LAXTON AND MOORHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7.00 pm on Tuesday 28 January 2025 at Laxton Visitor Centre, Laxton, Nottinghamshire

Present: Councillors:

S.Hill (chair)

J,Hill

M.Hennell

S. Rose

A. Moorhouse

R. Creighton

In attendance at parish council meeting

C. Wilson (Clerk)

M. Pringle (County councillor)

Members of the public (x1)

		ACTION
LMPC/1/ 25	Apologies for absence: Mr Sheard's apologies were accepted. Mrs Michael was not in attendance.	
LMPC/2/ 25	Declarations of interest: There were no declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.	
LMPC/3/ 25	Dispensations: None required.	
LMPC/4/ 25	10 Minutes public speaking: Nothing raised.	
LMPC/5/ 25	Thoresby Estate report (if any): No report.	
LMPC/6/ 25	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26 November 2024: The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 26 November 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.	
LMPC/137/ 24	Matters arising: There were no matters arising.	
LMPC/8/ 25	Reports from district and county councillors: Mrs Michael was absent. In his report, Mr Pringle referred to the following in particular: 1. The local government re-organisation 2. NCC budget developments 3. NCC adult social care issues.	
LMPC/9/ 25	Reports from councillors: Mr S Hill reported that he had attended the Safer Neighbourhood Group meeting earlier in January. This had taken place at a new venue, Sutton Village Hall. Very little criminal activity had been reported by the police at the meeting, the main issues being speeding traffic in villages and petty crime. Councillors considered Mr Sheard's written report (copy appended) referring to flooding, the 2025 litter pick, sports field, Glebe field, Christmas lights, lamppost poppies, speed limit at Moorhouse and potential parish council aims and objectives. Councillors felt that,	

	taking account of the existing statutory and regulatory framework governing the parish council, meeting time should be preserved for the significant matters currently requiring consideration.	
	There were no other reports.	
LMPC/10/ 25	Property matters including sports field, condition report and Glebe Field matters (if any): The Thoresby Charitable Trust's decision on the funding application was still awaited. Mr Rose reported a query regarding the boundaries for which the licensee was responsible. The clerk will check the terms of the licence and let Mr Rose know. She will also report the hedge overgrowing the footpath alongside Glebe field.	Clerk Clerk
	The clerk will diarise the next sports field inspection for summer 2025.	Clerk/ Agenda
LMPC/11/ 25	 Planning matters: a. Applications: None. b. To note planning decisions by NSDC: None. c. Great North Road Solar Park – Update and consider contribution to planning consultant report to be commissioned by the local Joint Parish Council Action Group (JPAG): Councillors appreciated that Moorhouse residents had been very active in relation to the proposals and consultation, noting, in particular, their comprehensive objections submitted to GNR and open letter to the parish council. They discussed the residents' petition asking the council for a contribution to the JPAG consultants' costs commensurate with the council's financial constraints taking account of: 1. The other councils which had agreed to contribute, including Weston, and the respective amounts each was being asked to pay 2. The survey results 3. The basis of the residents' objections 4. The extent and proximity to residential properties of the land affected in Moorhouse 5. Moorhouse's proximity to the open fields and conservation area and impact on Laxton's surrounding character. Councillors unanimously decided that the parish council should contribute an amount to be determined later under item 13 on the agenda (Financial matters). d. Compliance: The clerk will chase NSDC regarding the fence at Croftways. 	Clerk
LMPC/12/ 25	 Defibrillator: a. Inspection report: Mr J Hill confirmed that the pad expiry dates were 18 May 2024 and 28 August 2025 respectively. Councillors decided that the clerk should order one pair to replace the expired set. b. Replacement defibrillator and funding: After discussion, councillors decided that the replacement defibrillator should be 	Clerk Clerk
	 installed in the phone box. The clerk will research funding opportunities for a suitable device. c. Provision of first aid kit: The clerk will explore the availability of dates for a spring event. 	Clerk
LMPC/13/ 25	Flood resilience working party – Report and any associated decisions: Councillors noted from Mr Sheard's report referred to at LMPC/9/25 (Reports from councillors) that NCC did not have capacity to provide support at this time and that he had contacted GNR	

	regarding flooding and natural flood management.	
LMPC/14/ 24	Christmas event 2024 – Parish council Christmas event group – Event report: Councillors were grateful for the £200 donation from Thoresby Charitable Trust. All agreed that the event had gone well although the order of events could be tweaked going forward. All were pleased with the appearance of then trees. Mr Rose reported that the Village Hall Committee also felt that the event had been a success. The clerk will add the purchase of new Christmas lights to the September 2025 agenda.	Agenda Sept 25
LMPC/15/ 25	 Parish environment and appearance, including: a. Parish roads and pavements: Nothing discussed. b. WWI and WWII remembrance memorial on the Green: Councillors noted from Mr Sheard's report referred to at LMPC/9/25 (Reports from councillors) that new lamp post poppies would be required for November 2025. Mr Pringle suggested that the council approach ATTFE to ask if their students would make a community memorial as a project. The clerk will make a request. c. Parish environment enhancement in recognition of previous serving parish council members: Deferred. 	Clerk
LMPC/16/ 25	Financial matters: a. Financial position as at 31 December 2024: Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 31 December 2024 (incorporating the 2024-25 budget figures) which the chair cross referred to the bank statements. Councillors agreed that the CIL levy should be applied to the purchase of the Moorhouse bench which cost £484.96. They also asked the clerk to approach the Thoresby Charitable Trust for funding for a new defibrillator. b. Approve clerk's salary: Councillors had noted the NJC salary increases at the meeting on 28 November 2024 (RPC/151/25) and approved the implementation of the increase. c. 2025 – 26 insurance arrangements: Councillors unanimously approved the 2025-26 insurance arrangements. d. Accounts for payment: Councillors unanimously approved twelve payments totalling £1,783.02. Councillors noted the amendments required by HSBC in relation to the change of signatories mandate. The clerk will deposit the amended paperwork with the Newark branch. e. Appointment of internal auditor: Councillors regretted that the Halam parish clerk was no longer undertaking this role for a further year. After discussion, it was agreed that Mr S Hill would approach a local resident with a financial background. f. To consider the financial information provided by the Clerk and NSDC's letter regarding 2025/26 precept estimates and to agree the precept for the year ending 31 March 2026: Councillors considered the financial information provided by the clerk. Taking account of, in particular: 1. The absence of any increase in the precept for the past seven years and increase in costs in that time 2. The withdrawal of the referendum requirement applicable to precept increases in excess of 5% councillors decided by a majority of 5:1 to increase the precept to £4,830. Councillors reverted to the amount of the contribution to the cost of the JPAG consultant's services deferred at LMPC/11/25 (Planning matters – GNR solar park). They discussed at length the co	Clerk

	account of all prospective income and expenditure, the council's financial position, reserves and financial constraints. Following some confusion in relation to the basis of an initial vote, councillors voted 3:3 on the proposal that the council should, contribute the full amount requested by JPAG, £1,075, towards the cost of the consultant's support. The proposal was carried on the chair's casting vote in favour of the proposal. It was unanimously agreed that the: i. contribution should be funded temporarily from the election reserve which will be topped up incrementally each year until election year ii. the council should make representations to Elements Green and NSDC incorporating Moorhouse residents' submissions already made.	Clerk
LMPC/17/ 25	Service faults: Mr Rose will provide the clerk with a photo of and what3words for a blocked mains pipe down the side of Ide Farm.	SR
LMPC/18/ 25	Correspondence: All items of correspondence noted. The clerk will post details of NSDC's Crop Drop scheme received after circulation of the agenda on the Website and Facebook page.	Clerk
LMPC/19/ 25	5 minutes public speaking time: Nothing raised.	
LMPC/20/ 25	Agenda items for next meeting: See above.	
LMPC/21/ 25	Date of next meeting : 7.00 pm Tuesday 26 March 2025 at the Visitor Centre.	

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm $\,$