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Minutes of MPRA Annual General Meeting

Held on Tuesday 28 April 2026

At Nottingham Bridge Club

1. Apologies, minutes of last meeting, matters arising

Apologies: Jen Guiver

Members Present: 42 Committee Members Present: 9

Leena introduced the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting, held on 29 April 2025, were agreed as a true record (Proposed: Bee Sanghera; Seconded: Sue Clague).

Actions arising related to planning issues and are covered in Mike Reade's report under item 7.

2. Community Protection Update (Stuart Webb and Sara Marriott)

The community protection area finishes in the middle of Mansfield Road. There are crime hotspots at the bottom end of Mansfield Road, around the hotels, and around care facilities, but generally there were no issues with burglaries, car thefts, etc in Mapperley Park. Asked whether they thought residents of Mapperley Park felt safer than residents in other areas, Stuart said he did not know, but certainly compared to other areas on their beat, such as St Ann's, Mapperley Park was very safe. Analysis is routinely carried out on the type of incidents the police deal with, and from time to time surveys are conducted. He encouraged people to contribute when there was opportunity.

A member asked if anything could be done about cars parking wholly on the pavement, blocking the way for pedestrians and mobility scooters. This was happening particularly around Magdala Road Tennis Club. Sara said this was more an issue for the Council to deal with, but they would keep an eye on it. She encouraged people to report where there is an issue. Generally, it is helpful if people report issues/concerns to the police, even if there is no crime, because it enables them to build a picture. Stuart said he was happy for his email address to be shared for this purpose.

Another member asked who is responsible for monitoring the increased use of e-scooters and motorbikes. Sarah said the police will always pursue a vehicle if it is seen being driven recklessly, but they don't have the resources to monitor their use more widely. One resident, who lived close to Mapperley Tennis Club, said recently a police officer had knocked on her door asking if she had any CCTV recording of a motorbike and/or e-scooter chase. She was able to provide some, but when she subsequently tried to contact the officer on the number provided on his business card there was no

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answer. Sara said she would expect colleagues to thank members of public for their efforts in helping their enquiries and she was sorry if this was not the experience in this case. She said generally the police would not update members of the public on their casework, but the officer should have acknowledged the contribution.

3. Update from Nottingham City Council (Kirsty Jones)

Kirsty said her level of casework for Mapperley Park was relatively low; she endorsed the comment from the community protection team above that Mapperley Park is a safe area. The main areas of concern are:

- Trees (health, size, leaves causing flooding, trees being removed)
- Ebers Grove had recently had an issue with bins
- Care Homes (behaviour of residents)

Asked what could be done about ongoing roadworks, as recently experienced on Woodborough Road, diverting bus routes and inconveniencing residents, Kirsty confirmed that those roadworks were the responsibility of Severn Trent. Roadworks can be necessary for many reasons, involving various services. There was not really anything the Council could do.

A member asked what could be done about the increase in the number of pigeons in the city centre, especially since the water feature in Market Square had been turned off. Kirsty said this was because there were safety issues because of the proximity of the water feature with electricity cables, which needed to be rectified. The Council could not control the number of pigeons, although it might help to reduce the amount of litter.

Another member asked what could be done to control the number of homeless people in the city. Kirsty said she had recently met with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition to discuss this. Finances were very stretched, and as a result some care support services had been reduced but it had not been possible to raise the level of support for the homeless, some of which had severe and complex deprivation needs. There is a statutory duty to provide shelter for the homeless, and as a result they were often put up in hotels, which were not wholly suitable. There are political issues around this problem, but Kirsty was in no doubt that some people on the streets were genuinely homeless. She would continue to work on this issue.

4. Chair's Report (Leena Kore Schroder)

Leena thanked Community Protection and Police Officers Stuart Webb and Sara Marriott, and Councillor Kirsty Jones for giving up their time to attend the meeting. She also thanked MPRA members for joining, participating and paying their subscriptions, and Neil Marriott on behalf of Nottingham Bridge Club, for the venue.

2025/2026 had been an unusually successful year, in that the Committee had welcomed new members in Neil Marriott (Membership) and Barbara Cathcart (Trees). Having been able to hand over the Membership part of her role, Leena had been able to take over as Chair.

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The MPRA had held 4 meetings over the 12 months. Resident Lucy Brine was invited to one meeting to discuss the planned children's home at 51 Ebers Road, and Fred Paterson had attended another to discuss a possible community sustainable energy project for Mapperley Park (more from him later). Leena reminded members that they are welcome to attend Committee meetings if they have a specific concern that merits discussion. Kirsty Jones attends meetings where appropriate.

The winter post-Christmas party was held on 23 January at the Ukrainian Centre. Leena thanked Bee Sanghera for her superb organisation and buffet.

Two issues of the MPRA newsletter had issued, in Autumn and Spring. Efforts were made to bring the cycle forward so that the Spring newsletter was delivered before the AGM. Leena acknowledged that a small number of properties may not receive the newsletter, so she now leaves a stack of extra copies in her front porch at 2 Alverstone Road, for residents to collect at their convenience. The Autumn 2026 newsletter will be the 50th Anniversary commemorative issue, and it is hoped residents will contribute material for this. The newsletter gained positive feedback, and was clearly valuable in developing a sense of community.

Leena thanked the roundabout gardeners for volunteering their time and efforts to plant and tend the garden. MPRA purchased a new compost bin this year to replace the old one which had fallen apart. Leena said she will be exploring the possibility of installing a 50th Anniversary bench nearby to commemorate the MPRA and provide a seat for residents to rest and admire the garden.

The Committee was organising the Summer Party to be held on Saturday 20 June 2026 at Clawson Lodge, the Ukrainian Centre, on Mansfield Road. Members were invited to sign up for free tickets via the Eventbrite QR code (provided in the newsletter and on Facebook).

Lastly, the Committee had enjoyed its first social evening, organised by Farnoosh Shahrokhshahi.

Leena closed by thanking the Committee members for their efforts, and made a presentation to Ellen Turner to thank her for having served as Secretary for 3 years.

5. Treasurer's Report (Howard Davies)

MPRA was in a strong financial position, with £2,455 in membership subscriptions taken last year. This was about £1,000 less than the previous year, but that was exceptional as we had a big push on outstanding membership fees.

Each edition of the newsletter costs approximately £1,000 to design, print and deliver. The majority is offset through advertising (the regular back-page sponsor, FHP, and a few smaller local advertisers). Overall, the net cost to MPRA was approximately £250, which Howard felt to be an acceptable subsidy.

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Other main costs were:

- Winter social event at the Ukrainian Centre (approximately £500);
- Planting and maintenance of the roundabout;
- Those costs associated with running the MPRA (insurance, website, emails, etc)

The net surplus for the year was £773 which, added to the reserves, gives an accumulated fund of £23,313. MPRA still holds £3,600 remaining from the 'stump up' campaign, which he hoped would be spent this year in planting new trees and/or maintenance of trees.

Finally, Howard said that, having filled the role of Treasurer for 7 years, it was his intention to stand down in 12 months' time. Anyone who may be willing to take over was asked to get in touch.

Accounts approved (Proposed: Mark Jenkinson; Second: Farnoosh Shahrokhshahi).

6. Membership (Neil Marriott)

MPRA membership was 348, with 178 fully paid up as at 8 April 2026. However, this was similar to last year and Neil was confident that fees would continue to come in throughout the year (not all members renewed at the beginning of the year).

The easiest way to pay was by standing order. It was helpful if members could email once they had paid, so that Neil can match up the payments. Full details are included in the spring newsletter.

7. Planning (Mike Reade)

Mike's job on the Committee was to offer advice to the Committee or MPRA members on Planning Applications, Building Regulations and the Party Wall Act.

It had been a busy year. The largest piece of work related to the Moat House student block (Mercure Hotel site), where the MPRA submissions had resulted in the height being reduced by one storey and the development being moved back from the street by 3 metres. Mike still felt that the design was out of keeping, but he was grateful for small wins.

Mike had commented on two applications relating to 51 Ebers Road. Members' concerns had been voiced and the Council had now granted approval, despite not all of these concerns having been addressed.

Mike had also objected to a proposal to construct a garage and undertake work on trees protected by a tree preservation order (both proposals concerned the same property).

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He believed the application to build on the old Bowling Green had now been approved.

Mike encouraged members to get in touch if they become aware of planning applications or issues.

Asked whether he was confident the Council were active in preserving the Conservation Area, Mike said that generally he was. A management plan had been in place for around 15 years now and was taken into account in the planning process. But he did not think there was evidence of this in all cases. He stressed that planners have no say on commercial enterprise, but can only look at whether the design is appropriate for the area.

There was a short discussion about the quality of the road repair on Mapperley Hall Drive; discussions with various officials whilst the work was on-going indicated the repairs were done cheaply due to budget constraints and were not expected to last more than 5 years. There was also concern that the repairs did not extend to the roundabout at the top end of Mapperley Hall Drive, where the road surface was very poor. It was suggested the Council may have deemed this to be on Lucknow Drive, and therefore outside the scope of the work.

8. Social Media Report (Jen Guiver)

In Jen's absence, Leena read out a short report. The current membership of the Facebook group was 966, an increase of 58 since this time last year. The group continues to be moderated by Jen and Leena.

Post topics range from items to gift or sell, to community events, to matters of community concern such as crime or upkeep of public areas. Posts often result on positive community action.

The group largely self-moderates, with very little intervention necessary. Members show respect and a genuine interest in discussing matters of importance to the community. When moderators do get involved, this has been met with understanding. The facility to post anonymously on the site has recently been removed, which has further improved the tone of messages.

9. Election of Officers

Leena Kore-Schroder had assumed the role of Chair earlier in the year, handing the Membership role over to Neil Marriott. Barbara Cathcart had taken over the role of Tree Representative in January 2026. All were content to remain in these roles for a further year. All other serving members of the committee were prepared to serve for a further year, with the exception of Ellen Turner, who wished to stand down from the role as Secretary. Leena thanked Ellen for her contribution.

Those current members of the committee willing to serve for another year and were re-elected (Proposed: Linda Boston; Seconded: Ellie Kennedy)

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The committee would welcome any offers to become involved. If any member would like to discuss how they can contribute, please speak to one of them or email the current Chair, Leena Kore-Schroder at: koreschroder@gmail.com.)

10. Any Other Business

Fred Paterson gave a short presentation on the Community Energy Project. There had been an article on this in the spring newsletter. Fred had begun a survey of Mapperley Park residents to gather views and information on use of energy. It was important to get as many people to contribute as possible. He shared the QR code which gave access to the survey. This was also in the newsletter.

Fred said he was looking for contacts across the area for community buildings that might host renewable energy generation and also people with finance experience in the energy area.

He also invited members to attend a free screening about the climate crisis at the Angel Microbrewery, Stoney Street, Hockley, on Thursday 7 May at 6pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

(Minutes taken by Ellen Turner)