

NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL OCTOBER MINUTES 2014

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Minutes of the full Council Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13th October 2014 at Nash Mills Village Hall, Hemel Hempstead

Councillors present: - Cllr. Doole
Cllr. Mrs Doole
Cllr. Jackson
Cllr. Mrs Maddern

Also present: Linda Sutton, Parish Clerk.
David Drew, Parish Warden.
One member of the public.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND WELCOME

Cllr. Jackson in the absence of Cllr. Mrs Foster was appointed Chairman for the meeting. He welcomed everybody.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Apologies had been received from LF, LB, HG and TC. JM had sent her apologies advising she would be late, all were duly noted.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/ GUEST SPEAKER

DJ introduced James Woods, Abbots Hill School and invited him to speak.

JW thanked the parish council for the invitation. He advised that Abbots Hill School (AHS) had recently submitted a planning proposal to DBC.

JW reported that AHS had benefitted from development over the years. He said buildings and facilities were now not up to scratch and that an improved nursery would be advantageous. JW commented that it would be worthwhile to replace the old buildings with new structures and use land more effectively.

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DJ asked JW how many nursery places does AHS have at the present time and were they looking to expand. JW advised that the present number was 34 but that they were looking to increase figures to approximately 61. There would also be an increase in staffing levels and AHS were looking to employ an additional 8-9 people.

DJ asked whether AHS would be expanding onto greenbelt land and JW advised that this would be unavoidable as they would be making bigger classrooms. However, this would enable them to get rid of the porta cabins. DJ asked whether any changes would be visible from the road and JW assured him that there would be no changes to the scenery from the road.

GD asked whether the hours of operation would alter. JW advised that these too would change. He said that they would like to offer an all-day provision for younger children and that the hours would be 7am - 6pm for 51 weeks of the year.

JW also advised that they had a strategic goal of running more private bus services to and from the school. Chaperones from AHS would accompany the younger pupils and this would hopefully phase out the amount of parents driving their children to school and therefore reduce traffic.

DJ thanked JW for the presentation and asked him whether he was able to discuss the future of the playing field (this item was on the agenda).

JW said that he had spoken to the governors regarding the issuing of a lease or a licence on the playing field. He advised that the new management at the school would like to be supportive towards the parish council and that the will is definitely there.

JW advised that the school is however, unwilling to lose control of the land. They are also unwilling to offer a lease, as this could have ramifications in the future with who would eventually own the land. They are willing though to offer a licence for the duration of 6 years 364 days (any longer would have legal implications). They are happy for the parish council to install the play equipment and be responsible for the insurance and maintenance. The school currently operate a lock up system and this will now include the playing field.

JW advised that the governors of the school are still in discussion with Nash Mills Parish Council and will keep them informed. JW confirmed that the governors are pleased that they can help with opening up the playground for the benefit of the local community.

DJ thanked JW and the school for their support. JW then left the meeting.

4. SIGNING OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

DJ signed September's minutes as a true record. He read out the action list from the previous meeting and noted that all actions had been resolved.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

GD explained that a finance meeting had not been held earlier. There had not been enough Cllrs. at the meeting to constitute a quorum.

GD did advise Andrea Maloney, NASH Residents' Association, that the funding request will now be deferred to November's meeting.

The financial schedule and expenditure sheets will now be signed in November. **GD**

GD and DJ signed the cheques.

DJ advised that there were two planning applications to be approved. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact members of the planning committee the next day for their comments. She would then contact the case officers concerned with the Planning Committee's comments. **LS**

GD updated the Cllrs. present at the meeting. He advised them that since he had spoken to David Jordan, Linden Homes, it had been confirmed that Cotswold stone would be used rather than the suggested Indian stone. It was also agreed that the existing stone on the site would be upcycled. Granite stone or synthetic granite stone seating will be one of the new features along with planting.

DJ queried why the pond was being filled with blue slate and not completely removed. GD advised him that Fiona Webster, Heritage Officer for DBC had initially suggested that the area would benefit from a reflective space. GD said that evidence was needed to prove that historically the site never had a pond.

DJ suggested that the pond was removed once and for all. He said it would free up valuable space for when visitors assembled on Remembrance Day.

6. BREAK FOR REFRESHMENTS

7. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

a) Chalkmines Update - GD advised that he had spoken to Shane Fly before he left Dacorum Borough Council. SF advised that the Clean Safe and Green team are still monitoring the reinstatement of green spaces.

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Cllr. Mrs Maddern arrived at the meeting and gave her apologies.

b) Issues raised by Warden's Report - DD reported that the works on Meadow Road were still ongoing. GD advised that he would contact Steve Baker, who had recently taken over the role previously held by Shane Flynn. **GD**

c) Matters raised by Councillors - GD advised Cllrs. that he had recently visited the Willows Estate with regards to the dog fouling problem. He patrolled the area with Lou Jenkins, DBC's Dog Warden. She advised him that they would be quite happy to patrol and leaflet the surrounding areas.

DJ reported that he had seen further works being carried out on the boundaries of the new care home on Red Lion Lane. He was concerned that there would not be enough room for the planting of the replacement cherry trees.

DJ volunteered to contact Jackie Ambrose, Senior Planning Officer at DBC for further information and will report back to the parish council. **DJ**

d) Abbot's Hill playing fields - This item was discussed earlier on in the meeting.

DJ thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 9.06pm.

The next full parish council meeting will be held on Monday 10th November 2014.

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Chairman

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10th November 2014