

# NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

1467

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday **10th October 2016** at Nash Mills Village Hall, Lower Road, Nash Mills.

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## Those Present:

Chair: Councillor Lisa Bayley

Vice Chair: Councillor Jan Maddern

Committee Members: Councillor Terence Collins

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

Agallili Bardhyl, Hertfordshire Police

Member of the Willows Residents' Association

## **1. WELCOME/START TIME**

LB welcomed everybody and declared the meeting open at 8.00pm.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

HG had sent her apologies, which were duly noted and kept on file. JM advised that she would be arriving later due to her commitments with the Scouts. TC declared an interest. He restated that he was an Associate Governor and Parish Council representative for Nash Mills C of E School. A request for funding was due to be discussed under item 12.

## **3. HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE REPORT (IF PRESENT)**

LB welcomed everybody to the meeting.

She invited IM and AB to report on the monthly crime figures for September.

IM confirmed that there were four crimes reported in total (the crime report had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting). He advised that one crime involved tools being stolen from a van parked in Highbarns; another incident involved a parcel left by a courier on a doorstep in Nash Mills Wharf being stolen.

IM also reported that a case of harassment had been logged.

A vehicle had been stopped within Nash Mills for routine checks and a bag of cannabis had been seized.

LB thanked IM for his report.

IM asked if the parish council had an update on the future of the Methodist Church.

TC advised him that he had spoken to a representative from the owners recently. However, he stressed as a local resident and not as a parish councillor. He said that he had urged them to have the property demolished and went on to say that he had also contacted DBC and complained about the state of the site and how it had become an eyesore.

IM thanked TC for the update.

LG entered the village hall.

PL asked IM whether he was aware that several vehicles in Longdean Park had been broken into. He reported that two men had been apprehended. LB said that the incidents should be on the following month's crime report.

LB thanked both IM and AB and they left the building.

#### **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION\* GUEST SPEAKER (IF AVAILABLE)**

LB welcomed the member of public. He advised that he was there to represent the Willows Residents' Association and said that a representative will now attend the meeting each month. The representative asked if there had been an update regarding the Swan Mead playground. LS advised him that Rob Cassidy had said that he would be rolling out the new signage programme in spring 2017.

#### **5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

PL advised that the man hole cover was described in the minutes as raised when in fact it was sunken. PL explained that Laura Wood, DBC was the person to contact regarding information on setting up a parish plan. **LS**

LS will initial the amendments in the margin of the document. **LS**

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

## NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

1469

### **6. ACTION LIST (Update).**

LB reported that the following items were ongoing:

LB to report drug issues to IM. **LB**

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

LG advised that the planning processes document had been circulated. **LG**

LS to contact Laura Wood, DBC. **LS**

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

DD will continue to monitor the dog bins in the area and take pictures if necessary. JM will contact Louise Ablitt, Dog Warden and check whether the litter and dog bins could be collected simultaneously. **JM/DD**

Nash House updates. **PL/RM**

TC advised that the speed camera should be moved as it is solar powered and needs a clear space around the unit.

JM to contact AM re: verge coverings and repainting of Belswains Lane roundabout lines and resiting of the speed camera.

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

LS had received an email from IM after he had patrolled the road around Chambersbury Lane School. He had reported that it hadn't been that busy. However, he had advised the resident PCSO of the problems that had been highlighted by the local residents' association recently.

LS to amend then forward the revised Financial Regulations document to DJ for approval and then circulate. **LS/DJ**

PL will continue to monitor the canal side. He still felt that house holders along the canal side lacked privacy. He advised the parish council that he had contacted Briony Curtain, DBC with regards to the potential flooding issue on the land at Nash Mills Wharf. He said that originally when the mill was sited in that area, it had been susceptible to ground water flooding and had been six inches below the water table. Briony Curtain had updated PL and advised him that the Council were currently seeking further guidance from the Environment Agency. **PL**

LB advised that all other actions had been resolved.

JM arrived at the meeting and gave her apologies.

### **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance Committee Report - DJ explained that the budget was slightly over. He said that the reasons were due to the increase in both staff salaries and pension contributions as mentioned last month.

DJ reported that all was running smoothly and that the online banking system was a success. He advised that the Financial Regulations were currently being revised to reflect the new procedure. **LS**

Planning Committee Report –PL advised that a planning meeting would be held after the full parish council meeting. He said that there were two planning applications to be considered.

Personnel Committee Report – There were no updates.

## **8. CODE OF CONDUCT**

LB suggested that due to time restraints this item would be deferred once again until the November meeting. **LS**

## **9. COUNCILLORS TO REPORT ON THEIR DESIGNATED AREAS**

There were no reports.

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

JM offered to give a short presentation using her device on the suggested solution to protect the verges. She suggested that small wooden edging would be erected around chosen verges. At this point, JM showed councillors images of wooden edging already in situ around Nash Mills. She then showed her draft proposals on where she thought the proposed edging should go. Councillors present all agreed to the scheme and agreed with JM's suggestions.

PL said that the logs that had recently been placed on the verges near to Chambersbury Lane School by the local residents' association were the wrong size. LG added that reflectors should have been added to them. LB said that the group had been warned by the parish council of the hazards of leaving the logs on the verges and that they should be well aware of the ramifications.

LB suggested that all councillors look at any damaged verges that have not been reported before and forward the details to JM to collate. DD reported that he too was checking the area; he said that two vehicles constantly park on a verge in Georgewood Road and cause damage. RM queried whether the honeycomb concept protected the grass and TC said that it did.

JM advised that she will contact Anthony McKay and source a quote from Hertfordshire Highways. She said that it was likely that the parish council would have to fund the proposed works. **JM**

## **11. REMEMBRANCE SERVICE (UPDATE)**

JM reported all that arrangements had been made for the Remembrance Service to be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. She had been in touch with a local pastor from Swan Mead, Nash Mills, who has kindly agreed to officiate at the ceremony.

The Clerk had circulated an email to local RA's, Schools and residents advising them of the service. She had also advertised the event details on social media sites and uploaded the information on to the parish council's website.

**12. REQUESTS FOR FUNDING**

LB explained that the parish council had received three requests for funding; Herts Air Ambulance, Marie Curie charity and Nash Mills C of E School.

TC restated his declarations of interest. He offered to give councillors present some further background information on the more recent request for funding from the School. He advised that there had been a shortfall in the monies available and that the contingency amount that had been originally set aside was not enough to cover the necessary further works needed to carry out and finish the project.

After much discussion, councillors agreed to donate only to the School at the present time. DJ suggested that the amount of £1,500k would be an acceptable donation. Councillors decided to take a vote and agreed unanimously on donating the suggested amount to the School.

The Clerk will contact Rosie Washford Mower, Head of the School, and advise her of the parish council's decision. She will also contact the two other charities and let them know that NMPC will not be funding them at this time. **LS**

**13. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMMES.**

a) Issues Raised by Warden's Reports – DD advised that there had been reports of dogs roaming around the cattle in Bunkers Park. LS will tweet a reminder to dog owners on the parish council's twitter account. **LS**

b) Matters raised by Councillors – TC advised that a local resident had contacted him complaining about the current use of the front of 292 Belswains Lane. TC reported that he had then visited the owner of the garage; who promised to tidy up the area and not park large commercial vehicles on the front drive.

RM commented that the residential property *was* currently being used for commercial use. DJ queried why had the enforcement officers had taken so long to make a decision and JM reported that the enforcement officers at DBC were still investigating the situation and were making sporadic site visits. She said it was illegal to run a commercial business on a residential property.

PL advised that he was aware that the enforcement officers were minded to close the file.

Councillors discussed the ongoing issues that they had with the planning department and suggested that a meeting be arranged with representatives from the parish council with planning officers at DBC.

LS will contact Joan Reid, DBC to set up a meeting. **LS**

c) The Denes Car park – JM was still in discussion with DBC. **JM**

**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 14<sup>th</sup> November** at 8pm at Nash Mills Village Hall, Lower Road.

LB thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.13 pm

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**Chair**

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**14th November 2016**