

South Muskham/Little Carlton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 16th April 2025 at 7.30pm in the Main Hall, South Muskham Village Hall

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

135.24/25 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies – received and accepted from Councillor Briggs-Price, County Councillor Laughton and District Councillor Mrs Saddington

Open Session

There were no members of the public present.

136.24/25 **Chair's Report**

The Chair reported on a remarkable achievement by Councillor Ron Gill and presented a gift and card to him as a 'Thank you' for achieving 50 years of service to the community. In acknowledging this achievement, Councillor Catanach, said:

'We thank you for your unwavering commitment, passion and common sense that you have brought to the Parish Council.

Your impact goes beyond these tables. The mentorship and guidance you have provided have shaped how this Parish Council operates and delivers to our Parishioners, has set precedents as to the values we uphold and leaves a lasting legacy that resonates far beyond achievements on paper.

Your kindness, wisdom and generosity have been a beacon light for us all.

I understand you have already received an invitation to attend one of His Majesty's Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace later this year in recognition of this milestone and service to the community.

We are honoured to have shared (some) of the journey with you and look forward to years to come'.

137.24/25 **To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2025 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

138.24/25 **Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda**

In relation to Minute No 125.24/25 the Chair asked whether any further evidence of human excrement had been seen. Councillor Tilbury advised that there had been one further incident. The Clerk was asked to speak to Environmental Health at Newark & Sherwood District Council to establish what could be done about this bio-hazard.

139.24/25 **Planning**

139.1 To consider a response to the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment – Draft Methodology Consultation

Members noted the information circulated in relation to the consultation. The Clerk was asked to seek clarification on the land outlined at SMU0019 as there were contradictory entries on the document and it was not clear where this land sat within the SHELAA.

The Clerk would liaise with the Chair to circulate the list of sites previously identified in South Muskham and Little Carlton to all Members.

Members noted that a call for sites would be made at some point in 2025.

140.24/25 **Financial Issues**

140.1 To record Receipts

- Interest on NatWest Bank Account – £118.38

140.2 Invoices for payment:

- Bank Charges - £8
- Clerk's Wages (March) - £329.44
- HMRC PAYE (March) - £82.40
- Norwell Groundcare – Beckitts Field Cut - £90
- NSDC – Aqua Sacs - £453.60
- WaterPlus – £13.65
- EDF – £76.93
- North Muskham Parish Council – JPAG Planning Consultant - £1537
- Safety Signs – Dogs on Leads Signage - £50.81
- Notts ALC Subscription – 2025/26 - £163.64

140.3 To note the Parish Council's financial position as at 31st March 2025

Members noted the Parish Council's financial position as at 31st March 2025, with a balance of £40,635.88 in the Deposit Account and £14,148.42 in the current account.

The Clerk confirmed that the accounts balanced as at 31st March 2025 in relation to the preparation to submit the accounts for audit.

The Clerk sought approval to transfer £5,000 from the current account into the deposit account. This was AGREED.

140.4 To confirm the appointment of an Internal Auditor for the 2024/25 Financial Accounts

Members confirmed the appointment of Mr Harness as the Internal Auditor for the 2024/25 financial accounts.

140.5 To note receipt of correspondence from PKF Littlejohn in relation to the 2024/25 External Review

Members noted the receipt of documentation from PKF Littlejohn in relation to the 2024/25 External Review. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council only had to submit an Exemption Certificate as spending was under the £25,000 threshold.

Email: clerk@smlcpc.org Tel: 07946 601364

141.24/25 **Parish Council Matters**

141.1 To receive an update on any expressions of interest from the community in relation to a Neighbourhood Plan and feedback from the North Muskham Steering Group meeting on 10th April 2025

Members noted that an expression of interest had been received, but unfortunately the individual resided in North Muskham.

The Chair had attended the North Muskham Steering Group meeting on 10th April and had outlined the demographic differences between the two communities.

The Chair advised that, following the meeting, there were a number of issues that the Parish Council would need to consider:

- What are were current needs and priorities for the community
- Can the plan influence/improve local infrastructure (roads, utilities, etc)
- Can the plan include enhanced green spaces and recreational facilities
- How to ensure that the neighbourhood was inclusive and accessible for all
- What strategies could be employed to preserve the character and heritage of the neighbourhood
- Environmental considerations
- How would the Parish Council measure success and impact of the plan over time
- If it were a joint plan what exactly was expected of South Muskham & Little Carlton
- What integration would be required between the two communities
- What would happen if there were disputes, both in the plan and when the plan was in effect.
- Who would be responsible for updating/reviewing/maintaining the plan
- How could the Parish Council identify land ownership

The Chair's main concern was that within process there would have to be consultation at every stage. The Chair's opinion was that within the Parish Council there was 100% support towards a Neighbourhood Plan and could progress with that support.

After the meeting an email had been received from the Steering Group advising that, after further careful consideration it had been decided that a single plan for North Muskham was the best way forward for the group, despite some of the acknowledged advantages.

It was further explained that the main reasons given were around the engagement process as this was viewed as being as important as the ultimate plan produced. The lack of initial engagement from residents in South Muskham (other than the PC itself) would potentially not provide the feedback when wider evidence based decisions needed to be made. This could result in statistical decisions being dominated by North Muskham and potentially not in South Muskham and Little

Carlton's (SM&LC) interest. This could result in subsequent issues as the plan progressed or indeed at Referendum.

A Neighbourhood Plan needed to show that all have been consulted at every stage in order for it to be adopted by the local authority and this cannot be done without much engagement with the local community from an early stage.

The advantages of a joint plan were well acknowledged by the North Muskham team and despite the decision the group remained keen to work with South Muskham and Little Carlton in many ways given our shared interests. It had been suggested that a representative from South Muskham would be welcome to join any of future meetings to observe, which could be useful if the Parish Council took a decision to build its own plan, and would also allow input should a topic arise that had interest for South Muskham & Little Carlton residents.

Additionally, the groups technical lead, who had already produced mapping showing housing and addresses as well as solar, gravel etc in the South Muskham & Little Carlton parish, would be happy to make that available to the Parish Council.

The correspondence received had been acknowledged by the Chair and the group advised that the matter would be discussed by the Parish Council. Thereafter a formal response would be made.

The Chair reflected that proceeding separately would allow South Muskham & Little Carlton to proceed at its own pace, and allow it to work with landowners and residents on what they would wish to achieve from a plan.

After discussion, Members AGREED that the Parish Council should proceed with establishing a Neighbourhood Plan of its own. With regard to support from the community, a different approach would need to be taken to try and achieve more engagement.

Members noted that the Parish Council would be eligible to apply for grant funding in its own right to help with the plan.

In terms of the offer made from the North Muskham Steering Group, it was AGREED that a representative should attend future meetings where Members had availability, and the offer of mapping be accepted as it would be useful as a starting point.

The Clerk was asked to formally respond to the North Muskham Steering Group, thanking them for the opportunity to attend the Group and advising that the Parish Council fully understood the reasons behind their decision to stand alone. The offer of the option to send a representative to future meetings and the generous offer of mapping were accepted.

141.2 To receive an update from Elements Green with regard to the GNR Solar Park
Members noted the recent update from Elements Green with regard to the GNR Solar Park. The update outlined that the submission of the DCO to the Planning Inspector may now be in May/June rather than August as originally proposed.

The Chair advised that at a recent meeting of JPAG reference was made to the potential to reach a 'Statement of Common Ground' in relation to the number of points that had been submitted to the Phase 2 Community Consultation. Discussions were ongoing on this matter.

142.24/25 **Beckett Field**

142.1 To note receipt of signage in relation to the change in the Public Space Protection Order to 'Dogs on Leads'

The Clerk advised that new signage had now been received and would be installed adjacent to the entrance gates to the field.

143.24/25 **Flooding, Drainage & Emergency Planning**

143.1 To receive an update from Severn Trent Water on works undertaken

The Clerk referred to correspondence received from Severn Trent in relation to the queries previously raised by the Parish Council.

It had been confirmed that

- Surveys were completed and all the main sewers checked with CCTV
- Repairs had been made to seal a few points of infiltration, which involved relining some sections and injecting resin sealant into a chamber on the Great North Road to stop ground water leaking in
- There was still one outstanding repair to make, which would be added to the normal work list

Severn Trent noted that the system had performed much better during Winter 2024 following the repairs and that the amount of ground water in the area was a major contributing factor to the problems experienced previously.

Members noted that Winter 2024 had been dry in comparison to the previous year and asked the Clerk to seek assurances that the system would work should the village be presented with the same scenario in relation to ground water.

In relation to the Community Flood Plan, the Clerk was asked to establish whether the PPE provided for Flood Wardens could be upgraded as only hi-vis vests were available, whereas hi-vis padded jackets were now provided by the County Council.

144.24/25 **Highways**

144.1 Highways Issues Logged – to receive an update on the request to clean out the road side drains to prevent flooding from heavy rain

The Clerk advised that Via had been notified that the drains on Great North Road had not yet been cleaned. A response had been received that an Inspector would be deployed to investigate.

144.2 To receive correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate advising of the Notification of completion of the Examining Authority's examination

Email: clerk@smlcpc.org Tel: 07946 601364

Members noted the correspondence as outlined.

- 144.3 To receive correspondence from Via regarding the 30mph speed limit at Little Carlton
The Clerk referred to correspondence received from Via explaining the reasoning and legislation in place with regard to where the 30mph speed limit on Bathley Lane at Little Carlton could legally start.

After discussion, it was AGREED that a site meeting be requested with Officers from Via.
- 145.24/25 **Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils**
145.1 April Newsletter
A copy of the April Newsletter had been forwarded to Members for information.
- 146.24/25 **Correspondence Received**
146.1 To receive details of the LitterLotto Application for Parishes from Newark & Sherwood District Council
Members noted the details of the LitterLotto Application.
- 146.2 To receive correspondence from the Newark & Sherwood Alliance for People and Nature regarding their 2nd Conference on Saturday, 26th April 2025.
Members noted the correspondence received as outlined.
- 147.24/25 **Other matters arising not on the agenda**
FP2A
Councillor Tilbury asked that the condition of FP2A be logged as overgrown with the Rights of Way team. The Clerk would progress.

Next Meeting – Parish Council - Wednesday, 21st May 2025 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, South Muskham

The meeting was closed at 8.32pm