

NORTH MUSKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 9th May 2022 at the Muskham Rural Community Centre at 7pm

Present: **Councillor I Harrison**
 Councillor B Bearpark
 Councillor S Dolby
 Councillor N Hutchings
 Councillor D Saxton
 Councillor M Talbot

Also in attendance Councillor B Loughton and Mr & Mrs Readman (Capturing Memories)

Apologies for absence

Received and accepted from Councillor Beddoe.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5th May 2021 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman

Matters Arising

None

Presentation of Reports

Chairman of the Parish Council 2021/22 – Cllr I Harrison

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

The Chairman reflected that it was appropriate to thank Members who have continued to provide unrewarded service to the community in the past year.

Members join the Parish Council because they want to help the North Muskham community grow and develop and have a wish to support and nurture the lives of its inhabitants. Thanks were extended to Ben Bearpark, a recently co-opted Member, who had already made a significant difference to various initiatives.

Thanks also extended to Jayne Saunders, Clerk, for her continued tolerance, hard work and understanding and also the village handy man contractor John Dodson for helping to keep the village spick and span.

Thanks also to Councillors Sue Saddington and Bruce Loughton whose support and help is appreciated especially as times and budgets get tighter and Parish Council's see less of officers actually attending meetings.

Achievements in the past year include:

- Road resurfacing throughout the village including Vicarage Lane

- Play equipment grant of £55k won by the PC
- Village clean up
- The allotment maturity and new facilities
- A grant won from NSDC for the Wi Fi and CCTV at the Village Hall
- A competent and reasonable determination of various planning items
- Xmas tree lights switch on at the Ferry
- Emergency renovation of the skatepark
- Continued support of the village hall

The year ahead will throw up challenges but the Chair was confident that the Parish Council would confront them and deal with them in the same competent and supportive way it has in the past.

Communication again will be key and a North Muskhams Village Facebook page, to support the village web site will be launched. It is important for the Parish Council to engage with the community and encouragement involvement.

Going forward the Chair would wish the Parish Council to continue to progress and would like to invest time in looking further at:

- Village Neighbourhood Plan- sub - committee and non - council volunteers
- Resurfacing of the Old Great North Road
- The protection and, if possible, the acquisition of the lakeside area
- More village events and celebrations
- To look again at a village shop and indeed a bowling green

To close, the Chair recognised the tremendous efforts of others in the village who have made lives better, including Lisa Atkinson, Andy Willey, Geoff and Anne Readman and the key supporters of our churches and our Vicar, Reverend Hadley. The Chair again thanked everyone and was looking forward to celebrating the reign of our glorious Queen, with the village, in June.

MRCC Report - Chairman

No report was presented.

Presentation of Charity Accounts

Muskhams Rural Community Centre

The accounts had been circulated to Members for information in advance of the meeting.

It was noted that £19,000 had been received in COVID grants, which had allowed £12,250 to be transferred to savings. A copy of the accounts would be displayed in the village noticeboards. The Chair acknowledged the excellent work by Jude Andrews in supporting the MRCC.

Councillor Talbot asked if Parish Council representatives on the MRCC Committee could raise upgrading the kitchen to make it better for external hirers.

Mary Woolhouse Charity

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

Councillor Talbot advised that the Charity were trying to amend their constitution as at the moment funds could only be used for the education of children. £23,000 was given in grants in 2021.

John Smith Charity

The Chair referred to a long standing charity, with trustees from North Muskham, Bathley and Holme. A balance of £1,000 remained. It was understood that only one trustee remained. Councillor Saxton to liaise with the trustee to discuss the option of closing the charity and transferring balance to the Parish Council as an earmarked reserve.

County Councillor Report

Councillor Laughton referred to the number of primary schools that were struggling. The County Council were able to help them to be multi-academy trusts, which they were required to be by 2030.

Thanks were extended to the Chair for attending the Parish and Town Council Conference on Thursday, 5th May 2022.

Presentation by Capturing Memories

Geoff and Ann Readman advised that it had been a privilege to be involved in the project, but other priorities now meant they had to step away. The Steering Group was still in place but only meeting irregularly. Although primary school children had been enthusiastic, it had been difficult to engage with younger members of the village in the process. The majority of memories captured were from the older generation.

A 20 page hard backed book was in the process of being put together, with assistance from Councillor Saxton. The final draft would be signed off by the Steering Group before printing.

A way of continuing to capture memories in future years would need to be considered.

The Chair thanked Geoff and Ann for their excellent work in pulling memories together and safeguarding them for future generations.

Public Question Time

None were raised.

The meeting closed at 7.37pm