

NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th June 2015 at Nash Mills Village Hall, Lower Road, Nash Mills.

Those Present:

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

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

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

Councillor Helen Gough welcomed everybody.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no apologies for absence or declarations of interest.

HG invited PCSO Ian Martin to read out his monthly crime report.

IM advised that there had been nine crimes reported in total in the last month. One of which involved the theft of two bicycles in Hill Common. Other crimes reported included the theft of cable in Teal Way causing a temporary outage; a driver was stopped by Police in Nash Mills as he was using a mobile phone whilst driving. He then went on to fail a breathalyser test and it transpired that he was driving without insurance. (for the full crime report contact the Clerk).

IM reported that there had still been major parking issues on Red Lion Lane. He then advised the parish council that he had given out over a dozen warning notices along with two obstruction tickets in the last month.

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LB commented that most of the culprits were regular offenders and parked on the yellow lines most days. She advised IM that a contractor had now started parking outside Stephenson's Cottages on the junction of Bunkers Lane and that this was also causing an obstruction. IM said he would investigate.

A member of the public also commented that a recent resident had been unable to push their buggy along the pavement. IM thanked him for the information and advised he would keep a look out.

JM reported that the timescale for the proposed yellow lines was sometime this year.

HG thanked IM and he then left the building.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A local resident from Mill Close advised that he had concerns about neighbours parking indiscriminately along the road. TC sympathised with him and said that parking was an issue throughout Nash Mills. He advised him that the vehicle owners do pay road tax and that this enabled them to park where they liked. TC suggested to the local resident that perhaps he post a polite notice to the vehicle owner's property but the resident said he was not *that* opposed to the situation.

HG advised that the parish council were aware of parking issues and that they do try to help whenever possible and within their remit. She thanked the local resident for his comments.

4. SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

HG signed both April minutes and the annual meeting of the council minutes (which were held in May). All members present agreed it was a true record. These were then approved for publication on to the parish council's website. **LS**

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

DJ reported that Nash Mills Parish accounts were in good order.

He advised that after meeting with James Woods, AHS recently, assurances had been made that the recent payment made by NMPC would now be refunded. (this was due to a decision on the proposed lock up arrangements).

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DJ advised that the finance committee needed a clear understanding from AHS with regards to where the £4k paid by the parish council would be spent. The Clerk will check back on previous emails between JW and GD. **LS**

TC advised that he had been approached by a local resident who suggested that some trees at the entrance of the playing field in Bunkers Lane be thinned therefore giving better visibility into the green space. LB reported that IM had been patrolling the playing field regularly in recent months. She said it would be a good idea to ask him to advise his support team to include this area on their shift when IM is on his rest days. HG will speak to him and the Clerk will follow up with an email. **HG/LS**

RM suggested motion lighting may be a good idea on a deterrent aspect. HG thought this was an excellent idea.

DJ identified that one of the Residents' Association participating in the recent initiative had claimed slightly more than the allocated £200.00. He advised that this would be reflected in the following year's allocation. **LS**

DJ reported that Came and Company had raised the fidelity guarantee amount. All members of the finance committee present had agreed that the statement of accounts for April had been approved. DJ signed the expenditure and financial schedule both HG and DJ signed the cheques.

PL advised that there was one planning application, an amended scheme. This was to be considered after the full parish meeting.

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS - NALC/HAPTC

Councillors all agreed to join Hertfordshire Association of Parish Town Council (HAPTC) which is the grass roots of National Association of Local Councils. Joining HAPTC would also ensure that the parish council become members of NALC. Councillors agreed to trial the subscription for one year. The Clerk will contact Sue Campbell, Council Development Officer of HAPTC with the council's decision. **LS**

7. CHEQUE SIGNATORIES

Councillors agreed that two extra signatories would be added along with existing signatories HG, DJ and LS. DJ had suggested that Councillor Lisa Bayley as Vice Chairman and Councillor Rosie Moubray as Vice Chairman of Finance, would be most suitable, both agreed to becoming signatories. A NatWest mandate was

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circulated. The Clerk will visit the local branch and check whether the two new signatories need to produce ID at their local NatWest branch. **LS**

8. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Councillors suggested that parking issues be added to the revised list. **LS**

a) Issues raised by Warden's Report - No major issues had been reported by DD.

b) Matters raised by Councillors - LG advised that the hedgerow along Bunkers Lane had become so overgrown that it was becoming dangerous for pedestrians and drivers. The Clerk will contact the appropriate authority. **LS**

LB reported that she had recently met up with Anthony McKay and that they had conducted a walk around Nash Mills. They had compiled a snagging list highlighted by both Councillors and local residents and the parish warden.

HG suggested that the parish council should champion a local Hertfordshire scheme whereby local residents help each other on a day to day basis. More information will be made available by HG in the near future. **HG**

c) Abbot's Hill playing fields. - HG reported that a cordial site meeting had taken place with James Woods, AHS. The meeting was attended by several Councillors and at the meeting JW advised that AHS would take ownership of the contaminated land. JW also agreed to refund the lock up fee. Councillors still had concerns with issues around the playing field and suggested a further meeting be organised with Mark Rance, grounds man.

PL advised that the sewage issue was the primary problem. He said that JW had indicated that the sewage problem could be outside the leased area. JW had advised that a survey would be carried out in the near future. PL commented that the original building had undergone a major development since its original build. He suggested that Thames Water may need to get involved.

JM advised that the situation would only worsen once the unoccupied flats in Nash Wharf were sold adding further pressure to the system.

It had been suggested that a working party be set up in order to ensure that the parish council could maintain an interest in the proposed works due to be carried out by AHS. The working party would consist of DJ, JM, PL and TC.

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LB asked that the outstanding action of the resurfacing of the Cart Track be added to the Future Work Programme next month. **LS**

The Clerk had recently contacted Peter Wright, HCC for an update. She had then received an email from him advising that a site meeting would be carried out in the near future. She would contact him for a further update. **LS**

TC who was due to leave the meeting early was asked by PL what his thoughts were on the planning application due to be considered at the planning meeting. TC reported to PL that he had already contacted Martin Stickley, DBC advising him that the proposed works were out of keeping with the rest of the area. PL concluded that the feedback from members of the planning committee was that the amendments were unacceptable and that this would be the comment from the committee. **LS**

HG closed the meeting at 9.05pm.

The next full parish council meeting will be held on Monday 13th July 2015, Nash Mills Village Hall, Lower Road.

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Chairman

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13th July 2015