

LAXTON AND MOORHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7.30 pm on Thursday 28 November 2023 at Laxton Visitor Centre Nottinghamshire

Present: Councillors:

J. Hill (chair)
M.Hennell
R. Creighton
S,Rose
A Moorhouse
D. Sheard

In attendance at parish council meeting

C. Wilson (Clerk)
S. Michael (District councillor)
Members of the public (x4)

		ACTION
LMPC/313/23	Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr S Hill. Mr Pringle had also sent apologies. As vice chair, Mr J Hill chaired the meeting in Mr S Hill's absence.	
LMPC/314 /23	Declarations of interest: Mr Sheard declared an interest in item 13b (Finance – Accounts for payment) and, as a member of the village hall committee. There were no other declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.	
LMPC/315/23	Dispensations: None required.	
LMPC/316/23	<p>10 Minutes public speaking: The members of the public had attended to discuss the Great North Road solar farm scoping opinion consultation. In order to accommodate this, councillors agreed to move next to item 10 c on the agenda (Scoping - EN010162 - Great North Road Solar Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation).</p> <p>Mr J Hill and Mr Sheard had attended a meeting on 20 November 2023 called by the Norwell and Sutton in Trent parish clerks to explore, where appropriate, a collective approach across parishes. That meeting had been disappointed to learn that only parish councils had authority to comment with parish meetings having no legal standing for this purpose.</p> <p>The MP for Newark & Sherwood, Mr Jenrick, had already made his opposition known and had written to all parishes.</p> <p>It was explained that the scoping opinion was concerned with giving consultees the opportunity to comment on all matters which should be addressed by the applicant's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which would form part of any planning application.</p> <p>Councillors noted that the document was currently 205 pages long and expressed their frustration that parish councils do not have the necessary resources or expertise to support them in commenting on such a technical document.</p> <p>Mr Sheard summarised the contents of the draft report he had prepared on the parish council's behalf.</p>	

	<p>Councillors noted that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The public's main concern was that there were two properties in Moorhouse which would be surrounded by panels if the scheme proceeds. b. The scheme provided for panels covering 4.45% of the Newark & Sherwood district and 1.4% of the county c. Moorhouse has a grade II listed church and Laxton a grade I listed building d. Although the NCC flood officer had advised that the risk of flooding and run off at Moorhouse was not significant, there was scope for a rut effect causing water to run e. The use of the land to graze sheep around the panels was not necessarily advantageous f. There were doubts regarding the extent of the developer's long term commitment to the future restoration of the land to its original condition. <p>In view of the tight deadline for comments of 6 December 2023, it was decided that the clerk should post information for the public on the website together with a link to Mr Sheard's report and a deadline to submit their comments Of 7pm on 3 December 2023. Comments received before the deadline would be taken into consideration and incorporated into the report as councillors agreed was appropriate by email. Councillors also confirmed that, subject to any public comments, the contents of the draft report were agreed.</p> <p>Councillors then agreed that, for the benefit of the attending public, the meeting should move to item 12 g on the agenda (Flood resilience – Working party report and associated decisions). Councillors noted that the working party was recommending that the report should be submitted to NCC and that a signage scheme should be initiated. They noted that the working party had concluded that a road closure scheme was not appropriate. It was decided that the signs should be stored in the resilience store located at Mr Hennell's property.</p> <p>Mr Sheard reported on his meeting with Mr Marshall, the NCC flooding officer. Mr Marshall had visited that Laxton and Moorhouse were not considered high priority when compared with villages such as Caunton where 30 properties had flooded. Mr Marshall had suggested that he attend the March 2024 meeting to meet councillors and talk through issues and concerns. Councillors welcomed the offer. The clerk will issue a formal invitation. Mr Sheard went on the outline the potential options for water management which had been identified.</p> <p>Mrs Michael drew the public's attention to the NSDC financial flood assistance scheme. She also updated the meeting on the recent flooding and action taken by NSDC.</p> <p>Mr Sheard emphasised the importance placed by the authorities on households developing their individual resilience. The parish council would stock some spare aquasacs for vulnerable residents although it was noted that these were inevitably ineffective where water rises through then floor. The clerk will order 30 more aquasacs for each of the parish council's two resilience stores.</p> <p>The public left the meeting which reverted to the agenda order.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>LMPC/317/23</p>	<p>Thoresby Estate report (if any): No report available.</p>	

LMPC/318/23	Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 26 September 2023: The minutes of the parish council meetings held on 26 September 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by Mr J Hill as meeting chair.	
LMPC/319/23	Matters arising: <i>Item LMPC/306a – WWI and WWII Remembrance</i> – The clerk will follow up on the poppies order. These will be taken down this week. WWI and WWII memorial on the Green to be an agenda item for the July 2024 meeting. There were no other matters arising which were not otherwise on the agenda.	
LMPC/320/23	Reports from councillors: In addition to her flooding report at LMPC/316/23 10 minutes public speaking, Mrs Michael reported that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. She had spoken with the NSDC officer regarding Bar Farmhouse. It is currently with the conservation team who have yet to revert to the officer b. The introduction of the district wide glass recycling scheme had been postponed. Mr S Hill was actioned to contact Rob to see whether he would collect from Moorhouse in principle. c. The Safer Neighbourhood Group had met on 26 October 2023. The matters discussed were mainly flood focused. The parking issues discussed at parish council’s recent meetings had been raised. PCSO Dunn will drive through the village to look at the problem in the new year. The next meeting, if anyone has any concerns they would like to raise, is taking place on 8 January 2024. 	
LMPC/321/23	Property matters including sports field and Glebe Field matters (if any): The clerk reported that her search through old accounts and financial records had revealed that the funds for the cost of the pavilion’s construction had been paid in to the parish council’s accounts by way of a grant and paid out to the builder. This indicated that, contrary to previous discussion and agreement of the council’s fixed assets, the council may have a proprietorial interest in the pavilion. As the minutes are now held in the NCC archive she is required to make an appointment to visit to inspect the minutes from the time. She confirmed that she is enquiring as to whether insurance would be available in circumstances where the ownership is unclear. She will report back to the January 2024 meeting once the outcome of her investigations is known. The clerk had reported the issues with the hedge along the footpath to NCC.	Clerk
LMPC/322/23	Planning matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Applications: 23/01733/HOUSE Demolish existing store. Single storey side/rear extension to form garage/tractor store. Single storey kitchen extension to rear. Convert existing garage to pool room – Following consideration, councillors had no comments. b. Scoping - EN010162 - Great North Road Solar Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation: Discussed at LMPC/316/23 (10 minutes public speaking) above. c. To note planning decisions by NSDC: None d. Compliance: No matters raised. 	
LMPC/323/23	Defibrillator inspection report: Mr J Hill reported that, save that a set of new pads was required, there were no issues. The clerk will	Clerk

	order the pads.	
LMPC/324/23	<p>Village environment and appearance, including Bar Farmhouse:</p> <p>a. Bar Farmhouse: Update at LMPC/320/23 (Reports from councillors) above. Councillors agreed no longer required as a standing agenda item.</p> <p>b. Parish roads and pavements, including Moorhouse village sign: Mr Pringle not in attendance. Mr Sheard will inspect issues of concern and report back to Mr Pringle direct. The overgrown hedge at Smithy Farm was referred to the Thoresby Estate for attention. Mr Sheard will send the clerk photos of the condition of the pavement at Moorhouse Road. Councillors discussed the ongoing absence of a reduced speed limit at Moorhouse, noting that there had been another accident in Moorhouse with a car coming off the road.</p> <p>c. Bench for Moorhouse: The bench will be installed when weather conditions are better.</p> <p>d. Use of telephone kiosk: Councillors agreed no longer required as a standing agenda item. Mr Sheard will display community information and keep the contents up to date. The use of the kiosk will be developed from there over time.</p> <p>e. Christmas 2023 event – Working party – Approval of arrangements including risk assessment: Councillors adopted the risk assessment as circulated noting that the tree had been erected in accordance with its specifications. Christmas event risk assessment to be a standing item on future September meeting agendas. Councillors approved expenditure of £60.93 on event refreshments and £47.85 on mince pies.</p> <p>f. Flood resilience: Discussed at LMPC/316/23 ((10 minutes public speaking) above.</p>	<p>DS</p> <p>DS</p> <p>Sept 24 agenda</p>
LMPC/325/23	<p>a. Financial position as at 31 October 2023: Councillors considered and noted the clerk’s report showing the precise financial position at 31 October 2023 (incorporating the 2023-24 budget figures).</p> <p>b. Accounts for payment: Councillors unanimously approved ten payments totalling £850.46. Councillors noted the importance of submitting expenditure invoices in advance.</p> <p>c. Open Field donation: After discussion, councillors decided to donate £80 towards the production cost of this important village communication.</p> <p>d. Appointment of internal auditor: Councillors agreed that Halam parish clerk should be asked whether she would be prepared to undertake the role for a further year.</p> <p>e. Review system of internal control: Councillors discussed the operation of the system of internal control and agreed that it was adequate for the size and needs of the council and continued to operate effectively, subject to the appointment of an internal auditor which was in hand.</p> <p>f. Consider need for interim internal audit: The clerk advised councillors as to the on-going nature of the internal audit process. Councillors considered their financial affairs for the financial year to date. They decided that, given the annual internal audit carried out by Halam parish clerk, an interim internal audit would be disproportionate and was not justified.</p>	
LMPC/326/23	<p>Village Hall: Councillors noted that the Village Hall was running at a loss. Mr Sheard suggested a donation to the Village Hall but declared a as a interest member of the Village Hall Committee. He noted that</p>	

	this precluded him from participating in any discussion. Councillors took the view that village hall finances were a matter for the committee.	
LMPC/327/23	Winter order: The clerk will place the 2023 winter order.	Clerk
LMPC/328/23	Councillor in charge of information: a. Social media: Deferred to January 2024 for consideration of the management implications and the need for and content of a risk assessment. b. Parish council website: The clerk will remove the outdated information from the website.	Clerk Clerk
LMPC/329/23	Service faults: None reported	
LMPC/330/23	Correspondence: None.	
LMPC/331/23	5 minutes public speaking time: No public present.	
LMPC/332/23	Agenda items for next meeting: See above and Report on Christmas event	
LMPC/312/22	Date of next meeting: 7.30 pm Tuesday 23 January 2024 at Laxton Visitor Centre. The 2024 meeting dates were considered. Councillors noted that the date of the March 2024 meeting might need to be altered from fourth Tuesday in the month.	

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm