

**South Muskham/Little Carlton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm**  
**in the Main Hall, South Muskham Village Hall**

**Membership:** C Briggs-Price, K Brown, D Catanach (Chair), R Gill, P Jarvis, G Shearing & E Tilbury

Together with County Councillor Laughton and 4 members of the public

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**76.23/24 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from District Councillor Mrs Saddington

**77.23/24 Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**Open Session**

The Chair suspended Standing Orders at 7.31pm for County Councillor Laughton's report.

Councillor Laughton advised that he was on the Committee establishing the Mayoral role in readiness for the election which would be held in May 2024. A structure was being put in place which would enable the Mayor to start work immediately after the election.

An extra £1.3billion would come into the area over the next 5 years due to the Mayoral structure. A special Full Council meeting would be held on 7<sup>th</sup> December to ratify the decision making process.

No further information was available on the interactive speed sign, and Councillor Laughton advised he would update as and when information became available. The Clerk confirmed that details of the proposed locations had not yet been received.

The Chair thanked Cllr Laughton for his report and reconvened the meeting at 7.35pm.

With permission of Members, the Chair brought forward Agenda Item 7.2 for consideration.

**78.23/24 To receive details of the Great North Road Solar Park and the request by the Planning Inspectorate for comments on the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report**

The Chair advised that, on 20<sup>th</sup> November, he had attended a combined meeting of parishes affected by the Great North Road Solar Park proposals. At the moment, the only item that needed to be considered was the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report, with responses required to the Planning Inspectorate by 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023. This is a statutory deadline and cannot be extended.

The purpose of the combined group was to share knowledge and experience to respond to the Scoping Report initially. It was recognised that the group would need to work together during the process. One concern centred on Parish Meetings who

were not recognised by the Planning Inspectorate as a statutory consultee and efforts were being made to ensure these communities had a voice.

It was acknowledged that renewable energy and solar parks and farms were of benefit if they were in the right place and right area, but not on prime agricultural land.

The Chair suspended Standing Orders at 7.40pm to allow questions from residents.

A resident considered that this was not a proposal that benefitted local people, it was a way of generating money for a small group of people.

A resident questioned the accuracy of the grading of the agricultural land, which was defined as low grade in the Environmental Impact Assessment. This land is actively growing crops, so the grading should be higher.

Concerns were expressed that the panels were not recyclable so would end up in landfill at the end of their lifetime.

It was noted that, at the end of the temporary 40 year period, the land would be returned to its current use. However, concern was expressed as to who would be responsible for this given that it was likely the original developer would not be the owner at that time.

Solar farms did not generate any rateable value.

A resident expressed concern at the increased flood risk posed by water run off from the panels.

The Chair thanked residents for their input and reconvened the meeting at 8.10pm.

After discussion, it was considered that there were 9 areas that needed to be raised in the Scoping Report:

- The view from viewpoint 21 would be insufficient and irrelevant for any gainful purpose. The viewpoint should be moved further north along the B6325, relative to the last row of houses in the village on the east side of the road. The viewpoint should also be from the first floor, not the ground floor.
- Viewpoint 23 needs to be at the back of the houses to the north of Bathley Lane in Little Carlton, and also at first floor level too.
- There needs to be an additional viewpoint on the road bridge over the railway north of South Muskham, especially for glint and glare on major roads as well as visual.
- Greater assurances are required regarding flood risk assessments to include, and take into account, water run-off from dry land and the effect of having less ground to soak rainfall. Plus, greater scrutiny of water retention work was required.
- The accuracy of the footpaths included in the plans in Table 10.6 on page 101 need to be checked.
- South Muskham needs to be included in Table 11.1 on page 109

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- The B6325 needs to be included in Table 11.2 on page 109. The B6325 is a major route in and out of Newark.
- A bond for the removal and decommissioning of the land needs to be included.
- The grading of agricultural land is arbitrary considering this area is grade 2-3 and not as described in the Scoping Report.

It was AGREED that the Clerk would review the Scoping Report and incorporate the above comments. After which the document would be circulated to Members for review prior to submission to the Planning Inspectorate prior to the deadline of 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Members referred to the letter received from Cllr Ben Bradley, Leader of the County Council. The Clerk was asked to establish if Nottinghamshire County Council had a renewable energy policy, especially given their involvement in the step fusion plans for High Marnham.

The letter from Robert Jenrick MP was also noted, with Members of the opinion that his support, and that of any successor, would be vital.

The Chair advised that a Parish Meeting would be called once the Scoping Report was out of the way and more details were available from the developer.

79.23/24

**Chair's Report**

The Chair advised that he had attended the District Council's Planning Committee on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> November, to speak on the solar farm applications. Both applications were rejected by the District Council.

As previously referred to, the Chair had attended a joint parishes meeting on the Great North Road Solar Park.

80.23/24

**To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

81.23/24

**Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda**

There were none.

82.23/24

**Financial Issues**

82.1

To record Receipts

There were none to record.

82.2

Invoices for payment:

- Clerk's Wages ( October) - £301
- HMRC Payment (October) - £75.20
- Bank Charges - £8
- WaterPlus - £17.22 & £17.69
- NSDC – Half Year Dog Waste Bins - £163.68
- Internal Auditor Payment - £46.96

- Norwell Groundcare – Inv 940 - £90

- 82.3 To note the National Joint Council for Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2023  
Members noted information regarding the pay agreement reached by the National Joint Council, which was backdated to April 2023. The Clerk's back pay would be calculated and included with the November payroll.
- 82.4 To consider budget priorities in advance of the Precept Setting 2024/25  
Members were asked to consider any budget priorities they would want to be considered and to advise the Clerk prior to the January Meeting when the Precept would be set.
- 83.23/24 **Planning**  
83.1 Applications  
**23/01670/HOUSE- Grange Court, Grange Farm Mews, South Muskham - Loft conversion and roof raising.**  
After consideration, it was AGREED that this application be supported.
- 83.2 Decision Notices  
There were none to receive.
- 83.3 Tree Works  
There were none to consider.
- 84.23/24 **Parish Council Matters**  
84.1 To receive notes of the Safer Neighbourhood Group – July 2023  
Members received and noted the notes of the Safer Neighbourhood Group from July 2023. The next meeting was scheduled to be held in January 2024.
- 84.2 To receive details of the Great North Road Solar Park and the request by the Planning Inspectorate for comments on the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report  
This item had been considered earlier on the agenda and covered under Minute No 78.23/24.
- 84.3 To note resident concerns regarding dog fouling  
Members noted concerns received from a resident regarding dog fouling on Main Street, South Muskham.  
  
The Clerk was asked to establish further information from the resident that could then be submitted to the Community Protection Team at Newark & Sherwood District Council.
- 85.23/24 **Beckitt Field**  
Councillor Brown advised that an additional cut had been requested of the whole field, with the cost to be met by the Parish Council.

86.23/24 **Flooding, Drainage & Emergency Planning**

86.1 To consider a review of the contents of the Resilience Store

It was AGREED that this be deferred to the January meeting as it had not been possible to gain access to the store.

The Clerk was asked to feedback to the Incident Room at Newark & Sherwood District Council concern at the visit made to residents advising that flooding of properties was imminent.

86.2 To note details of an introductory webinar for the Community Flood Signage Scheme

Details of the webinar to be circulated to flood wardens for information.

86.3 To consider a review of nominated Flood Wardens

The Clerk was asked to review the flooding emergency plan and report back to the January meeting.

87.23/24 **Highways**

87.1 The Clerk was asked to follow up on the locations for the interactive speed sign.

The condition of the road between South Muskham and North Muskham, from the railway bridge to the Crab Lane junction to be reported.

88.23/24 **Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils**

There was nothing to report.

89.23/24 **Correspondence**

The Clerk advised that the decision notice had been received from Newark & Sherwood District Council for 22/00976/FULM. This would be included on the January agenda for formal noting.

90.23/24 **Other matters arising not on the agenda**

The Clerk was asked to follow up with the Environment Agency regarding the work to the floodbank on Main Street.

**Next Meeting** – Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed at 9.15pm

The Chair extended his best wishes to Members for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Minutes approved as a true record –