

NORTH MUSKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 15th May 2023 at the Muskham Rural Community Centre at 7pm

Present: **Councillor I Harrison**
 Councillor P Beddoe
 Councillor N Hutchings
 Councillor A Oliver
 Councillor S Preston
 Councillor M Talbot

Also 5 members of the public

The Chairman commented on the recent election that had been held on 4th May 2023. He welcomed new Members, Cllrs Andy Oliver and Steve Preston and congratulated everyone on their election.

Apologies for absence

Received and accepted from Councillor Dolby.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman

Matters Arising

None

Presentation of Reports

Chairman of the Parish Council 2022/23 – Cllr I Harrison

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

Firstly and importantly; my thanks to Councillors for their support and dedication over the past 12 months. A special thanks to Phil Beddoe for his support as Vice Chairman, to Jayne, our hardworking clerk and John our Village Handyman, to Sue and Bruce, our District and County Councillors and to the many residents of the village who continue to do tremendous, often unseen work to support village organisations and the fabric of the village.

Again, in the past 12 months we have achieved much including installation of the new play equipment, new seats and village events around the jubilee and Christmas plus ongoing determination of issues and planning applications.

The allotment project continues to grow and we still have three essential community assets in the Church and the Village pub and not least, the MRCC. The MRCC continues to provide an excellent community facility but I am aware that with COVID and the energy crisis, booking have reduced and costs have risen dramatically and as land owners and trustees we need to continue to maintain close support to the MRCC going forward.

The Clerk has suggested we compile a 4 year action plan for our term of office and I think that is an excellent idea. I do think however we need to see what the priorities of the new District Council will be which may highlight opportunities and challenges for our community.

Notwithstanding that; potential initiatives I again would suggest should include:

- Neighbourhood Plan- We have been juggling this for some time and think we need to grasp the nettle, not least as we have David Saxton offering to help in the lead of this and potentially two or three others who have intimated their willingness. Only with this plan can we gain more control of what development we need and want in the village.
- The protection and possible acquisition of the wildlife area north of the village
- Protection and maintenance of the Riverside footpath
- Further ongoing support to the MRCC and enhancement of the facility.

Finally , for the first time in a number of years, we have a clear democratic mandate to serve the village for the next 4 years. Therefore, I encourage us to be innovative and creative in our tenure and have the confidence to continue to improve the village and punch above our weight!

MRCC Report - Chairman

A copy of the report is attached at Appendix 2 to these minutes.

A discussion took place on proposed changes to the field that had been requested by the Muskham Cougars. This would see three specific pitches being permanently marked out, to meet Football Association standards. Members were concerned at the impact this could have, and would not wish to see any restriction of access to the field by residents of the village. There was also a concern that this would reduce the number of pitches available for caravan rallies, an important source of income for the MRCC.

These concerns would be raised with the MRCC by the Chairman, with Members being kept updated.

Presentation of Charity Accounts

Muskham Rural Community Centre

The accounts were awaited and would be circulated to Members for information on receipt.

A report had been provided by the Treasurer that is attached at Appendix 3 to these minutes.

Mary Woolhouse Charity

It was noted that the annual meeting of the Charity was not scheduled until Tuesday, 16th May 2023. The end of year accounts would be circulated to Members for information when received following that meeting.

John Smith Charity

The Clerk was asked to revisit the John Smith Charity with a view to establishing if the Trustees would be prepared to transfer the funds to the Parish Council to hold as an earmarked reserve.

Public Question Time

A resident queried what the turnout was in the recent local election. The Clerk referred to the information on the District Council's which outlined the turnout.

The meeting closed at 7.23pm