

Minutes of the full Council Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8th September 2014 at Nash Mills Village Hall, Hemel Hempstead

Councillors present: - Cllr. Mrs Foster – Chairman

Cllr. Mrs Gough

Cllr. Ms Bayley

Cllr. Mrs Maddern

Cllr. Doole

Cllr. Mrs Doole

Cllr. Collins

Cllr. Jackson

Also present: Linda Sutton, Parish Clerk.

David Drew, Parish Warden.

Two members of the public.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

Cllr. Mrs Foster welcomed everybody to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

JM sent her apologies advising she would be late, which were duly noted.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

LF asked the members of public if they had any comments. One lady asked whether Crest Nicholson planned a clean-up once of the Nash Mills Wharf development had been completed.

TC advised that he hoped it would be part of their contract. The Clerk will contact David Jordan.

LS

The member of public also asked whether DBC would be able to tidy up the row of trees in Mill Close. She said they looked untidy and that branches had broken off

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and that the trees needed some attention. LF suggested the Clerk contact Colin Chambers, DBC.

LS

The member of public also queried when the mature Cherry trees would be replanted along Red Lion Lane. DJ advised her that the planting will take place once further works have been completed.

4. SIGNING OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

LF signed July's minutes as a true record, there was no meeting in August. LF read through the previous action list and this was then updated.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

GD explained that a finance meeting had not been held in July. There were not enough Cllrs. at the meeting to constitute a quorum. He went on to report that the Parish Council were 'in the black'. GD advised that NMPC had donated a nearly £15k in August to HCC to help with The Denes Car Parking Scheme. He commented that no other exceptional payments had occurred since then.

HG reported that several applications had been approved over the summer months. She had received correspondence from a local resident who was concerned to hear that Linden Homes were planning to submit a NMA (Non Material Amendment). This would then enable the developers to utilise rooftops terraces on properties in the next phase of the development. HG suggested that the Clerk contact Jackie Ambrose, Planning Officer at DBC for further clarification.

LS

LB reported that the Personnel Committee had met in June and again in July to discuss an increase in the Clerk's pay scale. This had been agreed and ratified at the Finance Committee earlier. She also advised that she was keeping a close eye on the dog fouling issue at the Willows Estate. This was also being reported weekly by David Drew, Parish Warden.

GD reported that he had been in contact with David Jordan, Linden Homes. After speaking to him about the proposed planning application for the Memorial Gardens it was subsequently withdrawn. GD had advised that a site meeting may be planned in the near future. GD confirmed that modifications to the original plans were not acceptable. He suggested to David Jordan that the original choice of Cotswold stone would be preferred over the new suggested Indian stone. It had been previously agreed that the existing stone at the site could be reused.

DJ queried why the pond was being filled with blue slate and not completely removed. GD advised that Fiona Webster, Heritage Officer for DBC had initially suggested that the area need a reflective space.

LF asked when was the refurbishment likely to take place and GD replied early May 2015.

6. BREAK FOR REFRESHMENTS

7. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL RETURN 31ST MARCH 2014

The Annual Return was circulated to all Cllrs. at the full parish meeting and was approved. The Clerk explained that the AR had been audited twice internally by Clubfinance and externally by BDO. The recommendation of purchasing a lockable petty cash tin had been actioned.

8. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

a) Chalkmines Update -

LB reported that Shane Flynn had now left DBC. He had been liaising with BAM and acting as an arbitrator. The role has now been passed to Steve Baker, DBC. LB advised that she will be emailing the local residents for their comments and suggestions for the reinstatement of the area. She had also been in touch with Luke Johnson, DBC and the tree programme will now go ahead in October. This will include removing low hanging branches and dealing with damaged growth.

b) Issues raised by Warden's Report -

David Drew, Parish Warden explained that it was difficult to access the car park on Red Lion Lane. He along with the Clean, Safe and Green team at DBC had experienced difficulties clearing rubbish from this area as vehicles from HCC had blocked the access.

The Clerk will email Paul Quinn from HCC.

LS

David also reported that he had been closely monitoring the dog fouling issue at Willows Estate. He reported that a small number of dog walkers from outside of the estate were walking their dogs on the green space. He had noticed that they had used dog bags and disposed of the bags responsibly.

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David also reported that he had along with the Clerk had received complaints from local residents when HCC were working late on into the evening along Belswains Lane. David also reported that a small fire started by youths recently in Abbot's Hill playing fields had resulted in damaged tiles. The black rubber tiles are used as a safe surface around the play equipment. The Clerk advised that Wicksteed would be inspecting the park in early October.

One of the members of the public also reported that whilst walking her dog recently she had noticed a lot of activity late at night in the playing field. She said men were meeting in the grounds late at night. LB suggested that more police presence was required. The Clerk will email the local PCSO Ian Martin. **LS**

GD gave an update on a recent complaint from a resident living close to Bunkers Park. Model aeroplane enthusiasts had been using a space near to properties.

GD had visited the site and said he was hopeful that a compromise may be reached. It was suggested that an open space further away from properties could be utilised.

c) Matters raised by Councillors -

It was agreed by all Cllrs. that the jubilee bench would be purchased from the same suppliers that DBC use. At some point a plaque will be attached to the bench.

d) Abbot's Hill playing fields -

GD had recently been in touch with James Woods, AHS. Several ideas had been mooted and GD hoped that James would be able to attend a meeting in the near future. AHS may take on further responsibility which may include a locking up service each night.

LF mentioned funding for the Residents' Association, discussed earlier at the finance committee. This will be discussed in more depth at the next finance meeting in October.

Cllrs. also agreed that they would not be donating to Herts air ambulance at this time. They agreed that they had already committed themselves financially to other local projects. The Clerk will advise the charity of NMPC's decision. **LS**

The next meeting full parish council meeting will be on Monday 13th October 2014.

LF thanked everybody for attending the meeting at 9pm.

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Chairman

13th October 2014