowed for a 2.6% increase on the 2023-24 Precept of £18,405, which gave a figure of £18,883. To meet the projected budget of £22,359, a sum of £1,251 would be required from general reserves.

It was proposed by Councillor Talbot, seconded by Councillor Hutchings that a Precept of £18,883 be levied for the 2025-26 financial year, giving a Band D figure of £45.14. This was unanimously AGREED.

Members asked that it be noted in the minutes that the Parish Council had kept to their promise to reduce the Precept with North Marsh not proceeding. However, in future years the Precept would need to be close to expenditure.

NM139-25 To consider any matters that need to be raised with County Councillor update Cllr Laughton
The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.24pm for Councillor Laughton's report.

Councillor Laughton referred to the proposals for Local Government Reform put forward by the Government. The County Council had met with Nottingham City Council (which was already a Unitary Authority) and the Leaders and Chief Executives of the District and Borough Councils. Proposals were required to be put forward to the Secretary of State by the end of March.

The Chair thanked Councillor Laughton for his report and reconvened the meeting at 7.30pm.

NM140-25 Nottinghamshire County Council

The Chair advised that, along with the Vice-Chair, a meeting had been held with representatives from CEMEX to discuss the plans and any future plans for the site.

The plans submitted were in line with the County agreed strategy to concentrate on existing quarries rather than new sites. CEMEX were moving operations south and the variations allowed for continued and extended use of the existing infrastructure. The proposals did not affect North Muskham at the moment but may affect the village in the future as CEMEX were minded to seek further extractions towards North Muskham, initially south of Ness Farm and potentially south of Lodge Farm.

The District Council had not raised any objection to the applications as they were in line with the strategy agreed some years ago.

A suggested response to the applications had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

After discussion, it was AGREED that no objection be raised to the first three applications as long as previous agreed mitigations via previous planning conditions remain in place and no additional locations were added for extraction plant, on site haulage roadways and associated infrastructure and facilities.

- (a) Planning Application - Cromwell Quarry, Great North Road, Cromwell, Nottinghamshire, NG23 6JE - Variation of conditions 3, 4, 17 and 47 of planning permission 3/22/01790/CMA to allow an amended restoration scheme and an extension of time in which to complete working, in connection with a further extension at Ness Farm, and an extension of time in which to submit archaeological details
- (b) Planning Application - Cromwell Quarry, Great North Road, Cromwell, Nottinghamshire, NG23 6JE - Variation of conditions 1, 2, 3, 15, 21, 22, 25 and 26 of planning permission 3/22/01787/CMA to allow an update to the working plans, the retention and use of the plant site, haul road, access and silt lagoons, and an extension of time in which to complete the remaining phases, in connection with a further extension at Ness Farm
- (c) Planning Application - Cromwell Quarry, Great North Road, Cromwell, Nottinghamshire, NG23 6JE - Variation of conditions 1, 2, 5, 12 and 48 of planning permission 3/22/01788/CMA to allow continued use of the haul road and amended restoration and working schemes in connection with a further extension at Ness Farm

(d) Planning Application – Ness Farm & Cromwell Quarry, Great North Road, Cromwell - Proposed southern extension to the quarry (phases 11c and 11d) for the extraction of approximately 575,000 tonnes of sand and gravel with restoration to nature conservation

In respect of the above application, it was AGREED that no objection be raised as long as the commitment confirmed by the applicant in the application is adhered to, i.e, that only existing infrastructure, plant and storage facilities, haul road, dewatering discharge, noise and dust mitigation is used.

The Parish Council notes also the stated current intention of the applicant for the overall extraction use of the total site to cease no later than 31st December 2029, with restoration to be completed by 31/12/2030.

That planning permission for publicly accessible interpretation boards, as defined in the application, be applied for before 31/3/2025.

As per the application documentation, notwithstanding the stated intention to cease use of the total site by 31st December 2029, the Parish Council request that full required restoration to worked sites be made before any further application for additional sites south of Ness Farm is made.

Providing some mitigation and as discussed with the applicant, the Parish Council would be keen to work with the applicant and other relevant organisations at the restoration stage to provide and support an accessible nature reserve for the enjoyment of North Muskham.

The Parish Council have met with the applicant and have agreed to maintain a positive and open working relationship to help mitigate any perceived and actual negative impacts with this additional extraction site.

As a note for the future: Whilst the Parish Council understands the need to minimise the risk of the sterilisation of mineral deposits, it is unlikely to support any further southerly extension, south of Lodge Farm, towards North Muskham in the future, given the proximity of domestic dwellings at North Muskham and potential associated environmental and cumulative impacts.

NM141-25 Planning

- (a) FOR NOTING - 24/02188/DISCON – Cherry Tree Cottage, Vicarage Lane, North Muskham - Request for confirmation of discharge of conditions 03 (Flood Resistance), 04 (Materials), 05 (Details), 06 (Flood Warning), 07 (Ecological), 08 (Replacement Planting and Landscaping) attached to planning permission 23/01922/FUL; Demolish the existing three-bedroom dwelling and garage and erect a new three-bedroom dwelling and timber-framed garage
Members noted the application for the discharge of conditions as outlined.

(b) 24/02149/HOUSE – Elm Tree House, Crab Lane, North Muskham - PV panels to house, new summerhouse and shelter

The Chair referred to previous objections made by the Parish Council to extensions to this property, which had been considered inconsequential by the Environment Agency and Newark & Sherwood District Council.

After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Talbot, seconded by Councillor Hutchings, that objection be raised to the application on the grounds that the proposals were over intensification of the site which could lead to displacement of water and adversely affect adjacent properties.

Further, Members expressed concern at the placement of spoil on adjacent land which could raise the level. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Planning Officer on its removal as it was out of the boundary of the site.

(c) To receive correspondence from CNB Housing Insights regarding a Housing Needs Survey commissioned by Weightman Homes Ltd

Members noted correspondence from CNB Housing Insights regarding a Housing Needs Survey. The Chair understood that it was normal practice for potential developers to carry out a survey in a community where they may be looking to develop.

It was noted that the results of the survey could be of benefit to the work being undertaken on the Neighbourhood Plan and the Clerk was asked to establish if those results would be shared with the Parish Council.

Councillor Hobbs considered that residents should be encouraged to complete the survey in order that the results gave a rounded view.

(d) Neighbourhood Plan Update

Members received and noted the update circulated outlining progress on the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chair and Vice-Chair had attended Bathley Parish Council recently to discuss the potential for a joint plan. The Vice-Chair would be attending South Muskham & Little Carlton Parish Council on Wednesday, 15th January to have the same discussion.

Members also receive and noted an update on progress of the Emergency Plan.

NM142-25 Parish Council Matters

(a) Allotments/Green Hub Report

Councillor Preston reported that the tenant of Plot 1 had advised the Sub-Committee that they would be relinquishing their plot. That now gave 4 vacant plots. Councillor Preston considered that plots should be offered to non-residents should there be no uptake of the vacancies from residents.

It was AGREED that an advert should be placed in the Muskham Magazine, using the information from the Parish Council's website.

Councillor Preston advised that a site visit would need to be arranged before the next meeting of the Parish Council.

(b) Solar Developments:

- GNR Solar Park - Update including crowdfunding
- Response from NSDC regarding Cumulative Impact

The crowdfunding referred to had been dealt with earlier on the agenda under Minute No NM138-25 (a).

The Chair advised that the next meeting of JPAG would be held on Thursday, 6th February where a report would be received from the retained Planning Consultant. The second phase of the statutory consultation had commenced on 9th January and would run through to 20th February.

A copy of the response from Newark & Sherwood District Council regarding the Cumulative Impact had been circulated to Members for information. In short, the District Council had advised that Cumulative Impact could not be considered as they had to consider every planning application that was submitted to the authority.

(c) To receive the notes of the Safer Neighbourhood Group meeting held on 10th October 2024 and consider representation at the meeting on 16th January 2025

Members received the notes of the Safer Neighbourhood Group meeting held on 10th October 2024. Councillor Talbot would attend the next meeting on 16th January 2025.

NM143-25 Environmental & Community Issues

(a) Play Area – To receive any outcome on the application made to the Local Communities Fund and details from the JustGiving fundraising initiative

The Clerk advised that no response had yet been received to the application to the Local Communities Fund.

The Chair noted the recent donation of £1,330 raised by residents through a JustGiving appeal. Members extended their thanks to Nigel and Sue Pimlott on their efforts to support the resurfacing. This, together with the £1,000 donation from fundraising organised by Pina Dickinson, would be ring fenced for the play area in the accounts.

The Chair advised that a discussion had been held with the contractor and work would commence when the weather enabled.

(b) Update on proposal for community cafe and hub at the MRCC in partnership with the Methodist Church and to note the final draft of the proposed survey

The Chair referred to a draft survey circulated to Members. The survey had been put together on behalf of the Parish Council, Muskham Rural Community Centre and the Methodist Church.

It was intended that the survey be available as both a hard copy and online. Discussion took place regarding circulation of the hard copy and it was suggested that it could be included with distribution of an issue of the Muskham Magazine which went to each property in the village.

NM144-25 Highways

(a) Highways Log

Councillor Mrs Luke referred to a large pothole on Nelson Lane. The Clerk advised this would be reported.

Members were reminded that the MyNottsApp could be used to immediately report any defects spotted in the village, and allowed photos to be uploaded.

Councillor Hutchings referred to the ongoing deterioration of Old Great North Road and Waltons Lane. The Clerk advised this would be followed up with Via.

Discussion took place regarding the recent closures of the A1 and the impact this had, particularly on Main Street and Nelson Lane, with lorries trying to find a way round the closures. It was AGREED that the Chair and Clerk submit a paper to Via outlining the frustrations of the Parish Council and residents and expressing concern at the blatant disregard of any signage or speed limits. Members were concerned that there would be an accident if the present situation continued, particularly as footpaths were not available along the whole length of Main Street.

NM145-25 Newark & Sherwood District Council

(a) FOR NOTING - To receive correspondence regarding the Amended Southwell Neighbourhood Plan - Regulation 16 Stage Consultation

Members received and noted the correspondence as outlined.

NM146-25 Notts Association of Local Councils

(a) January Newsletter

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

NM147-25 Correspondence

(a) Letter from Elston Parish Council regarding Road Safety and 20mph Statutory Speed Limits

Members received and noted the letter from Elston Parish Council.

(b) 24/01805/HOUSE – 1 Eastfield, North Muskham – Single Storey Side Extension

Members received and noted the decision notice granting planning permission for the development as outlined.

(c) Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

Members received and noted correspondence from Newark & Sherwood District Council regarding the consultation on the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan.

NM148-25 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 10th February 2025

