

## South Muskham/Little Carlton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Small Hall, South Muskham Village Hall

**Membership:** D Catanach (Chair), K Brown, P Jarvis, G Shearing and E Tilbury

091.25/26 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies – received and accepted from Councillors Briggs-Price and Gill and District Councillor Mrs Saddington.

092.25/26 **Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**Open Session**

There were no District or County Councillors present.

093.25/26 **Chair's Report**

The Chair advised that the GNR Solar Park process was moving forward. It was anticipated that a decision would be made between August and October 2026. JPAG were working tirelessly to fight for their communities.

The Chair was relieved to see that the recent spate of wet weather had not resulted in any flooding. The River Trent level was currently 1m above its normal levels.

094.25/26 **To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

095.25/26 **Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda**

There were none.

096.25/26 **Financial Issues**

96.1 To record Receipts

- NatWest – Interest - £124.36 - October
- NatWest – Interest – £114.38 - November
- NatWest – Interest - £121.82 - December
- Cougars – Licence Fee - £250

96.2 Invoices for payment:

- Clerk's Wages (November) £340.04
- HMRC PAYE (November) - £85
- Clerk's Wages (December) - £340.04
- HMRC PAYE (December) - £85
- WaterPlus -

- EDF Energy – £20.55 & £20.38

96.3

To note the Parish Council's financial position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

Members noted the Parish Council's financial position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025, with a balance of £48,118.32 in the Deposit Account and £15,086.10 in the current account.

The Clerk confirmed that funds continued to be transferred across to the Deposit Account to maximize interest.

96.4

To consider a budget for the 2026-27 financial year and to set a Precept

Members considered the budget for the 2026-27 financial year. The Clerk advised that one area Members had asked to be investigated as part of the budget setting process was the purchase of small interactive speed signs to reinforce the speed limits in place in both communities.

The Clerk referred to information received from Via which confirmed that the Parish Council could only purchase signage through that agency. This process was to ensure that an appropriate location was confirmed prior to ordering and that the sign complied with the necessary specifications. It also guaranteed uniformity of signage across Nottinghamshire, facilitating ongoing maintenance, availability of replacement parts, and consistency in highway sign types throughout the county.

The Clerk had asked for information on what interactive signs were available, but that had not yet been forthcoming.

After discussion, it was AGREED that the Clerk seek a site meeting with Councillor Laughton, appropriate officers from Via in relation to highways and design, and Members to discuss this in more detail. This would also be an opportunity for Members to raise other areas of concern in relation to safety on the highways running through the two communities. The Chair advised he would produce a list of items, some long standing that needed to be discussed with Via.

Members had also asked the Clerk to source quotations to cut the boundary hedge at Beckitts Field. In discussion with owners of the neighbouring property regarding the hedge, an offer had been made by them to cut the Parish Council's side as a way of giving back to the community. After discussion, the Clerk was asked to thank the resident for their offer and accept it with thanks. Clarification would be sought on whether this included the hedge to the rear of their boundary too.

The fence at Beckitt Field had been reviewed. Members did not consider it needed to be replaced at this time. After discussion, it was AGREED that the fencing would be monitored over the Summer to determine whether there was any further deterioration.

Members noted that the Clerk's salary and the potential to breach the £5,000 threshold in relation to NI. This would be reviewed when the new pay scales were received later in the year.

The draft budget outlined expenditure of £15,764 over the year, against income of £15,172 which would require a sum of £592 from reserves.

The Precept had been increased in the 2025/26 financial year. Given the expected savings against some budgetheads as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, Members did not consider it appropriate to increase the Precept.

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Brown, that the Precept remain at £13,922, which would give a Band D rate of £69.74 with a tax base of £199.62. This was unanimously AGREED.

96.5 To note the resignation of the Parish Council's Internal Auditor

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council's Internal Auditor had advised that he would no longer be able to undertake the annual internal audit due to ill health. The Clerk had begun to investigate alternatives, but it was expected that the fee would increase. One quotation had been received already which would be forwarded to Members for information.

The Chair proposed that a letter be sent to the Internal Auditor to thank him for his service to the Parish Council over the years. This was AGREED unanimously.

097.25/26 **Planning**

97.1 26/00019/LBC – 2 Grange Farm Mews, Main Street, South Muskham - Installation of new ceiling and structural support and replacement beam (retrospective)  
Members received and noted the application for retrospective permission.

97.2 25/02132/HOUSE – Cherry Tree Cottage, Bathley Lane, Little Carlton - Proposed single storey side and rear extension with garage conversion and new oak frame front porch.  
After consideration, no objection was raised to the application as outlined.

97.3 Decision Notices – 25/01656/HOUSE & 25/01657/LBC– 2 Manor Farm Cottages, Ollerton Road, Little Carlton – Removal of 2 no windows and form a garage door opening, reinstating the previous position for a garage within the house to the front elevation  
Members noted the decision notices outlining that permission had been granted.

098.25/26 **Parish Council Matters**

98.1 To note questions raised following the first Examination Hearing and the dates of the next round of Hearings  
The Chair advised Members that the first round of Examination Hearings had been well attended, with representations from JPAG and other communities affected by the application. Elements Green had been requested to respond to a number of questions raised by the Planning Inspectors.

The next round of hearings would be held on Tuesday 03 February 2026, 2.00pm Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1); Wednesday 04 February 2025, 10.00am Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3) on Environmental Matters and Thursday 5 February

2025, 10.00am Continuation of Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3) on Environmental Matters. These would be held at the YMCA on Lord Hawke Way, Newark.

JPAG would be represented by its Planning Consultant.

- 98.2 To note information from Trading Standards in relation to an outbreak of Avian Influenza  
Members received and noted information from Trading Standards outlining that the Parish was within a 10km radius Surveillance Zone due to a confirmed case of Avian Influenza.
- 98.3 To note information received from the National Grid updating on the West Burton to Ratcliffe-on-Soar Refurbishment Project  
Members received and noted information from National Grid in relation to the West Burton to Ratcliffe-on-Soar Refurbishment Project.  
  
Members asked the Clerk to establish if a more detailed map was available in order to identify just which parts of the parish would be affected by the works, if any.
- 98.4 To note Briefing Sessions arranged in relation to Local Government Re-Organisation  
Members noted that further briefing sessions had been arranged by Newark & Sherwood District Council. These were scheduled for Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm and Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 6pm. Both sessions would be held virtually.  
  
The Clerk advised Members they could register to attend should they wish to do so.
- 099.25/26 **Beckett Field**  
The Clerk confirmed that the signed agreement had now been received back from the Muskham Cougars and the licence fee had been paid.  
  
The Clerk referred to the request by a resident to use the field for a wedding reception in May. Members noted that this may not now be required due to changes in their plans. The Clerk was asked to undertake further discussions especially in relation to using the field for guest parking to ease the pressure on the roads.  
  
If the field was to be used for parking, Members would still wish to see the resident enter into an agreement with the Parish Council for use of the field.
- 100.25/26 **Flooding, Drainage & Emergency Planning**  
To ratify spend on the purchase of PPE for flood wardens  
Members noted that a sum of £132 was required to purchase padded fluorescent jackets for flood wardens. Members ratified this spend and asked the Clerk to proceed.
- 101.25/26 **Highways**  
101.1 Highways Issues Logged  
There were no issues to consider.

101.2 To note correspondence received in relation to the purchase of interactive speed signs

This item had been covered under Minute No 096.25/26 96.3.

101.3 To receive the Roadworks Bulletin

Members noted the Roadworks Bulletin outlining tree felling vegetation removal on the A616 between Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> February to Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> February between 0800 hrs and 1600 hrs. Traffic would be controlled by rolling stop and go boards.

102.25/26 **Nottinghamshire Association of Local Council**

102.1 January Newsletter

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

103.25/26 **Correspondence Received**

There were no items to receive.

104.25/26 **Other matters arising not on the agenda**

Councillor Jarvis referred to the number of potholes on Crow Lane. The length of the Lane was littered with potholes.

Members noted the recent burglaries in the area. Councillor Jarvis asked the Clerk raise these for discussion at the Safer Neighbourhood Group which was scheduled to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Councillor Jarvis was unable to attend. Members asked that the increase in speeding also be raised.

**Next Meeting** – Parish Council - Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, South Muskham

The meeting was closed at 8.49pm