

NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

1450

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday **13th June 2016** at Nash Mills Village Hall, Lower Road, Nash Mills.

Those Present:

Chair: Councillor Lisa Bayley

Vice Chair: Councillor Jan Maddern

Committee Members: Councillor Rosie Moubray
Councillor Helen Gough
Councillor Louise Gross
Councillor Peter Lardi

Also present: Linda Sutton, Parish Clerk
David Drew, Parish Warden

1. WELCOME/START TIME/

LB welcomed everybody and declared that the meeting opened at 8.01pm. She extended a warm welcome to all and especially HG.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

DJ and TC had sent their apologies, which were duly noted. TC advised the clerk that he would attend briefly in order to sign cheques and the letter of authority in DJ's absence. There were no declarations of interest.

3. HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE REPORT (IF PRESENT)

IM had sent his apologies to the clerk prior to the meeting. The crime report had been circulated to all councillors earlier on in the week.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION *GUEST SPEAKER (IF AVAILABLE)

There was nothing to report.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

LB signed the minutes of the previous meeting which had been held in April and the minutes to the Annual Meeting of the Council which had been held in May. All members present agreed that they were a true record. The minutes were approved for publication.

The approved minutes will both be published on to the parish council's website.

LS

6. ACTION LIST (UPDATE)

JM reported that she had once again contacted the parking team at DBC. She advised the councillors present that if the parish council do agree to have the first hour free then this would mean the parking team would have to monitor the area on a more frequent basis which could only benefit Nash Mills.

JM updated the council and advised them after some initial investigations that there may actually be a Nash Mills crest. She had spoken with members of the Nash Mills Village Hall Association. She said that she would be attending the NMVHA's AGM within the week and would enquire further about the crest and would contact Peter Ward.

JM advised that she would report back to the council.

JM

LB asked JM whether she had looked at the parish council's draft planning processes document, circulated and produced by LG and PL. JM advised that she was in the process of reviewing the document. She said that she would circulate it along with her suggestions.

JM

LB asked PL if he had progressed with the bridge. PL advised that he was still investigating who owned the bridge and who was responsible for the maintenance.

PL

RM reported that Chamonix Estates, Nash Wharf's management company, were currently investigating what their own maintenance programme covered. RM advised that she would report back to the council.

RM

JM reported that she had met with Anthony McKay. They had held a three hour long meeting discussing the amendments to the proposed yellow lines. He had agreed with JM's suggested amendments, he had also agreed with JM that the speed sign needed to be re-sited.

LB thanked JM for all her hard work in producing party packs for the Queen's birthday celebrations. JM had kindly agreed to deliver the packs and had attended a few of the gatherings. She said that she was pleased to report that the packs were a great success.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

RM reported that the finance committee had approved both last month's financial schedules and expenditure sheets for April and May. The cheques had been signed by both TC and HG. HG had signed both the bank transfer letters one for NatWest and one for Lloyds. RM had initialled the bank statements and signed the financial schedules and expenditure sheets.

PL reported that the applicants of 14 Longdean Park had now redesigned and completed their plans. He reported that a planning committee meeting would be held after the parish council meeting and that there would be eight planning applications were to be considered.

PL asked LS to recirculate the 'Draft Statement of Community of Involvement' email to all.

LS

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JM updated the parish council and advised that although 292 Belswains Lane had recently withdrawn their planning application, she said it was highly likely that a new application would be submitted to the planning department at a later date.

LB asked JM if there were any issues with personnel and JM said that the salary review update would be discussed under item eight (this had been discussed previously at the finance meeting).

8. REVIEW OF STAFF SALARIES (UPDATE)

JM reported that she was still liaising and receiving guidance from HR at DBC. The clerk's proposed increase in the interim of one point on the spinal column was agreed and ratified.

LG advised that a further personnel meeting will be arranged in the near future.

LG

9. COUNCILLORS TO REPORT ON THEIR DESIGNATED AREAS

LG reported that she had contacted the clerk regarding an oil slick which had appeared at the junction of Silverthorn Drive and Chambersbury Lane. LS reported the hazard and LG thanked her for her prompt response.

10. 'SAVE THE VERGES' (WORKING PARTY UPDATE)

JM advised that she would contact Colin Chambers, DBC. She said that she wanted clarification on whether shrubs could be planted on the existing verges maintained by DBC.

JM

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (UPDATE)

PL said that he felt that the parish council producing a neighbourhood plan was a very large issue. He said that he did not think that the council was qualified to compile such a complex document. He went on to say that the services and expertise of a professional town planner should be enlisted. He did not understand why the parish council would need to produce and mirror a document already produced by Dacorum Borough Council in line with their strategic planning policy. PL said he had read a hard copy of the original Nash Mills Parish Council plan compiled by HG and DJ. HG explained that the information had been originally produced several years ago and that she now considered this document out of date.

After much discussion, LB suggested that a decision be made next month as to whether the parish council decide whether or not to produce a neighbourhood plan.

ALL

LS to keep the item on next month's agenda.

LS

12. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMMES

a) Issues Raised by Warden's Reports – DD reported that the signage DJ had organised had been put in place.

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b) Matters Raised by Councillors – JM said that she had contacted Mr Hussain a representative of the owners of the Methodist Church. JM raised safety issues with him and said that she was concerned about the dangers of children falling into the site.

LG asked why the site had remained in this state for so long. JM replied that it appeared to be a matter of funding. JM said she spoke to Sarah Wheeler, DBC who suggested that the parish council hold a meeting at the village hall and invite the owners of the church and the public to discuss the future of the building. She suggested to JM that it be chaired by an independent person. JM advised the parish council that Roger Taylor a local borough councillor would be a suitable chair as he had already had experience of a similar scenario in Gadebridge.

All councillors present agreed that this was a good idea. JM said she would check suitable dates and report back to the parish council. **JM**

HG advised that once a date and venue was agreed it would make sense to have a police presence.

JM reported that she had recently been supporting an elderly resident in Pond Road regarding a planning application and would continue to do so.

She asked the parish council if they would agree to her presenting the NMVHA with a photograph of the ex- Mayor Adeleke. He was photographed whilst visiting local areas in Nash Mills earlier on in the year with JM and the clerk.

Everybody present agreed it made sense to have the photograph displayed in the village hall. **JM**

PL advised that he thought work needed to be carried out along the canal side by the bridge. He said that the area looked ugly. LB suggested that he take this on as an action and report back next month. **PL**

PL reported that some time ago he had sent an email to councillors asking for their comments on whether they felt it acceptable that in some cases planning applicants were submitting plans which indicated that building works would be constructed close to their neighbour's boundary. He said that he felt that this was a social issue. He said that he did not receive any responses from councillors at the time. LB said that it was up to the planning department to send out letters to neighbours advising of a party wall agreement and not the responsibility of the parish council. HG said that if a resident came to the parish council with concerns then of course it would be investigated.

LB mentioned that she felt that banners were again reappearing around Nash Mills. She urged councillors to continue to report them and advise JM of the site. **ALL**

LB commented that she would like to remind councillors of the 'Code of Conduct' and that it would be an item on next month's agenda. **LS**

The clerk along with Mike Stanyon, a local historian had recently contacted Briony Curtain, DBC Case Officer, asking when Nash House would be completed. RM reported that it appeared access to the

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House could now be via Butterfly Crescent. PL remarked that the vents that had appeared on top of the apartment blocks looked ugly and out of place. The clerk will contact MS. **LS**

LB suggested that 'Nash House' be put on the action list. She asked both PL and RM to investigate the issues and report back. **PL/RM/LS**

c) The Denes Car park – LB advised that this had been discussed earlier on in the meeting.

LB said that she would like to make councillors aware that occasionally parish council meetings would take longer than usual. She said that it was important to address all items on the agenda and stressed that as the parish council met only once a month it was vital to discuss as much as possible at the meetings. She commented that in the long term this would cut down on the amounts of emails circulated between meetings.

13. TIME MEETING CLOSED/DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

LB thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next meeting would be the Full Meeting of the Council on **Monday 11th July** at 8pm at Nash Mills Village Hall, Lower Road.

LB thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.27pm.

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Chair

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11th July 2016