

Minutes of the full Council Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 14TH October 2013 at Nash Mills Village Hall, Hemel Hempstead

Councillors present: - Cllr. Mrs Gough
Cllr. Doole
Cllr. Mrs Doole
Cllr. Ms Bayley
Cllr. Jackson

Also present: Linda Sutton, clerk.
Stephanie Bailey, DBC
Tina Boggins, Parish Warden
Two members of the public

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

Vice Chairman Cllr. Mrs Gough took the chair in the absence of Cllr. Mrs Foster and welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Stephanie Bailey, Tenants and Leaseholder Officer, DBC attended the meeting to give a brief overview of her role at Dacorum Borough Council.

SB had recently organised an event at Gade Towers. She now wants to raise awareness in Nash Mills of what types of issues local tenants and lease holders face. Some of the issues included were relocation, parking and bedroom tax. SB advised that she along with Gill Barber, DBC would be interested in providing information to tenants and lease holders in the area.

TB asked SB who held the key for the Gade Towers Memorial Gardens, SB advised the Clean Safe and Green team. GD asked whether there was any progress on verge hardening. He said that access for emergency vehicles was very difficult along Chambersbury Lane at present. SB said she would investigate and report back.

HG thanked SB for attending.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

LF and JM sent their apologies, which were duly noted. TC was also absent from the meeting.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no comments made by the public.

4. SIGNING OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

HG signed the September's draft minutes as a true record.

HG asked everyone at the meeting whether they were aware of the recent fox coursing. HG said that PCSO Ian Martin was aware of the situation. GD advised he too had reported the crime.

HG then read out the current action list with updated actions from Cllrs. and the Clerk.

LB advised that both GD and herself were trying to arrange to visit the owner of the property with the damaged wall in the near future. They would report back at the next meeting.

LB/GD

GD suggested NMPC purchase a new grit bin and have it sited locally. The Clerk will arrange to order the bin and have it filled with grit to prevent it being moved or vandalised.

LS

It was suggested that an article be written for the website by either TC or JM which would outline The Denes car parking scheme. The article will also be published in the next winter edition of the parish magazine.

TC/JM/LS

LB accompanied Chris Conley, DBC on a walk in the Highbarns area earlier on in the month. They focussed on damaged name plates. Several points were raised by LB and a new name plate for Chambersbury Lane will eventually be replaced. For the time being this action will remain on the list.

LB

Stephanie Bailey suggested that Robert Cassidy, DBC be contacted with regards to reporting the low hanging foliage in Bunkers Playing Fields. The clerk will email DBC. If they are unable to help then GD suggested that the 'Friends of Bunkers Park' may help with the cutting back of the foliage at some point.

LS

The Clerk will contact Valerie Burton, Wicksteed and order the parts for the swing situated at the playing fields. These items will then be delivered to DJ at his home address.

LS

TB advised that the Georgewood steps have now been repaired again. The yellow paint that had been spilled in the original repair job had been cleaned up. TB had also re-sited the grit bin back up the hill, at the request of a local resident. A few years ago the grit bin at some point had been moved to the bottom of Georgewood Road and had never been put back until now.

DJ reported that he had recently met with along with GD, representatives from Linden Homes, Wharf Residents' Association, Chamonix Estates, and Planning Officers from DBC to investigate concerns raised by local residents. Issues included parking, the siting of a store and whether it was now needed and addressing issues on a snagging list which had an expiry date in the near future.

DJ was hopeful that these issues would be resolved in time. HG added that in the case of buying property on a new development it would be a case of 'buyer beware'.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

GD advised that earlier on at the Finance meeting he had reported to the committee that in terms of finance the Parish Council remained in the 'black'. He also suggested that monies could be made available for funding a temporary Parish Warden. GD advised that the budget would be discussed in December/January.

GD/LS

HG reported that she had been made aware by the Clerk of a recent amended planning application in a nearby 'non parished area'. She had contacted the resident and given advice and was hopeful of a positive outcome. She advised she would report back with an update.

HG

There were two planning applications to be discussed after the parish council meeting, by the Planning Committee. The Clerk will email the case officers the comments.

LS

1355

LB thanked the parish warden, who had recently handed in her notice. LB expressed her thanks to Tina on behalf of NMPC and commended her on the good work she has carried out in the last two years.

HG presented TB with a card, floral arrangement and a gift voucher on behalf of NMPC. TB said she had enjoyed working with everybody and thanked them all for their kindness and support during her time as a parish warden.

The Clerk advised that an advert would be posted online the next day on 'Hemel Jobs Today' an advert had been posted on the noticeboard and the website. LB advised that a Personnel Meeting would be arranged in the future to conduct a paper sift. **LB**

GD advised Cllrs. that the 'Winter Self Help' scheme set up by HCC was to be utilised by the parish council. The Clerk reported that the grit would be delivered in a one off delivery of 34 x 25kg bags.

Once delivered, the grit will be stored at the parish council's garage. The Clerk had given several contact names from the parish council to HCC to ensure that the delivery would go through smoothly. **LS**

The Clerk circulated the most recent Annual Return for inspection. The parish council accepted and approved the Annual Return 31 March 2013.

The Clerk noted the minute reference. **LS**

6. BREAK FOR REFRESHMENTS (15 minutes)

7. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME DISCUSSION

a) Website – DJ queried the change of IT management in regards to the website. The Clerk advised that she had not received any valuable support from the virtual server's helpdesk when she had contacted them on numerous occasions throughout the last few months. She had resorted to contacting Parachute IT for advice. GD had agreed that all the support now came under Parachute IT.

b) Chalk mines – LB reported that resident's lives were still being disrupted and that some residents were still unhappy about the clean-up process. In particular, work men attempting to 'landscape' areas that had been previously damaged when works to the area originally began. LB had spoken to AM and highlighted these issues and was hoping for a favourable outcome.

GD advised suggested dates in which to hold an event at the Village Hall to celebrate the works being completed. He will go back to DBC with a selection of suitable dates.

c) AHS playing fields – GD had recently emailed the new bursar with further comments about the proposed contract. He is waiting for a response and will report back with an update. **GD**

d) Issues raised by warden's report. – TB had none to report.

e) Matters raised by Cllrs – GD reported that a public meeting had been held recently in Hemel Hempstead to consult and raise awareness with residents. The meeting was to promote changes to the water gardens, lakes and the town centre and new improved bus routes.

GD said that the turn out, even though advertised widely, was disappointing. LB suggested that details of forthcoming events could be advertised by NMPC through means of social media.

The Clerk suggested that advertising in the parish magazine had achieved more effect in the past. **LS**

f) Memorial Gardens – GD had along with some Parish Cllrs. reviewed the amended plans from the developers at the end of the last parish council meeting. The negative feedback was mainly related to the planned innovative seating. This looked out of keeping with the area. Other more appealing changes included hedging, a rockery and replacing the pool with a new hi tech crushed glass infill. GD also suggested that the plaque be firmly attached and secured to the stone to avoid any possible attempts at theft or vandalism. CCTV on the development and lighting should also help deter vandalism. The Hemel Hempstead branch of the British Legion supported NMPC's concerns and supported the proposed seating amendments.

g) The Dene's Car Parking Scheme – This item is on-going and AM due to attend next month's meeting will hopefully give an update. The Clerk will contact AM. **LS**

h) Resident's Association Initiative – HG suggested that NMPC compile a comprehensive list of local Residents' Associations contact details for future reference. **LS**

GD reported that he had recently accompanied Sally Marshall, CEO of DBC on a ward walk in Nash Mills. Issues that were addressed included parking by visitors to Bunkers Park, The Denes Car Parking Scheme, the space in front of the substation located behind The Denes Shopping Centre, Georgewood Road steps, the Chalk mines, Gade Towers and Nash Mills Village Hall.

GD also drew Sally's attention to unfinished works once the developers and builders had left the site. He used Teal Way by way of example.

Sally Marshall advised GD that she would hopefully conduct ward walks approximately every two years.

HG queried when the roundabout and resurfacing works were due to be carried out and GD advised approximately 2014. He advised that NMPC should get an update from AM at the next parish council meeting.

HG closed the meeting.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting will be on Monday 11th November 2013.

11th November 2013

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CHAIRMAN

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SIGNED ON