

NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

1499

Linda Sutton, Parish Clerk, A: 154 Hitchin Road, Stotfold, Hertfordshire, SG5 4JE
E: clerk@nashmillsparishcouncil.gov.uk W: www.nashmillsparishcouncil.gov.uk T: 01462 735553
Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held at Nash Mills Village Hall on 11th September 2017

Those present:

Chair: Councillor Lisa Bayley
Vice-Chair: Councillor Jan Maddern

Committee Members: Councillor Terence Collins
Councillor Louise Gross
Councillor Peter Lardi
Councillor Rosie Moubray

Also present: Tina Howard, County Councillor
Dave Drew, Parish Warden
Members of the public

1. WELCOME/START TIME

Councillor Bayley welcomed everyone to the meeting which started at 8.00pm. Councillor Louise Gross was nominated to be the Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer for the duration of the evening.

Councillor Terence Collins requested that County Councillor Tina Howard, be invited to sit with the Parish Councillors and that it be minuted that this should be the case whenever she attends. (The Parish Clerk to consult with HAPTC on the legality of this suggestion). **LS**

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Parish Warden (Mrs Linda Sutton), and Councillors Dave Jackson and Helen Gough and all sent apologies. There were no declarations of interest.

3. HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE REPORT (IF PRESENT)

Councillor Bayley read the most recent crime report. There had been 8 crimes in total. These were generally of a petty nature – theft from a vehicle/Tesco etc. Councillor Bayley pointed out that Nash Mills has a very low crime rate.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/GUEST SPEAKER IF AVAILABLE

The Treasurer of the Willow's Residents' Association explained that they have lost several of the original trees and want to maintain the environment.

NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

1500

Councillor Maddern had approached Dacorum who have agreed that they will plant replacement trees, if the Willows' RA can find the funds for the trees themselves. The cost would be £150 a tree and they would like to plant 6 trees which would mean finding £900. The treasurer had asked the Parish Council if they would they be able to help with this funding request. Councillor Bayley asked if Councillor Howard might have funds in her locality budget. Councillor Howard explained that she intends to use this budget to fund as many small projects as possible so that she can maximise its benefit.

It was agreed that a split of 50/50 between the locality budget and Nash Mills Parish Council might be agreeable and would be discussed as an item at the next Finance meeting.

Residents in Highbarns are concerned that several of the trees are covered in ivy which needs to be removed and therefore; cost is an issue. A professional opinion will be sought and Councillor Bailey will send details to Councillor Howard to enable this to take place. **LB**

A resident from Mill Close advised that a tree meant for pruning had been cut down to the ground and poison applied to the stump by Dacorum Clean, Safe and Green have advised that they will be replacing it with a cherry tree.

Chris Bowden-Hawkins (representing Nash Mills Wharf Residents' Association) has seen a Facebook message in which a Nash Mills Parish Councillor appears to suggest that the roads in Nash Mills Wharf should be adopted by Dacorum to ease pressure on surrounding roads. Chris was concerned that NMRA had not been consulted on this. Councillor Howard asked Chris to forward the message to her and said that she would speak with him about this.

Chris Bowden-Hawkins commented that parking along Red Lion Road was increasingly becoming an issue (Councillor Gross advised that she has had several complaints about this, and was almost in an accident along that stretch of road herself). Councillor Howard advised that she has met with the Highways Officer to discuss this and it will be reconsidered at a future date. Councillor Howard asked Parish Councillors to forward complaints to her.

Doug Davies (a resident of Mill Close) had sent pictures to Councillors of instances of cars parked in Nash Green/Mill Close by residents of Nash Mills Wharf. He is concerned that the area is so congested with parked vehicles that some drivers are now pulling onto the pavement and driving along the pavement to get around this. Another resident raised concern about the many commercial vehicles now parking in Nash Mills. Again pictures have been forwarded to Councillors of cars parked on bends, and blocking driveways. A resident from Kingfisher Drive advised that he is unable to use the parking bays outside his house as they are in constant use by residents of Nash Mills Wharf. In addition, he regularly has to do a five point turn just to get off his own driveway. The Parish Clerk will advise PCSO Ian Martin. **LS**

NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

1501

Chris Bowden-Hawkins pointed out that developments are being built and changes of use agreed, but with insufficient parking space. He also advised that there are quite a lot of spaces allocated to the Housing Association in NMW which are not used. He asked whether these could be reallocated. Councillor Howard advised that she has taken the Highways Officer to Mill Close four times and is waiting for a response from DBC, she also advised that she has a further meeting planned with them in the near future.

Councillor Madden advised that she has visited the area with Mike Penning (MP) and they are looking at the possibility of providing some parking possibly on a piece of land nearby. This is owned by Linden Development but classified as green belt. She will report back. **JM**

Children have been spotted playing in the man holes at Swan Mead. PCSO Ian Martin has already contacted the School at it appears that this issue has been addressed.

Chris Bowden-Hawkins advised that he has seen people driving at 50 miles an hour along on Belswains Lane – he asked what could be done to stop this. Councillor Bailey agreed that this is an ongoing issue and that the parish council are liaising with Hertfordshire Police.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and the Chair signed them. These will be published on the website. **LS**

6. ACTION LIST UPDATE

The item on whether to purchase a defibrillator will be deferred to the next meeting. Quotes have already been sent to the Clerk. It was agreed that The Code of Conduct be deferred again. Tina Howard will contact Hertfordshire Highways regarding the new pathway in Chambersbury Lane. 'The HAPTC 150 points of light' item will also be deferred along with the Emergency Action Plan.

7. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL RETURN'S BDO LLP REPORT

LG advised that the Parish Clerk had chased BDO for the report. She had received an email apologising for the oversight. She had then circulated the report to all Councillors via email during August. The report was read out during the full parish council meeting it had advised 'that the smaller authority must implement the recommendations made by the internal auditor to improve the financial systems of the smaller authority as soon as possible or in any event before the end of the current financial year if the smaller authority addresses all the issues raised by the internal auditor the smaller authority should improve internal controls which will help to prevent and detect error and fraud and assist the smaller authority to operate in an effective and efficient manner'. BDO also advised that 'the Annual Return had had to be returned for amendment and that the smaller authority should ensure that the annual return is fully and correctly prepared in future years.' Clubfinance had advised that the smaller authority continue to be vigilant in reclaiming VAT, they recommended that as part of the next review of Financial Regulations, the existing

NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

1502

content on online payments is given extra focus and that the annual review of the effectiveness of internal controls be held before the end of the relevant financial year. (The review had been undertaken but the meeting had been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances). Councillors were in agreement that at the next review of the Internal Controls the issues raised would be addressed. The Clerk had uploaded the relevant documents on to the parish council's website. **LS**

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor Moubray (Finance Committee) advised that the Finance Committee had met earlier in the evening. There were no outstanding actions.

RM suggested that Councillors come up with ideas that the parish council could fund. **ALL**

Councillor Lardi (Planning Committee) advised that there were four planning applications to be considered at the planning meeting. Councillor Bayley invited members of the public who wished to attend to remain in the village hall.

Councillor Gross (Personnel Committee) was delighted to announce that our wonderful Parish Warden Dave Drew has won the Clean, Safe and Green Community Champion Individual Award 2017, for the fantastic job he does for Nash Mills. Dave will receive his award on the 5th October.

8. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor Collins advised that he had sought advice from a local architect regarding Nash House and together they had prepared a statement which had been circulated for councillors to consider.

Councillor Lardi advised that he (and Councillor Gross) had met with representatives of the Mosque. He reported that an excellent set of drawings had been produced. Councillor Howard and Councillor Madden added that they too were impressed with the drawings.

Councillor Lardi also asked what was happening regarding the steps leading up the bank in Chambersbury Lane opposite Silverthorn Drive. Councillor Howard said she would speak later to Councillor Lardi about this. Councillor Gross advised that she had requested the steps some time ago as she felt the bank was dangerous as many dog walkers use it and risk being pulled into the road. The Parish Clerk had contacted Groundworks for advice. Councillor Gross advised that she has received a number of complaints about Red Lion Road and on-going driver safety there.

9. TIME MEETING CLOSED/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

Chair

9th October 2017