

NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the full parish council meeting held on the 12th February 2018 at Nash Mills Village Hall,
Lower Road, Nash Mills, HP3 8RT.

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Those present:

Vice-Chair: Councillor Jan Maddern
Committee Members: Councillor Dave Jackson
Rosie Moubray
Councillor Louise Gross
Councillor Peter Lardi
Also present: Linda Sutton, Parish Clerk
Members of the public

1. WELCOME/START TIME

Cllr Jan Maddern, Vice Chair had agreed to chair the meeting in LB's absence. She welcomed everybody to the meeting at 8.02pm.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Apologies were received from LB, TC and HG. These were duly noted and recorded.

IM, Hertfordshire Police and DD, Parish Warden had also sent their apologies.

3. HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE REPORT

JM suggested that she would briefly discuss the crime report (which had been circulated to all prior to the meeting) in IM's absence.

She reported that there had been ten crimes logged in January; these included the theft of wheels taken from a van parked in Nash Mills Wharf and an incident involved tyres being slashed on a motor vehicle in Belswains Lane. There was also one drug related case and JM went onto explain that if the Police stop a vehicle just passing through Nash Mills and drugs are seized then the crime would be logged in this area.

AM, a local resident asked whether Tina Howard had mentioned whether the broken lamp post in Mill Close was being replaced and JM explained that the lamp post may belong to DBC. She advised AM that she would visit Mill Close the next day and advise Tina Howard if necessary. **JM**

PL asked for IM's contact details and LS said she would forward them to him the following day. **LS**

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/GUEST SPEAKER (IF AVAILABLE)

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JM invited the public to speak. One member of public reported that three large transit vans were constantly parking on the grass verge in Nash Green and said that the vehicles were not from that particular area and that the parking was destroying the verge. JM advised that the biggest issue of each monthly meeting was parking. She said that there were options; tarmac the verge or erect bollards or another option was to have double yellow lines.

DJ said that the only problem with having double yellow lines implemented would mean that the vehicles would then move to another area. JM explained that the NMW development had exacerbated the parking problem in recent years. She went onto say that she was in talks with Crest Nicholson at this time and was trying to encourage them to use a small piece of land for parking and said that this would not necessarily help Nash Green at this time. The member of public said that 70% of vehicles were from the Nash Mills Wharf development.

DJ asked the resident what option they would prefer and they replied permit parking. JM said that DBC would not allow this as it was too far out of the town and too costly. She reiterated that it was not illegal for vehicles to park on the public highway. DJ and Alan Say suggested that IM patrol the area and attach polite notices. **LS**

A member of public suggested that parking issues would increase if Nash Mills School were doubling their attendees. JM reported that it was actually Belswains School and not Nash Mills School.

JM reiterated that she was currently dealing with parking issues on Red Lion Lane and Bunkers Lane and looking for a solution. She said that all parking spaces within Nash Mills Wharf were allocated. She said that one day she had inadvertently gone into the underground car park and saw numerous spaces. She said that she was under the impression that individual car spaces had been sold for £10k to NMW residents by the developers. RM said that she thought that all spaces had now been allocated.

PL reported that four vehicles had parked on the pavement in Bunkers Lane for extended periods and LG agreed that she too had seen the vehicles and thought that it was lethal the way they had parked. JM advised PL to report the incident. She said that she had rung IM so many times in the past if she saw vehicles parking on the pavement and knew instinctively that a buggy would not get passed.

Another member of the public reported that fences were falling down in King Fisher Drive he said he thought that the posts had actually rotted. He said that the fences were owned by DBC. JM said that she would contact Rob Cassidy, DBC. **JM**

Alan Say, local resident asked whether there was an update on the much needed replacement willow trees. DJ advised that this had been discussed at the finance meeting (held earlier) and was to be discussed under item nine on the full parish council meeting agenda.

5. SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

Councillors approved the January minutes and agreed that they were a true record. JM signed the minutes, she also signed the minutes of the extraordinary meeting which had been held in December. She thanked the Clerk for painstakingly typing them up from a recording. The September minutes had been amended, circulated, re- approved and signed.

The Clerk will upload all the approved minutes onto the parish council's website. **LS**

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6. PRECEPT RETURN (UPDATE)

DJ reported that the precept amount for Council Band D had remained at the same amount as last year £23.00. The approved precept return had been signed by three councillors – DJ, JM and RM. A copy had been scanned to Poonam Mehta, DBC.

7. ACTION LIST (UPDATE)

JM advised that Nash Mills Wharf residents should not take down estate agent boards, as this made it difficult for DBC to monitor when putting a case together, when dealing with repeat offenders. RM said that most estate agents would continue to leave boards up and would most probably budget for any potential fines.

JM updated everybody on the status of the planning application at the nursery, former Stephenson's Cottages, Nash Mills Wharf. She explained that Nash Mills Parish Council had strongly opposed the application at inception. As part of their original comments the Parish Council had suggested that the flat should only be used by a member of staff. JM went onto say that Lucy Foster; former Parish Council Chair had spoken against the planning application at the time. JM explained that the parish council still object to the removal of condition seven and that she would, after listening to fellow parish councillors, would stay on the development management committee and vote against the proposal rather than speak.

JM suggested that LS contact Dave Drew for an update on the abandoned vehicles in the over flow car park. **LS**

The Clerk will also contact Nigel Gibbs again and ask him if he has come to a decision regarding the resiting of the noticeboard. LS advised that DD had taken images of the current notice board and the land it was on and that they had been sent to NG. **LS**

JM said that she would contact Nicky McIntyre, DBC. **JM**

A member of public had reported that he had witnessed a drug deal taking place within Nash Mills. LS will contact IM. **LS**

The same member of public complained that the long standing parking problems in his road was still an issue. JM said that she was aware and was in talks with James Doe and she reiterated that Mike Penning, MP had given her his full support.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

JM asked the Chairs of each committee for their reports. LG (Personnel) said that everything was running smoothly.

PL (Chair of Planning) wanted to know whether there had been an update on the proposed Mosque application and Nash House. JM explained that DBC had contacted the Mosque Committee and advised that they either revise their application or withdraw their proposals; she added that it was back in the hands of the applicants.

She also explained that Nigel Gibbs, DBC was waiting for an update from DLA (developers). PL said that there had originally been pages and pages of conditions with regard to Nash House. JM responded by saying that James Doe and Nigel Gibbs were currently dealing with the application. She also confirmed that if necessary she would 'call it in'.

DJ (Chair of Finance) said that the finance committee monitor the budget monthly and have accepted that at the end of the financial year the parish council would be slightly over budget. He explained that reserves would be used in order to fund the replacement of the seven willow trees. He went onto to say that DBC would then own and maintain the trees. He reported that that the parish council would be funding other areas within Nash Mills with regards to tree works. He also reiterated that the precept amount at band D level would remain the same as the previous year. He also explained that Clubfinance, Internal Auditors had sold the parish council audit business to Philip Rhoden ex employer of Clubfinance. All Councillors had approved the engagement of Philip Rhoden as the new internal auditor.

9. **FUNDING SUGGESTIONS –DEFIB/TREES**

JM explained that the defibrillator suggestion had been discussed at a previous meeting but that the parish council hadn't come to a decision.

PL said that there was an element of training needed in order to use a defibrillator. JM disagreed and explained that the unit came with instructions. As a scout leader she had already been through the purchase procedure. DJ suggested that the Clerk put a question on the website asking local residents where they would like one sited within Nash Mills. The Clerk will also contact Nash Mills Head Rosie Washford-Mower and check whether the School has one in place. **LS**

RM asked the Councillors present whether they were in agreement to the purchase of a defibrillator and the majority OF Councillors present agreed to fund a unit for use within Nash Mills. JM said it would make sense to have one sited at The Denes as there was CCTV present and she went on to suggest that managers of some stores could be trained to use the unit. LG and RM agreed that this would make sense.

10. **FULL REVIEW OF NMPC'S INTERNAL CONTROL**

LS explained that with the recommendation of Clubfinance in the previous IA's report a more robust review should take place within the financial year. Clubfinance had recommended that with the parish council being in the fore front of implementing online banking, the regulations should focus on this area in more depth.

The Clerk had then contacted NALC and Carina Helm, HAPTC for further advice. They had agreed with the Internal Auditor that the parish council should source applicable information from the NALC Model Financial Regulations (these had been circulated to all earlier in the month in preparation for the full review).

The full review had been conducted by full council with Councillors suggesting additional information pertinent to the parish council. The Clerk had collated and circulated all the suggestions and drafted out a revised and more comprehensive set of internal control which included the Risk Assessment, Financial Regulations along with Standing Orders and a Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Auditor. There were no changes to the fixed assets register.

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JM asked the parish councillors present if they agreed to the final review. All Councillors present agreed.

The Clerk will add a minute reference to each document and have this signed at the next meeting and recirculate. She will ensure that copies of all the revised documents will be uploaded onto the parish council's website. **LS**

11. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

- a) **Issues Raised by Parish Warden's report** – DD had advised the Clerk earlier that he had no outstanding issues.
- b) **Matters Raised by Councillors** – LG said that she was in the process of contacting Tina Howard, Borough Councillor about the proposed steps on Chambersbury Lane. JM said that in that case it would be Sandra Williams, Borough Councillor. PL said that he had been speaking to Tina Howard about this issue and JM said that it was definitely Sandra Williams as the boundary line was the white line in the middle of Chambersbury Lane. LG said she would contact SW. **LG**
- c) **The Denes Car Park** – JM said that she had been liaising with Graeme Elliot, DBC for some time now. She said that since the original discussion of the purchase of a parking meter it had transpired that the cost had risen sharply. It would now be a one off fee of £27k. JM said originally the price had been quoted as £3k. She said that the other option was to have a maximum parking time of four hours at a pound an hour. The money raised by the fees would support the maintenance of the parking meter.

DJ asked whether the area would be regulated and JM said that once the meter was in situ the traffic wardens would patrol the area. All Councillors present agreed that this would be more suitable. **JM**

12. TIME MEETING CLOSED & DATE OF NEXT MEETING

JM thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.10 pm. She invited the public to stay on for the planning meeting.

12TH March 2018

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CHAIR

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DATE