

NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

1319

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held at 8pm on Monday **9th May 2016** 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. Terence Collins

Cllr Louise Gross

Cllr David Jackson

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.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & QUESTIONS FOR COUNCILLORS

Representatives from local Residents' Associations were present and members of the public.

Alan Say, WRA suggested that the speed warning sign should be moved further down the road. Another member of public asked whether yellow lines would be painted in front of the new nursery. JM advised the public that she would be meeting next month to discuss an update on the proposed yellow lines with Cllr Anthony McKay.

Richard Ball, CRA asked JM whether extra dog bins would be sited down Chambersbury Lane, he explained that there were two bins very close together and then a long stretch without one. She advised that she would speak to Anthony McKay.

LG said that the bins in that area were always overflowing and that images should be taken and forwarded to Louise Ablitt, Dog Warden at DBC. TC said that along with the over flowing bins, litter was also a problem within Nash Mills; he said that the Dave Drew, parish warden worked very hard to keep the area clear.

3. HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE ANNUAL REPORT

LB welcomed PCSO Ian Martin she said that Ian does so much more than his role demands and that he has an excellent rapport with both Nash Mills and Kings Langley parish councils. LB added that that all the good words KLPC had said about IM - NMPC agreed with!

‘Nash Mills is a very safe place to live and/or work, the crime statistics, despite a recent rise, is low in comparison to the surrounding areas, Bennetts End for example, had in excess of 100 crimes in the first 3 months of 2016.

We had a total of 104 crimes, 6 of which were burglary dwelling. Burglaries are probably the most serious and feared crime that the general public can suffer and therefore the crime the police spend more time and effort on. Burglary (other) is predominately theft from building sites etc.

We had 10 thefts from motor vehicle – most of which were vans broken into and power tools taken – this is for me a distressing crime as the owner (normally a “tradesman” – builder/electrician etc.) will have lost, in some cases, many years’ worth of highly specialised tools – some of which are irreplaceable. Added to this the tools are normally not insured due to the prohibitive high cost of cover. Under the “damage or destroy” column we had 16, this includes damage to vehicles (predominantly broken windows or vehicles being ‘keyed’) this also includes any damage that may have been done to any property (buildings/gardens/personal possessions) some of this is undoubtedly “revenge” as the offender feels aggrieved by something the owner has done or said.

Theft from shop (6) is, predictably enough, from Tesco’s – we had a certain ‘customer’ (not from Nash Mills) who decided it was optional to pay! and so far this year we have had none.

Drug related, with ‘only’ 6 crimes some of which have been people passing through in vehicles who have been stopped. Nash Mills does not have a drug problem.’

IM mentioned that he was able to pass on details of where to purchase wallets that protect ‘contactless’ cards at a discounted price. He also mentioned that ‘Neighbourhood Watch’ were very keen to increase their membership.

One other point IM wanted to make was to appeal to dog walkers especially around Bunkers Park. The planned addition of the Belted Galloways in one of the fields meant that the dog owners needed to make sure that they cleaned up after their dogs. He stressed that dog poo could contaminate the cows udders. JM added that the cows were arriving at 10am on Saturday at Bunkers Park and said that everyone was welcome to attend.

LB thanked IM for attending and he then left the building.

4. SIGNING OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS APM

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.

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 finance report:

'The parish council received £25070 (precept amount) from Dacorum Borough Council. The Concurrent Services amount was £8444; the monies from this amount go towards the Parish Warden, open spaces and the hire of the village hall. A council tax grant (CTG) was awarded to NMPC by DBC which equated to £1866. As in previous years it is still 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 £900 per annum. Part of the cost is offset by the revenue generated from the advertisements which equates to approximately £207. The salaries for the staff equates to £19k approximately. The parish council use Paybureau for Salaries as their payroll provider, the administrative cost for this service totals £240 per annum. The cost has remained at this price as the parish council agreed to print out their own paperwork to keep costs down. NMPC also negotiated long term agreements (LTA's) to be renewed in 2017 with both Came and Co, Parish Insurers who charge £744 pa exclusive of VAT and Chess ICT, who charge £620 pa exclusive of VAT, this includes remote support and back up package and anti-virus software.

The amount of £1459 was set aside to cover the cost of two audits each year. Clubfinance conduct an internal audit and BDO conduct an external audit. The amount also covers cost of subscriptions; which include: HAPTC, SLCC and ICO.

During the year the parish council donated approximately £8447 towards a selection of local schemes within Nash Mills.

£5109 was donated towards works to the improvements to the entrance to the playing field leased by Nash Mills PC from Abbot's Hill School: 17m of palisade fencing, a hinged guard rail and a double gate. A small donation was made to the British Legion, and the remainder was set aside to support the Residents' Association Initiative, set up over two years ago by the parish council. 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 venue in which to hold their meetings. After receiving a funding request from Nash Mills C of E School; an amount of £3000 was donated towards works for the School to create a medical room.

The parish council had set up a 'Free Dog Bag Initiative' over 9 years ago; this costs approximately £250 to run per annum. The dog bags are distributed throughout the parish by the Parish Warden. Supplies are made available from 'Town Tubbs' the local launderette and 'Buggsy's' the unisex hair dressers. £770 was set aside during the year for the provision of grit and garage rental.

The garage rental increase each year, however, the building is needed by the parish council to store the warden's equipment along with the grit. HCC has run the 'Winter Self Help Scheme.' The cost of grit still needs to be budgeted for as NMPC are unsure as to whether HCC will continue the scheme moving forward. For the forthcoming year, the band D tax for Nash Mills Parish, based on the precept demand above will be £23.00 for 2016/17. This is a drop of £-0.84 (-3.5%) compared to 2015/16.'

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 year. Clubfinance had conducted an internal audit and advised recommendations: to contact DBC and ensure that VAT receipts are provided on an ongoing basis to support the Parish Council's VAT claims. The internal auditors also recommended that year to date budget figures used are checked to ensure that they are correctly calculated for the year. They recommended that the petty cash amount be sufficiently reimbursed before becoming depleted and the Clerk having to pay out of her own funds. BDO conducted the external audit and advised that no issues were raised. 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 2016 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 and councillors present agreed.

LB signed the Annual Return which was co-signed by LS, Parish Clerk/RFO.

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

'Planning committee meetings are held monthly (or when needed) after each full council meeting to discuss and consider planning applications within Nash Mills. These are almost always residential developments and a committee member aim to visit the location prior to the planning meeting. The public are most welcome to attend'.

It was suggested that the planning minutes be published monthly onto the parish council's website. Richard Ball, CRA also asked to be sent the weekly planning applications list which was sent out by DBC. The Clerk confirmed that RB would be added to the circulation list.

PL advised that the parish council can add extra weight if the planning application is contentious and has to go before the Development Control Committee.

JM added that once a parish council object to a planning application it then automatically goes to DCC. She then explained that as a Borough Councillor she then has to remove herself from the discussion and then speak on behalf of Nash Mills.

LB invited Jan Maddern, Chair of Personnel (2015/16) to read out her personnel annual report:

'Nash Mills continue to be a lovely place to live and our roles as Parish Councillors are made very much easier thanks to the tremendous effort put in by Linda Sutton our esteemed Parish Clerk and David Drew, our outstanding Parish Warden.

Linda is the first point of contact for most residents of the parish and over the last 8 years she has gained considerable knowledge in the workings of Dacorum Borough Council; who to speak to in order to get things done, where every road is, which roads are in the ward of Nash Mills but not in the parish so are not covered by the NMPC and much more. On top of this, Linda looks after the parish website and the Twitter feed (she's much more adept with social media than the rest of us!) and organises the parish magazine, all in addition to the daily routine of helping residents, looking after the accounts, writing copious emails and a host of other jobs that the parish councillors don't even realise!

David has been with us for a long time now and has really settled well into his position as parish warden. Whenever, a matter is raised at the monthly council meeting such as fly tipping, potholes, illegal advertising boards being put up. David has always seen them before most of us and has almost always reported them already! The Parish has never looked so clean and tidy and our warden is often spotted litter picking well after his shift has finished, on his way home to Kings Langley!

Both David and Linda have a great relationship with our local PCSO Ian Martin – who is also worth his weight in gold! They are in regular contact when anything is happening locally and David and Ian often bump into each other on their travels around the parish.

My job as Chair of Personnel over the last year has been made very easy thanks to the dedication of this great team, and on behalf of the Parish Council I would like to personally thank them for all of their hard work over the last year.

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

6. PARISH WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT

'Another year has passed and I continue to enjoy my job. I still consider myself to be the eyes and ears of the council and I like to think that I keep the area clean, safe and tidy.

This year I have made about 60 reports to DBC most of these being fly tipping. Fly tipping continues to be a problem, with anything from chemicals in oil drums to mattresses being dumped across the whole area. I have also made about 70 reports to HCC. These were mainly potholes or damaged roads. I am pleased to report that all of them have been repaired.

I continue to collect about 4 bags of rubbish each day which DBC collect from me and dispose of. Before Christmas there was a spate of cars being abandoned. The ones on public highways were reported and towed away.

I am hoping to paint some of the seats and signs again this year, weather permitting. I am still waiting for some dry days.

Residents of Nash Mills are still telling me how they appreciate the job that I do, but feel free to stop me with any problems or queries.'

LB thanked Dave Drew for his report.

7. RAI (FUNDING)/ STREET PARTY BAGS (QBC).

LB invited all the representatives to report on their annual events. Once they had highlighted their activities; DJ announced that each RA would be awarded a cheque for £200 for the following year.

AM from Nash Residents' Association suggested that this year they would not take the parish council's kind offer.

8. DATE OF NEXT APM & NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

LB thanked everybody for their attendance and said that if anybody had suggestions for the 'future work programme' for Nash Mills to contact the Clerk.

LB announced that the next annual parish meeting would be held on **8th May 2017** and that the next full parish council ordinary meeting would be held on the **13th June 2016** and she closed the meeting.

8th May 2017

CHAIR

DATE