

# NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held at 8pm on Monday **11<sup>th</sup> May 2015** at Nash Mills Village Hall, Lower Road, Nash Mills

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Chairman: Councillor Helen Gough  
Vice Chairman: Councillor Lisa Bayley

Councillors: Councillor Terence Collins  
Councillor Louise Gross  
Councillor David Jackson  
Councillor Jan Maddern  
Councillor Rosie Moubray

Also present: Mrs Linda Sutton, Clerk to the Council  
County Councillor Anthony McKay  
PCSO Ian Martin  
David Drew, Parish Warden  
Members of the Public

## 1. APOLOGIES/DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Apologies were received from Peter Lardi, which were noted.

## 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Helen Gough declared that she was married to a committee member of the Willows Residents' Association. Councillor Terence Collins declared that he was an associate governor at Nash Mills C of E School. Councillor Jan Maddern declared that she was an elected member of Dacorum Borough Council. Councillors suggested this did not have to be declared each month but kept on file. The Parish Clerk noted this.

## 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Representatives from local Residents' Associations were present. They reported to the parish council the events that they had held throughout the year.

HG asked RB whether he would like to write an article for the summer edition of the parish council magazine. He said he would report on Chambersbury RA's planned reunion event on the 20<sup>th</sup> June.

4. **SIGNING OF THE MINUTES**

Copies of last year's APM minutes for 2015 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors agreed it was a true record and Councillor Helen Gough, Chair signed them.

LS will publish a copy of the approved minutes on the parish council's website. LS

5. **COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS**

HG, Chair read out a statement regarding the delegation of powers to each Finance, Planning and Personnel committee or proposed sub-committees. It was resolved that the full parish council delegate full power to each committee or sub-committee. Each committee shall report all actions taken and report them to the full parish council.

She invited DJ to read out annual finance report:

'The parish council received the precept amount from DBC which amounted to £22,988 along with the Concurrent Services amount which was £8,236, this amount covers the cost of the Parish Warden's salary, however, this amount from DBC could be withdrawn at any time. A Council Tax Grant (CTG) was awarded to NMPC which equated to £1964.82. It is not known at this stage whether an amount will be awarded next year. The parish council pay an online printing company to print the quarterly magazine at a cost of £800 per annum part of this cost is offset by the revenue generated from the advertisements published in the magazine. This income is approximately £207. The salaries for the Clerk and the Parish Warden totals approximately £20k.

The parish council use Paybureau for Salaries as their payroll provider, the administrative cost for this service totals £240 per annum. NMPC also negotiated long term agreements with both Came and Co, Parish Insurers who charge £744 per annum and Chess ICT, who charge £620 per annum for services which include remote support, back up etc.

The parish council donated £16,646.25 towards a selection of local schemes within Nash Mills. The parish council have donated over £14k to help with the expansion and refurbishment of The Denes Car Park during the financial year.

After receiving a funding request from Nash Mills C of E School an amount of £1000 was donated towards their planned works on the anniversary gardens.

NMPC made a small donation to the British Legion.

A sum of £800 was donated towards the Residents' Association Initiative which was set up by the parish council a year ago. This enables groups to set up an RA or to help them create a 'slush fund' that would cover basic costs such as the hire of a hall in which to hold their meetings.

The parish council set up a 'Free Dog Bag Initiative' approximately 7 years ago; which costs approximately £200 to run per annum. The dog bags are distributed throughout the parish by the Parish Warden. They are also available for collection at the local launderette.

The item 'Warden Costs' totalled £800 for the year. Monies were spent on repairs on street furniture within Nash Mills such as the 'welcome' signs and wooden benches, and towards the cost of renting a garage from DBC.'

HG thanked DJ for his report.

The Clerk/RFO (Responsible Financial Officer) reported that the parish council accounts had been audited twice in the year. Club

finance had conducted an internal audit and their recommendation was to date any outstanding cheques. They also suggested claiming back VAT on petty cash purchases.

BDO conducted the external audit and advised that no issues were raised. A notice had been advertised on the local noticeboard and published on the parish council's website advertising that the accounts could be inspected by appointment.

The accounts for year ended 31st March 2015 had been approved at the Annual Meeting of the Council. HG, Chair had read out the governance statement and Councillors present had agreed to this statement.

HG signed the Annual Return which was also signed by LS, Parish Clerk/RFO.

As ex - Chair of Planning, HG read out the annual planning report. She advised that planning committee meetings are held monthly or when needed after each Parish Council meeting to discuss all and any planning applications relating to Nash Mills. These are almost always residential developments and a committee member aim to visit the location prior to discussion. She said that they welcome any comments from the public.

HG invited Councillor Lisa Bayley, Chair of Personnel to read out her annual report:

LB advised that Linda Sutton, Parish Clerk and David Drew, Parish Warden had had a successful year and she said;

'My report this evening is going to be very short. There is nothing major to report over the last year for the personnel committee. It has remained very quiet which means that all the valued people on the parish council team have stayed with us.

Our valued Parish Warden - David - has gone from strength to strength. He is doing a brilliant job in keeping our streets tidy and keeping us informed of local issues. He works brilliantly with Linda always keeping her in the loop.

I would at this point like to say a massive thank you to Linda, our Parish Clerk. Who, without we would fall apart. The parish council are very lucky to have Linda as their Clerk. She is respected, appreciated, valued and brilliant at her job and a truly unique lady.

So a big thank you to Linda and David we are very lucky to have you on the parish council team.' LB also thanked the committee for all their hard work and going forward advised that the Personnel Committee would meet periodically when required.

HG thanked the councillors for their reports. She asked Dave Drew, Parish Warden to read out his annual report.

## **6. PARISH WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

'I am now in the second year as Parish Warden and am still enjoying the role.

I am the eyes and ears of the parish council. My responsibilities include inspecting and reporting faults to either DBC or HCC.

I keep the area clean, safe and free from litter. I listen and talk to local residents and sometimes work alongside the Clean, Safe and Green Team, DBC. Each week I submit my reports to Linda, the Parish Clerk.

This year a new recycling programme was introduced by DBC. This has increased the amount of litter in and around Nash Mills. I think this is due to bins lids being left off and the recycling spills out. I collect approximately eight large bags of litter each week most of which is recycled.

Fly tipping continues to be an issue – I report all incidents to DBC. These are normally collected within four days of reporting.

The winter was relatively quiet; the wind again however, caused a few problems with fallen trees obstructing foot paths. I was able to clear and remove most of the debris.

I have found quite a collection of lost items which include keys, sports bags, school books and three iPhone. All of which have been returned to their rightful owners.

I maintain the street furniture within the parish. I have sanded down and painted three 'Welcome to Nash Mills' signs. I have also maintained four wooden benches.

Each month I attend the full parish council meeting and submit my parish warden's report.'

HG thanked DD for his report.

#### **7. HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE REPORT**

IM reported that the crime rate had remained relatively low throughout the year. He advised that vehicles parking on the pavement along Red Lion Lane would be issued tickets.

IM reported that recent local crime included the theft of two bicycles. A car had been damaged and Tesco had reported a theft from their store at The Denes. Blackmail and damage and destroy were other crimes reported.

HG thanked IM for attending and he left the building.

#### **8. BUNKERS PLAYING FIELD UPDATE**

DBC had contacted the parish council to advise that they would be refurbishing the play area in early March. New play equipment has since been installed. The area has been cleared and a football goal has also been installed.

**9. THE DENES CAR PARKING SCHEME (UPDATE)**

JM reported that after three years of negotiation we are delighted to announce that we have at last agreed the plans and finalised

funding for the much needed car park improvements at The Denes, which will see the capacity increased by one third.

The success of the local shops has resulted in the car park becoming very congested, so a greater parking provision is essential to accommodate the increased demand.

The ambitious scheme is a joint three-way venture between Hertfordshire Highways, Dacorum Borough Council and Nash Mills Parish Council. This will be funded equally between the three parties.

In order to make enough space for the extra parking bays the car park will need to be widened, and this will mean cutting into the grassed area at the front of the car park. Please be assured that we will retain a good portion of the grassed area, but we will need to use part of it in order to widen the car park.

Unfortunately, we will need to lose three trees, but as the trees' roots are already causing damage to the car park this would have become a greater issue in the near future anyway. To compensate for the loss of the trees, new rowan trees will be planted as part of the project so we hope that local people will support the decision.

At the moment there are no plans to impose parking restrictions (other than the two disabled bays), however, the area will be closely monitored following completion and should parking still be difficult this will be considered. As customers of some of the shops need to park for several hours this isn't an easy option, but we will do whatever is necessary to ensure that parking is accessible for the shops.

The work will take place in the autumn as soon as we have confirmation that the trees are clear of nests, and should take three weeks to complete. The plan is to keep half the car park open for the time as possible, although during the resurfacing phase the area will be closed to traffic and this will be done at night. Pavements will remain open throughout.

We are delighted that – at last – the car park expansion is taking place and hope that everyone will see an immediate improvement.

Should you have any questions or concerns please contact the parish council.

HG thanked JM for the update.

TC took the opportunity to thank AM for his involvement in having the kerb raised in Fairacres.

AM reported that parking issues were still unresolved in Nash Mills. He advised that yellow lines would eventually be implemented throughout the area such as Red Lion Lane, Bunkers Lane junction and Lower Road.

JM advised that the residents at the cottages would complain.

He reported that a speed survey would be carried out on Barnacres Road this may result in signage.

AM also advised that Kingfisher roundabout was top of his list with monies being used from his locality budget. He had been advised that a light bollard could not be used so more signage would be installed to slow down motorists.

RM commented that it was incredibly dangerous pulling out of Croxley Road.

AM advised that an informal consultation would be eventually be circulated within Nash Mills. HG asked what would be the time

scale and JM suggested it was normally between 6 – 8 weeks. She advised that the traffic regulation order would have to be advertised in the local press.

AM advised the parish council that Herts Highways were aware of incorrect signage in Bunkers Lane. They were also aware of over grown hedges. LG said she had to step out in the lane to avoid the overgrown hedges.

LB asked AM why the Cart Track had not been resurfaced. He said he would make a site visit with Peter W right. A local resident had complained earlier in the year as she had suggested the surface was quite poor.

DJ asked AM to advise the Parish Clerk so that she could then advise the local resident.

**10. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMMES**

HG asked the councillors to have a think about what future work programmes could be discussed going forward.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

HG thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting.

The next annual parish meeting would be held on **9<sup>th</sup> May 2016** and the next full parish council meeting would be held on the **9<sup>th</sup> June 2015**.

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**CHAIRMAN**

**9<sup>th</sup> May 2016**  
**DATE**