

MISSON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on Wednesday 1st May 2024 at Misson Community Centre.

The chair read out the proposed recording protocol which will be delivered at the start of every meeting.

The Chair asked if anyone intended to record the meeting other than the Clerk. Cllr Robey declared he intended to record. No objections were raised by the public.

Pre-meeting from the public: It was asked if there had been any progress with the draining of flood water down Slaynes Lane. Cllr Sutherton stated that unfortunately the Environment Agency will not dredge (or de-silt) the River Idle. They give various reasons for not doing so. There is a door farther upriver which should open, but currently there is too much water. The other option is to pump out the water, but they are a long way from agreeing to that. Local farmers, including those in the Bawtry District, are campaigning to try and provoke action on this matter.

A MOP asked why an item that was on the agenda of the 16th April under 'correspondence' moved to be discussed under confidential items, and also why no feedback has been received. The Chair stated that the MOP was publicly thanked for the feedback when it was acknowledged under 'correspondence'. She took the decision that it would be discussed under confidential items because it related to internal issues between councillors. It was stated in the minutes of that meeting at item 20 that the comment had been discussed and outlined the outcome. The MOP asked what the Council's Complaint Procedure was. The Chair stated that the procedure was in the Standing Orders.

Present: Cllr Walker (Chair), Cllr Watkins, Cllr Scott, Cllr Watson, Cllr Robey, Cllr Sutherton, Cllr Andrews.

Clerk: S Scott.

1. Apologies were received from D.Cllr Pashley and C.Cllr Taylor.
2. The nomination of Cllr Walker as Chair to MPC was proposed and seconded. Cllr Robey abstained. The nomination of Cllr Watson as Vice-Chair was proposed and seconded. Cllrs Robey and Scott abstained. The Acceptance of Office forms will be completed forthwith.
3. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests: Cllr Walker – non-pecuniary interest as editor of Community Newsletter and a Trustee of Village Park and Playground Project. Cllr Watkins – non-pecuniary interest as a member of the River Idle Management Partnership. Cllr Sutherton – non-pecuniary interest as a member of the River Idle Management Partnership. Cllr Robey – non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of Misson Community Association. Cllr Scott – non-pecuniary interest as a member of Misson Community Association management committee.
4. The Clerk corrected minor errors, and the Council approved the minutes of 16th April 2024. They will now be placed on the notice boards and on the website.
5. Matters arising not on the agenda – The Best Kept Village award scheme was discussed. It was decided to mention it in the forthcoming newsletters to gauge residents' thoughts, and then to enter next year if villagers were in support. The C.Cllr has more information about the award if people were interested in the categories available for judging. The adoption of the Recording of Public Meetings Protocol was proposed and seconded. There were no objections. It will be placed on the website.
6. No report from the County Councillor, apart from an email stating that she was looking into the complaint about the state of the chequered bridge at Misson Springs.
7. No report from the District Councillor, although he stated by email that he would be present at the next monthly surgery on Thursday 16th May 2024.

8. Update on policing – No update. The Chair will ask the D.Cllr if he managed to make contact with PC Pickersgill.
9. Parish administration and record-keeping – All existing policies and procedures are reviewed each year.
- Standing Orders – It was agreed to remove items 2L to 2N and replace with the Recording of Public Meetings Protocol.
- It was agreed to leave the Financial Regs, as NALC were due to issue the updated regulations in May.
- The updated Code of Conduct Policy was adopted in April 2024.
- The Data Protection and Privacy Policy was approved.
- The Freedom Of Information and Model Publication Policy was signed off in April 2024.
- The Reserves Policy was approved.
- The current Memorial Safety Policy and the Cemetery Regs were approved, but with the decision to look at amalgamating the two policies before the next review.
- It was agreed to discuss a Complaints Policy at the June meeting.
- The Clerk will obtain quotes for Public Liability Insurance which is due by 1st June 2024. The Council agreed to authorise the Clerk to go ahead with another insurer if significantly lower than the current insurer Zurich, as MPC will not be meeting again until the 6th June.
- The lawnmower insurance, which is due at the end of June will be discussed at the June meeting.
- The review of the asset register - it was recommended to depreciate any electrical item over four years. The wi-fi entry will be deleted as no longer in use. Regarding the Parish Hall building, the last time it was valued was 2019. It was agreed to contact Ross Jarvis to arrange a current valuation before the building insurance is due.
- Councillors received and approved the following expenses and receipts:
- Expenses
- BDC for renaming of the Community Centre to Parish Hall - £57.00 24/011
- PAYE for April - £65.80 24/012
- M Guest for April - £155.00 24/0015
- S E Scott salary for MPC and TEC for April - £620.96 24/013
- Torne Valley for sweeping brush - £13.25 inc vat 24/014
- Receipts
- Lengthsman grant from Via - £960.00 24/R003
- Bank interest for end of April - £14.10 24/R04
- Bank account balances as at 30th April 2024
- Current a/c – £13848.07
- Business Reserve a/c – £10768.59
- The accounts were not signed off at the meeting as they were still with the internal auditor. No issues found. He was planning to submit a report with comments on making the process easier. They will be signed at the June meeting.
- The draft Risk Register was approved with on-going approval that it will be amended as required and kept up to date. It will be signed off at the June meeting.
- The Clerk will forward to the Councillors the risk assessments for the lengthsman.
10. Planning Applications – A County application has been received for a proposed extension eastwards towards the existing Misson Grey Sand Quarry. Ref 24/0040/CDM. A decision is awaited. BDC have raised no objections to the application.

24/00293/HSE – an application for a two-storey side extension to 2, New Cottages on Dame Lane. Awaiting a decision.

No other planning applications received.

11. Discussion regarding the independent energy audit. Awaiting one more quote. Cllr Robey will obtain the square meterage of the building, as the cost of one quote depends on the size of the hall. The awarding of the contract will be decided at June's MPC meeting.
12. Report on the Neighbourhood Plan – No further update. It will be kept on the agenda until signed off.
13. Update on Neighbourhood Improvement Programme – Some public areas will be left uncut in support of the national initiative "No Mow May", some verges on Vicar Lane, areas around the trees on Coronation Avenue, areas around the trees on the green, and the outside verges of the Pinfold. The lengthsman foresee a challenge in June when the green will need to be fully cut, as the unmown areas will be very long. It will need to be strimmed and raked first, which will take more time, and therefore is likely to cost more than usual. The Council agreed to review the cost benefit analysis. Thanks were passed to Cllr Watkins for her discussions with the lengthsman, and to the lengthsman for finding a sensible compromise this year. We are in year seven of leaving areas around the village unmown and are now reaping the benefits. Partly due to designated large areas of the churchyard being allowed to grow wild, MPC has been able to assist the church in receiving an environment award. Cllr Robey mentioned that the village sign on Station Road appears to be covered in ivy and that the hedge is growing over it. It was agreed to investigate the matter. It was mentioned that the village signs need cleaning. The schedule of tasks that the lengthsman can be involved in will be sent to all Councillors.
14. Discuss the proposed agreement from MCA regarding the Parish Hall – A resolution on this matter was passed in December 2023 and reported in December's minutes. As per MPC's Standing Orders, the matter cannot be raised within six months unless Councillors significantly change their view. It was agreed to review the matter in December 2024 as previously agreed. MCA will be notified formally of the decision.
15. Reports from Parish groups and projects – There has been minimal response to the Speedwatch Scheme proposal. It will be kept live for a while longer. In future months, there will be a report from the Parish church compiled by the curate Liz Mack on behalf of Rev. Becky. The question was raised if anyone wished to become a school governor when a vacancy arose, as there used to be a representative from MPC on the board. Cllr Andrews requested more information on the role.
16. Update on the Parish Resilience Plan – The plan is ongoing. The Resilience Team will be meeting in the next couple of weeks, The date to be finalised. One team member will be attending a flood warden training session in Fishlake on the 22nd May. There was a flood warning at the weekend. River levels were monitored and are now back to where they were a few weeks ago.
17. Review of Parish highways and paths – The overgrown footpath (no. 1) next to True Fate has been reported to the relevant department, requested that the hawthorn hedge is cut back. A MOP is concerned that the step over at the access to Linebank is too high for horses to cross. The Clerk will send an email to EA (which erected the extra step) and NCC (which is responsible for maintaining the safe passage of the Bridleway). It was meant to prevent quad bikes going onto the bridlepath, unfortunately, they are driving around the obstacle. A photograph of the broken sign on Station Road has been sent to Highways. After all the rain at the weekend, the road at Williamson's corner was flooded. Photographs have been taken and will be sent to the Highways Department requesting that the drains, and gulleys in the kerbs be cleared of debris, which is causing the blockages.
18. Feedback from meetings – No meetings attended.

19. Correspondence received – The MCA have formally requested permission to use the green on Saturday 20th July 2024 to hold ‘Party on the Green’. This is a courtesy request and approval allows the event to be formally covered by the Public Liability Insurance for the Green. Approved by MPC. A FOI request has been received regarding TTN. Approximately ten years ago a class action by some villagers was placed with Hugh James Solicitors to complain about TTN odour nuisance. TTN subsequently settled out of court. The ‘gag’ order on the claimants expired around two years ago, which meant that the action could resume if the problem had not gone away. The problem still exists, therefore, information is to be gathered from December 2022.
20. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 5th June 2024.
21. Future MPC meetings will continue to be held on the first Wednesday in every month excluding August. It was also agreed that the monthly surgeries with the Parish Clerk and District Councillor will be held on the third Thursday in every month excluding August and December.
22. Confidential items were discussed once MOP had left.

S E Scott

Clerk to Misson Parish Council

10th May 2024