



# NASH MILLS

## PARISH COUNCIL



### Clerk Report March 2025

#### New Playpark

Clerk has chased a query at DBC regarding a suitable location for a new playpark for the children of Nash Mills. (clerk originally raised this in October 2024 as an informal query when the lease negotiations were still uncertain). It will need to go to council as an agenda item should NMPC wish to progress this. Cllrs Berkeley & Briggs copied in along with Cllr Maddern to ascertain if this project can be progressed

#### Potential work programme topic for the Overview & Scrutiny Committees (2025/26)

This was circulated but due to the short turnaround I have submitted a response reflecting discussions that Cllr Briggs and I have been having (that have been reported to council) regarding s106 and planning legal obligations and their subsequent completion or enforcement. Items such as the crossing at Bunkers Lane and the path near to Teal Way are outstanding even though they relate to legal obligations signed when the developments were first agreed. I conducted an audit of funds held by HCC and DBC approx a year ago and we are still endeavouring to ascertain how these outstanding items can be resolved.

#### Democracy Visit Nash Mills CofE Primary School

Visit took place 5/3/2025. Very successful engagement with Year 4 & 5 Cllr Briggs reporting verbally in this meeting.

#### PO Box

NMPC postal address behind the PO Box has been temporarily amended to Cllr Berkeley's address to enable the incoming clerk to collect the bank statements for year-end more easily. This will need to be changed to the new clerk's address once she is in post. It can be changed via the Royal mail website.

#### Internal Audit

Visit booked with new clerk and IA 30/4/25. IA for new year to be booked by incoming clerk asap. Should NMPC wish to change provider then reference should be made to the requirements laid out in the Practitioners' Guide. There is no necessity or statutory obligation to change IA regularly if NMPC are happy with the service. Sector specific knowledge is always highly advisable to protect NMPC, the RFO and the public.

#### Gateway Signs

See finance report. Process needs to commence. Agenda item required.

### Cllr access to Rialtas Accounting Package.

Having checked with Rialtas this is currently not a cloud-based system. NMPC could purchase additional licences or convert to cloud based, however this is considerably more expensive. As the clerk is the RFO it is possibly an unnecessary expense. NMPC to determine this via an agenda item if required.

### Playpark

Asset register to be updated after 31/3/25. Note in clerk's diary. Asset register then to come back to council as an agenda item for consideration.

### SPEED Indicator Devices

See January report. Update post county elections May 2025

### War memorial and Gardens

No update to report.

### Parish Magazine

See finance report. Only 2 editions this financial year therefore invoices, expenditure and budgets are out of sync.

### Breakfast at Abbots Hill

11/2/25 Clerk, Cllr Cobb & Cllr Briggs attended. Successful engagement with AHS and subsequent collaboration discussed and will be brought back to council by Cllr Briggs.

### Bleed Kit/Library Box

Bleed Kit must be added to Defib Risk Assessment.

Defib used and I collected it from Watford Ambulance station, new pads ordered.

### Warden Updates

Continued issues with fly tipping. DBC are still investigating 'unadopted' land, further photographic evidence supplied.

Warden protective clothing has been replaced.

Warden is due to start painting of signs etc. Council to determine if they wish benches at The Denes to be treated in the same colour. Agenda item required. COSHH training must be booked for warden (webinars available from HAPTC)

### New Clerk

Training has commenced. Full training plan and handover folder compiled and shared. New Clerk training with HAPTC booked.

### Clerk/ Cllr training/CPD/attendance

Cllrs Berkeley, Cobb & Briggs attended the March East Herts engagement session.

Cllr Briggs attended planning update session.

Cllr Briggs & Cllr Cobb have both booked onto the CPRE 'lunch & learn' sessions as circulated.

- What is the NPPF, and what do the recent changes to it mean for Hertfordshire
- Green belt vs Grey belt: What does this mean for housing development
- Solar energy: Creating a greener future without inappropriate development
- Protecting Hertfordshire's rivers and chalk streams

Incoming clerk attending the DBC clerk quarterly catch up with outgoing clerk.

SLCC quarterly in person meeting scheduled for Spring 2025.

#### Further Action List Updates (carried forward from last clerks report)

- See separate business planning excel sheet [business planning WG.xlsx](#)
- DBC have been chased regarding outstanding asset replacement.
- I have chased all Cllrs to ask them to look at any outstanding items to determine direction of travel for NMPC in 2025/26 and 2026/27. Individual Cllrs or working group leads to take ownership of bringing items back to council as an agenda item for decision making  
In relation to the above Cllr Kitson has suggested postponing website WG until new clerk in position.
- I have emailed Cllr Maddern about the history board outstanding for Nash House
- Magazine advertising -diary note created for July 2025 to review pricing ready for 2026/27

#### Correspondence received (please note that this will not include all items dealt with by the clerk)

- Complaint about dog waste-dog warden copied in and responded. Shared with Cllr Berkeley.
- Complaint about fly tipping on unadopted land. Resident informed that DBC are investigating.

This concludes my final report for NMPC and I'd like to thank you all for all of your hard work and support during my tenure!

***Nikki Bugden 6/3/2025***