

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 8th APRIL 2024 MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday, 11th March 2024 in the MRCC, Nelson Lane, North Muskham at 7pm

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

Also present 8 members of the public and District Councillor Mrs Saddington

NM173-24 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Beddoe.

NM174-24 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th February 2024 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

NM175-24 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Hutchings declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 10(b). However, as this was just to note a decision notice the Clerk confirmed there would be no requirement to leave the meeting.

NM176-24 Public 10 Minute Session

The Chair suspended Standing Orders at 7.01pm for any questions from the public.

There were no questions raised so the meeting was immediately reconvened.

NM177-24 To welcome a Planning Policy Officer from Newark & Sherwood District Council to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.02pm and welcomed Matthew Norton, Business Manager – Planning Policy & Infrastructure with Newark & Sherwood District Council to the meeting to discuss how to implement a Neighbourhood Plan.

A presentation was made to the meeting which outlined the process required for a Plan. The process can take between 18 months and 2 years to complete so there needed to be an investment of time and commitment by the Parish Council and members of the Steering Group to complete it. The Plan needed to be community led and consultation had to be correct and demonstrable. Should the decision be made to produce a Neighbourhood Plan support would be provided by Newark & Sherwood District Council.

The Chair thanked Mr Norton for his presentation, a copy of which had been circulated to Members for information in advance of the meeting and opened the meeting for questions from members of the public present.

- How long a Neighbourhood Plan was valid for?

Mr Norton advised that the longer a plan was in existence then the less weight it had. Government advice was that the District Council's strategic plan should be reviewed every 5 years, but there was a lighter touch way of reviewing Neighbourhood Plans.

- Could a village envelope be formally included within a Neighbourhood Plan?

Yes would apply.

- Does the District Council provide advice on the criteria that should be included in a plan?

Yes. There are a range of things that can be included as long as the decision making process is listed.

- Is there any kind of formal timetable for project management of Plan?

Yes, one can be downloaded from the Locality website.

- Can a joint plan be put together with adjacent communities?

Yes, but it would be designated as a neighbourhood area.

- How much evidence would be needed for the community consultation?

It would depend on what was included within the Neighbourhood Plan. If it were to include the allocation of sites for housing, more work would need to be done. There would be a need to demonstrate that evidence has been gathered, consultation undertaken and the plan prepared accordingly.

- Would a referendum need to be done every time something in the plan changed?

Advice was that it would, especially with a large community. In reality, however, it would depend on the changes.

- Will Neighbourhood Plans be included in the proposals the Government are introducing to streamline the planning structure?

This was unclear at the moment.

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

It was AGREED that the Parish Council would look at the possibility and need to do any joint planning with Bathley, and possibly with South Muskham. It was further AGREED that as soon as grant funding from Locality was open an application would be made for support. Following that the offer made by Newark & Sherwood District Council for support would be accepted and a meeting of the Steering Group convened.

NM178-24 To consider any matters that need to be raised with District Cllr Mrs Saddington

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.34pm to allow District Cllr Mrs Saddington to present her report.

Councillor Mrs Saddington advised that she was monitoring the comments on the proposed Elements Green solar park but could not comment direct as she was a member of the Planning Committee, where the application would be considered at some point.

On 8th April the Notts Bus on Demand Service will be introduced to serve Zone 5, covering Farndon and Bingham, including a stop at the East Bridgford Garden Centre.

A resident asked if the Notts Bus on Demand Service would form part of the Integrated Transport Plan that will be included within the Elected Mayor role. As, if so, new lines of communication would need to be established.

Councillor Mrs Saddington understood that was the plan.

The Chair thanked Cllr Mrs Saddington for her report and reconvened the meeting at 7.42pm.

NM179-24 Newark & Sherwood District Council

To note the consultation on Public Space Protection Orders

Members noted the consultation currently running on Public Space Protection Orders, which included dog control orders.

There were no specific dog control on lead orders in the village and the Chair questioned whether Members considered there would be support from residents to introduce one along the Right of Way by the River Trent. It was AGREED that the village be canvassed on whether this would be supported.

NM180-24 To consider any matters that need to be raised with County Councillor update Cllr Laughton

There were no matters that needed to be raised.

NM181-24 Nottinghamshire County Council

There were no matters to consider.

NM182-24 Planning

(a) Decision Notices - 23/01698/FUL – The Nook, Marsh Lane, North Muskham – New gabion wall

Members noted that planning permission had been refused for the development as outlined.

Councillor Talbot queried whether there was a right of way where gates had been put across by the owners, but after investigation it was confirmed there was not.

NM183-24 Parish Council Matters

(a) Allotments/Green Hub Report

The Chair referred to the offer received from CEMEX. After discussion it was AGREED that the Chair would review the documentation, with a view to submitting a request for support for the North Marsh area, should the Parish Council bid be successful, as this was considered more suitable.

The Clerk was asked to seek an alternative source for the aggregate required to fill in the potholes at the allotments.

Councillor Preston referred to a request received from a new plot holder to erect a temporary frame. Members confirmed that, as long as this complied with the allotment guidelines, there was no objection.

It was AGREED that an inspection of the allotments take place shortly. The Clerk would liaise with Councillor Preston on timings.

Members were pleased to note that the allotments were at 100% capacity at the moment.

(b) To receive an update on the present position with the North Marsh Community Ownership Bid

The Chair updated Members on the present position. A meeting had been held with the owners, but they had confirmed they wanted to wait until closer to the expiry of the Asset of Community Value deadline of 8th April before agreeing any sale. There was more work to be done before an offer was made. Discussions had also been held with the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust to establish if there was the opportunity for any mutual benefit.

The Clerk confirmed that the request for borrowing approval for a Public Works Loan Board had been successful. In that regard, the Chair advised that if the project failed a reducing Precept would be applied for the 2025-26 financial year.

Some notable donations had been received from parishioners in support of the bid and the Chair extended his thanks to those residents for their support.

(c) To note the request made for an official portrait of HM King Charles III
Members noted that a request had been made and that the MRCC would be asked for permission to place it in the Small Hall where Parish Council meetings are held.

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

The Clerk updated on the present position with Flood Wardens. Online training was in the process of being arranged by Nottinghamshire County Council.

The Chair referred to the need to identify people with skills in the community that might be of benefit in an emergency. It was AGREED that an article be included in the Muskham Magazine to invite people to come forward.

The Clerk was asked to seek confirmation on whether the resilience store would be replenished by the District Council.

Book skip for 6th April 2024 – 8 yard. Next to bottle bins.

(e) To note distribution of letters regarding the questionnaire relating to the GNR Solar Park proposals

Distribution of the letters containing details of the questionnaire relating to the GNR Solar Park proposals was ongoing, with completion expected before the end of the week. The results of the survey would assist the Parish Council in gauging the views of the community on the proposals. The closing date was 31st March so results should be available for presentation to the Parish Council meeting on 8th April.

(f) To receive feedback on a meeting held on 31st January 2024 to discuss grave space in Newark and the surrounding area

The Clerk confirmed that she had attended the meeting held on 31st January, which had also been attended by local undertakers, and Parish Council's that had burial capacity.

Discussion had centred on the number of spaces available and whether there was any appetite for working together to provide a new Cemetery. Notes of the meeting had not yet been received.

The Chair considered that the Town Council should be considering a new crematorium, which could provide significant income and be better for families rather than travelling to Mansfield, Ollerton, Grantham or Lincoln.

NM184-24 Environmental & Community Issues

(a) Play Area

It was AGREED that a report be brought back to the April meeting regarding the resurfacing project.

(b) To consider a joint litter pick with Bathley and South Muskham

The Chair referred to the sterling work undertaken by two residents in the village with their ongoing litter pick. A request had been made if a community litter pick could be arranged, including Bathley, as there was considerable litter on the outskirts of the two communities.

After discussion, a date of Saturday, 6th April 2024 was AGREED, with a start time of 10am. The Clerk would liaise with Bathley Parish Council and would also request litter picking equipment from Newark & Sherwood District Council.

NM185-24 Highways

(a) Highways Log

The Clerk confirmed there were no matters on the log at the moment.

(b) To consider requesting additional street lighting on Great North Road, Waltons Lane and Ferry Lane

After discussion, it was AGREED that the Clerk submit a request for additional street lighting on Great North Road, Waltons Lane and Ferry lane.

(c) To receive feedback on a meeting held with Via regarding the condition of roads in the village

Members noted that Councillors Oliver and Preston had met with an officer from Via on Tuesday, 5th March.

The Clerk would chase for feedback from Via on actions that needed to be taken after the meeting. Further queries to be raised with Via regarding the lighting column that is in the MRCC car park, but where it is considered the feed is from the supply to the street lights on Nelson Lane.

(d) To receive an update from Via regarding the bollard on Ferry Lane

The Clerk confirmed this matter had been logged with Via in November 2023. The Clerk was asked to seek an urgent response as anti-social behaviour was being experienced with people turning up in the early hours of the morning and launching fishing boats from the slipway without permission. It was noted that they were also driving along the bridleway. Members were keen to establish a solution before fishing season began in June.

NM186-24 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 – February - £299.60
- PAYE – February – £74.80
- Village Handyman – February - £176.82
- Newark & Sherwood District Council – 2023 Election Expenses - £1,881.04
- MRCC – February Meeting - £12.50
- MRCC – March Meeting - £12.50

- Keyhole IT Solutions – Domain Renewal - £11.99
- Tuxford Lawnmower Centre – Equipment Service – £156
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The following receipts were noted:

- Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery – £150
- Donations towards North Marsh – £760
- Allotment Rents -£445.25
- Wordprint – Refund of Overpayment - £25

(b) Financial Report as at 29th February 2024

Members received and noted the financial report as at 29th February 2024 which showed a balance of £54,458.18 across all the Council's accounts.

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

It was AGREED that this be deferred for consideration at the April meeting as the outcome of the application to Newark & Sherwood District Council for grant funding had not yet been received.

(d) To confirm the appointment of the Internal Auditor for the 2023/24 accounts

It was AGREED that BMB Financial Services Ltd be confirmed as the Internal Auditor for the 2023/24 accounts.

(d) To note the outcome of an application made to the Mary Woolhouse Charity for financial support to provide equipment for the playing field

Members were delighted to note that the application to the Mary Woolhouse Charity for financial support to provide equipment for the playing field had been approved. A sum of £1,691.60 had been received which would enable the provision and installation of basketball hoops and football goals.

The Clerk was asked to formally thank the Trustees for their support and progress the purchase and installation of the equipment as soon as possible.

NM187-24 Notts Association of Local Councils

(a) March Newsletter

Members noted the March Newsletter which had been circulated for information.

NM188-24 Correspondence

There was none to consider.

NM189-24 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 8th April 2024

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.