

# **LAXTON AND MOORHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Laxton & Moorhouse Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 28 May 2024 at 7.00pm in Laxton Village Hall, Laxton.**

**Present:** S.Hill (chair), S. Rose, J. Hill, M. Hennell, A. Moorhouse (from 7.30 pm), D. Sheard, C. Wilson (clerk), M. Pringle (County Councillor) from 7.25 pm, R. Marshall (Principal Officer, NCC Flood Management)

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mrs Creighton and Mrs Michael. Mrs Moorhouse and Mr Pringle arrived during the meeting.
- 2. Minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting:** The minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.
- 3. District Councillor's report:** District councillor Michael was not in attendance.
- 4. County Councillor's report:** Considered after item 6 following Mr Pringle's arrival at the meeting. Mr Pringle reported on highways and social care, the two major issues in the county.
- 5. Chair of the Parish Council's report:** The chair presented his report and referred to the following in particular:
  - a. It had been a busy first year with three new councillors
  - b. The parish council had been working with county councillor Pringle in relation to various highways issues
  - c. Additional dog bins purchased and installed by the parish council
  - d. The possible replacement of the defibrillator in the Visitor Centre
  - e. Work with the Village Hall Committee and sports field to increase the number of community events
  - f. Flooding
  - g. Developments in relation to the solar park
- 6. Presentations**
  - i. Ross Marshall (Nottinghamshire County Council Flood Management Officer):** In his presentation, Mr Marshall:
    - a. Set out in context the scale of the flooding issues in the county and this year's huge increase in the numbers of properties experiencing flooding and implications for resources and allocations
    - b. Explained that Laxton is not a priority area because it has not experienced flooding
    - c. Acknowledged that Moorhouse has been the subject of flooding
    - d. Explained that a key issue in flood management is ensuring that drains work properly so that surface water is dispersed safely
    - e. Explained that NCC would be able to provide some technical support with investigations into riparian and drainage responsibilities although Laxton would not be a priority
    - f. Advised that the cost of investigative works would be significant and would need to be funded by the parish council
    - g. Confirmed that NCC would be able to provide support in relation to overflowing gulleys
    - h. Recognised that Moorhouse is a separate issue with its own problems
    - i. Explained that there are limits to the solutions provided by engineering methods
    - j. Emphasised the importance of promoting and developing resilience within communities. In that regard, in communities like Laxton where there is a lot of local knowledge, the key is communication and vigilance to avoid blockages at known risk sites
    - k. Confirmed that NCC is working on natural flood management but budgets have

been constrained by the repair and restoration demands of the unprecedented storms since October 2023

- l. Explained that NCC has four principal officers, each with a specific geographical responsibility and a county wide role
- m. Confirmed that the officer with responsibility for natural flood management might have capacity to model Laxton to see whether it would be suitable for as some schemes. This would be determined by the number of watercourses and factors such a gradients with steep land posing its own challenges. He will ask ten officer to undertake a feasibility study.
- n. Explained that natural flood management is essentially just slowing the course of the water and is very much within a community's control and is heavily dependent on landowner support
- o. Offered to visit the parish for a walk round, provide maps on which councillors will be able to mark watercourses and responsibilities and support with an action plan

Councillors thanked Mr Marshall for attending.

- ii. **Jodi Carter-Davies, Development and Delivery Officer, Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire** – Included on agenda in error. Item for July 2024 parish council meeting.

The meeting reverted to item 4 on the agenda (County Councillor's report).

**7. Open forum:** No public present.

**8. Date of the next meeting: 27 May 2025**