

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday **11th January 2016** at Nash Mills Village Hall, Lower Road, Nash Mills.

Those Present:

Chair: Councillor Helen Gough

Vice Chair: Councillor Lisa Bayley

Committee Members: Councillor Louise Gross
Councillor Rosie Moubray
Councillor Jan Maddern

Also present: Linda Sutton, Clerk to the Council
Ian Martin, Hertfordshire Police
David Drew, Parish Warden
Member of the Public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / DECLARATION OF INTEREST

DJ, TC and PL sent their apologies, which were duly noted.

2. HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE REPORT (IF PRESENT)

HG invited Ian Martin to give an update on the recent crime figures for Nash Mills.

He reported that there had been an increase in crime in December resulting in 16 incidents. There had been several burglaries within the month. These included the theft of bicycles from garden sheds. Damage to car wing mirrors was also reported and this resulted in a male being arrested. It appeared that 'he did not like the way the cars had been parked'. Other crimes reported by IM included the theft of £5k from a dwelling in Nash Mills Wharf. A 'friend' who had stayed overnight in the property was later arrested.

HG asked IM whether previous rumours of a knife being found in Nash Mills were actually true, IM responded by saying that it was true and that the police were still seeking further information from the victim, it appears the perpetrator was known to him.

HG commented that a lot of the crimes had occurred within Nash Mills Wharf. It was agreed by councillors present that Nash Mills Parish Council would help in some way to integrate the newer residents of the area into the parish.

HG said that plans to celebrate the Queen's birthday were being formed by the parish council and that invitations to all residents would be included in the next parish magazine.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION *GUEST SPEAKER (IF AVAILABLE)

Alan Say, Treasurer of the Willows Residents 'Association asked the parish council whether they had given any thought to the amount that would be available for the annual Residents' Association Initiative for the forthcoming year. He said that the funds had been extremely useful and much appreciated. HG replied that the item would be on the finance agenda next month. She said she would rather not comment in the absence of Dave Jackson, Chairman of Finance.

AS relayed a message from Steve Wright, local resident. This was regarding a manhole cover on green space within the Willow's estate which had recently become a trip hazard. The Clerk will contact Robert Wright, DBC. LS

AS asked for an update on the proposed yellow lines. LS reported that following Alan's request she had emailed County Councillor Anthony McKay for further information but had not at this point received a response. JM said that the proposed works were in progress and that HCC were in the process of advertising information which would be published in the Gazette. She advised that this was extremely costly so HCC tended to advertise traffic regulation orders in bulk. She did say that she felt that some areas of the proposed yellow lines were wrong on the map. JM will contact AM with her concerns. JM

4. SIGNING OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

HG signed the minutes of the previous meeting which had been held in December. All members present agreed it was a true record. The minutes were approved for publication.

The Clerk will upload them on to the parish council's website. LS

5. ACTION LIST (UPDATE)

HG went through the most recent action lists. Most of the actions had been resolved. HG urged councillors to contact AM with any ideas for funding initiatives within Nash Mills, in order to utilise the County Councillor's locality budget. ALL

JM advised that she was in the process of researching a suitable logo to be adopted by the parish council. JM

HG queried whether the parish council could fund the maintenance for the footpath on the Willow's Estate. JM advised that this was on private land; she said that HCC regarded the area as a private estate and that the developer owned the land. RM asked whether the management company could be contacted for further advice. JM reiterated that the developer was the land owner.

HG advised that she would like the parish council to fund a project. LB suggested that the idea of planting on verges to deter parking could be revisited again.

This idea had originally been suggested by JM. It was agreed that JM, LB and LG would make a list of green verges that were used to park on within Nash Mills.

Once compiled JM would then contact either DBC or HCC to check ownership and then seek permission to plant shrubs on the verges. JM

HG said that the item of 'parking issues within Nash Mills' had been removed from the item 11 - 'future work programme'. She explained that parking was discussed invariably at each meeting. She felt that parish councillors could not use their limited time looking at parking issues each month. Councillors present agreed.

6. METHODIST CHURCH (UPDATE)

HG advised that the Methodist Church was to be added to the agenda as an item periodically. The parish council would receive updates via the parish warden's report. They would review the issues raised which historically have included litter, trespass and fire hazards.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

RM advised the parish council that the finance committee had discussed the online banking arrangements. They had agreed that Lloyds Bank would be the parish council's new service provider. RM signed the expenditure sheets and the financial schedule she reported that the cheques had been signed by HG and TC.

There was no planning committee report and no planning applications to be considered. JM advised that there were no personnel issues.

8. COUNCILLORS TO REPORT ON DESIGNATED AREAS (IF APPLICABLE)

LG reported that some home owners had complained about the recycling collection. JM reported that she had received a complaint from a resident that his green bin had not been collected. She had contacted a supervisor at Cupid's Green and after a thorough investigation the issue had now been resolved. JM said that residents could contact DBC and register to receive text alerts regarding bin collections. LS advised updates were also on the DBC website.

9. SETTING OF THE PRECEPT 2016/17

All councillors present agreed that the Council Band D 2016/17 would be £23.00 a reduction of 0.84 pence from 2015/16. HG, RM and LB signed the precept return and the tax base form. The Clerk will send the original to Richard Baker, DBC and will keep copies for audit purposes. The figures will be confirmed subject to DBC's approval. LS

10. COUNCILLORS (EXPENSES)

This item will be deferred to a meeting later in the year.

11. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

a) Issues raised by the Warden’s Report – DD advised that he had supplied further dog bags to the launderette and a small amount to the hairdressers.

b) Matters raised by Councillors – JM received an information pack regarding fly posting and unauthorised signage from Philip Stanley, Enforcement Officer at DBC. She said that she would circulate a copy to the Clerk and the parish warden. **JM**

c) Abbot’s Hill playing fields. – It was commented that works were due to begin by Frank Coopers on the entrance to the playground, in the near future.

d) The Denes Car Park – JM will continue to monitor the car park and will advise councillors if there is an improvement. **JM**

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next full parish council meeting will be held on Monday 8th February 2016, Nash Mills Village Hall, Lower Road.

LB thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9.35pm.

.....

Chair

.....

8th February 2016