

Nash Mills Parish Council Minutes

Of the full parish council meeting held on **12th November 2018** at Nash Mills Village Hall,
Lower Road, Nash Mills, HP3 8RT

E: <mailto:clerk@nashmillsparishcouncil.gov.uk> W: <http://www.nashmillsparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Present

Councillor Lisa Bayley (Chair)
Councillor Jan Maddern (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Terence Collins
Councillor Louise Gross
Councillor Peter Lardi
Councillor Rosie Moubray

In Attendance

Nikki Bugden (Clerk)
Dave Drew (Parish Warden)
PCSO Ian Martin
Tina Howard HCC
4 Members of the public

1. Welcome and Start time of meeting.

Chair welcomed those attending and commenced the meeting at 8.01pm.

2. Ratify Appointment of Parish Clerk & Introduction

Council agreed to endorse the decision of the personnel committee to appoint Mrs Nikki Bugden as Clerk/RFO with effect from Friday 9th November 2018.

JM asked that it be noted for transparency that she had dealt with NB in her previous role at Dacorum Sports Trust whilst undertaking activities for scouts and Billy's Wish.

LB asked that it be noted that she was aware of NB on a personal level through a family friend, but they had no personal friendship.

NB was appointed after successful application and interview led by LG, Chair of personnel.

3. Apologies for Absence Approval and Declarations of Interest.

No apologies received. No declarations of interest.

4. Section 85 Vacation of Office.

At this juncture the wording of the Local Government Act 1972, section 85 was read to the council. This relates to the statutory requirement that members not attending one meeting in a rolling 6 month period, without approval of absence by the council, are deemed as vacating their seat. Council approval has to be granted prior to expiry of the 6 month period.

The above Statutory requirement has been breached by DJ. This matter was highlighted by the recent freedom of information request from the local press regarding members' attendance at meetings. Advice was sought from Democratic services and the Chief Monitoring Officer at DBC who confirmed that this meant that the seat was now vacated. DJ's last attendance was on 9th April 2018 and as this information came to light after 9th October 2018 (the expiry of the 6 months) then there was a statutory obligation for the seat to be noted as vacated. This is effective from the meeting 12th November, which means that as we are now less than 6 months from an election a by-election is not required by law to fill this seat.

TC asked for it to be minuted that he strongly disagrees with this decision.

PL and LG expressed that they were unsure with regards 6 month rule and thought it was 6 meetings, TC, JM, RM confirmed that they were aware of statutory requirement.

LB informed the committee that the subject of absenteeism had been raised when approving the long term absences of two other committee members, one through sickness and one through family bereavement so there should be awareness.

LB asked that it was to be minuted that DJ has been a hardworking member of the Council and it is with great regret that there was no option but to comply with this statutory requirement. TC advised DJ to take further advice to explore avenues for an appeal.

LB Chair reminded Council that there is personal responsibility to ensure that you undertake the statutory duties required by accepting public office and that whilst she has been in regular contact with DJ there had never been any request for a long term absence or any indication that there were personal issues that may prevent attendance.

JM proposed that we do not fill DJ seat and that if we are looking to co-opt any new members on that we fill the seat vacated by the recent resignation of HG.

5. Procedure for sending apologies

Following guidance from HAPTC (Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils) the following procedure for absence should be undertaken.

- Council members are 'summonsed' to a meeting; it is a statutory requirement which they agreed to when taking office.
- Apologies and reason for absence must be sent to the Clerk in advance of the meeting
- Reason for absence must be appropriate, if this is a confidential matter then the Clerk does not have to disclose to full Council only Chair unless total confidentiality is requested by member.
- Clerk and Chair discuss request for absence.
- Absence to be voted on by Council and noted as approved/not approved.

6. Hertfordshire Police – Crime Report.

IM reported on crime figures for October. 6 crimes reported.

- 2 incidences of theft of number plates

- 1 wallet stolen from member of staff at care home.
- 1 incidence of drug taking (cannabis smoking) in Bunkers Park
- 1 dangerous dog incident at Bunkers park (dog walker knocked over by 2 dogs running loose)
- 1 trailer stolen from Barnacres. Apparently locked to lamp post.

JM/LB mentioned incidences of SORN'd cars being parked on public street and one of them now being driven. IM informed that it was a DVLA matter rather than a police matter.

LG asked about moped 'joyriders' causing disruption locally (Longdean Park). IM advised that if they are identified they can be issued with a 'Section 59' relating to their dangerous/disruptive driving. If they are then stopped again within a 12 month period they can be issued with a 'Section 60'. This can result in the vehicle being seized and then they would potentially be liable for a fine and cost of recovery of that vehicle or the vehicle could be scrapped.

7. Public Participation*Guest Speaker (If available).

A member of the public asked for discussion concerning his extension to his family home at 13 Longdean Park. LG expressed an interest at this point as they are neighbours. Mr A was invited to stay behind for the full planning meeting after this meeting so that we can look at the application.

AM (local resident) requested an update on her lamp post issues at Mill Close, Lamp post not working at all. Tina Howard, HCC offered to take this forward with JM. **JM**

DD (Local resident) expressed concerns regarding parking on both sides of entrance to road (Mill Close) and impact this could cause to emergency vehicles. LB explained that whilst she had every sympathy the emergency services standard response is that they would 'push' any vehicles hindering their access out of the way. On a positive note it was noticed that a vehicle parked on the yellow lines on the bend had been ticketed last week by the mobile traffic warden. LB recommended that residents continue to report to local council to enforce.

AB (Local resident) – continuation with regards to fence at Kingfisher Drive. A building Structure consultant has been on site. He would advise owners to get it fixed but ownership still in doubt. JM has raised an enforcement issue with Philip Stanley but there is no breach of building or planning. JM has emailed estates team to confirm procedure when site was purchased and who took responsibility of boundary fences. JM to follow up **JM**

8. Signing of Minutes.

Minutes for June, July October were duly agreed and signed.

9. Action List – (update).

Attached.

10. Committee Reports.

Finance- RM

New office set up costs approved.

Chess contract needs to be reviewed **NB**

Research into savings account options and bank limits **NB/RM**

Bank mandates and signatories to be updated **RM/NB**

Tree works at school being considered, awaiting one more quote and an updated quote TC expressed interest at this point in his capacity as Governor. **TC**

Council voted on funding of new tea urn for NMVH (Nash Mills Village Hall) £298.80

Decision: all in agreement of funding of new tea urn.

- RM/LG to liaise with regards payment of this. **RM/LG**

'Tommies' sadly order not fulfilled in time for 11th November as demand for these were so high.

Vote taken whether to continue purchase as these will be a permanent memorial and will also result in a donation to a worthy cause.

Decision: majority approved, 4 in favour 2 against, it was resolved that the committee would follow the original plan for the Tommies to be purchased and permanently located in the memorial garden.

TC queried if a solar light could be placed to protect them from vandalism TC to investigate **TC**

Chair signed financial schedules and receipts for June/July/August/Sept.

Personnel-LG

New Clerk appointed.

LG thanked for all of her hard work in appointing new clerk.

Planning-PL

Full planning meeting to follow this meeting.

Mosque update – see comments below from JM, nothing further at this moment in time.

28 Silverthorn Drive- LG requested clarity around comment from DBC 19/10/2018 ' appeal had been validated but objectors had not been notified' JM to take forward the following points **JM**

Drawings constantly revised but not annotated correctly.

Validated as a 'fast track' application but no consultation.

Appeals to planning inspectorate, are they required to notify objectors that an appeal has been made.

A41 Service station- whilst this proposed development is not within our Parish it has been asked that we consider implications to increased traffic through our parish and impact on our residents. LB suggested that we include a link on Parish website to enable local residents to voice their concerns.

NB/LB

11. Future Work Programme:

Issues Raised by Warden's Reports.

DD questioned ownership of land used as a car park next to the canal bridge on Red Lion Lane. Issues with fly-tipping. JM to investigate ownership. **JM**

Matters Raised by Councillors.

LG – bollard on Chambersbury lane down again. Tina Howard taking forward **NB**

RM- Nash house back on planning again, face to face meeting required **PL**

PL- Progress re logo, PL to make appt to meet at Paper Mill and take forward creation of design **PL**

TC- request please that Tina Howard investigates light on Barnacres that is now on all day **NB**

Queried cemetery on Bedmond road-will it be burial and a crematorium. JM stated just burial.

Queried road into new cemetery is going to be tarmacked to car park.

JM-update from Hertfordshire highways, they are recommending refusal of the mosque planning application after traffic impact report. JM to update once more known. **JM**

B) Part II Section (if required)

C) Time Meeting Closed and Date of Next Meeting.

LG was excused at 21.41, Meeting was closed at 21.45

Next meeting to be held on Monday 10th December 2018

Chair

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Signed and Approved CHAIR

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10TH December 2018