

South Muskham/Little Carlton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 16th November 2022 at 7.30pm in the Main Hall, South Muskham Village Hall

Present: Cllrs D Catanach (Chair), K Brown, R Gill, P Jarvis and G Shearing

Also present 3 members of the public, together with County Councillor Laughton

61.22/23 **Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies – Received and accepted from Councillor Mrs Saddington and Jayne Saunders (Clerk)

Open Session

The Chair welcomed Councillor Laughton and suspended the meeting at 7.32pm to allow him to present his report.

Councillor Laughton advised that a bid had been submitted for an interactive sign in Little Carlton to be sited at the bottom of Debdale Hill. This would be a bid in the 2023/24 budget.

The County Council were currently in the process of setting their budget, but faced huge challenges, not least the additional £18m that would be required to fund staff wage increases.

Councillor Laughton was aware of the speedwatch situation that Members would be considering later under Agenda Item 7.2.

The Chair thanked Councillor Laughton for his report and for his ongoing support to the Parish, and reconvened the meeting.

62.22/23 **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday, 19th October 2022**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday, 19th October 2022 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

63.22/23 **Chair's Report**

The Chair reflected that it had been a quiet month, so nothing to report. However, thanks were extended to everyone involved in putting the Lamp Post poppies up for Remembrance.

64.22/23 **Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise covered on the agenda**

64.1 Councillor Jarvis asked if the Clerk could contact the Transport Managers at Craven, Noble and Bowring, to request their drivers respect the 40mph speed limit now in place through Little Carlton.

There were no further matters raised.

65.22/33

Financial Issues

65.1

To record Receipts

- NSDC 2nd Half Precept - £6,858.50

65.2

To approve invoices for Payment

Members approved the below invoices for payment:

- Clerk's Wages (October) – £283.40
- HMRC Payment (October) – £70.80
- EDF Energy (Beckitt Field) - £5.31
- WaterPlus (Beckitt Field) - £11,14
- Norwell Groundcare - £85
- HSBC Bank Charges (October) - £8
- Internal Auditor Fee – TBC

65.3

To note the appointment of PKF Littlejohn as External Auditor's to 2026/27.

Members noted the appointment of PKF Littlejohn as External Auditor's to 2026/27.

65.4

To consider the Council's priorities for the 2023-24 Financial Year.

Members considered the following items to be included in the 2023-24 budget:

- Main Street/Forge Close plantscaping
- Replace Perspex in the Parish Council noticeboards at the Village Hall
- Replace the backboard and cork in the noticeboard at Beckitt Field (Councillor Jarvis attending)
- Beckitt's Field planters (Councillor Brown attending)
- Two Defibrillator Batteries
- Grass Cutting Contract

66.22/23

Planning

There were no items for consideration.

67.22/23

Parish Council Matters

67.1

Casual Vacancy

The Chair welcomed Catherine Briggs-Price to the meeting who had expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Parish Council.

Members present happily explained the role and the fact that they worked for the Parish and Parishioners as a whole. On rare occasions, this could lead to a conflict of interest, but Members worked to obtain the best for the community. The Parish Council provided a voice for the two communities and lobbied to ensure that matters that needed addressing were progressed and achieved. The Chair emphasised that the Parish Council welcomed fresh ideas and perspectives.

After further discussion, Catherine Briggs-Price agreed that she would be willing to be co-opted onto the Parish Council and would review her decision prior to the May 2023 election.

Coincidentally, Emma, also in attendance at the meeting agreed she would be willing to be co-opted onto the Parish Council with a review prior to the May 2023 election.

Councillor Gill proposed, seconded by Councillor Jarvis that both Catherine Briggs-Price and Emma be co-opted on to the Parish Council. This was unanimously AGREED.

The Chair welcomed both to the Parish Council and advised they would enjoy the experience of serving their communities.

The Clerk would arrange to issue relevant paperwork to the co-opted Members.

67.2 To note the requirement to complete a new Risk Assessment for the Community Speedwatch and to grant delegated authority to the Clerk to purchase items that may be required to meet those requirements

Emma explained to the Parish Council that there have been changes in the way a community speedwatch operated and how equipment was allocated. It appeared that if a scheme did not have certain items, then neighbouring schemes would need to be approached with a request to borrow theirs, or the items would have to be purchased.

Furthermore, with the change in personnel at the County Council and Police, it had not been clearly communicated what the changes involved. As an example, there must now be three people in a speedwatch group, with strict standard operating procedures that must be followed. If approached by an irate driver, any conversation or confrontation cannot be filmed or recorded, and the advice was to leave the area, even if that meant leaving valuable equipment behind.

The Chair expressed his concern regarding the effect this would have on the speedwatch group and his fears that it may dissuade people from volunteering. Councillor Jarvis confirmed that the scheme met the risk assessment requirement, but it was considered that it would be beneficial for a refresher course to be arranged for volunteers so that everyone was aware of the new changes and the group remained compliant.

It was AGREED that Emma would liaise with PCSO Dunn and report back to the January meeting.

67.3 To consider providing hi-vis jackets for volunteer litter pickers

The Chair explained that a resident of South Muskham, Rose Scott, was undertaking a regular litter pick service in the village. After discussion, it was proposed that, while not arranged by the Parish Council, support should be given to such community minded action, and hi-vis tabards should be provided. This was unanimously AGREED and the Clerk would be asked to progress.

Councillor Brown also referred to a scheme introduced by the District Council to provide rubbish bags and collection of waste to support community litter picks.

The Clerk would be asked to investigate further and report back to the Chair.

68.22/23 **Beckitt Field**

It was noted that the field would require one more cut before the end of the year. The Clerk would be asked to arrange.

Brammersack Dyke was reported to be clear.

69.22/23 **Flooding, Drainage & Emergency Planning**

69.1 Nottinghamshire Flood Wardens Newsletter – Winter 2022

Members noted the Winter 2022 Newsletter as circulated.

69.2 To consider the problems around Brammersack Close and Bathley Lane caused by poor drainage

Members noted the information from an affected residents and the photographs shared of the flooding in the area.

After discussion, it was AGREED that the information and images be shared with Councillor Laughton who would raise the matter direct with responsible officers at Via and report back to the Parish Council.

70.22/23 **Highways**

70.1 Notification of Essential Safety Maintenance Work – A1 Stamford to Blyth

Members noted the work as outlined.

70.2 To note correspondence regarding siting of an interactive speed sign (temporary basis)

This issue had been covered during the Open Session.

70.3 To note the Parish Council is listed as a Statutory Consultee on the A46 Newark Bypass and to consider a response to the proposals

Members noted that the Parish Council were Statutory Consultees on the A46 Newark Bypass. It was AGREED that no response was considered necessary to the consultation.

71.22/23 **Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils**

71.1 To consider whether to sign up to the Civility & Respect Project and adopt a Dignity at Work Policy

This item was deferred for consideration at the January 2023 meeting.

71.2 To note the agreement of the 2022-23 Pay Award, backdated to 1st April 2022

Members noted the agreement of the 2022-23 Pay Award and agreed to the implementation from 1st April 2022.

72.22/23 **Correspondence**

72.1 Members noted the email from Councillor Mrs Saddington regarding Nottingham University Hospital.

72.2 The Clerk had circulated information regarding the planning training organised by Newark & Sherwood District Council on 6th February 2023 at 6.30pm via Teams. Individual Members would make arrangements to attend on the day as advance notification was not required.

72.3 Members noted the email regarding proposed changes to MP constituency boundaries.

73.22/23 **Other matters arising not on the agenda**

There were none.

Next Meeting – Parish Council – 18th January 2023 at South Muskham & Little Carlton Village Hall

On closing the meeting at 8.40pm the Chair again welcomed Catherine Briggs-Price and Emma to the Parish Council and took the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Minutes approved as a true record –