

NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

1473

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday **14th November 2016** at Nash Mills Village Hall, Lower Road, Nash Mills.

Those Present:

Chair: Councillor Lisa Bayley

Committee Members: Councillor Louise Gross

Councillor Dave Jackson

Councillor Peter Lardi

Councillor Rosie Moubray

Also present: Linda Sutton, Parish Clerk

David Drew, Parish Warden

Ian Martin, Hertfordshire Police

Diane Pennington, Hertfordshire Police

Andrea Maloney

Representatives from the Willows Residents' Association

1. WELCOME/START TIME

LB welcomed everybody and declared the meeting open at 8.01pm.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

HG had sent her apologies, which were duly noted and kept on file. JM and TC sent their apologies.

3. HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE REPORT (IF PRESENT)

LB welcomed everybody to the meeting.

She invited IM and DP to report on the monthly crime figures for October.

IM confirmed that there were ten crimes reported in total (the crime report had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting). He advised that this figure was high due to a spate of four thefts at the Tesco store at The Denes. Out of the four incidents two people have been arrested. Currently, a security guard is stationed at the Tesco store at The Denes.

Other crimes reported included a dwelling burglary (an offender broke into his ex-partner's home). IM also reported that a bicycle was stolen in Nash Mills Wharf and a motor vehicle was targeted in Silverthorne Drive, however, nothing was taken.

In Swan Mead tomato paste or something similar was squirted at a front door. This was linked to an incident at a school; in Barnacres Road a milk float was damaged.

PL asked IM about an incident concerning a white BMW, IM said he would circulate his report to all.

LB thanked IM for his report.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION* GUEST SPEAKER (IF AVAILABLE)

LB welcomed and invited the representatives of The Willows Residents' Association (WRA) to speak. Jennifer Percival advised that there were several issues that they wished to discuss with the parish council.

JP asked whether the recently fallen trees on the estate would be replaced, she said that they had acted as a sound barrier from the industrial estate nearby.

DJ said that this issue was already on the parish council's action list. He said that originally willow trees had been planted on the Dickinson's site; developers had then planted further trees. These had not been looked after and as a result they became diseased. DJ said that the parish council was due to contact Luke Johnson, DBC in the near future to ask whether a review of all trees in Nash Mills could be conducted.

JP asked if there could be more parking spaces made available in Kingfisher Drive. LB explained that JM was currently dealing with this issue however; she was unable to attend the meeting this evening. **JM**

JP said that on most days there was a certain amount of noise pollution coming from the industrial estate. After much discussion from everybody present at the meeting, it was suggested that WRA contact the ground maintenance team's manager and check whether the maintenance works could be carried out at a more sociable time. DJ advised that the Association should also contact the noise abatement team at DBC. He said that the noise could be measured and action could then be taken if appropriate. LB advised that it would also make sense to keep a journal. She advised that in the meantime the members of the association could write to the maintenance team independently and complain. She suggested that it made sense not to use a template and would be much more effective if personalised letters were sent out.

Andrea Maloney said that the residents in Mill Close wanted to protect their road. She said that they were disheartened with recent planning decisions and this could result in further parking issues. They were also aware that residents in a few properties in the road were not maintaining their gardens. LB advised her to note the addresses of the unkempt properties and email the clerk so that she could alert the enforcement officers at DBC. **AM/LS**

AM said that it was their intention to draw up a plan to protect the area with this in mind she had contacted Mike Penning, MP and Nigel Gibbs, planning case officer at DBC. She said she would keep the parish council updated.

LB said she too was aware that local residents had written to Mike Penning. She said that the protection of verges and parking issues were being currently dealt with at parish and borough council level.

LB thanked the public for their comments and suggested that they keep in touch with the parish council regarding their progress.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

All members present agreed that the minutes were a true record. LB then signed the minutes of the previous meeting and they were approved for publication. The minutes will be published on to the parish council's website. **LS**

6. ACTION LIST (Update).

LB reported that the following items on the action list were still ongoing and it was reviewed on a monthly basis. She said that all items actioned were removed, leaving any ongoing items:

LS said that JM was still waiting for a response back from NMVHA regarding the potential crest design. **JM**

Cllrs are to continue to report flyposting and banners to JM. **ALL**

Nash House updates. **PL/RM**

LB to contact Luke Johnson re: Nash Mills tree survey and funding. **LB**

PL asked LS to contact DBC and advise them that he would be attending the parish conference. **LS**

LS to contact Rob Cassidy, DBC to see when the bench is ready to be installed. **LS**

LS to contact Herts Highways and check when the grit is due to be delivered. **LS**

LS advised that dates to meet and discuss the imminent changes had been offered by the planning department and circulated to all councillors. DBC had also confirmed that the digital implementation was being discussed at the parish conference on the 25th November. Councillors said that they would email the clerk with their preferred dates. **ALL**

The revised planning processes had been distributed by LG.

PL said that he had contacted JM with several issues prior to the meeting. He said that the proposed railings recently suggested by JM would add to the overall projected costs of £18k. He said that it would make more sense to install posts only, every 1.8 metres and that this option would still protect the verges. LG said that both versions were used at her son's school. She advised that the top rail was used to protect grass and new planting. PL said that DBC regularly maintain the verges and that the top rail would act as an obstacle. LB reported to the parish council that earlier on that evening JM had contacted Herts Highways via email and asked for a quote without the top rail. RM

queried whether reflectors would need to be on each posts. LB said they would wait for a response from Herts Highways.

PL advised that more lighting and planting had been implemented within the grounds of Nash Mills Wharf and RM commented that works were gradually coming to an end.

DJ said that LS would circulate the revised Financial Regulations. **LS**

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee Report - DJ explained that the budget was slightly over as mentioned at the finance meeting earlier. He explained that the recent increases in salaries for both staff had increased contributions and led to the over spend. He reported that the agreed donation of a further £1,500 towards works at Nash Mills C of E School had now been processed. He also reported that the online banking system was running smoothly.

DJ reported that the draft budget and forthcoming precept and concurrent services update would be discussed next month at the finance committee. He asked that councillors email him any suggestions regarding the forthcoming budget. **ALL**

The clerk will add the item to next month's finance agenda. **LS**

Planning Committee Report – PL advised that a planning meeting would be held after the full parish council meeting. He said that there was one planning application to be considered and that the previous month's minutes would be signed. **PL**

Personnel Committee Report – LG advised that everything was running smoothly.

8. CODE OF CONDUCT

LB suggested that due to time restraints this item would be deferred once again until the December meeting. She advised all that she wanted to have all councillors in attendance when discussing the code of conduct. **LS**

9. COUNCILLORS TO REPORT ON THEIR DESIGNATED AREAS

LG said she would report fly tipping left on Bedmond Road via the DBC online services. **LG**

10. SAVE THE VERGES. – (Working Party Update).

This was discussed earlier on in the meeting.

11. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMMES.

a) Issues Raised by Warden's Reports – DD reported that either Herts Highways or DBC had erected a small blue sign advising 'no parking' on the green on Chambersbury Lane opposite Pond Road.

b) Matters raised by Councillors – DJ said he thought it would make sense to carry out a survey regarding obsolete street furniture. This would be added to the future work programme section. **LS**

c) The Denes Car park – LB advised that the concept of a ticket machine is still being processed at DBC.

PL said that for some time he had thought that the acoustics in the village hall were quite poor. He suggested that it would make sense to bring in a surveyor. LB explained that NMHA would have to make their own enquiries.

14. 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 12th December** at 8pm at Nash Mills Village Hall, Lower Road.

LB thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.57 pm

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Chair

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14th November 2016

DRAFT