



Nailstone Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held at Dove Bank Primary School at
1900 hrs on Wednesday 27th September 2023

Present: I Harris (Chairman), D Crane, T Harrison, J Smith (Councillors), W J Crooks (Borough Councillor), 5 members of the public, C J Peat (Locum Clerk).

Public session

081/2023 Apologies for absence from Councillors

It was resolved that an apology from Cllr Darlington be accepted.

082/2023 Declarations of interests (including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) and requests for dispensations in respect of items on the agenda

There were none.

083/2023 Questions and comments from members of the public

A resident with a shared access drive complained that a grant of planning permission to a neighbour had included a condition that the first part of the shared access drive be surface with bound materials. A later amended planning application had omitted this condition, and the neighbour had refused to surface this part of the drive. The adjacent footway was in a poor state of repair, had no edgings, and stones were now being carried onto the highway. **It was agreed** that this area be inspected with a view to referring the problem to LCC Highways.

084/2023 Update from Borough Councillor W R Crooks

Cllr Crooks reported that he now chaired the Borough Council's Planning Policy Committee. The main purpose of this Committee was to oversee the Local Plan, but it also considered large planning applications, government policies and changes in planning policy.

The P&CIF had been reviewed and the total fund of £162k would now include £35k allocated to improvements to the built environment and heritage and £25k allocated to a Community Equipment grant fund with on-line applications offering grants up to £1.3k. The P&CIF itself would offer grants in four categories: climate change; play areas; sports equipment, footpaths, trails and historical features; landscaping projects and places of worship. All grants would require match funding of 50%.

Cllr Crooks had attended the formal opening of the Education Centre in the Nailstone Platinum Jubilee Country Park. This building was now available for bookings but would only be open when booked. Adjacent toilets for users of the country park would be open

during daylight hours. **It was agreed** to invite the managers of this facility to write a piece for the next Newsletter, and to advertise this development as widely as possible.

085/2023 Update from County Councillor B Harrison-Rushton

Cllr Harrison-Rushton **was thanked** for a written report on County Council business, and had also advised that road markings in the Parish would be refreshed within the next 60 days, weather permitting (032/2023 refers).

086/2023 Update from the Footpath Group

The representative reported that the bridge over the brook on S44 was now clear. The litter bin which had been moved to Vero's Lane by H&BBC was still inaccessible because of overgrown brambles (036/2023 refers).

An article from *Out and About* was tabled, which described the *Miles Without Stiles* project spearheaded by Carlton PC. It was suggested that footpath R66 might be made stile-free.

087/2023 Update from the Gardening Group

The representative described the proposed bulb plantings, which would all comprise a mixture of crocuses, daffodils and tulips with a flowering period from January to May. There were some concerns that these plantings might not succeed because of strong competition from grass and weeds, but the consensus view was that the experiment was well worth trying. The PC's grounds maintenance schedule was under review and would take account of these new plantings. A map showing the planting sites had been prepared and a cultivation licence issued by LCC. **It was agreed** that the Group be authorised to proceed with this project.

A comprehensive risk assessment had been prepared, and **was approved** (037/2023 refers).

088/2023 Update from the Community Group

The representative reported on a recent meeting of the Group. It had been agreed that the administrators of the Facebook page would decline posts which did not refer to Group matters, and would refer these to the relevant organisation (060/2023 refers).

It was noted that the Christmas Lights and Tree Switch-on and Xmas Windows Opening were both scheduled for late afternoon on 2nd December; the Church Christmas Coffee Morning and Seniors Lunch for 9th December; and Christmas Songs Around the Tree for 18th December. A Nativity Play had been written, and might be run as an event by the Friends of Dove Bank Primary School, and possibly combined with the quiz as a Christmas Party.

It was suggested that it might be useful for the Church organisation to report to these meetings.

089/2023 Update from the Christmas Group

The representative reported that the Group was proposing an event on 2nd December at the Nut & Squirrel, starting with children's events from 4-5pm and followed by adult events from 5-6pm. The children's events would include crafts, games, starting the elf hunt and a visit from Father Christmas and his elves with small gifts. The adult event would begin with the lighting of the Christmas tree and would include a bottle tombola, possibly other stalls, mulled wine, nibbles and carol singing. This event had an allocated budget of £400.

A risk assessment would be prepared as these plans developed; the question of DBS checks was raised. **It was agreed** that DBS checks would not be necessary as this would be a public event and children would be expected to be accompanied. However, **it was recommended** that Father Christmas be accompanied by two independent elves.

Council business

090/2023 Minutes of the last meeting

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 30th August 2023 be approved and they were signed by the Chairman.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2023 be approved and they were signed by the Chairman (070/2023 refers).

091/2023 Planning applications received and determined

23/00812/TCA Tree works, 69 Church Road. **It was resolved** that the Parish Council had no objections to this application.

092/2023 Payment of invoices

It was resolved that the following invoices be paid:	£.p
The Graphic	80.00
ROSPA initial inspection of play equipment	498.00

The Chairman reported that ROSPA had been asked about the suitability of the post caps for the play equipment, but no response had been received.

093/2023 LCC Members Highways Fund

Cllr Harrison-Rushton had advised that the Parish Council had been awarded £7,500 from this fund (Nov 2022); this award would be withdrawn at the end of the year if not spent. The original application had been copied to Councillors before the meeting, and the proposals were updated.

It was resolved that gateway-type signs including the Nailstone PC logo be erected on highway verges on both sides of Bagworth Road to the east of the 30mph signs; that a site survey be carried out; and that a detailed specification and application be prepared for consideration at the next meeting. It was recognised that the grass verge on the

southern side of the road was narrow, and that a narrow 'gate' would be required on this side of the road.

It was resolved that a mobile vehicle activated sign (MVAS) which recorded speed data be acquired to replace the existing sign; and that quotations and specifications for suitable signs be obtained for consideration at the next meeting.

094/2023 Advertisement for a replacement Clerk

It was agreed that it was desirable for the Parish Clerk to live in or near to Nailstone, and that the position would be advertised locally in the Newsletter, Graphic and by flyer in the first instance with a closing date for applications in mid-January. **It was resolved** that Cllr Harrison be authorised to arrange for the printing and distribution of this material.

095/2023 Update on the Stones Hollow Solar Farm Project Deed of Grant

The Chairman reported that a revised draft of the Deed of Gift had not been acceptable, had been amended and was now being considered by the donors solicitors.

096/2023 Proposals from Councillors of matters for the next agenda

The Chairman **thanked** Cllr Darlington for the excellent appearance and production of the Newsletter. **It was resolved** that feedback received and future production be considered at the next meeting.

The Chairman reported that the NHT Public Representative online survey had been received. **It was resolved** that this be copied to Councillors for a formal response to be agreed at the next meeting.

Cllr Harrison advised that H&BBC was reviewing the Rural Strategy and had asked (1) what were the key achievements for your Parish in the last 4 years; and (2) what are the ongoing/emerging challenges for your Parish? Councillors had been invited to submit comments and a draft response was in preparation. **It was resolved** that a revised response be submitted to H&BBC.

097/2023 Time, date and place of the next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting be held at Dove Bank Primary School on Wednesday 25th October at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Abbreviations in these minutes

DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service	H&BBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
LCC	Leicestershire County Council	MVAS	Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign
NHT	National Highways & Transport	PC	Parish Council
P&CIF	Parish & Community Initiatives Fund	ROSPA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents