SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 14th APRIL 2025 MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday, 10th March 2025 at the MRCC commencing at 7pm.

Present: **Councillor I Harrison (Chair)**
Councillor G Hobbs
Councillor S Dolby
Councillor Mrs A Luke
Councillor M Talbot

Also in attendance: 10 members of the public & District Councillor Mrs Saddington

NM165-25 Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Hutchings and Preston, and County Councillor Laughton.

NM166-25 Declarations of Interest
There were none.

NM167-25 Minutes
Subject to an amendment to Minute No NM149-25 to read District Councillor Mrs Saddington, minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 10th February 2025 were accepted as a true and correct record.

NM168-25 Public 10 Minute Session
The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.01pm for the public session.

The Reform candidate for the Nottinghamshire County Council elections, Jacqueline Gozzard, introduced herself to the meeting.

No further questions were raised so the meeting was reconvened.

NM169-25 To consider any matters that need to be raised with District Cllr Mrs Saddington
The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.03pm for Councillor Mrs Saddington's report.

Councillor Mrs Saddington advised that the District Council had set an increase in the Council tax of 1.94%. An increase of 2.99% had originally been put forward by the Administration but that had been amended by motion at Council.

A discussion took place around the process in relation to Local Government Reform.

The Chair thanked Councillor Mrs Saddington for her report and reconvened the meeting at 7.12pm.

NM170-25 Newark & Sherwood District Council

There were no matters to consider.

NM171-25 To consider any matters that need to be raised with County Councillor Laughton

There were no matters that needed to be raised.

NM172-25 Nottinghamshire County Council

(a) To receive any decision notices in relation to the applications submitted in relation to Cromwell Quarry

The Clerk advised that no decision notices were yet available in relation to the applications submitted for extensions and changes at Cromwell quarry.

NM173-25 Planning

(a) 24/01912/LBC – The Shades, Main Street, North Muskham - Conversion of outhouse to residential accommodation with new cladding and rooflights

Before considering this application, the Chair reminded Members, and members of the public present, that the Parish Council could only consider matters contained within the documents before them.

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.14pm to allow members of the public to participate.

Concerns were expressed in relation to the proposed cladding and the suitability of that on a Listed Building, access to the footpath in relation to the curtilage of the building. Concern was also expressed in relation to the front boundary wall that, while not part of this application, was in a poor state of repair.

The Chair thanked residents for their participation and reconvened the meeting.

Councillor Talbot expressed concern in relation to access. It was noted that there was no response from Highways yet available on the portal. The Chair reassured Members that all highways issued would be assessed and considered by the Highways Authority and included in their response to the application.

Councillor Hobbs referred to the comments from the Conservation Officer.

After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Hobbs, seconded by Councillor Talbot, that objection be raised to the application on the grounds that the design and visual appearance of the proposals were not in keeping with the character of the area. This was AGREED with 4 votes for and one abstention.

(b) 24/00304/FULM – Burridge Farm, Crab Lane, North Muskham - Change of use from agricultural to dog walking field. Erection of fencing (revised information)

Members noted the changes to the access that had now been made, which moved it away from properties on Crab Lane.

The Chair referred to the latest comments on the portal from Highways which were asking for a number of changes to the proposals submitted.

After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Talbot, seconded by Councillor Mrs Luke, that the application be supported. This was unanimously AGREED.

(c) 25/00065/TPO – The Lodge Cottage, Old Great North Road, North Muskham - Undertake works to tree protected by TPO N1 - The Grange, North Muskham - 1 Oak tree reduce crown, remove dead and damaged wood. Raise lower crown

Members received and noted the application for tree works as outlined.

(d) Neighbourhood Plan Update

Councillor Hobbs referred to the update circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. There were now 20 members of the group.

A Consultant, Town-Country Planning, had been appointed and would be at the next meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, 13th March 2025. A first instalment fee of £1,550 had been paid to them by the Parish Council.

The setting of the neighbourhood area remained a key area. Bathley had confirmed that they did not want to be involved.

The Chair suggested that an invitation be extended to South Muskham & Little Carlton to attend the meeting on the 13th March.

The Chair thanked Councillor Hobbs for the update.

NM174-25 Parish Council Matters

(a) Allotments/Green Hub Report

- To receive an update on the current situation with vacant plots
- To receive feedback from the site visit to the allotments

Members had visited the allotment on Sunday, 9th March 2025 to inspect the condition of plots and the wider area, and to discuss with the Allotment Sub-Committee the number of vacant plots on the site.

Members noted that 7 plots were currently vacant which remained vacant, despite advertisements around the village. While on site Members had discussed grassing over three plots and moving the community plot to an alternative location. A quotation had been requested to undertake this work, and to also paint the container. Delegated authority was given to the Chair and Clerk to progress this work up to a cost of £1,250.

However, after further discussion, the Clerk was asked to contact Newark Town Council to establish if they had a waiting list for allotment plots and, if so, whether they could be advised of the vacancies at North Muskham.

Solar Developments:

(b)
- To note the Parish Council's submission to Phase 2 of the Community Consultation to GNR Solar

Members noted that the Parish Council's submission had been made to Elements Green prior to the deadline of 20th February 2025. A copy had been circulated to Members for information. This document would now be added to the Parish Council's website.

The Chair extended his thanks to everyone who had provided information that had been included within the submission. Going forward, consideration would need to be given on the areas of competency the Parish Council would need support on.

(c) To note the JPAG submission to Phase 2 of the Community Consultation to GNR Solar

Members noted that the JPAG submission to Phase 2 had also been made to Elements Green prior to the deadline of 20th February 2025.

The Chair considered that JPAG would need to start to look at the next phase and would arrange a meeting prior of the group prior to the end of April.

(d) Emergency Plan Update

Councillor Hobbs referred to the update circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

A run-through had been arranged for Saturday, 5th April, between 9.30am and 12.30pm at the MRCC.

(e) To note concerns of residents regarding development at 'North Marsh' and actions taken by the Parish Council

The Chair advised that a meeting had been held with the Rights of Way Officer on site. It was noted that the owner had given some assurances on the Muskham Messenger with regard to their intentions for the site.

(f) To consider an event to commemorate V E Day

After discussion, it was AGREED that a Beacon Lighting be held on the evening of Thursday, 8th May, at 9.30pm, at the Ferry, together with a period quiz. The Chair advised that a discussion had been held with the landlady to have Fish & Chips available on the evening.

(g) To note the receipt of documents relating to the John Smith Charity and to determine appropriate action

The Clerk advised that no contact had yet been made with the Trustee to arrange receipt of the documents relating to the Charity. After discussion, it was AGREED that Councillor Talbot would look to progress this.

(h) To consider a request from Muskham Players regarding provision of a container at the MRCC

Members noted the request from the Muskham Players regarding the provision of a container at the MRCC.

After discussion, it was AGREED that the Parish Council would not make a donation to the Muskham Players. Instead, it would give a donation of £1,000 to the MRCC towards the provision of new benches which would allow the MRCC to then support the Muskham Players with a new container.

NM175-25 Environmental & Community Issues

(a) Play Area – To receive an update on resurfacing

Members noted that the resurfacing had been undertaken underneath one of the three areas.

The Clerk advised that no response had yet been received from Nottinghamshire County Council regarding the application to the Local Communities Fund. The Chair asked the Clerk to contact Councillor Laughton to determine when a response may be received. Subject to that response, the contractor may be asked to progress with the balance of the work.

(b) To receive an update on proposals for a community cafe and hub at the MRCC in partnership with the Methodist Church and an update on the survey results

The results of the survey recently undertaken in the community had been circulated to Members for information, and a copy had been placed on the Parish Council's website.

The Chair advised that a proposal from the Methodist Chapel was awaited before moving forward. The survey results would be raised at the MRCC meeting on Tuesday, 11th March.

A resident expressed concern at the survey and would have reservations at it being used as a basis for decision making.

The Chair advised that a public meeting would be arranged at a future date where all parties would be in attendance.

(c) To receive correspondence from the Newark & Sherwood Alliance for Nature and People in relation to the use of pesticides

Members noted the correspondence received from the Newark & Sherwood Alliance for Nature and People. The Clerk advised that pesticides were used by the Village Handyman to manage weeds on the play area.

After discussion, Members asked that any use of pesticides be ceased with immediate effect.

(d) To receive a report on the Village Defibrillators

Councillor Mrs Luke advised that the defibrillator at the north of the village needed to be moved as the building was no longer available. The Chair requested that the defib be disconnected, with any costs to be met by the Parish Council. An alternative location was currently being sought.

Councillor Mrs Luke advised that a message would be put out into the community to advise that the defib was unavailable and also logged on the Circuit. Councillor Mrs Luke would also

ask for expressions of interest in a first aid training session, which would be arranged depending on the response.

(e) To receive a report on the Newark Health Consultative Group meeting

Councillor Mrs Luke advised that the next meeting of the Group was scheduled to be held on Friday, 21st March 2025.

(f) To receive a briefing note on access to Urgent Care in the Newark area

Members received and noted the briefing note as circulated.

NM176-25 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 – February - £323.30
- PAYE – February – £80.80
- Village Handyman – February - £293.04
- Refund of Allotment Deposit -
- Amazon – A3 Printer - £162
- Town-Country Planning – Neighbourhood Plan First Stage - £1,550
- Town-Country Planning – JPAG Consultancy Fee - £2524.50
- Land Registry – Title Plans for Neighbourhood Plan - £91
- Low Maintenance Gardens – Part Resurfacing - £1,368
- William Electrical – Electrical Connection for Emergency Plan – £524.84
- Smiths Timbers – Wood Stain - £32.95
- Notts ALC – Training - £90
- ICO Renewal - £47
- Cllr Hobbs – Mileage for Training - £25.20

To note any Receipts

The following receipts were noted:

- Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery - £130
- Allotment Rents - £383.75
- Crowdfunding – Swings - £20

(b) Financial Report as at 28th February 2025

The financial report as at 28th February 2025 was received, with Members noting a balance of £57,904.60 across all the Council's accounts.

NM177-25 Highways

(a) Highways Log

Members noted that no repairs had yet been carried out to the highway damaged by the recent motorbike fire. The Clerk would take the matter up directly with Officers at Via.

NM178-25 **Notts Association of Local Councils**

(a) March Newsletter

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

NM179-25 **Correspondence**

There was none to consider.

NM180-25 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 14th April 2025