

NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

1460

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday **12th September 2016** at Nash Mills Village Hall, Lower Road, Nash Mills.

Those Present:

Chair: Councillor Lisa Bayley
Vice Chair: Councillor Jan Maddern
Committee Members: Councillor Rosie Moubray
Councillor Dave Jackson
Councillor Peter Lardi

Also present: Linda Sutton, Parish Clerk
David Drew, Parish Warden
Ian Martin, Hertfordshire Police
Member of the public.
Members of Chambersbury Residents' Association (CRA)
Member of the Willows Residents' Association (WRA)
Member of NASH Residents' Association (NRA)

1. WELCOME/START TIME

LB welcomed everybody and declared the meeting open at 8.00pm.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

HG, TC and LG had sent their apologies, which were duly noted. JM advised that she would be arriving later due to her commitments with the Scouts. LB declared an interest in a planning application that was due to be discussed and advised that she would leave the hall at that point. JM agreed to Chair the meeting in the interim.

3. HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE REPORT (IF PRESENT)

LB welcomed everybody to the meeting.

She invited IM to discuss the monthly crime figures for August. IM confirmed that there were six crimes reported in total. The crime report had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. IM reported that there had been a dwelling burglary in which 'asian' gold had been stolen.

He advised that entrance to the property had been gained via a rear PVC door. He advised that a mobile jet wash unit was reported as stolen on the Longdean Estate.

Further crimes reported included a case of harassment and stalking.

PL asked IM whereabouts on the Longdean estate was the jet wash stolen and IM explained that the victim had opted not to let their details become public.

It was agreed by councillors that the public participation (item 4) on the agenda be swapped with (item 6).

4. ACTION LIST (Update).

LB advised that all items 'actioned' on the list would be removed. **LS**

Ongoing items included:

LS advised that JM was still waiting for a response back from NMVHA regarding the potential crest design. **JM**

LB advised that the planning processes document still needed to be circulated. **LG**

PL advised that he had met recently with Fiona Bogle, DBC. He said that he would follow up with research on the canal and bridge (owned by Linden Homes) and whether there are to be any future maintenance programmes. **PL**

LB suggested that the reporting of flyposting and banners are kept on the action list and emailed to JM. She added that taking an image would help. **ALL**

LB mentioned that the photograph recently presented to NMVHA now showed signs of mildew and it was agreed that JM would speak to Keith Gower. **JM**

LS advised that she would contact Briony Curtain, DBC again regarding an update on Nash House as she had not yet received the requested written response. **LS**

LB suggested that councillors email the Clerk with any funding suggestions. These will then be added to next month's agenda. **ALL**

The Clerk had contacted Louise Ablitt, Dog Warden, DBC earlier on in the month regarding the constantly overflowing dog bin located in Bunkers Park. She was advised that it costs Dacorum Borough Council £2.10 plus VAT to empty a dog bin. Councillors agreed to monitor the situation for the time being. It was suggested that the warden take a photograph of the dog bin throughout the month. **DD**

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

LB signed the minutes of the previous meeting.

All members present agreed that they were a true record. The minutes were approved for publication. The approved minutes will be published on to the parish council's website. **LS**

In the absence of LG - LB signed the personnel minutes.

JM arrived at the meeting.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION *GUEST SPEAKER (IF AVAILABLE)

LB invited Steve Wright, a member of the Willows' Residents Association. He advised that he had emailed the Clerk prior to the meeting with a list of issues he had wanted to address. In response to his request, she had sent him the amended plans for the proposed double yellow lines. SW asked JM when these works were to be scheduled and was told that it would be within the next four weeks.

SW explained that a group of youths had been congregating in the Swan Mead play area. He said that they were causing a nuisance, leaving litter and acting inappropriately. JM advised that Rob Cassidy, DBC would be rolling out new signage in the future and that this would hopefully show the suggested age limit. She advised that in the meantime local residents should contact their local Police and not to approach the group. DJ suggested using a dummy CCTV camera.

SW said he thought that the local mobile speed camera on Barnacres Road had been sited in the wrong place. JM agreed and said she was fully aware of this issue and was going to contact Councillor Anthony McKay. SW said that he also thought that the Belswains Lane roundabout should be repainted. **JM**

SW asked whether the parish council would consider funding the purchase of new trees within the Swan Mead estate as several had been chopped down. DJ said this could be considered and JM advised that Luke Johnson, DBC was going to conduct a safety survey in the near future. LB said that works to trees within Nash Mills had been raised earlier on in the finance meeting and would be discussed in the future by the full council after the DBC survey had been carried out. **LB**

RB, CRA wanted to highlight some concerns he had and explained that the residents' association had placed logs on to verges to deter parking. The parish council had received a call in the meantime and had contacted HCC advising the logs of being a potential 'trip hazard'. LB explained that it was important that groups should go through the correct channels. RB stressed that they had been put there to try and protect the local children from being knocked over by inconsiderate vehicle owners on the 'school run'. LB suggested that the association should contact the Headmaster for assistance in dealing with the parking issue. She advised that the parish council would contact PCSO Ian Martin. The Clerk assured RB that she had spoken to HCC and cancelled the request to have the logs removed.

The Clerk had contacted Louise Ablitt, DBC and asked them how much they pay to have a dog bin emptied. The amount given was £2.10 plus VAT. DJ queried if it was possible whether contractors could collect both types of litter and dog waste at the same time. JM commented that this was an excellent idea and would go back to DBC with this suggestion. **JM**

RB asked JM about the resiting of a litter bin in Chambersbury Lane, she said that since contacting DBC, this was unfortunately, now not an option. Louise Ablitt, DBC had suggested to her that dog waste could be now put in regular litter bins. JM stressed that she would monitor the situation within Nash Mills and that she would continue to liaise with DBC and would report back. **JM**

RB, CRA invited the parish council to a selection of planned social events organised by the group. They were to be held in the near future. LS will circulate the information to all. **LS**

A member of the public wanted to talk about an ongoing issue concerning further proposed works to a property adjacent to his home. The Chair LB declared an interest and left the hall. JM chaired the meeting in the interim.

JM gave some background information. She said that planning permission had been granted last year for a large extension to the property. She went onto explain that a further request under 'permitted development' had since been submitted to the planning department (this application was due to be discussed at a Development Control meeting the following week). The member of public explained that the situation between him and his neighbours was becoming untenable and communication had deteriorated even further since the previous year. He explained that as a result of further works and along with the erection of scaffolding to the neighbouring property it had caused problems by blocking the signal to their Wi-Fi and to their Sky dish. He explained that with his partner working from home several days a week it had been a very difficult time with the noise, parking and intrusive nature of the build. He went onto say that they were both upset and found the whole process incredibly stressful.

JM explained that the neighbours had applied for a certificate of lawfulness and advised that this is not the same as planning permission but is proof that household building work is lawful. She advised that she had originally declared an interest at the Development Control meeting held the previous year to discuss the planning application.

JM went on to say that at this stage, no permission had actually been granted to build a loft extension. She advised that she would be speaking to Philip Stanley, Local Enforcement Officer, to discuss the situation in the near future and thanked him for his comments. **JM**

LB re-entered the hall and thanked JM, she then chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Andrea Maloney asked if there was any further information on a recently granted planning application in Mill Close. LB responded by saying that she had spoken on behalf of JM at the Development Control meeting a week ago. AM said it had exacerbated ongoing parking issues.

JM stressed that members of the Development Control committee went into meetings with an open mind. She said however, that it was important to conduct site visits whenever possible.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee Report - DJ advised that the parish council was still on budget for the year. He advised that the online banking facility had been set up and payments had been successfully processed. He reported that the finance committee had agreed the staff salary increases and that

they would be back dated to April. Councillors present at the full council meeting would ratify the amounts under item 10.

DJ reported that the finance committee agreed with the suggestion of purchasing a bench to mark the end of the chalk mine works. Councillors present all agreed that they would source the bench from DBC.

Planning Committee Report –There was one planning application to be considered. PL advised everybody that a planning meeting would be held after the full parish council meeting.

Personnel Committee Report – LB reported that a meeting had been held in August.

8. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL RETURN. (Year ended 31st March 2016).

LB reported that the Annual Return (year ended 31st March 2016) had been returned from BDO. It is now available to download or print off from the parish council's website. The Annual Return had been audited twice, once internally by Clubfinance and then externally by BDO. Clubfinance had made a few suggestions which included having a more robust budget for petty cash, and ensuring that DBC continue to send the parish council VAT receipts even though the garage rental payment was now being made online. These suggestions had been actioned by the parish council.

BDO advised in their external report that they found no issues arising. The full parish council approved and accepted the Annual Return. The Clerk will note the minute reference. **LS**

9. QUOTES FOR BENCH IN CHALKMINES

This item was discussed under committee reports.

Councillors present agreed that the parish council would purchase a suitable bench in keeping with other street furniture in Nash Mills. LS had previously sourced three independent quotes (which had been circulated to all) and would contact Rob Cassidy, DBC to place an order. **LS**

10. RATIFY STAFF SALARIES.

This item was discussed earlier under committee reports. The full council agreed and ratified the staff salaries. The Clerk will notify Paybureau for Salaries, payroll provider and advise them that the increases for both the Clerk and Parish Warden were to be backdated from April. **LS**

11. CODE OF CONDUCT.

LB suggested that as several councillors were absent; this item would be deferred once again until the October meeting. **LS**

12. MAYOR'S COMMUNITY TOUR. (Itinerary).

JM gave a brief outline of the proposed itinerary for the Mayor's visit. She advised that a meet and greet would be held at the village hall at 10.30am on the 14th September. She said that everybody was welcome to attend.

13. COUNCILLORS TO REPORT ON THEIR DESIGNATED AREAS

PL advised that there was a raised man hole cover on Bunkers Lane which was a potential hazard. JM suggested that he log the fault online on the HCC website. **PL**

14. SAVE THE VERGES. – (Working Party Update).

This item was previously discussed under item 6.

JM explained to the public that she had previously contacted store owners at The Denes shopping parade and asked them not to allow delivery vans to utilise the verges as somewhere to park. She had also visited DBC and sourced information that explains which verges are owned by DBC and which are owned by HCC. JM advised that there were other ideas to protect the verges including using mounds of earth grassed over or a wooden edging or a double height kerb.

RT said that the verges on Chambersbury Lane were left rutted and damaged. He said that he did *not* consider the placed logs as a trip hazard. He said that as part of his own job role he was used to conducting risk assessments. LB said that in her job role she too was used to conducting risk assessments as well. She reiterated that all groups or associations had to go through the correct channels and follow procedures; she said that what concerned her most was that the group left them open to being sued, if children climbing on the logs slipped and injured themselves – JM agreed. RT disagreed and said that it was a visual deterrent. He said what was more serious was the potential accidents and ‘near misses’ when the school children were not being policed by the School staff or Head master. He suggested that the wooden logs be fixed to the ground.

One member of the public said that she feared for her son’s safety on a daily basis, she explained that she worked in a school and kept other children safe and just wanted the same assurances for her own child. JM suggested that the association contact the Head master and the parish council would contact IM and ask him to show a police presence in the area. **LS**

LB thanked the group for attending and said that JM would report back. **JM**

15. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS. (Online Banking).

DJ advised that with the online banking facility being utilised the financial regulations would need to be amended to reflect the changes in procedure and the changes in signatories. Councillors present at the meeting agreed to the amendments. **LS**

16. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMMES.

a) Issues Raised by Warden’s Reports – DD advised that IM was aware of the anti-social behaviour at Gade Towers.

b) Matters raised by Councillors – PL advised that the length of canal side looked damaged and he said that the profile required creative thought. He said at present local residents had no privacy and it appeared that weed killer had been used along the towpath which had killed shrubs. RM said she

thought that Chamonix Estates may have inadvertently killed the shrubs in an attempt to rid the area of weeds.

PL said he would continue to monitor the situation.

PL

c) The Denes Car park – JM explained that she had been in contact with the parking team at DBC again regarding the concept of having a ticket machine in place. She advised everyone that the first hour would be free and that this should deter van drivers from using the car park overnight. She said that she would keep the parish council updated on any progress made.

RT, CRA, referred back to the discussion on DBC's planning decisions within Nash Mills. He suggested that as the parish council appeared to be dissatisfied with the outcome of so many decisions made by the planning department, that they should seek professional advice from an architect. He suggested that they appoint someone local and well qualified with their own practice to help and give professional guidance on local planning issues. He said that he was sure that the services could be negotiated for free or that they could all come to an agreeable arrangement. He said that it would be for the greater good of the parish council.

PL said he thought that this would not change the procedure with the planning case officers. He said that in some cases decisions were still likely to be delegated.

17. TIME MEETING CLOSED/DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

LB thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next meeting would be the full meeting of the council on **Monday 10th October** at 8pm at Nash Mills Village Hall, Lower Road.

LB thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.06pm.

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Chair

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10th October 2016