

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 13th MAY 2024 MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday, 8th April 2024 in the MRCC, Nelson Lane, North Muskham at 6.45pm

Present: Councillor I Harrison (Chair)
Councillor N Hutchings
Councillor A Oliver
Councillor S Preston
Councillor M Talbot

Also present 14 members of the public, County Councillor Loughton and Ryan Hodson, Mark Noone and David Cowling from Elements Green

NM190-24 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Beddoe and Dolby and District Councillor Mrs Saddington.

NM191-24 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th March 2024 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

NM192-24 Declarations of Interest

It was agreed that any declarations be made as required during the meeting.

NM193-24 Public 10 Minute Session

The Chair suspended Standing Orders at 6.46pm for any questions from the public.

A resident advised they had a question regarding the legality of the GNR survey. The Chair advised that this could be raised during the listed agenda item.

The meeting was reconvened at 6.47pm.

NM194-24 To welcome Ryan Hodson, NG+ Community Engagement Manager with Elements Green Solar Park

The Chair suspended the meeting at 6.48pm and welcomed Ryan Hodson, Mark Noone and David Cowling from Elements Green to the meeting.

A short presentation was given and representatives answered questions on the GNR Solar "farm" proposals. The statutory consultation period is later in the year at which time the Parish Council will submit its response.

Concerns were expressed by some attendees as they consider that the survey form used by the Parish Council and other Parish Councils in the area, included significant bias in the stated questions. Members emphasised that they considered the survey had been compiled in good faith albeit some bias was apparent.

Members also emphasised that whilst the final results and analysis of the survey would be noted, the response of North Muskham Parish Council would be based on Members determination of the perceived positive and negative impacts of the proposals and the views of residents.

The Chair confirmed it was his intention that there would be another meeting arranged mid-summer to specifically give residents a further opportunity to discuss the proposals and to voice their views. Hopefully, there would be a greater level of interest and attendance at that meeting that would be advertised beforehand.

NM195-24 To consider any matters that need to be raised with District Cllr Mrs Saddington

No report was presented as District Councillor Mrs Saddington had given her apologies.

NM196-24 Newark & Sherwood District Council

(a) To note information received regarding the renewal of the Dog Bin Emptying Contract 2024/25

Members noted the information received advising that the cost of emptying the dog bins during 2024/25 would be £2.30 per empty. The Clerk was asked to renew the contract.

It was proposed by Councillor Talbot, seconded by Councillor Hutchings, that the Clerk establish if a new litter bin could be installed on Main Street if the Parish Council provided it. This was agreed.

(b) To note changes to the Planning Scheme of Delegation to Officers and Protocol for Planning Committee

The Clerk advised that the presentation made by the District Council had been circulated to Members for information.

NM197-24 To consider any matters that need to be raised with County Councillor update Cllr Laughton

There were no matters that needed to be raised.

NM198-24 Nottinghamshire County Council

(a) To note the submission of the Pre-Submission Draft version of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Local Plan to the Secretary of State for public examination

Members noted the submission to the Secretary of State.

NM199-24 Planning

(a) 24/00520/HOUSE – 2 Eastfield, North Muskham – Proposed two storey rear extension

After consideration, it was AGREED that if the applicant had met the concerns of the Planning Officer (as outlined in the decision notice for application 23/02198/HOUSE) the application was supported.

- (b) Decision Notices:
23/02198/HOUSE – 2 Eastfield North Muskham – Two storey rear extension
Members noted that permission had been refused with the Planning Officer noting that the proposed two storey rear extension, by virtue of its scale, massing, and design appears bulky and disproportionate to the host dwelling failing to respect the character of the host dwelling and local vernacular.
- (c) To agree a draft programme to progress a Neighbourhood Plan for North Muskham
This matter was not considered.

NM200-24 Parish Council Matters

- (a) Allotments/Green Hub Report
Councillor Preston referred to the poor condition of Plot 13 following the cessation of the tenancy. The items left included three large tyres which the Parish Council would have to pay to dispose of. Members noted that the allotment agreement included a clause that, following termination of a tenancy, the allotment plot should be left in good condition and free from weeds and all rubbish cleared from the site.
- It was AGREED that the £50 deposit be retained and that the former plothead be asked to remove the items as it was not the Parish Council's responsibility.
- The Clerk advised that an alternative source of aggregate had been found for the access track but Councillor Talbot considered this would be unsuitable. Councillor Talbot and the Clerk to liaise outside of the meeting to find a suitable medium for the track.
- It was AGREED that the water be switched back on and a meter reading taken.
- (b) To receive an update on the present position with the North Marsh Community Ownership Bid
The Chair advised that communication from the agent was expected within the next 14 days regarding the submission of a bid, at which point the amount previously agreed would be submitted.
- (c) To receive the results of the recent survey on the GNR Solar Park
This item had been considered under Minute No NM194-24.
- (d) To consider a request for support for the Highways Hedgehog Project
Members noted information received regarding the Highways Hedgehog Project but did not wish to support it at this time.
- (e) To note the Stakeholder Briefing regarding Newark Hospital's Urgent Treatment Centre
Members noted the briefing outlining the changes, which would see the Centre being open from 8am to 10.30pm, seven days a week.

- (f) To consider having a Parish Council stall at the MRCC Summer Event
It was AGREED that the Parish Council have a stall at the MRCC Summer Event to promote a number of matters. Parish Council Members had also offered to run the BBQ as in previous years.

NM201-24 Environmental & Community Issues

- (a) Play Area
The Clerk advised that, after discussion with Councillor Talbot, it was not considered cost effective for the Parish Council to undertake the surface replacement itself. The matter would be reconsidered once the outcome of the North Marsh bid was known.
- (b) To note the response from HAG-SMP regarding the damaged equipment
The Clerk advised that HAG-SMP had confirmed that the damage was considered wear and tear and not a defect. The Village Handyman had effected repairs.
- (c) To consider dog enforcement byelaws for St Wilfrid's Church Yard
Councillor Talbot advised that the PCC had installed new signs which had seen some improvement in the fouling. The District Council's Civil Enforcement Officer had also been actively patrolling the area.

The PCC would consider whether or not they would like the Parish Council to request a Public Space Protection Order for the area and advise the Clerk accordingly.

- (d) To review the annual litter pick held on Saturday, 6th April 2024
The Chair thanked everyone for volunteering their time for the annual litter pick. Thanks were also extended to the two residents who regularly litter pick the village throughout the year.

NM202-24 Highways

- (a) Highways Log
The Clerk confirmed there were no matters on the log at the moment.
- (b) To note concerns regarding heavy vehicle traffic on Main Street
The Clerk referred to concerns raised by residents regarding the speed of heavy traffic accessing Burridge Farm, especially late at night.

After discussion, it was AGREED that an initial approach be made by Members to the owners of the Farm to establish if contractors could be asked to be respectful of driving through a residential area and the speed limit in place.

NM203-24 Financial Matters

- (a) The Chair referred to the accounts for payment. It was AGREED unanimously that the following accounts be agreed for payment:
- Clerk's Wages – March - £299.60
 - PAYE – March – £74.80
 - Village Handyman – March - £151.77

- Newark & Sherwood District Council – Dog Bin Emptying - £480.48
- John Miller – Christmas Trees - £180
- Primeprint – Printing - £345
- Network Sports – Football Goals & Basketball Nets - £1,369.92
- MRCC - £34.17
- Talbot Builders – Installation of Football Goals & Basketball Nets - £449.37
- Keyhole IT – Renewal of Muskham Memories site - £84
- ESET – Virus Protection - £44.99
- Action Demolition – Demolition of Skatepark - £960
- ICO – Annual Registration - £35
- Mrs Peach – Refund of Allotment Deposit - £50
- PWLB Loan – First Payment - £1,697.24
- Lindum – Skip Hire - £288

The following receipts were noted:

- Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery – £120
- Donation from Mary Woolhouse Foundation - £1,691.60
- Donation from MRCC - £197.75
- Allotment Rents -£93.76
- Nottinghamshire County Council - £400

(b) Financial Report as at 31st March 2024

Members noted the financial report which showed a balance as at 31st March 2024 of £50,379.62 across all the Parish Council's accounts.

(c) To consider a request from the Muskham Rural Community Centre for Grant Support

Members noted that the MRCC had been successful in their bid to Newark & Sherwood District Council for grant funding.

As previously agreed, Members considered the request for grant support. The Clerk confirmed that a figure of £2,000 had been included when the budget for 2024-25 had been set.

It was proposed by Councillor Hutchings, seconded by Councillor Talbot, that support in the sum of £2,000 be given. This was unanimously AGREED.

(d) To note the submission of the 2023/24 accounts for internal audit

The Clerk advised that the 2023/24 accounts had been prepared for submission for internal audit.

(e) To note correspondence received from PKF Littlejohn regarding the 2023-24 External Review

The Clerk advised that correspondence had been received from PKF Littlejohn regarding the 2023-24 External Review. The Clerk would now work towards the deadlines given within the correspondence.

NM204-24 Notts Association of Local Councils

- (a) To note the Clerk's attendance on a Bio-Diversity Training Course
Members noted that the Clerk would be attending Bio-Diversity Training on Wednesday, 10th April 2024.

NM205-24 Correspondence

There was none to consider.

NM206-24 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 13th May 2024

NM207-24 To consider the exclusion of the press and public:

That pursuant to the provision of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

Muskham Rural Community Centre and potential development partnerships

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.