SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 12th MAY 2025 MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday, 14th April 2025 at the MRCC commencing at 7pm.

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

Also in attendance: 16 members of the public

NM181-25 Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Preston, County Councillor Laughton and District Councillor Mrs Saddington.

NM182-25 Declarations of Interest
There were none.

NM183-25 Minutes
The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 10th March 2025 were accepted as a true and correct record.

NM184-25 Public 10 Minute Session
The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.01pm for the public session.

No questions were raised so the meeting was reconvened.

NM185-25 To consider any matters that need to be raised with District Cllr Mrs Saddington
There were no matters that needed to be raised.

NM186-25 Newark & Sherwood District Council

(a) <u>To receive correspondence regarding the outcome of an application to register North Muskham Lake as an Asset of Community Value</u>
The Clerk confirmed that the application to register the Notts Wildlife Trust's Lake adjacent to Manor House Drive as an Asset of Community Value had been accepted by Newark & Sherwood District Council. The Parish Council had made the decision to take this step due to uncertainty in relation to the asset as the Trust reviewed its land holdings and to enable time to secure it should it be allocated for sale.

The Parish Council were pleased to receive confirmation from the Trust that it had no plans to dispose of the lake and had recently agreed to renew fencing and carry out other improvements.

NM187-25 To consider any matters that need to be raised with County Councillor Laughton

There were no matters that needed to be raised.

NM188-25 Nottinghamshire County Council

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

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

(b) <u>To receive correspondence from the Local Communities Fund in relation to the application for resurfacing areas of the play area</u>

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council's application to the Local Communities Fund for a grant of £3,125 towards the resurfacing of three areas on the play area had been successful.

The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council could now proceed with the works and the contractor had been instructed to commence work as soon as possible. Confirmation had been received that work would commence after the Easter break.

Councillor Hobbs referred to the condition of the litter bins. After discussion, it was AGREED that the broken bin at the basketball area be removed, with a new litter bin to be provided at the play area. The Clerk was asked to progress.

Subject to Members approval, the Chair proposed bringing forward 10(d). This was AGREED.

NM189-25 Parish Council Matters

(a) <u>To note concerns of residents regarding development at 'North Marsh' and actions taken by the Parish Council</u>

The Chair recapped on how the land known as 'North Marsh' had changed ownership since the original owners put it up for sale. Unfortunately, the Parish Council's attempts to purchase the land through the Central Government's Community Ownership Fund, and other funding, was unsuccessful and the land subsequently transferred to the present owner, after a preferred bid at the time the original sale failed.

Since the transfer to the new owner, work has been ongoing alongside and adjacent to the footpath. That change has been a concern for some residents but welcomed by others.

The Chair invited comments from Members, prior to suspending the meeting for the public. Councillor Hobbs advised that the people most affected by the changes and impacted the most were those that lived around lakeside. There was a fear that the area would be used as a commercial fishery and reassurances on that would be appreciated.

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.11pm to enable the public to participate.

The owner, who was present, advised there was no intention to cut off the footpath or to put in a commercial fishery. There would be fishing, but it would not be commercial.

In terms of vehicles, there would be a maximum of 5 vehicles per day during a 24 hour period, 3 times a week. Some may be related to disabled charities the owner supported who used fishing as a method of therapy.

Residents may possibly be allowed to fish at some point in the future, but only along the river frontage. Fishing would be allowed from 7am to 7pm, three times a week, and there would be no overnight fishing permitted. Any vehicles would be taken onto the field in the private property area.

The owner advised the following was also planned, but could be subject to change:

- Installation of 8 benches along the length of the river, plus a picnic area
- 100m stretch of pontoon adjacent to the picnic area to allow passing boats to moor. No overnight stays would be permitted.
- 2km of hedgerow, 3-4 acres of woodland, 3 acres of wildflowers and the rest left to grass
- Defining out the footpath at the end of the nature reserve and surfacing up to the farm
- Introduction of a mobile app that would limit the number of people fishing as pre-booking would be required. The limit was proposed to be 5 per day and restrictions on postcodes would be introduced. There would be zero tolerance on people fishing who had not pre-booked.
- Site speed limit would be 5mph
- The lake area would be closed to residents to allow the reintroduction of wildlife
- Some ideas that had previously been considered (e.g., dirt bike track) had now been discounted

The owner advised that the northern lake had been very poorly maintained. Discussions had been held with the Environment Agency and discussions were ongoing with them in terms of them taking over that lake as a safe spawning pool for native fish. This would require a channel to connect to the River Trent should this proceed.

The owner advised that Notts Wildlife Trust were going to be undertaking works to the fencing along their reserve and had advised that the bridleway and footpath would need to be closed for the duration of the works.

The Chair advised that any closure would have to be agreed with Rights of Way, and a diversion order would need to be put in place.

The Chair reminded the public that if the Parish Council had been successful in securing the land, it would have had to instigate maintenance work along the lines of that being undertaken by the owner. The involvement of the Environment Agency sounded like a positive engagement, especially if it brought the northern lake back into use.

Councillor Talbot highlighted the risk of not having gates at Manor House Drive, as it exposed the land. He highlighted the risk of potential illegal encampments as had happened previously in the village.

The Chair referred to the Parish Council's relationship with the land over the years. Whatever happens in the future, the Parish Council will be present and would do its best to work with the owner and all agencies.

Reference was made to discussions with Nottinghamshire County Council's Rights of Way Team, and with Planning at Newark & Sherwood District Council, with responses to queries still outstanding.

The Chair expressed his thanks to everyone who had attended the meeting, and to the landowner for answering questions. It was apparent there were still some concerns that may be ongoing, and the Parish Council would prefer for valid concerns to be channelled through the Parish Council rather than matters becoming a personal issue and directed to the owner.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.52pm.

NM190-25 Planning

(a) 25/00395/FUL – Ashiana Restaurant and Hotel, Great North Road, North Muskham - New hotel room block, replacement and additional car parking. Relocation of flood lighting pole

Discussion took place regarding the proposals submitted, in particular the capacity of car parking.

While it was noted that the applicant had advised that their customer base tended to use taxis, rather than cars, car parking capacity was an issue on a Friday and Saturday night, with cars parked on the highways verge and blocking access for residents.

Members noted the response by Via supporting the application, but questioned the depth of it and whether any inspection of the site had taken place before the comments were submitted.

The Chair suspended the meeting at 8.03pm for public participation.

A resident reported that the amount of car parking spaces was not adequate for the current level of use, and regularly led to difficulties in accessing the residential properties next to the venue. The resident referred to an application that was granted in 2009, which referred to the area where trees were shown on the current application being allocated for parking. All other matters contained within the 2009 permission had been implemented, but not the car parking. The whole site needed to be looked at from a planning perspective.

The Chair thanked the resident for their input and reconvened the meeting at 8.09pm.

After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Hutchings, seconded by Councillor Dolby that the Chair engage with the agent to advise that the Parish Council supported the concerns of residents that there was insufficient car parking, and were aware that this led to inconsiderate parking causing a nuisance to adjacent residential properties, and to determine whether any changes could be made to alleviate and improve this.

The Clerk was asked to request an extension of time from the Planning Officer to allow for further consideration of the car parking and its impact on residents.

(b) 25/00103/OUT – New Manor Park, Main Street, North Muskham - Outline application with all matters reserved for erection of single dwelling

Members considered the documentation in relation to the outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of a single dwelling.

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

(c) 25/00192/CPRIOR – Georges Cottage, Main Street, North Muskham - Application to determine if prior approval is required for proposed change of use from Hairdressers (Class E) to residential annexe (C3) as Schedule 2 Part 3 Class MA

After discussion it was AGREED that the Parish Council's support for this proposed change of use be logged with Newark & Sherwood District Council. Members noted that conversion to a dwelling would reduce the problems previously experienced with traffic parking on Main Streeet.

(d) Neighbourhood Plan Update

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

The group was now in a position to make a recommendation to the Parish Council that the Neighbourhood Plan should solely relate to North Muskham and not include South Muskham and Little Carlton.

Councillor Dolby proposed that recommendation be accepted, seconded by Councillor Talbot and unanimously AGREED.

The Chair thanked Councillor Hobbs for the update.

NM191-25 Parish Council Matters (cont)

(a) Allotments/Green Hub Report

- To receive an update on the current situation with vacant plots

Since the March meeting, 4 vacant plots had been occupied, two of which were by non-residents.

The Clerk was asked to follow up on the request for a quotation to paint the container, and to seed over plot 13. The allotment sub-committee had asked that plot 7 remain as the community plot, with the area in-between the raised beds to be grassed over. This was AGREED.

Discussion took place on the use of the container and it was AGREED that Councillors Hobbs and Talbot would review the contents and move any equipment that was not the Parish Council's.

(b) To receive any updates on the GNR Solar Park

The Chair advised that, following the JPAG submission, Elements Green had requested a Statement of Common Grounds be produced, which was seen as standard procedure in the process. Advice had been received from the JPAG Consultant that it would be difficult to comment until the full application was available.

Elements Green had advised that the submission would be brought forward to May, when it was originally August.

(c) Emergency Plan Update

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

Councillor Hobbs thanked everyone who had attended the'test' of the plan on 5th April. This had highlighted changes were required to the electrical connection at the MRCC.

The Community Flood Scheme had been formally adopted by Nottinghamshire County Council. All flood wardens were now in receipt of PPE and signage had been received which was stored in the container at the allotments.

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

This item had been considered earlier on the agenda.

(e) To consider promotion of the event to commemorate V E Day and to note the offer of a grant from Newark & Sherwood District Council

The Chair referred to an offer of a grant from Newark & Sherwood District Council towards a V E Day commemoration, the value of which was based on the Precept. The Clerk would submit this prior to the deadline of 18th April.

The Chair would arrange promotion of the event on the Muskham Messenger and Social Media. There would be a V E Day quiz, and Beacon Lighting. Fish & Chips would be available at The Ferry in line with the national guidelines.

After discussion, it was AGREED that a V E Day flag be purchased for the occasion.

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

The Chair extended thanks to Councillor Talbot in retrieving the documents in relation to the John Smith Charity. Members AGREED that Councillor Hobbs should review the accounts to establish the financial position of the charity and to establish contact with any remaining appointed representatives from Bathley and Holme.

NM192-25 Environmental & Community Issues

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

This item had been considered earlier on the agenda under Minute No NM

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

The Chair advised that a Steering Group had now been formed, with the first meeting scheduled to be held at the end of April. Twelve people had expressed an interest in joining the Group, some of whom had experience relevant to the proposals. A proposal had yet to be received from the Methodist Church solicitors.

(c) To receive feedback on the village litter pick held on 5th April 2025

The Chair extended his thanks to all residents that had participated in the village litter pick on the 5th April which had resulted in 15-20 bags of litter being collected. The District Council had been advised that the waste needed to be collected.

The District Council had advised that litter picking equipment could be made available to residents interested in regular litter picking on a permanent loan basis. The Clerk would promote this initiative on the Muskham Messenger and Facebook sites.

In terms of the rubbish along the A1 and the slipways, the Clerk advised that National Highways had been asked to look at clearing this when the next road closure comes into place from 6th May.

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

Councillor Mrs Luke reported back on the Consultative Group meeting attended on 21st March 2025. Members noted that Councillor Harrison was the nominated deputy, but the Group had confirmed that the Parish Council could nominate someone else to attend should neither be available.

Data had been received regarding GP appointments. The Clerk would scan this across to Members for information.

Discussion had taken place on the allocation of patients for treatment, other than a Dr, i.e, an Advanced Nurse Practitioner. It was interesting to note that there was a pharmacist who could prescribe antibiotics, based at Evans Pharmacy on Kirkgate.

It was stressed that people should call 111 for 24 hour care or 999 in an emergency. There was now an option for mental health support on the 111 service. There was also a Community Dental Service available through the Health Centre on Portland Street.

(e) To consider a request to deliver a Dementia Friends Course

After discussion, it was AGREED that Councillor Mrs Luke could pursue delivering a Dementia Friends Course in the village.

NM193-25 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 – March - £323.30
- PAYE – March – £80.80
- Village Handyman – March - £tbc
- MRCC Room Hire – Neighbourhood Plan - £27.50
- MRCC Room Hire – Parish Council - £55
- MRCC – Land Registry Fee - 314
- Keyhole IT - £11.99
- Keyhole IT - £84
- Allotment Deposit Return - £50
- Waterplus – Allotment Water - £18.32
- Talbot Builders – Allotment Water Repairs - £75.20
- NSDC Dog Bin Emptying – October to March - £502.32
- ESET Protection Renewal - £44.99
- Amazon – Generator Items - £74.89

(b) To note any Receipts

The following receipts were noted:

- Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery - £113
- Allotment Rents - £365.36
- JPAG Parishes – Planning Consultant Donations - £3,440.83
- Donation to Play Area Swings - £20

(c) Financial Report as at 31st March 2025

The financial report as at 31st March 2025 was received, with Members noting a balance of £54,486.37 across all the Council's accounts. The Clerk extended thanks to Councillor Hobbs for his assistance in locating an anomaly that had prevented the year-end balance from being achieved.

(d) To confirm the appointment of an Internal Auditor for the 2024/25 Financial Accounts

It was AGREED that BMB Financial Services Ltd be retained to undertake the Internal Audit of the 2024/25 financial accounts.

(e) To note receipt of documentation from PKF Littlejohn in relation to the 2024/25 External Review

The Clerk confirmed that documentation in relation to the 2024/25 External Review had been received from PKF Littlejohn and would be completed in line with their requirements.

(f) To note documentation in relation to the renewal of the Parish Council's insurance

Members noted that documentation in relation to the renewal of the Parish Council's insurance had been received. Councillor Dolby would review the documentation in conjunction with the Clerk.

NM194-25 Highways

(a) Highways Log

Councillor Talbot advised that there was a pothole on Nelson Lane that needed to be reported. The Clerk asked for a photo to be forwarded which could be added to the MyNottsApp.

NM195-25 Notts Association of Local Councils

(a) April Newsletter

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

NM196-25 Correspondence

(a) LitterLotto App

The Clerk referred to correspondence received from Newark & Sherwood District Council regarding a LitterLotto App incentive. This would be circulated to Members for information.

NM197-25 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 12th May 2025 – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council