

SOUTH MUSKHAM/LITTLE CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Note of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 18 May 2016 at 7 pm in South Muskham Village Hall

Present: From the Parish Council
Councillors H Clack, D Catanach. Mrs K Carr, L Francis, R Gill,
Mrs G Gilroy and Mrs K Walsh

And: 2 members of the Public

County and District Councillor, Mrs S Saddington had previously apologised that she might be late because of another Parish Meeting. Her report was read out at the Annual Parish Council meeting and a copy would be attached to these Minutes.

Howard Clack, as Chairman of the Parish Council during the term 2015-16, presided

Chairman's Report

Howard expressed a warm welcome to those present. The Annual Parish Meeting provided an opportunity for local residents to raise any issues they had which related to the Parish now and in the future.

Howard wanted to take the opportunity to publically thank all members of the Parish Council for their hard work throughout the year; the Parish was fortunate to have all seven positions on the Council filled. He thanked his Vice-Chairman, Les Francis, for all his support during the year, his hard work in carrying out many hours maintenance at Beckett Field, and his input in the work of the now recognized and established Newark Healthcare Consultative Group; relative newcomers Gill Gilroy, Kim Walsh and Karen Carr for taking on a number of important roles, particularly with regard to Health and Safety issues, and he gratefully acknowledged the benefit to the Parish Council of Ron Gill and David Catanach, with their very considerable knowledge and expertise gained over the many years they had served the Parish. He wished to record again the 40 years plus achievement recently acknowledged by the County Association for Ron Gill's service to the Parish, and noted that David was not so far behind with over 25 years' in post. He also wished to publically thank Cllr Mrs Sue Saddington for her help throughout the year and for all her hard work on behalf of the residents of the Parish, and to Christine Slim in her role as Parish Clerk.

Many of the issues raised during the year were out of the control of the Parish Council: such as highway problems, litter, public footpaths, but the Parish Council would continue to press the responsible authorities to undertake required maintenance work and request necessary improvements. He was pleased to report the tentative suggestions that the bad odour smell problems might finally have been resolved, and recognise the efforts of a small team with the imminent production of a Parish Emergency Plan, the introduction of Speed Watch, and especially the closer working relationship between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee.

Other Members of the Parish echoed the Chairman's thoughts and everyone agreed that improved communication by way of the Parish Distribution List had enabled the Parish Council to reach more residents than previously. It was unanimously agreed that closer links with all residents, particularly their presence at Council meetings, to offer their views on both local issues and other matters which might affect the future life of the Parish, continued to be an important objective of the Parish Council.

Comments from Mrs Hazel Hall, present at the meeting, in respect of the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC)

Mrs Hall also agreed that the closer relationship between the Parish Council and the VHMC was appreciated by all concerned.

She was pleased to report that the coins recently purchased by the Parish Council and donated to the VHMC had all been sold.

The VHMC had also received a cheque of £150 from Cllr Mrs Saddington, out of her NCC Divisional Fund, and this had been earmarked to provide both wine and a very splendid birthday cake, which would be cut by a local resident now in her 90th year at the Queen's Birthday celebration event to be held on the afternoon of Saturday 11 June 2016.

The chairs had now been ordered to arrive at the beginning of June, but whilst a magnificent overall sum of £2700 had been achieved from a variety of fund-raising events, a shortfall of some £400 remained. Howard Clack offered to provide a loan to cover the shortfall, but Hazel advised that a member of the VHMC had also very kindly made a similar offer.

County & District Ward Councillor, Mrs Sue Saddington. Because of attendance at another Parish Council meeting, Cllr Mrs S Saddington was unable to arrive until the start of the Parish Council Meeting when she presented her Annual Report. A copy of that report would be attached this Minute of the Meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm
Clerked by Christine Slim

Annual Report by Cllr Mrs S Saddington : South Muskham/Little Carlton 18 May 2016

District Council Report

Life at the District Council has been quite busy this year:

The Civil War Museum opened its doors, along with the refurbished Palace Theatre.

The Newark Sports and Fitness Centre would be officially opened on Friday May 20th and building work was due to commence on the new NSDC Offices . It was planned to include several organisations within the Office building in addition to NSDC, which should make services more easily accessible.

Cllr Saddington was pleased to report that the application for the Sainsbury supermarket just beyond the Cattlemarket Island was refused. Unfortunately Highways England and NCC did not see a problem with the application, particularly as Highways England said they would widen the Cattlemarket Island. In her opinion this was tinkering around the edges! With an entrance close to the Island, a petrol filling station close to the entrance and a pelican crossing planned across the road, Newark would, in her opinion, be more inaccessible than at present and she believed residents would shop elsewhere and Newark Town Centre businesses and the Market would suffer loss of trade.

County Council Report

Following the Nottinghamshire County Council budget last February, residents were aware that there was nearly a 4% rise in Council Tax. 2% for normal spend and 2% for funding to be ring-fenced towards Social Care. Public opinion was divided, there was certainly a need for better social care and if, as the Administration had promised , this money went into that department then many residents might see an improvement in care.

Cllr Mrs Saddington was pleased to report that the County Councillors Divisional Fund remained, and she would continue to use her Fund in support of village projects.

She would continue to hound Highways England to progress quickly with improvements to our major junctions, as each day travelling around Newark appeared worse than the day before. It had a major effect on residents and this would continue to be addressed with some urgency.

She had recently received plans from Highways England for proposed mitigation measures until major works were undertaken around Newark. They had listed the solutions they had considered, some of which would have made a difference, such as speed limits on trunk roads, queue warning signs additional lanes for queuing traffic, to name a few. However they had subsequently only proposed lining, signing, with minor widening to the three main islands-Cattlemarket, Brownhills and Friendly Farmer Island; hatched ladder markings on the A46 between Farndon and the Cattlemarket; and some large message signs!!

The Local Minerals Plan Development Plan had taken up much time during the year, particularly in respect to Flash Farm. Residents' meetings had been held with the intended applicant and residents had also attended Committee meetings at NCC, Kelham & Averham. She would continue to make local concerns clear as to why this site would be unsuitable, not least of course because of the traffic over Kelham Bridge. At the current time, the Minerals Local Plan submission would be brought to the Environment and Sustainability Committee on September 22nd, 2016. The Committee would be asked to endorse and agree the Plan before submission to the Secretary of State and public examination.

Following a review by the Chief Executive and the report to Policy Committee on February 16th, the confirmed go-live date for the new highways and fleet joint venture was to be 1 July 2016. On this date staff would transfer into the new company and full operations would commence. The contractual arrangements are with CorServ Ltd – a Teckall Company, wholly owned by Cornwall CC. The new Company name and brand for the joint venture, which has been tested with the Council's Citizens' Panel, is...VIA. **

The 01623 numbers have been discontinued, Officers mobiles remain the same, the number for reporting is 0300 500 8080. The brand should seek to demonstrate: Value for money; Quality & Reliability; Competitiveness and Growth. Cllr Saddington was sure residents would say the Jury will be out as to whether or not there will be any improvements. At the end of the day, residents expected potholes to be repaired, bus services to be provided, performing schools available for their children and necessary social care to be provided .

**subsequent to the meeting an introductory letter regarding the new arrangement has been received from NCC and a copy is enclosed for information.

Cllr Mrs Saddington looked forward to the coming year and working with Parish Councils to achieve, however small, improvements to the village way of life.

She thanked members of the Parish Council, and local volunteer residents, who gave up their time to run the Parish for the benefit of all residents, organise events and undertake projects within the Parish, without which the Parish would be much the poorer. She also thanked Christine, the Parish Clerk

She would continue to try and attend all Parish Council meetings , but representing 23 parish councils, many of which hold their meetings on the same evening, it was inevitable that she would only able to stay a few minutes at each meeting.

Cllr Mrs Sue Saddington

18 May 2016