

## NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

1325

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held at 8pm on Monday **8th May 2017** at Nash Mills Village Hall, Lower Road, Nash Mills, Hemel Hempstead Hertfordshire, HP3 8RT.

Chair: Cllr Lisa Bayley

Vice Chair: Cllr Jan Maddern

Councillors: Cllr David Jackson

Cllr Louise Gross

Cllr Terence Collins

Cllr Peter Lardi

Cllr Rosie Moubray

Also Present: Mrs Linda Sutton, Parish Clerk

PCSO Ian Martin, Hertfordshire Police

David Drew, Parish Warden

Representatives from Residents' Associations within Nash Mills

Members of the Public from Nash Mills

### **1. APOLOGIES/DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies were received from Cllr Helen Gough; which were noted.

Declarations of Interest from Cllr Jan Maddern, Borough Councillor and a member of Nash Mills Village Hall Association, Cllr Louise Gross a member of Long Dean Residents' Association and member of Nash Mills Village Association, Cllr Peter Lardi member of Long Dean Residents' Association, Cllr Terence Collins an Associated Governor of Nash Mills Primary School. There were no other declarations from any other Councillors.

### **2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & QUESTIONS FOR COUNCILLORS**

Representatives from local Residents' Associations were present and other members of the general public. There were no questions.

### **3. HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

LB welcomed PCSO Ian Martin.

'I'm not going to bore everyone with a deep, in depth analysis of crime figures for both the last year and comparing them with the previous years. However, I've produced a simple to read (and hopefully understand) document that does look at this statistics. It must be remembered that Nash Mills has one of the lowest crime figures in Dacorum and this is still unchanged.

The 'important' headline figures that most people are concerned about are burglary (domestic house) theft from and theft of motor vehicles together with damage or destroy. The good news (despite a lot of people saying "oh the place is going downhill, crime around here is horrendous!) is that all 4 categories have shown no major change over the past 3 years.

Burglary last year 7, average over 3 years is 7. Theft from motor vehicle last year 5, average over 3 years is 3.6. Theft of motor vehicle - last year 2, average over 3 years 2.3. Damage/destroy last year 10, average over 3 years is 12.6.

It should also be remembered that over the past 3 years we have had a very large increase in the population due to the new development at Nash Mills Wharf, without the corresponding increase in crime. I don't want anyone to get too hung up over these figures as the numbers are so small that an extra crime can massively distort the numbers – just be happy that we are a VERY lower crime area!!

Neighbourhood watch membership is increasing and recent survey recipients said that;

84% of messages are locally relevant, 75% said OWL messages help them to better understand local policing, 46% feel safer at home (only 3.6% said they feel less safe) and 87% feel they are more aware of scams & rouge traders.

LB asked if anyone had any questions for Ian and there were no queries. IM added that he would like to issue a warning on using mobile phones in vehicles. He said his best advice was to switch off the handset and place it in the glove compartment. He also went on to advise that if taking cash from an ATM always use the machine located in the foyer of the bank.

LB thanked IM for his report.

#### **4. SIGNING OF THE PREVIOUS APM MINUTES**

Copies of last year's APM draft minutes had been circulated to all, prior to the meeting. These were also published on the parish council's website. Councillors agreed it was a true record. Cllr Lisa Bayley, Chair signed the minutes. LS will publish a copy of the approved minutes on the parish website. **LS**

#### **5. COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS**

LB, 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, Chair of the Finance Committee to read out his annual report:

'DJ reported that the parish council had spent £37,600k on running the parish council throughout 2016/17. Costs incurred included staff salaries, hire of hall, council garage, service providers and the dog bag scheme. He said that out of the reserves some monies had been spent on donations, the

Queen's Birthday Celebrations and the ongoing Residents' Association Initiative. DJ advised that monies coming into the Parish Council comprised of the precept, concurrent services and revenue from advertisers and VAT refunds which altogether amounted to approximately £34k. He suggested that the treasury amount be reinvested so that it receives a better return and that this should be addressed in the future'.

LB thanked DJ for his report.

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

Clubfinance had conducted an internal audit and recommended that the parish council: contact DBC and ensure that they provide receipts on an ongoing basis to support the Parish Council's VAT claims. They also recommended that the Internal Control be reviewed within the financial year. BDO, external auditor had no issues other than the recommendations raised by Clubfinance. The Clerk reported that a hard copy of the 'notice to electors' had been advertised on the noticeboard at The Denes. An electronic copy had been published on to the parish council's website. The accounts for year ended 31st March 2017 had been approved earlier at the Annual Meeting of the Council prior to the APM a minute reference had been noted by the Clerk. LB, Chair had read out the governance statement which was agreed by all members of the Full Council. Members of the Full Council agreed that the Statement of Accounts was correct. The Annual Return was signed by Cllr Lisa Bayley, who had presided over the meeting. The Parish Clerk/RFO had previously signed the Annual Return prior to the meeting. All information pertaining to both audits would be made available on the parish council's website. The clerk advised that she would send all documents to BDO before the deadline of the 15h May. **LS**

LB invited Peter Lardi, Chair of Planning to read out his annual report;

'During the past year planning applications have averaged two a month. These have been predominately to domestic properties with the exception of fencing to the derelict Methodist Church at The Denes.

All applications have been viewed and discussed by NMPC Planning Committee and appropriate comments returned to the Planning Department, Dacorum Borough Council. In the majority of applications external site visits have been made. The NMPC administrative process has been reviewed and procedures introduced to ensure that NMPC comments are always transferred to DBC by the Parish Clerk.

DBC have now introduced an entirely 'digital' process in advising the parish council of planning application details which now require the viewing of details online.

I wish to thank all other members of the planning committee and Linda Sutton for their contributions throughout the past year.'

LB thanked Peter Lardi for his report and also thanked him for all the site visits he had made.

LB invited Cllr Louise Gross, Chair of Personnel to read out her report:

'She thanked the two members of staff for their hard work and advised that there had been no issues raised. She reported that the Personnel Committee had reviewed staff salaries and could report that this had brought them into line with similar paid roles. She said that she would especially like to thank the committee members for their amazing help.'

LB thanked LG for her report. She asked Dave Drew, Parish Warden to read out his annual report:

#### **6. PARISH WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

I have had another busy year keeping Nash Mills clean, tidy and safe.

Fly tipping is still the biggest problem I have to deal with and I have to make reports to DBC most weeks. I continue to pick up litter every day and I try to cover all areas at least twice a week. Places like The Denes, Barnacres Road and Belswains Lane I clear each day. DBC are still very helpful and take the rubbish away for me. All the seats and signs were painted last year and I will inspect them all again this year to see which will need another coat. Bunkers playing field is now being used more than ever, with families enjoying the open space and new playground equipment.

I feel I am now part of the community of Nash Mills as lots of local people stop to have a chat with me.' LB thanked Dave Drew for his report and his hard work.

#### **7. FROGMORE MILL PRESENTATION – DEREK PULLEN**

Derek Pullen, presented a short presentation on the history of Frogmore Mill from the past to present day. Details of the presentation can be found under 'news and events tab'. Alternatively, contact DP for a hard copy of his article.

#### **8. Residents 'Association Funding Initiative**

DJ reported that he was quite happy to fund the initiative for another year. Residents' Association members present gave a short presentation each on how they envisaged the monies would be spent. They gave a brief précis on events they had already held. They all thanked the Parish Council for the funding. DJ asked them to send their bank details to the parish clerk.

Richard Ball, local resident and Chambersbury RA member thanked the parish council once again for the funding. He did say that one thing that was highlighted at a previous event was the shortage of gazeboes and that they did rely heavily on RA members to supply furniture. Jennifer Percival said that the Willows Residents' Association would be delighted with the funds. Andrea Maloney advised that NASH RA would consider whether it was wise to accept the funding and would let the parish clerk know later on in the week.

#### **9. DATE OF NEXT APM & NEXT ORDINARY MEETING**

LB thanked everybody for their attendance. She announced that the next annual parish meeting would be held on **14<sup>th</sup> May 2018** and that the next full parish council ordinary meeting would be held on the **12<sup>th</sup> June 2017** and she closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

**CHAIR**

**14<sup>th</sup> May 2018**