

Minutes of Market Overton Annual Parish Meeting
7.00pm on Thursday 11th May 2023
Market Overton Village Hall

APM1	Present & apologies	Cllr. Williamson (Chairman), Cllr. Boyle, Cllr. England, Cllr. Lukacs-Winn, Cllr. Robins, Parish Clerk. 9 members of the public including speakers. Apologies: Linda Ellis, Ann Sutton, June and Stuart Sanders	
APM2	To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held 5 th May 2022	The minutes were summarised by the Chairman and approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr. England Seconded Cllr. Boyle.	
APM3	Chairman's Annual Report 2022/23	The Chairman referred to the annual Parish Council report and accounts – attached below.	

APM4	Proposed building development in Market Overton	Land North of Main Street – Field behind Walker Close, The Finches and The Limes. This development proposes erection of 28 dwellings consisting of affordable housing, bungalows and three and four bedroomed dwellings. The application is subject to an archaeological survey which is due to be carried out in June and the application is expected to be submitted upon completion of the survey. The Parish Council supports this application as it complies with the Neighbourhood Plan in both mix and quantity of housing. Land North of Main Street adjacent to the Lodge Trust - This application is for 3 detached houses and 5 bungalows. It was rejected by RCC Planning Committee as it falls outside the planned limits of development (PLD) for Market Overton. The landowner has lodged an appeal against the decision as other applications in Rutland have successfully appealed against a PLD being relied upon as a reason to prevent development. The application has also been amended to include 3 affordable homes and 5 bungalows. The Parish Council also support this application as it complies with the Neighbourhood Plan. If successful, these 2 applications would mean 36 additional homes in Market Overton. The now withdrawn Local Plan recommended 54 dwellings which was too many. We are aware of increased pressures on medical facilities, schooling and traffic that these would create but can also see the benefits of an increased, predominantly younger, population ensuring the survival of the village shop and public house.	
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APM5	Planning Application – Erection of additional poultry building to existing nearby hen rearing facility. Market Farm, Cottesmore Road.	Application to erect an additional shed increases capacity from 80,000 to 160,000 birds plus 2 extra feed bins, gas tank, concrete aprons, hardstanding for access, parking and turning space and 2 underground dirty water tanks. Purpose to rear chicks from 1 day old to 16 week point of lay pullets. Traffic (HGV and tractor) is expected to rise 79 journeys to 141 per 16 weeks. To date, nearby dwellings have not experienced any foul odours or fly infestation. Traffic around the village has not increased unduly. Concern is raised as to why the first application made no mention of potential expansion, whether the current facility operating at full capacity at present and will there be more increases in the future? It is also noted that loading and unloading takes place at the roadside not the facility. It is likely that every increase, increases the likelihood of odour, noise and traffic, especially at cleaning out times every 16 weeks. The Parish Council will highlight these concerns with RCC planning when responding to the application.	
APM6	Outlook Magazine – Celebration of 25years of publication	The village celebrates 25 years of the publication of Outlook magazine and expresses thanks and admiration to Julia Fisher Robins for the production of 147 issues. The magazine is an essential part of the local community and is much appreciated. Julia Fisher Robins was presented with a £50 voucher for the village shop, provided by the Parish Council and Parochial Church Council, in recognition of this remarkable achievement.	
APM7	Village Shop	The future of the village shop remains uncertain. Greatly increased utility costs are being experienced, combined with reduced footfall, and the shop is just breaking even. The shop is much appreciated as a community facility and the committee will do everything possible to ensure the shop's survival.	

APM8	AOB	Mark Dobson urged villagers to use the public phone box – ensure that it is not lost. Allan Boyle asked that homeowners take care of their properties and make sure that weeds are not overgrowing from walls and gravel drives are not migrating on to the footpath. The Parish Council currently has one vacancy for a Parish Councillor and would ask that anyone interested in applying contacts a Parish Councillor or the Parish Clerk. The meeting closed at 8.04pm	
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Parish Council Report 2023

Another year has flown by with lots going on in our village.

We met in early May with several interested parties to plan the Jubilee celebrations and fund some of the prizes and competitions on offer. Unfortunately, the horrendous weather over the Jubilee weekend somewhat dampened the enthusiasm for outdoor events and, although those who took part soldiered on in true British fashion and enjoyed themselves it did not have the effect of bringing all the village together as we had hoped for.

The hen rearing facility has been operational for a year now and it must be admitted has not, to date, given rise to any odour or fly infestation we had feared. However, we have now received a further application to increase the capacity – more on this later.

The village shop continues to perform both as a retail outlet and a community hub for which we thank the staff and volunteers for their service to the village. Unfortunately, the margins remain very tight, and survival is on a knife edge.

We organised a speed watch in the village during August of last year with letters sent to those who were found exceeding the speed limit. Whilst manning several of the speed points I have to say that some of the emergency braking was impressive when the drivers spotted us. Overall, the exercise proved that excessive speeding was not detected but unfortunately the exercise was performed when the schools were on holiday with consequently less traffic than normal. We had no say in the timing of the programme.

Our Neighbourhood Plan went to referendum and accepted by 101 votes to 6 against and is now a legal document to be consulted when any future building development takes place within our village. We thank June and Stuart Sanderson for their unstinting efforts and help during the preparation of the plan which took over four years since work first started on its preparation.

We continue to financially support many village events and venues used by our community such as the village shop, Village Hall, Play Area, Bowls Club and of course the Jubilee and recent Coronation event.

We have requested RCC on several occasions to inspect roads and pathway where we see potholes and damage. Unfortunately, this has been met with limited success with most being rejected as not sufficiently dangerous to vehicles or pedestrians!

A building development on land north of Main Street adjacent to the Lodge Trust was rejected by RCC planning committee despite our support and representation at the meeting on the grounds it lay beyond the boundary limit of planned development, which currently stand along the eastern boundary of The Finches and The Limes. An appeal has been lodged – more on that later.

Unfortunately, we have been given notice of termination of our lease for the allotments situated opposite the Black Bull, we have so far been unsuccessful in finding another site with a suitable access, but we continue to explore other possibilities with local landowners.

Coronation weekend celebrations of the 'Big Lunch' barbeque on Sunday 7th May was attended by over seventy people on The Finches green. Everyone had a good time enjoying the lovely weather and the chance to meet other villagers. The barbeque was a joint venture between the Parish Council and the Village Hall and our thanks go to Al and Jane Sarjeant for their efforts in organising the event, the raffle and the games for the children.

Finally, we cannot let the 25th anniversary of the publication of the village Outreach magazine go by without, on behalf of the whole village, extending our grateful thanks to Julia Fisher Robins for her outstanding contribution to both village and church life in the form of this wonderful publication. It is a truly outstanding achievement.

Finance

Attached you will find a summary of the Parish Council finance statement for 2022/23 compared to 2021/22. A full version of the account can be found on our website. You will probably have noticed on your RCC Council demand that we have increased the Precept by 20%. That means an increase to you of approximately £9 per year. The reason for the increase is, of course, increased costs notably insurance cost increase by 20%, electricity by 50% (street lighting, grass cutting by 12%, elections were also an additional cost this year. We continue to use our reserve and not the precept to fund donations to village projects.

Andy Williamson
Chair – Market Overton Parish Council

2022/ 23			2021/ 22			
Receipts:	£9,632.00		£10,198.00			
inc:						
Precept	£8,550.00		£8,520.00			
Allotment rent	£124.00		£570.00			
Grass cutting (RCC)	£883.00		£883.00			
Interest	£74.00					
Expenditure:	£16,653.00		£12,888.00			
inc:						
Salaries	£4,346.00		£3,819.00			
Grass cutting	£1,478.00		£1,826.00	inc. work to hedges.		
Street lighting	£1,424.00		£1,239.00			
Insurance	£661.00		£546.00			
Administration- room hire, stationery, IT, payroll, audit, subscriptions, bank charges	£2,085.00		£1,512.00			
Website	£531.00		£260.00			
Allotments - rent & works	£1,125.00		£1,340.00			
Defibrillator	£343.00					
Donations:						
Village Hall lighting	£1,356.00		£1,000.00	Prickleback Urchin Hedgehog		
Bowls Club - toilet refurbishment	£1,000.00		£1,104.00	planters, posts		
Play Area noticeboard	£731.00					
Jubilee Prizes	£250.00					
Jubilee decorations	£130.00					
Village Christmas tree	£170.00					
Village shop sign	£448.00					
Village shop blinds	£123.00					