

South Muskham/Little Carlton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 21st May 2025 following the Annual Parish Meeting which commenced at 7.30pm in the Small Hall, South Muskham Village Hall

Membership: R Gill, P Jarvis, G Shearing (Chair) and E Tilbury together with 1 member of the public and County Councillor Laughton

001.25/26 To elect Officers of the Council – Chair and Vice Chair

The Clerk called for nominations to the position of Chairman for the Civic Year 2025/26. Councillor Jarvis proposed Councillor Catanach, seconded by Councillor Tilbury.

This was unanimously AGREED and the Clerk declared Councillor Catanach the Chairman. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be signed in due course.

002.25/26 To Elect a Vice-Chairman for the Civic Year 2024/25

The Chair called for nominations to the position of Vice-Chairman for the Civic Year 2025/26. Councillor Gill proposed Councillor Shearing, seconded by Councillor Tilbury. This was unanimously AGREED and the Chair declared Councillor Shearing the Vice-Chairman.

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Councillor Shearing .

003.25/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies – received and accepted from Councillor Briggs-Price, Brown & Catanach and District Councillor Mrs Saddington

004.25/26 Declarations of Interest

There were none to record

Open Session

Councillor Laughton advised that Reform were the party now in control of Nottinghamshire County Council following the election on 1st May 2025. All June committee meetings had been cancelled to enable Councillors to get up to speed on matters within the authority.

The position with Local Government Reform was not yet known as it was understood a number of Reform authorities were looking to combine together.

Reform will be running the budget set by the previous administration for the 2025/26 financial year.

Schemes organised by Via should progress as normal without change and there will be no imposing working in the office for all employees at the moment.

Councillor Laughton will be working to ensure that the services required by his rural community are delivered.

A question would be raised at Full Council regarding the administration's position on GNR Solar, with a supplementary question in relation to slave labour which the County Council had a policy on.

Councillor Jarvis asked whether any information was known on the dualling of the A46. Councillor Laughton understood that confirmation was awaited on whether Government would honour the funding as part of RITZ 2.

Councillor Tilbury referred to the level and speed of traffic on the A616 during the closure of the A1 and asked whether tubes could be used. Councillor Laughton advised that a request could be made through the Safer Neighbourhood Group for traffic enforcement on the A616, and also on the Great North Road.

Councillor Laughton may be able to petition for average speed cameras but it would be a long process and would need to be supported by a petition from local residents.

The Chair thanked Councillor Laughton for his report and extended his congratulations on re-election and was confident that he would continue to support his rural communities.

005.25/26 **Chair's Report**

The Chair extended his thanks to Members for their support during the year and for all the work they do for their communities. Thanks were also extended to the members of the public who attended during the year.

006.25/26 **To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2025 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

007.28/25 **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.

008.25/6 **Planning**

The Clerk advised that an application had been received, but not in time to be included on the agenda. An extension of time had been granted by the Planning Officer to enable consideration at the June meeting.

009.25/26 **Financial Issues**

9.1 To record Receipts

- NatWest Account – Interest - £114.97
- HMRC VAT Refund - £876.63
- NSDC – 1st Half Precept - £6,961

9.2 Invoices for payment:

- Bank Charges - £8
- Clerk's Wages (April) - £329.64

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- HMRC PAYE (April) - £82.20
- Norwell Groundcare – Beckett's Field Cut - £90
- WaterPlus – £15.25 & £14.96
- EDF – £22.18
- Transfer to NatWest - £400
- Waitrose – Chairman's Allowance - £165.50
- Gallagher Insurance – Renewal - £790.83
- Internal Drainage Board – Drainage Rates - £16.10

010.25/26 To note the Parish Council's financial position as at 30th April 2025
Members noted the Parish Council's financial position as at 30th April 2025, with a balance of £41,150.85 in the Deposit Account and £20,776.63 in the current account.

The Clerk advised that the Internal Audit had not yet been completed so the following three items would be deferred for consideration at the June meeting:

011.25/26 To agree the Exemption Certificate for the 2024-25 Financial Year

012.25/26 To consider the Annual Governance Statement for the 2024-25 Financial Year

013.25/26 To consider the Accounting Statement for the 2024-25 Financial Year and the Certificate of Exemption

014.25/26 **Parish Council Matters**

14.1 To consider a response to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Nottinghamshire consultation

After discussion it was AGREED that a correspondence be circulated to Members with any comments to be forwarded to the Clerk. Delegated authority was given to the Clerk and Chair to respond in line with the deadline.

14.2 To note a Targeted Consultation in relation to the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Members noted that the targeted consultation did not relate to any areas in South Muskham or Little Carlton so AGREED no response was required.

In terms of the position with the GNR Solar Park at the moment, the Clerk advised that a meeting of JPAG would be arranged shortly. A Statement of Common Ground was in the process of being discussed with Elements Green, but that was common practice with an NSIP and JPAG's position of objection had not changed. It was understood that the next part of the process may be brought forward, but confirmation was awaited.

015.25/26 **Beckett Field**

Councillor Jarvis referred to compromised floorboards that had been observed underneath the carpet at the entrance to the pavilion. The Clerk advised that no notification had been received from the Cougars that there was any damage that needed to be repaired.

Councillor Jarvis had made the necessary repairs but asked the Clerk to remind the Cougars of their duty to advise the Parish Council if any areas where repairs were required.

The Chair extended his thanks to Councillor Jarvis for the repairs made.

After discussion, it was AGREED that Councillor Jarvis include inspection of the pavilion and field as part of his monthly meter reading and Defib checks.

016.25/26 **Flooding, Drainage & Emergency Planning**

16.1 To consider whether to submit an application to the Newark & Sherwood District Council's Flood Resilience Grant

After discussion, it was AGREED that the Clerk submit an application for additional aqua sacs.

017.25/26 **Highways**

17.1 To receive an update on the A1 Apleyhead to Newark Resurfacing Scheme

Members noted the update advising that the A1 northbound resurfacing had recommenced on 6th May 2025.

018.25/26 **Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils**

18.1 May Newsletter

A copy of the May Newsletter would be forwarded to Members for information.

019.25/26 **Correspondence Received**

The Clerk referred to correspondence received from Newark & Sherwood District Council regarding a planning application. This had been referred to earlier on the agenda under Minute No 008.25/6.

020.25/26 **Other matters arising not on the agenda**

Councillor Gill expressed his appreciation on the acknowledgement given by Members as he reached his 50 year anniversary of service on the Parish Council. Councillor Gill advised he had been privileged to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 7th May 2025 in recognition of his service, and had the honour of meeting His Majesty King Charles.

Councillor Jarvis referred to the Safer Neighbourhood Group meeting held in April. The main topic of conversation had been regarding the illegal encampment at Egmanton.

Councillor Shearing advised he would be planting up the village signs at either end of South Muskham shortly.

With permission of the Chair, a member of the public raised the following items:

The resident asked if consideration could be given to hosting Defib training for the communities as had recently been held in North Muskham.

The resident asked whether the Parish Council could provide any support in raising awareness of assistance required at the Church. There was only one Church warden

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now, and very few volunteers coming forward. The Chair suggested writing a report for the Muskham Magazine highlighting the services provided for the communities and how vital it was that it be supported. The Clerk was asked to establish whether there was any legal reason the Parish Council could not provide a financial grant to the Church.

Reference was made to the condition of the footpath from North to South Muskham alongside the Great North Road. The Clerk advised this had been logged, but would be logged again.

Next Meeting – Parish Council - Wednesday, 18th June 2025 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, South Muskham

The meeting was closed at 8.31pm