**SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 25th NOVEMBER 2024 MEETING**

**Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday, 11th November 2024 at the MRCC commencing at 7pm.**

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

**Also in attendance: 10 members of the public and County Councillor Laughton**

**NM094-25 Apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence were received and accepted from District Councillor Mrs Saddington

**NM095-25 Declarations of Interest**
There were none.

**NM096-25 Minutes**
The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 14th October 2024 were accepted as a true and correct record.

**NM097-25 Public 10 Minute Session**
The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.02pm for the public session.

A resident asked if the GNR Solar transport programme was on the agenda. The Chair confirmed it was.

There being no further questions the meeting was reconvened at 7.03pm.

With the agreement of Members, the Chair brought forward Agenda Item 12(c).

**NM098-25 Proposal for development of café/hub at the MRCC**
The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.04pm and invited Reverend Hibbert from North Muskham Methodist Church to outline proposals for a community café hub at the MRCC.

Reverend Hibbert outlined that the Church would like to sell the Chapel building and then invest the money from that sale into a community project. The MRCC had previously looked at an extension for a café and community shop and it was considered that this provided an opportunity to create a new multipurpose space, including an occasional place of worship, to benefit both the community and the church. Money from the sale of the Chapel could be utilised to cover the majority of the cost of the building.

The Chair confirmed that a joint meeting of the MRCC and the Parish Council had been held to receive an outline proposal from the Methodist Church. Formal support would be sought at the next MRCC meeting. The Chair summarised that, subject to advice of the Council's Solicitor, the ownership of the land would probably remain with the Parish Council with a new organisation established to run the new building. This would likely be a Community Benefit Society, democratically managed and independent of the MRCC, Parish Council and the Methodist Church. The interests of all three parties would need to be protected and a legal charge may be required by the Methodist Church. The Parish Council would seek the assistance of the Plunkett Foundation and a villager with expertise in this area, to help steer the project , if there was general support for the project from the MRCC committee and the residents of the village.

The Chair thanked Reverend Hibbert for this presentation and reconvened the meeting at 7.18pm.

A resident voiced concerns with what was suggested as inadequate wording of the agenda item, particularly with regard to partnering with the Methodist Church thus precluding other faiths from using the facility.

The Chair advised that he was seeking a mandate from Members to support the proposal in principle. This was proposed by Councillor Dolby, seconded by Councillor Talbot and AGREED unanimously.

A second mandate was sought by the Chair to commission a number of actions:

- To instruct solicitors to identify a legal vehicle to accommodate the proposal
- To support the MRCC to identify separating their constitution from the lease
- To compile and distribute a survey, in conjunction with the MRCC and the Methodist Church, to outline the proposal and seek the views of residents of North Muskham

This was proposed by Councillor Dolby, seconded by Councillor Hutchings and AGREED unanimously.

**NM099-25 To consider any matters that need to be raised with District Cllr Mrs Saddington**

There were none.

**NM100-25 Newark & Sherwood District Council**

(a) Consultation on the review of Statement of Gambling Principles for the Gambling Act 2025

Members noted the consultation but did not consider there was a requirement to make any comment.

**NM101-25 To consider any matters that need to be raised with County Councillor update Cllr Laughton**

This item would be taken if and when Councillor Laughton arrived.

**NM102-25 Nottinghamshire County Council**

(a) There were no matters to consider.

**NM103-25 Planning**

(a) 24/01805/HOUSE - 1 Eastfield, North Muskham - Single storey side extension

Members noted that this was a retrospective application as the extension had already been built.

After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Talbot, seconded by Councillor Dolby that objection be raised to the extension as it was not in keeping with the character of the properties in the surrounding area. This was AGREED, with an abstention from Councillor Hutchings.

**NM101-25 (cont) To consider any matters that need to be raised with County Councillor update Cllr Laughton**

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.44pm for Councillor Laughton's report.

Cllr Laughton reported that the implications of the recent national budget were being considered, with the increase in NI and the Living Wage likely to put £30m on the budget. Confirmation was awaited on whether funding for the A614 would form part of the funds that would be made available from Central Government for highways.

Councillor Bradley had resigned as the Leader of the County Council. A new leader should be known by the first week in December.

The Chair referred to a recent meeting of JPAG and the construction traffic summary that had been provided. Cllr Laughton was asked if he was aware of any other methods of control for a weight limit, other than an ANPR, which the Parish Council had requested. Cllr Laughton advised that enforcement would be down to Trading Standards.

Cllr Hobbs referred to issues with lighting on Manor House Drive that had been reported on the portal and also direct to Cllr Laughton. It was understood that parts for the lights were obsolete but the area was particularly dark for residents. Cllr Laughton undertook to establish a timeline for the repairs and inform the Clerk.

The Chair thanked Cllr Laughton for his report and reconvened the meeting at 7.55pm.

**NM103-25 (cont) Planning**

(b) To note matters referred to Planning Enforcement

Members noted that matters that had been referred to Planning Enforcement were not yet resolved.

(c) Neighbourhood Plan

Members noted that the next meeting of the Steering Group would be held on Monday, 25th November 2024 at 6.15pm. The allocated Planning Officer from Newark & Sherwood District Council would be in attendance and would bring plans of the village.

Councillor Hobbs had offered to assist as the lead representation for the Parish Council. There would be a requirement to readvertise for new members to join the Steering Group.

**NM104-25 Parish Council Matters**

(a) Allotments/Green Hub Report

Councillor Preston advised that the tyres had been moved and the plot was now clear. The Sub-Committee had been advised and a membrane had been put down to manage the weeds.

The Sub-Committee were working on information to populate an allotment page on the website.

Plots 2 and 13 were vacant, and there was the possibility that another may become vacant at the end of the season.

It was AGREED that Councillor Talbot would turn the water off, drain the taps down and take a final meter reading.

(b) To confirm arrangements for Christmas celebrations and the Christmas Lights switch-on

Members noted that Friday, 6th December 2024 at 7pm had been set for the Christmas Lights switch-on at the Ferry Pub, with arrangements made for the trees to be put up on 30th November 2024.

Discussion took place regarding whether the date should be changed as it coincided with a concert at the MRCC, but after consideration it was AGREED that the arrangements should stand.

Councillor Talbot would arrange the new position for the Christmas tree at the Ferry. The lights would need to be tested. A microphone would be required and it was AGREED that the Chair would approach Susan Twemlow regarding prayers.

(c) To receive an update on the Joint Parishes Action Group and consider fundraising initiatives

The Chair advised that the last meeting had been held on 31st October. Elements Green had advised that their next round of Statutory Consultation had been pushed back to January/February 2025. It was considered essential that the support of a planning consultant would be needed to respond during all the phases, however, discussion had been held on whether a local volunteer could be used for some of the early investigative work.

The recommendation from the Chair was that a planning consultant should be retained for the whole process, at a projected cost of £3,500. A crowd funding initiative could be arranged to seek further funds to assist with the costs.

Councillor Hobbs considered that the Parish Council had to be prepared to put in a robust response to the consultation.

After discussion, it was AGREED that the full costs for a planning consultant be met and that crowd funding be pursued as an option, but that costs be met from reserves if required.

(d) To receive details of the next hearing relating to the A46 Newark Bypass
Members noted that the next hearing would be held on 3rd December 2024. If any Member wished to attend they were asked to advise the Clerk so they could be registered.

(e) To receive an update on a Community Flood Plan and an Emergency Plan for the village
Members noted that Councillor Hobbs was in the process of progressing the Community Flood Plan and Emergency Plan. The plans would be presented to a future meeting of the Parish Council when complete.

(f) To receive an update on populating the parish website
Councillor Hobbs advised that the Clerk would be responsible for updating all pages that related to the workings of the Parish Council. Councillors Hobbs and Dolby would be responsible for village information.

The Chair thanked everyone for their efforts in populating the pages so far. It was envisaged that in future everything would be on the website.

**NM105-25 Environmental & Community Issues**

(a) Play Area – To note the submission of an application to the Local Communities Fund
The Clerk confirmed that an application had been submitted to the Local Communities Fund for £3,125.

The Chair acknowledged the support of the Mary Woolhouse Foundation in providing a grant to assist with the works.

(b) Grass cutting to Church frontage/footpath
It was AGREED that the Village Handyman be asked to cut the Church frontage/footpath should the current contractor be unable to.

(c) Proposal for development of café/hub at the MRCC
This item had been considered earlier on the agenda.

**NM106-25 Highways Log**

(a) Highways Log
Cllr Hutchings referred to the light that was still out on Waltons Lane, the Clerk confirmed it had been reported.

The Chair referred to the lack of lights on Ferry Lane which needed to be reported.

(b) Street Lighting issues – Manor House Drive and Ferry Lane
This item had been covered under Minute No NM101-25

(c) To receive the Construction Traffic Summary (North Muskham) in relation to the proposed GNR Solar Park

The Chair referred to the Construction Traffic Summary that had been received from a contractor working on behalf of Elements Green. A copy had been posted on the Parish Council's website for information.

Cllr Hobbs referred to a draft response that had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Cllr Hutchings suggested that the reference to the width of the highways needed to be amended and would provide a statement on that.

Cllr Talbot referred to the bridge on the B6325 and questioned whether it should be surveyed to ensure its stability and suggested this be included in the response. The Clerk to raise with Nottinghamshire County Council.

It was AGREED that delegated authority be given to the Chair and Cllr Hobbs to write a robust statement to be circulated to Members for agreement when complete.

**NM107-25 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 – October & Backpay - £418.30
- PAYE – October & Backpay – £104.60
- Village Handyman – October - £265.51
- Notts ALC – Parish Cllr Training - £45
- Newark & Sherwood District Council – Half Year Dog Bins - £502.32
- MedUk Group - Defib Pads - £64.14

(b) To note any Receipts

The following receipts were noted:

- Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery - £150

(c) Financial Report as at 31st October 2024

The financial report as at 31st October 2024 was received and noted by Members.

(d) To receive details of the National Pay Award

Members noted the details of the National Pay Award that had been agreed which was backdated to 1st April 2025.

**NM108-25 Notts Association of Local Councils**

(a) November Newsletter

A copy of the Newsletter had been circulated to Members for information.

**NM109-25 Correspondence**

(a) There was none to consider.

**NM110-25 Items for Notification**

(a) Councillor Preston referred to the problems with waste being deposited by fishermen in the dog waste bins. This had occurred at the end of Mackleys Lane and by the clapper gates.

The Chair advised he would speak to the owners of A1 Fisheries to establish if they could provide a waste bin by the clapper gates they could empty on a weekly basis.

**NM111-25** Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 9th December 2024

The meeting closed at 8.53 pm.