

**SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023 MEETING**

**Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at the MRCC at 7pm.**

**Present:**        **Councillor I Harrison**  
                     **Councillor S Dolby**  
                     **Councillor A Oliver**  
                     **Councillor S Preston**  
                     **Councillor M Talbot**

**Also in attendance: 5 members of the public, Councillor Mrs Saddington and David Shorrocks (Network Rail)**

**NM029-24    Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Beddoe, Hutchings and County Councillor Laughton.

**NM030-24    Declarations of Interest**

It was AGREED that any declarations of interest would be stated by Members as required during the meeting

**NM031-24    Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were accepted as a true and correct record.

**NM032-24    Public 10 Minute Session**

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.01pm for the public session.

A resident referred to the problem of vehicles speeding through the village, one of which was travelling at over 45mph at school pick up time.

The Chair advised this would be raised with the Police.

Further, there were trees overhanging the highway on Main Street at the Church and opposite. These were contributing to the straw that was currently on the road, as they scraped the top off the load as the lorries passed. There were also trees on Nelson Lane, on the left hand side at the junction with the roundabout, that forced agricultural vehicles to have to pull over to the right hand side to enter the roundabout.

The Chair advised that this would be logged with Nottinghamshire County Council.

Residents were thanked for their input and the meeting was reconvened at 7.06pm.

**NM032-24 To welcome David Shorrocks, Network Rail, regarding proposals to Footpath No 1**

The Chair welcomed David Shorrocks from Network Rail, and suspended the meeting at 7.07pm to allow him to talk on the proposals for the diversion of Bathley Footpath No 8 and North Muskham Footpath No 1.

Mr Shorrocks gave an outline on the background to the diversion order. A decision had been taken that the risk of people crossing the main East Coast line was too high, so the footpath had been closed. Network Rail had worked with Nottinghamshire County Council on alternative route, which had led to this point. Alongside this route, Network Rail had been working with land owners to try and secure a secondary route to provide a circular walk, but this had not been achieved as yet due to a ground nesting bird project with Natural England on the land.

The Chair asked for the view of residents present. One resident, who had been heavily involved in the process, advised that the diversion was a good result for the village and would encourage more people to use it. It was disappointing that the opportunity may be lost for an extension and hoped that could be revisited in the future.

Mr Shorrocks advised that if the order was unchallenged, Network Rail would ask the County Council to confirm the order. There would be a further 42 day period for objections, during which Network Rail would start the works required to make the path ready. It was the intention to put in a fence to separate the path from livestock. The definitive map would be updated and signage introduced to mark the path.

The Chair thanked Mr Shorrocks for his report and asked whether Network Rail were considering revisiting the level crossing closure project. Mr Shorrocks considered that unlikely given the speed of the trains at this point. Consideration is being given to closing crossings on the line to the south, but only up to a 100 miles from London, to enable trains to travel at 140mph along that part of the line.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.30pm.

**NM033-24 To receive the NCC (Bathley Footpath No 8 and North Muskham Footpath No 1) Rail Crossing Diversion Order 2023**

Members considered the Diversion Order as received and were fully supportive of the order as outlined within the legal documentation and raised no comment or objection.

**NM034-24 To consider any matters that need to be raised with District Cllr Mrs Saddington**

No matters were raised.

**NM035-24 County Councillor Update – Cllr Laughton**

There was no report as Cllr Laughton had given his apologies.

**NM036-24 Planning**

- (a) Decision Notice – 23/00447/OUT – The Gate House, Bathley Lane, North Muskham  
Members noted the decision notice which outlined refusal of the development.

**NM037-24 Parish Council Matters**

- (a) Allotments/Green Hub Report  
Members received and noted the report from the Allotment Sub-Committee.

The Chair referred to the site meeting held on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> June with members of the Sub-Committee, which had been productive.

New whips would be sourced to replace those that unfortunately had been damaged by strimming. The Clerk would liaise with the handyman when the new whips had been planted to ensure a suitable gap was left.

Amendments to the guidelines would need to be drafted to reflect the policy on non-use of hosepipes, except when an exemption had been granted by the Parish Council on specific grounds. The Allotment members of the Sub-Committee would provide a draft for approval by the Parish Council.

The Clerk would progress the purchase of membrane to use as weed cover on overgrown plots.

Soil to fill the gully was available at Farndon. Cllr Talbot and the Clerk to liaise on delivery to site.

It was noted that there was no condition in the decision notice that the container had to be painted. However, it was a specific request made by Cllr Talbot at the time the container was sited. The Sub-Committee to be advised.

- (b) To receive an updated on the UK Prosperity Fund and potential land acquisition  
The Chair advised that a productive meeting had been held with Newark & Sherwood District Council, however, applications to the Fund would not be available until later in the year. Funding between £50-£100k could be available and the project to acquire land to the north of the village would meet criteria.

- (c) To receive an update on matters raised with the MRCC on land usage  
The Chair referred to a recent meeting of the MRCC Trustees which had been attended by Members recently. Members had been met with some disdainful behaviour, which was now being referred to as a misunderstanding.

It was noted that Muskham Cougars were keen to seek better pitches for their team, but the Parish Council were concerned that any enhancements should not be to the detriment of open access to the field by residents. Concern was also expressed at the current financial position of the MRCC and the need to ensure that income from caravan rallies was maintained. It was considered that, as the Parish Council were the freeholders of the land, the MRCC should seek its advice and co-operation.

It was noted that the Muskham Cougars were keen to meet with the Parish Council to outline their proposals, as nothing had yet been agreed.

After discussion, it was AGREED that the Chair and Clerk would formulate a response to the MRCC outlining all areas of concern to the Parish Council. Furthermore, it was AGREED that the village handyman to only undertake work to areas on the field where the Parish Council had responsibility, i.e., the play area and the skatepark. All other areas to be managed by the MRCC.

- (d) Letter to residents adjacent the playing field  
After discussion, it was AGREED that responsibility lay with the MRCC.

#### **NM038-24 Environmental & Community Issues**

- (a) Skatepark & Play Area  
There were no matters to report.
- (b) To receive feedback on the meeting with Notts Wildlife Trust held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
The Wildlife Trust were receptive to enhancement work to the path behind the lake, to the clapper gates to the path to Cromwell. Although the Trust had advised that they would be able to provide volunteers, the Clerk to raise with the group involved with the Coronation Big Clean Up to see if additional support could be provided if required.

#### **NM039-24 Highways**

- (a) Highways Log  
There were no specific highways issues to log.

#### **NM040-24 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 – May - £284
- PAYE – May – £71
- Village Handyman - £355.38
- NALC – New Cllr Training - £90
- Donation to Coronation Afternoon Tea - £250
- Talbot Builders – Repairs at Allotments - £60
- WaterPlus – Allotment Water - £75.61
- Tuxford Lawnmower Centre – Repairs to Mower - £132.43
- TDP Limited – Ground Fixing Kits - £95.41
- Internal Audit Fee - £75
- Newark & Sherwood Locksmiths – Key Safe - £30
- BHIB Ltd – Insurance Renewal – £865.04
- Emma Webber – Big Clean Up Expenses - £82.69

- Ian Dobbs – Band for Coronation Event - £300
- Ian Harrison – Chairman’s Allowance - £300

(b) To note any Receipts

The following receipts were noted:

- Fun Run Receipts - £423
- Fun Run Sponsorship - £50
- Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery - £123
- Nottinghamshire County Council – Coronation Grant - £100
- HMRC VAT Repayment - £1,866.47

(c) Financial Report – to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

Members noted the financial report to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

The Clerk referred to expenditure on the Coronation Events held in May. With the addition of the £500 for the Wildlife Trust path, there was a balance of £1,000 in the budget. It was AGREED that this be transferred into reserves.

A list to be circulated to Members outlining the transfer of funds needed to be made from the Current Account to the Reserve Account.

**NM041-24 Notts Association of Local Councils**

(a) To note the date of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

The Clerk advised that the AGM had been moved from November, and would now be held in September.

**NM042-24 Correspondence**

- (a) The Clerk referred to a letter received from Robert Jenrick MP extending congratulations to everyone that had been elected in the local elections.
- (b) Councillor Talbot referred to the replacement of the bollard to the slipway adjacent to the Ferry. The Chair to raise with the landlady to establish where the original bollard was as it had been installed by the Parish Council.

**NM043-24 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.