

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 12th FEBRUARY 2024 MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday, 8th January 2024 in the MRCC, Nelson Lane, North Muskham at 7pm

Present: Councillor I Harrison (Chair)
Councillor P Beddoe
Councillor S Dolby
Councillor N Hutchings
Councillor A Oliver
Councillor S Preston

Also present 6 member of the public, County Councillor Laughton and District Councillor Mrs Saddington (7.26pm)

NM141-24 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Talbot.

NM142-24 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Friday, 29th December 2023 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

NM143-24 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Beddoe declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9(a).

NM144-24 Public 10 Minute Session

The Chair suspended Standing Orders at 7.02pm for any questions from the public. None were raised so Standing Orders were reinstated and the meeting reconvened.

NM145-24 To consider any matters that need to be raised with County Councillor update Cllr Laughton

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.03pm to allow County Councillor Laughton to present his report.

Councillor Laughton referred to the recent flooding in the area. It was pleasing to note that no properties in North Muskham had been flooded. There had been issues with the flood alerts issued by the Environment Agency and these had been highlighted.

The floods had had a major impact on road surfaces which Via were aware of and were doing their best to address. There were also some issues around road closures, particularly of Trent Lane.

There had been a lot of press around the bankruptcy of Nottingham City Council. The County Council would shortly be putting forward a balanced budget proposal for 2024 and 2025.

The Chair advised that, together with the Clerk and Cllr Oliver, he had been involved in the Emergency Group meetings with Newark & Sherwood District Council on flooding. Feedback on the situation within individual communities had been requested. Councillor Laughton would be copied in to the response submitted.

Discussion took place around the recent fluvial flooding event which had seen 200 properties with internal flooding over the whole of Nottinghamshire. During the Storm Babet pluvial event, internal flooding had been nearly 6 times worse. Efforts were being made to engage the Environment Agency in pluvial flooding, as well as fluvial flooding. The Environment Agency held all the funding available for flood defences.

Councillor Talbot asked whether there was any follow up inspection when work to potholes had been completed. Councillor Laughton advised he would check and feedback.

The Chair referred to the condition of the A616 from the Cattle Market roundabout to the mini roundabout at British Sugar. It was severely pitted and drivers were swerving around potholes. The Clerk advised this had been reported previously and advice received that works were being considered but had to be co-ordinated with the Highways Agency. Councillor Laughton to follow up.

Reference was made to the recent closure of Vicarage Lane between 8am and 3.30pm for repair. Very little work appeared to have been undertaken. The Clerk to raise with Officers.

The Chair thanked Councillor Laughton for his report and reconvened the meeting at 7.18pm.

NM146-24 Nottinghamshire County Council

There were no matters to consider.

NM147-24 To consider any matters that need to be raised with District Cllr Mrs Saddington

This item would be taken if and when Cllr Mrs Saddington arrived.

NM148-24 Newark & Sherwood District Council

There were no items to consider.

NM149-24 Planning

(a) 23/01437/HOUSE – South View, Crab Lane, North Muskham - Demolish conservatory. Erect two storey and single storey extensions

Prior to consideration of this item, Councillor Beddoe withdrew from the room.

Members noted the Conservation Officer's comments on the planning portal. Councillor Hutchings questioned whether this application should have been validated as the incorrect form had been submitted for the flood risk assessment.

After consideration, it was proposed by Councillor Talbot, seconded by Councillor Hutchings, that objection be raised on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site and the design not being in keeping with the character of the area. Further there were some concerns regarding the lack of a robust Flood Risk Assessment. This was unanimously AGREED.

Councillor Beddoe rejoined the meeting.

NM147-24 To consider any matters that need to be raised with District Cllr Mrs Saddington

(cont)

With the arrival of Cllr Mrs Saddington, the Chair suspended the meeting at 7.27pm for her report.

Councillor Mrs Saddington referred to the recent flooding and queried the response to the threat to the Sub-Station. Councillor Preston advised that the Fire Brigade had attended and the sandbags delivered had been deployed to protect the sub-station.

Reference was made to problems with dykes and drains that needed to be addressed. Cllr Mrs Saddington would be raising these issues with appropriate Officers.

The Chair thanked Cllr Mrs Saddington for her report and reconvened the meeting at 7.30pm.

NM149-24 Planning

(cont)

(b) 23/02108/TPO – 22 The Grange, North Muskham - Undertake works to trees protected by TPO 96 identified as part of W1 T1 Mature Oak - crown lift to 4m above ground level; 20% crown thin to inner canopy; remove deadwood over 30mm diameter; reduce to give 2.5m clearance from property

Members noted the application for tree works and that permission had been granted for the works.

(c) Decision Notices – There were none to receive at the time of setting the agenda
There were none to receive.

(d) Update on progress with the Neighbourhood Plan
The Clerk advised that a meeting of the Steering Group would be planned before the end of January.

NM150-24 Parish Council Matters

(a) Allotments/Green Hub Report

Councillor Preston referred to the report from the Sub-Committee which outlined the dimensions of the track to the plots.

The Clerk confirmed that CEMEX had been given the dimensions of the track and would liaise with them on any help they may be able to give, but Members did not consider it necessary to resurface the whole length.

(b) To note the outcome on the application to the Community Ownership Fund for North Marsh and correspondence from Robert Jenrick MP

The Chair referred to correspondence received from the Department of Levelling Up confirming that the Parish Council had been successful in its application to the Community Ownership Fund. The grant consisted of £188,000 capital, and a £20,000 revenue fund. Any money granted had to be spent by December 2024.

The Parish Council will share finite details on the level of bid when it was able to do so. Consideration was also being given to applying for a PWLB loan and other sources of additional funding.

A letter to residents inviting donations was also being considered.

Members noted the letter from Robert Jenrick MP congratulating the Parish Council on its successful bid.

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.37pm to allow questions from the public.

A resident asked what the commercial value of the land was if the Parish Council were unsuccessful in its bid.

The Chair advised that, based purely on the advertising brochure, and the Parish Council's independent valuation, the interest would be recreational and fishing. There may be some issues with fishing rights and also access but they were unsubstantiated. Ultimately, the owner would decide on which bid to accept.

A resident suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to the MP for supporting the Parish Council's bid to the Community Ownership Fund.

(c) To receive an update on the complaint made to NCHA

The Chair referred to the background to the complaint which centred around the Section 106 agreement and local connection.

A final written response was now expected by 14th January 2024.

(d) To note progress with the Community Flood Plan and the appointment of Flood Wardens

The Chair referred to the plan drafted by the Clerk, which looked at all areas of risk. This had been forwarded to the Emergency Planning team at Nottinghamshire County Council for comment and would be brought to the February meeting.

Members noted that the contents of the resilience store needed to be reviewed. The Clerk advised that Aqua Sacs could be re-used if they were not contaminated.

Councillor Preston would monitor the sandbags at the sub-station on Mackleys Lane. Arrangements would be made to collect the sandbags from Crab Lane.

(e) To note community consultation events arranged by Elements Green on the Great North Road Solar Park proposals

The Clerk referred to correspondence received from Elements Green advising that the first stage of community consultation would start early this year, and that they were currently liaising with venues to arrange a series of consultation events in the local area. When the details of the events have been confirmed Elements Green advised that they will advertise them widely within the community and also contact the Parish Council.

However, it was understood that events had already been arranged as follows:

Tuesday, 30th January – Eakring Cator Hall – 12 Noon to 6pm
Wednesday, 31st January – Laxton Village Hall – 2pm to 6pm
Thursday, 1st February – Newark Town Hall – 12 Noon to 6pm
Thursday, 8th February – Carlton-on-Trent Village Hall – 2pm to 6pm
Friday, 9th February – Maplebeck Village Hall – 2pm to 8pm
Saturday, 10th February – Kelham House Country Manor – 12pm to 5pm

The Clerk was asked to request an early visit from Elements Green, but in the event that this could not be arranged before 30th January, Members were asked to try and attend the Eakring event.

NM151-24 Environmental & Community Issues

(a) Play Area

The Clerk confirmed that the annual inspections of the play area and skatepark had been undertaken. The play area report would now be reviewed with the village handyman. There were areas of moderate risk that related to the grass matting underneath three items of equipment.

It was AGREED that the Clerk would seek a quotation from DCM Surfacing to replace the mats with rubber mulch and bring back to the February meeting.

The Chair advised that the skatepark would be dismantled as soon as the field was dry enough to access by the contractor.

NM152-24 Highways

(a) Highways Log

This item had been covered under Minute No NM145-24.

(b) Roadworks Bulletin – Bathley Lane, North Muskham – 3rd to 4th February 2024

Members received and noted the bulletin outlining work on Bathley Lane.

NM153-24 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 – December - £299.60
- PAYE – December – £74.80
- Village Handyman – December - £148.50
- Christmas Lights Event - £150
- DCM Surfacing Ltd – Play Area Resurfacing – £4,980
- MRCC – Half of Grass Cutting Bill – 01.10-31.12.23 - £131.08
- MRCC – 50% of Car Park Electricity – April to Nov 23 - £187.46
- IONOS – Domain Renewal - £11.99
- Tuxford Lawnmower Centre – Mower Service - £294.66
- MRCC – Nov & Dec Meetings - £25
- Newark & Sherwood District Council – Inspections - £114

A donation of £20 to the Church was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Dolby, for the disposal of the Christmas trees.

The following receipts were noted:

- Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery – £116.50

(b) Financial Report as at 31st December 2023

Members received and noted the financial report as at 31st December 2023 which showed a balance of £47,518 across all the Council's accounts.

(c) To consider a report to apply for a Public Works Loan Board

Members considered the report to apply for a Public Works Loan Board for North Marsh.

After consideration they AGREED a resolution that North Muskham Parish Council should apply to the Secretary of State for borrowing approval for the sum of £47,000 repayable over a 50 year term at an anticipated annual cost of £2,985, for the purpose outlined in the report to the 8th January 2024 meeting of the Parish Council and in the North Marsh Business Plan.

It was further resolved that the Parish Council undertakes to notify the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), as soon as reasonably practicable, in the event:-

- of not exercising the approval, or,
- it finds that the original amount requested is greater than the actual borrowing need.

(d) To consider a budget for the 2024-25 financial year and determine the Precept

In view of the unknown impact of North Marsh it was AGREED that consideration of the budget be deferred to the February meeting. The Clerk would advise Newark & Sherwood District Council.

NM154-24 Notts Association of Local Councils

There were no matters to consider.

NM155-24 Correspondence

There was none to consider.

NM156-24 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 12th February 2024

NM157-24 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.

North Marsh Community Ownership Fund

(NM158-24)