

NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

1429

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th December 2015 at Nash Mills Village Hall, Lower Road, Nash Mills.

Those Present:

Vice Chair: Councillor Lisa Bayley
Councillors: Councillor Terence Collins
Councillor Dave Jackson
Councillor Peter Lardi
Councillor Jan Maddern
Councillor Rosie Moubray

Also present: Linda Sutton, Clerk to the Council
David Drew, Parish Warden
Members of the Public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Helen Gough, Chair and Louise Gross sent their apologies, which were duly noted. LB agreed to chair the meeting in HG's absence.

TC reiterated that he was an Associate Governor at Nash Mills C of E School and advised he would not take part in item 11 but would be happy to answer any questions on the proposed works.

2. HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE REPORT (IF PRESENT)

LB reported that IM was unable to attend the meeting. He had sent in his apologies. She suggested that the Clerk invite IM to the next meeting. Councillors had requested further background information as to the recent spate of burglaries within Nash Mills.

LS

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION *GUEST SPEAKER (IF AVAILABLE)

There were no members of the public or a guest speaker in attendance.

4. SIGNING OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

LB signed the November minutes of the previous meeting. All members present agreed it was a true record. The minutes were approved for publication on the parish council's website.

LS

5. **ACTION LIST (UPDATE)**

LB read out the most recent action list and advised that all actions had been resolved. PL disagreed he said that he felt that the parish council had not done enough with regards to a complaint from a local resident who had previously contacted him. The resident had suggested that further lighting should be made available in the Nash Wharf development. The Clerk advised PL that she had contacted Hannah Brown, Chamonix Estates as instructed at the previous month. HB had advised the Clerk that there was a facility on the website for residents to contact Chamonix Estates directly. PL said that this was not good enough and that the parish council should still follow it up. RM intervened and clarified that by the Clerk initially contacting Chamonix Estates she had put the weight of the parish council behind the residents' complaint. She said that the complaint had also been discussed at the Wharf Residents' Association meeting. DJ suggested to PL that he contact the planning department and look at the archived plans and see whether further lighting had been scheduled.

6. **METHODIST CHURCH (UPDATE)** Due to the Chair's absence this was deferred to January's meeting. **LS**

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS** - DJ reported to the parish council that the finance committee had agreed to the draft budget figures for 2016/17. This was due to be approved by the full parish council under item 10.

DJ explained that the figures would be used towards the setting of the precept by the full council at the January meeting 2016. The Clerk advised that she was waiting for the tax base information and precept return. She had contacted Richard Bacon, DBC who had informed her that the papers were due to be sent out in the near future. **LS**

DJ advised the council that the finance committee were keen to organise online banking in the forth coming new year. Councillors present agreed that this was the way forward. DJ suggested that the transfer of accounts would be done in stages.

LB asked JM whether she had any comments regarding personnel issues. JM said there were none.

LB asked PL if he had anything to report on with current planning issues. He commented that he was unhappy that the planning committee had not objected to the planning application for 183 Belswains Lane. The planning committee had originally delayed commenting pending further information. The Clerk advised that she had been contacted eventually by Elspeth Palmer, planning case officer, who had apologised for the delay in providing further information. EP advised the Clerk that the applicant already had permission granted in April 2015 for a smaller outbuilding. The Clerk had then forwarded the new information provided by EP to the planning committee members. Three Cllrs responded saying that they had no objections.

PL said that by building in the garden it may set a precedent. TC disagreed with this and said that he had made a site visit prior to the decision and received further background information from the applicant as to why he was constructing an ancillary outbuilding. JM pointed out that if the parish council *had* objected to the planning application, it would have gone before a Development Control Committee meeting.

PL reiterated comments that he had made in previously; that case officers should respond to the parish council's comments once they had been submitted. The Clerk advised the parish council that she had called Nigel Gibbs recently and asked why they did not respond to the parish council's comments. He had said it was highly unlikely that they would acknowledge comments unless there was a need for clarification.

LS advised that the organisational chart from the planning department (requested by LB last month) had now been received. This had now been circulated to all councillors.

PL told the parish council that he did not appear to receive planning applications emails on his Gmail account from the Clerk. All other councillors present confirmed that they *did* receive the emails. DJ suggested that he put PL in touch with a recommended IT company.

8. COUNCILLORS TO REPORT ON DESIGNATED AREAS (IF APPLICABLE)

LB advised she would be seeking financial assistance in the near future from the finance committee; for help with the historical issue of overgrown trees in Highbarns.

NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

1432

9. COUNCILLORS (EXPENSES)

LB suggested that this item be deferred until the January meeting as HG was absent. All councillors present agreed.

The clerk will add the item on next fpcm agenda.

LS

10. APPROVAL OF BUDGET 2016/17

DJ presented the draft budget 2016/17 to the parish council; it had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no queries from the full council and councillors present approved the figures.

11. FUNDING INITIATIVES/REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Nash Mills C of E School had sent in a written request asking for financial assistance to help with a small building project. The councillors after a long discussion agreed that the parish council would donate £3k.

The Clerk will contact and advise Rosie Washford-Mower, Head.

LS

12. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

a) Issues raised by the Warden's Report - DD reported to the parish council that there appeared to be a marked increase in abandoned cars within Nash Mills. The Clerk had previously logged the details on the HCC website. DD advised that all the cars logged with HCC, now had notices left on them. He reported that potholes in Georgewood Road had now been filled in. The Clerk reported that DD had liaised with HCC and the grit had been delivered and stored.

b) Matters raised by Councillors -

JM advised all that any unauthorised advertising in the form of banners or signage within Nash Mills should be reported to her and then she would collate and forward to Philip Stanley, Enforcement Officer. TC suggested it would make sense to take photographs and forward them onto JM.

TC asked JM if she had an update on the proposed yellow lines. She said that there were some lines were on both sides of Nash Wharf which she wasn't expecting. DJ agreed he said that some double yellow lines had been painted in the wrong area.

NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

1433

PL suggested that all the plans along with the details should be re-circulated to the parish council. The Clerk will contact AM. **LS**

c) Abbot’s Hill playing fields. – There was no update at this time.

d) The Denes Car Park – TC commented that the parking situation had still not improved. He said he knew who owned a particular commercial van which was parked overnight at The Denes car park. JM said she too was aware of a resident from Georgewood Road, who also parked their vehicle overnight at the car park.

JM said if there wasn’t an improvement in the near future regarding vehicles parking overnight she would have no option but to contact Parking Services, DBC. RM queried whether it was affecting anybody? TC said that residents from Pinecroft were affected as they were queuing constantly as the route to their road was constantly blocked.LB said it was still busy at 6pm up to about 9pm. JM said that this would need to be monitored.

LB commented that CCTV was still in situ. JM added that again DBC would need to be contacted. PL asked if there was a height restriction in place and JM advised that there wasn’t. TC reported that delivery vehicles were now unloading at the front of the stores. JM suggested that since the letters had been posted to the managers of each store recently she would monitor the situation in the meantime. **JM**

DJ reiterated the concept of a ticket machine suggesting the first hour was free. JM advised that the cost of tickets should only be nominal but would alleviate the situation. She said that Boxmoor Car Park worked well with a similar set up.

LB suggested that the heading ‘parking issues’ should be removed from the ‘Future Work Programme’ item. She said that parking was discussed at most meetings and under The Denes Car Park heading. Councillors present were all in agreement. **LS**

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next full parish council meeting will be held on Monday 11th January 2016, Nash Mills Village Hall, Lower Road.

LB thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

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Chair

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11th January 2016