

## NORTH MUSKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at the Muskham Rural Community Centre at 7pm**

**Present:** Councillor I Harrison  
Councillor P Beddoe  
Councillor N Hutchings  
Councillor A Oliver  
Councillor S Preston  
Councillor M Talbot

**Also 4 members of the public**

#### **Apologies for absence**

Received and accepted from Councillor Dolby.

#### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman

#### **Matters Arising**

None

#### **Presentation of Reports**

##### **Chairman of the Parish Council 2023/24 – Cllr I Harrison**

The Chairman referred to his report which would be attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

The Chair thanked the Clerk for her continuing commitment to supporting the Parish Council and the community of North Muskham. Additionally, to Councillors Mrs Saddington and Laughton for their continuing support to the community. Lastly, not least to Parish Councillors, to the MRCC Committee, and to those that support all other community organisations and our two churches. The Chair extended his thanks also to those individuals that work below the eyeline in keeping the village a village to be proud of.

#### Looking back:

Key projects and issues for the PC have included:

- The North Marsh and our success in getting the £200,000 grant, whether the bid be successful or not.
- Further playground improvements
- GNR solar
- Traveller occupation of the playing field and associated costs
- Floods and the floating Xmas (unlit) Xmas tree
- Supporting the re - energising of the MRCC
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It has been a year of positives and negatives, but at the end of it the Chair expressed his pride and thankfulness to have chaired an excellent Parish Council that had achieved much to be proud of.

#### Looking forward:

Given the depressing state of world affairs, of global warming and its now apparent impacts and the sorry state of British politics and politicians, it would be easy to stick one's head under the blanket and hope for the best. The Chair believed, however, that the greatest journey starts with the smallest step and even a village as small as North Muskham can provide a positive response to many issues that will affect us all.

Projects in the pipeline or on the design shelf include the:

- Community Hub, including a shop and café which needed to move forward
- Neighbourhood plan and emergency plan- with a need to act with more urgency.
- Issues will include the GNR solar project and the Parish Council's response to it.
- Flooding
- Congestion, especially as the A46 dualling works start.

Fear was expressed for the bus services, and indeed for rural communities, with a likely emphasis of Government support and funding towards urban communities.

However, the Chair was confident that the community would rise to these challenges as it always has done, reflecting the good and fairly stoic and resilient community we are.

To end, the Chair considered we should be grateful for what we have. The Ferry Pub is now transformed due to the best efforts of the landlady, the Ashiana continued to be one of the best, the Churches continue to offer support, and there are still many community organisations that enrich the lives of all residents. Thanks to all concerned!

#### **MRCC Report - Chairman**

A copy of the report is attached at Appendix 2 to these minutes.

First and foremost, thanks were extended to the committee members that had helped through what had been a turbulent year.

The arrival of the Travellers and the resignation of the previous chairman provided a shaky start. The remainder of the year had been about steadying the ship and trying to recover, protect, and progress.

In summary, the Chair considered that the MRCC had turned the corner and was on the road to recovery, both in the hall being seen as a venue for the community with, bowls, craft, fitness, lunch club, history, table tennis etc filling nearly every day as well as the evenings.

Sadly, it is predicted that this year there was still likely to be a loss financially, but hopefully nowhere near the £15k of last year.

The MRCC must continue with the recovery, protection of assets and progress, but being mindful that the hall is ageing and in need of some maintenance which will affect finances and recovery.

### **District Councillor's Report**

Councillor Mrs Saddington extended her thanks to Member of the Parish Council, the Muskham Rural Community Centre volunteers and everyone else who gives their time to support the community.

The occupation of the playing field by Travellers in June had been a shock to the village. It was hoped that the efforts made by the MRCC by putting up barriers and other protective measures would provide the deterrent required. Thanks were extended to everyone that had dealt with the occupation.

As a member of the Planning Committee at Newark & Sherwood District Council, Cllr Mrs Saddington was maintaining a distance from the GNR Solar Park discussions at the moment. It was understood that the BESS application at Staythorpe had been allowed on Appeal.

Cllr Mrs Saddington hoped that residents were enjoying the household glass recycling bins that had been introduced recently.

### **County Councillor's Report**

Councillor Laughton reiterated the thanks made by Cllr Mrs Saddington to the Parish Council and other volunteers who support the village. It was a pleasure to represent the community.

The County Council were moving forward with three main capital projects:

- The new headquarters at Top Wig Hay
- A614 junctions were moving ahead, with £27m from the Department of Transport
- Capital receipt from County Hall

The budget setting for 2024-25 had been one of the most challenging in the 25 years Councillor Laughton had served on the County Council. Increasing food costs and the increase in the living wage had contributed towards that. A sum of £50m from reserves would be used over the next 3 years to balance the budget.

The Great North Road would be resurfaced from the Cattle Market Roundabout to the British Sugar factory before September.

Potholes continued to be a source of concern in many areas, with an unprecedented six times more Category 1 having to be dealt with, mainly due to the weather. Viafix had been used as a temporary measure, but hotboxing will be reintroduced. The County Council will work towards improvements within financial constraints.

The Chair thanked both Councillor Mrs Saddington and Councillor Laughton for their continued support.

### **Presentation of Charity Accounts**

#### **Muskham Rural Community Centre**

The accounts would be circulated to Members for information on receipt.

#### **Mary Woolhouse Charity**

The end of year accounts would be circulated to Members for information when received.

**Public Question Time**

No questions were asked.

**The meeting closed at 7.28pm**