

**Minutes of Ordinary Misson Parish Council Meeting
held at 6.45pm on Wednesday 3rd September 2025
at Misson Parish Hall, Vicar Lane, Misson.**

Members of the public : Seven members of the public attended. **Parish Councillors Present:** Cllr Mandy Green (Chair), Cllr Mark Watson (Vice-Chair), Cllr Julie Watkins, Cllr Spencer Robey, Cllr Keith Andrews and Cllr Jamie Sutherton. County Councillor Mike Robertson also attended until 7.20pm. District Councillor Steve Pashley attended until 8.05pm. **Minute Taker :** Due to the Parish Clerk vacancy, minutes were taken by Cllr.Watkins.

From members of the public present : A resident said her grandson had met with cows on Slaynes Lane and was frightened by the experience. She asked if the farmer might be asked to fence the cows in the field. Whilst this is not a matter for the Parish Council, the Chair agreed to pass on the message. A resident raised the question of the cost of mole pest control. The Chair agreed to forward the findings of the Freedom of Information question on this matter which was reported in January 2025. A resident wished to pass further signatures to Misson Parish Council in support of an earlier petition "to request Misson Parish Council cease the extermination of any wildlife/moles on any Parish Council managed land". These were received by the Chair. A member of the public asked why items from the Confidential agenda are being included in the minutes. The Chair responded, Confidential matters are minuted thoughtfully and the detail of discussion is minimal. Equally, MPC must reveal matters which it believes are in the public interest. Rev Becky Hancock was in attendance as a member of the public, and spoke to the meeting. She said her attendance and name should be included in the minutes as it was unusual for the vicar to attend and she wished to be transparent about why she was here. She had come as an observer, out of concern for what she had read in the Draft Minutes of the August meeting, outlining why it was difficult for Misson to attract a Parish Clerk. Rev. Hancock was concerned to try and understand what is happening in our community, and perhaps provide helpful observations. There were no other questions and so the formal MPC meeting commenced at 6.55pm

- 2025-79.1 To receive and approve any apologies for absence :** Cllr Sue Scott sent apologies for her absence at the meeting, which were received and approved.
- 2025-80.2 To record declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any item to be discussed:** None to declare .
- 2025-81.3 To approve the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting held 2nd July 2025 as a true record :** The Minutes were unanimously approved for signing.
- 2025-82.4 To note any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 2nd July 2025 not on the agenda:** The Chair confirmed she had spoken with the company concerned and, when mole traps were laid, they were typically checked weekly.
- 2025-83.5 To approve the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held 13th August 2025 as a true record:** The Minutes were unanimously approved for signing.
- 2025-84.6 To note any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 13th August 2025 not on this agenda:** The Chair reported the Locum Clerk who had accepted the appointment as reported in the minutes, had subsequently withdrawn her services. She had provided a summary report of her experience and observations during her short engagement with Misson Parish Council. Councillors would discuss this at item 16b of this agenda.
- 2025-85.7 To receive reports from the County Councillor and the District Councillor :** Reports were shared.
- 2025-86.8 To address Parish Financial administration and record keeping including:**
- a. To receive and approve financial accounts:** The vice-chair updated the current position.
 - b. To approve invoices for payment:** Following discussion, payments were approved unanimously.

Payments presented for approval : September 2025		
Date	Payment	Amount
12 th August	Hugo Fox : (Website Management Fee DD) Ref 25/020 Cost Code C25	£11.99
5 th September	S E Scott (June Invoice for Admin Support) Ref 25/021 Cost Code C1	£187.50
5 th September	AC Electrical (Work in Parish Hall) Ref 25/022 Cost Code C35	£250.00
5 th September	A Hayward (Locum Clerk (time)) Ref 25/023 Cost Code C1	£306.25
5 th September	A Hayward (Locum Clerk (mileage)) Ref 25/024 Cost Code C5	£19.80
5 th September	Aviva Insurance (Parish Hall Building) Ref 25/025 Cost Code C20	£805.81
5 th September	Matthew Guest : Lengthsmen Services Ref 25/026 Cost Code(s) TBD	£198.75
12 th September	Hugo Fox : (Website Management Fee DD) Ref 25/027 Cost Code C25	£11.99
	Total	£1792.09

- c. **To update changes requested of Nat West Bank regarding Parish accounts.** Progress is being made. The Vice-Chair confirmed he had personally delivered the correctly signed paperwork to the Nat West Bank in Doncaster. The Chair will continue to progress this matter.
- d. **To report completion of Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 Exercise of Public Rights period.** The Public Rights Period is concluded. The Vice-Chair reported the books were inspected by one member of the public who photographed each page, as is their right.

2025-87.9 To note correspondence received;

1. 14th July ~ a resident wrote to complain Misson Parish Council had breached the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) as his name had been posted on the MPC website without being fully redacted. Investigation into the matter revealed a number of documents had been posted online in January 2025 by the Locum Clerk, unknown to councillors. They were removed and the link to them was also removed. Security for the website was also improved. MPC apologised to the resident for the error.
2. 2nd July and 4th August ~ a resident wrote asking to see the asset register posted online. This was done. Subsequently he wrote again asking for clarification of the arrangements for answering Freedom of Information requests in the absence of a Parish Clerk. The Chair replied to him, and outlined the same.
3. 15th August ~ two residents communicated concerns to Misson Parish Council about cows being loose on Slaynes Lane and Back Lane. The Chair said whilst this was not a matter which fell in the remit of MPC business, she and the vice-chair had communicated with all concerned and passed remarks to the farmer. It is understood the farmer has made good the damage caused and is now considering the potential introduction of cattle grids to keep the herd away from houses.
4. 19th August ~ Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT) had communicated on-going concern regarding the theft of Mink traps on our section of the River Idle between the banks of Misson and Everton. Whilst this is not a matter in the remit of MPC business, MPC is asked to pass on the message that the mink population (not indigenous to the UK) is decimating British river wildlife and the mink traps should be viewed as a helpful not harmful thing. MPC will facilitate publication of an education article regarding River Wildlife Recovery Programme to be included in the November edition of the Community Newsletter using the funding provided by the District Councillor.
5. 20th August ~ a resident had been in contact to pass a further twelve signatures to MPC from people who wished "to request Misson Parish Council cease the extermination of any wildlife/moles on any Parish Council managed land". Enquiry of some signatures of the petition had revealed to councillors that the petition had been tampered with since some signatories said they had signed an objection a year ago, but only with regard to moles. They said the term "all wildlife" had been added after they had signed. Cllr Watson remarked there are over 600 electors in the Parish and so 42 signatures from residents represented a small minority. It was confirmed that MPC has a policy for treatment of moles, and only moles, found in the cemetery or on the village green. This policy was approved in January 2025. The Chair said the council is aware that some residents are cross about this policy, and asked if any councillor was minded to re-visit it. There was no appetite to do this. The writer of the correspondence then asked to speak, and with the Chair's authority was permitted to do so.

(Subsequently, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair when the member of the public refused to cease their interruption and when others joined in the disruption to business. Parish Councillors moved to the Peter Wilde Room. Cllr Andrews proposed the member of the public be formally asked to leave the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Watson. The motion was carried unanimously. In the event, the member of the public refused to leave the meeting and so the Parish Council Meeting resumed in the Peter Wilde Room and both councillors and other members of the public reconvened therein).

Discussion regarding the petition resumed and the Chair commented the petition passed to Misson Parish Council had included the names of two councillors. When challenged, the councillors said they had signed the petition before the words "all wildlife" were included and prior to the legal vote on the matter in January 2025, in which they both took part. It is important to record this as, to have signed the petition after the policy vote was taken, would have been contrary to the Code of Conduct they had each signed. In conclusion, MPC is aware that this matter continues to cause unrest to some within our community. Nevertheless, the current policy remains in place.

6. 2nd September ~ Trish Spargo CEO of Rain Rescue contacted MPC to advise the charity was in the process of purchasing the True Fate equestrian site for use of the Rain Rescue charity. Ms Spargo asked if it was possible that her team might make a presentation to MPC and the public about what the plans were for the site, which included retention of the Bridle Stop Café. After discussion it was agreed to invite Rain Rescue to make a presentation at 6.30pm on Wednesday 5th November (the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council) and also make introduction to Misson Community Association at the same time.

7. 3rd September ~ Rev Becky Hancock had written to seek engagement with MPC regarding the fact that, previously, parish councils were unable to fund church repairs because of restrictions within the Local Government Act of 1894. The law has now changed, such that the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, now enables Parish Councils to engage in certain circumstances and facilitate financial support to its Parish Church. MPC has long established working links with the Notts County Council Conservation Lead who has already proposed a grant application might be made by the Parish Council in support of restoration work to the Church. Councillors remarked that, whilst the precept did not have capacity to make a direct contribution to the church, MPC could look at supporting grant applications as and where appropriate. The Chair circulated the Paper forwarded by the vicar. It was resolved, unanimously, to include this matter for discussion at the next ordinary meeting of MPC.
8. Correspondence sent to a councillor for the attention of MPC : two members of the public were concerned a house rented from BDC (address withheld from these minutes) was not occupied at present and expressed concern that this is a great waste of a large family residence. The Chair agreed to forward the matter to the District Councillor.
9. Correspondence sent to a councillor for the attention of MPC : a resident who is wheelchair bound (address withheld from these minutes) states the only dropped kerb access to their property is often blocked by cars. The Chair agreed to forward the matter to the District Councillor

2025-88.10 Planning :

a. To note planning decisions/outcomes :

- (i) Morton Villa Farm, Springs Road, Misson South DN10 6ES (Ref. No: 24/01316/FUL). Decision by BDC: Granted (decided on 5 August 2025).
- (ii) Rocket Site, Springs Road, Misson DN10 6ET (Ref. No: 25/00208/FUL). Decision by BDC: Granted (decided on 14 August 2025).
- (iii) Middlewood Ley, Springs Road, Misson DN10 6ES (Ref. No: 25/00581/FUL). Decision by BDC: Granted (decided on 22 August 2025).

b. To consider any new planning applications :

- (i) Loveday House, Back Lane, Misson DN10 6DT (Ref. No: 25/00759/HSE); a single storey front extension. Unanimously agreed no comment required from MPC.
- (ii) Appletree Garth Gibdyke Misson South Yorkshire DN10 6EL (Ref. No: 25/00885/CAT); works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Aspen tree x 1 - 60% reduction and Conifers x 26 - 50% reduction. Unanimously agreed no comment required from MPC.

b. To consider any planning applications received after the agenda was posted : None.

2025-89.11 To update regarding security of Misson Parish Council records and the Parish Archive. The distribution board which was inside the Parish Archive has been relocated to the outside, above the door. This means, if the electricity trips, it can be re-set without the need to enter the Archive. The only reason a third party would now need access to this room would be if the meter needed reading or other attention. With regard to the file which had been found following the security breach, the Chair and Vice-Chair have checked with all clerks and locum clerks who have been keyholders since 2022, and all five of them say they have not compiled the file. A list of documents in the file has been compiled, which will be shared with Parish Councillors in due course, once BDC Corporate Services had advised the same.

2025-90.12 To update regarding Parish Maintenance including;

- a) **Development of a draft Parish Maintenance/Improvement Plan for the year 25/26 including the Governance thereof :** This is in hand; Cllr Robey said he will circulate a draft Parish Maintenance/Improvement Plan for discussion at the November meeting.
- b) **Overgrown Trees :** As agreed, Cllr Scott had undertaken to draw up a statement of work to reduce the size of trees sited on land managed by MPC, including where vegetation is closing around an overhead wire. This has been done. It was unanimously agreed to move this to the November agenda for discussion.
- c) **Cemetery Maintenance :** Matthew Guest has presented a costed proposal for much needed work in the cemetery, to include the handling of overgrown vegetation. He anticipates the work will not take more than 12 hours of his labour (charged to MPC at £15 per hour), with additional cost to hire a wood chipper c£135 per day plus fuel. It was agreed to authorise Matthew to get on with this work.
- d) **Misson Pinfold (i) :** The matter of the Pinfold was addressed. It was decided in September 2023 (Minute 11), that in September 2025 there would be discussion to consider mowing a greater area in the Pinfold. Councillors wanted further summers to evaluate the planting in the Pinfold which had not delivered the results expected due to climate change and three summers of too little rain, too much rain, and then too much heat. The restoration of the Pinfold was undertaken with a desire to deliver an outcome which could be enjoyed by all the community. Having taken time to evaluate,

the council resolved unanimously to mow a wider area to the right-hand of the entrance gate thereby removing some of the planted area and establishing a larger grassed area.

Misson Pinfold (ii) : There are gaps in the outer boundary of the Pinfold on West Street, where the hazel whip fencing has failed to thrive. A benefactor has pledged up to £500 to find a solution to this matter and fill the gap either with the purchase of hurdles or new planting. Cllr Watkins will speak to David Long, identify a preferred solution, and arrange for the work to be done.

2025-91.13 To discuss Cemetery and Churchyard Safety Inspection of Memorials The quinquennial inspection is now overdue. The council agreed expenditure of up to £420 to identify and commission an inspector to do the work in the cemetery as soon as practicably possible, and ask the same inspector to quote for the churchyard. The Chair to action this.

2025-92.14 To report any meetings attended. The Chair and Vice-Chair met with the Vicar at her invitation, to discuss ways in which the church and the Parish Council might support one another's objectives. The meeting was very productive and is something all parties would like to repeat. The Chair said that it might be useful for all councillors to be notified of the next meeting, and support as interested. There were no other meetings attended to report.

2025-93.15 To agree date and time of the next MPC meeting and the next Town Estate Charity meeting.

1. The next ordinary meeting of Misson Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 5th November 2025 at 6:45pm.
2. A meeting of Misson Town Estate Charity will be held on Wednesday 8th October 2025 at 7pm.
3. An extra-meeting of Misson Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 8th October 2025 at 7:45pm; a closed meeting to discuss a confidential agenda.

At 8.40pm the chair thanked members of the public for their interest and support, and invited them to withdraw due to the confidential nature of the business next to be transacted and in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Local Government Act 1972.

2025-94.16 To discuss confidential items :

Nota Bene : Confidential matters are minuted thoughtfully as MPC must reveal matters which it believes are in the public interest whilst ensuring the recorded detail of the discussion is minimised. All decisions made, are minuted.

- a) **Ongoing AGAR 2023/24 objections** : After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to formally ask the objector to withdraw their objections and work with the Parish Council to achieve understanding and a mutually satisfactory remedy to the situation about which they object. The Chair said the body corporate should demonstrate its resolve to do so by committing to achieve a positive outcome before the end of the calendar year.

When asked, the Chair explained, if the objector agreed to this proposal, there may still be further costs incurred with PKF Littlejohn, as the national auditor would be required to establish that no inappropriate influence had been brought to bear such that the objector felt coerced to withdraw their objection. She said, it was likely also, PKF Littlejohn would need to be satisfied the objection had been objectively examined with the help of a third party and the objector was content with the answer.

It was agreed nominated councillors will formally ask the objector to withdraw their objections and remove the risk of excessive cost to the parish.

- b) **Regarding the Parish Clerk vacancy** : The Chair reported the Locum Clerk who had accepted the appointment as reported in the Minutes of August 13th, had subsequently withdrawn her services. She had provided a summary report of her experience and observations during her short engagement with Misson Parish Council. Councillors discussed the contents of the report. It was agreed to reflect on the contents and discuss again at the extra-meeting in October. The Chair asked the council to permit she might use Locum Clerk agreed budget equating to four hours a week to get some of the outstanding administrative tasks completed, engaging previous or current clerks in the area to undertake project work against defined tasks. This was unanimously agreed. The Chair will work with the Vice-Chair to compile a task list and make progress in getting some of this work done, reporting back to MPC at the extra-meeting in October.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.