South Muskham & Little Carlton

Note of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 7.30pm in South Muskham Village Hall

Present: From the Parish Council
Councillors R Gill, P Jarvis, G Shearing (Chair) and E Tilbury

Members of the Public:

Apologies: C Briggs-Price, K Brown & D Catanach

Geoff Shearing, as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council during the term 2024-25 presided.

Welcome from the Chair

REVIEW OF 2024/25 CIVIC YEAR – COUNCILLOR SHEARING

The Civic Year commenced with Members receiving the results of the GNR Solar Survey on the GNR Solar Park. The responses showed that 75% of residents were opposed to the development, but it was disappointing that only 6.16% of residents responded.

The Parish Council have formally recorded its objection to the development and has been an active member of the Joint Parishes Action Group, formed of some of the 18 parishes affected by the park. A number of meetings have been held during the year and the Parish Council supported the engagement of a planning consultant to help JPAG respond to the consultations, through to the Examination Hearings. This application will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate and not Newark & Sherwood due to its size.

The Parish Council had facilitated a meeting in July with residents and representatives from Elements Green (developers of the GNR Solar Park) to allow concerns in relation to the park to be raised.

The Parish Council has continued to support the Muskham Cougars with the use of Beckitt Field, as it recognises the importance of the field as a green space and amenity. As such, it has invested in new windows in the pavilion to ensure the longevity of the facilities.

The change to the Public Space Protection Order on Beckitt Field was confirmed, with 'No Dogs' changing to 'Dogs on Leads'. New signage has been put up reflecting this change.

Recognising the concerns residents have in relation to flooding, the Parish Council has continued to liaise with Severn Trent and Via in relation to cleaning drains and ensuring that water pumps are working effectively. This concern also saw a report being made to the Environment Agency when Members became aware that part of the floodbank had been removed. The Parish Council has received a grant from Newark & Sherwood District Council's Flood Resilience Grant scheme to install a concrete path from the resilience store to the village hall to allow better movement of the generator in an emergency.

Speeding is another matter that impacts on residents of both communities. After a long period of lobbying, and with the support of Councillor Laughton, the interactive speed sign at Little Carlton is now in place and reminds drivers to check their speed is 40mph.

The Parish Council had been invited to join with North Muskham in producing a joint neighbourhood plan. Production of a neighbourhood plan requires input from the community, it cannot be done by the Parish Council alone. Unfortunately, no residents have as yet come forward to volunteer. North Muskham have decided to plough their own furrow with their plan which has a Steering Group of 18 residents. The Parish Council are considering its options in relation to a plan.

The Parish Council has been involved with the development orders for the A46, with the Chairman attending a public meeting, and a response submitted to proposals.

Members have continued to attend the Safer Neighbourhood Group meetings which enables direct feedback on criminal activity in the area, and allows any issues in the communities to be raised directly with the Police.

In terms of highways, 2024 saw the resurfacing of the Great North Road which the Parish Council had lobbied for over many years. It has also raised concerns with Via regarding the safety of pedestrians crossing the Great North Road in South Muskham. The Parish Council will continue to lobby on this issue.

Financially, the Parish Council continues to be on a sound financial footing, with a new account opened to maximise interest on reserves.

Note of the Annual Meeting

The notes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd May 2024 were accepted as proposed.

Public session

Nothing raised.

Closing Remarks

Cllr Shearing thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 7.35pm