



Nailstone Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held at Dove Bank Primary School at
7pm on Wednesday 25th October 2023

Present: I Harris (Chairman), D Crane, H Darlington, J Smith (Councillors), W J Crooks (Borough Councillor), 6 members of the public, C J Peat (Locum Clerk).

PUBLIC SESSION

098/2023 Questions and comments from members of the public

- a) Litter bins around the village had not been emptied and were overflowing. **It was agreed** that this be reported to H&BBC.
- b) Trees were obstructing a street light in front of The Manor House, Church Road. **It was agreed** that the occupiers of the property be asked to cut them back.
- c) It was asked whether the village was going to have a living Christmas tree: a grant application for one had been discussed earlier in the year. **It was agreed** that the Clerk investigate.
- d) During recent rainstorms, water had been washing over the road to the east of the Aldi site. The exact location and photographs or other evidence would be required before reporting this to LCC Highways, and **it was agreed** that this area be monitored.
- e) Church matters
 - Osbaston PC had requested acknowledgment of their offer of a bench. **It was agreed** that a letter of thanks be sent (046/2023 refers).
 - a rusty metal tank had not been removed as promised at a site meeting earlier in the year (046/2023 refers). **It was agreed** that volunteers be organised to carry out this work.
 - the lych gate needed repair. This major repair and was under consideration by the PC, but would require liaison with the H&BBC Conservation Officer and the PCC, and grant aid. The structure was thought to be listed as a curtilage structure of the church. **It was agreed** that potential sources of grant funding be identified and that the building be examined to determine the scope of the works required.
 - the rubbish heap in the open churchyard needed to be removed. The PCC was responsible for this area. The heap was not accessible, so material would probably have to be barrowed off site, and it was not known what was in the heap. **It was agreed** that the PC would be happy to help with the work and seeking volunteer labourer.
 - the children's party would be held on the 16th of December and the carol concert on the 20th.

099/2023 Update from Borough Councillor W R Crooks

Cllr Crooks reported that boundary changes were being considered, and that the number of Borough Councillors might be increased because of the amount of new residential development.

The Borough Council had received £400k funding from the Rural England Prosperity Fund, and was offering £100k in a range of grants this year and £300k next.

Cllr Crooks would be attending a site visit at the Country Park, and was asked to check that the promised dog waste bins had been installed.

100/2023 Update from County Councillor B Harrison-Rushton

No update had been received.

101/2023 Update from the Footpath Group

Footpath S49 was becoming obstructed by shrubs near the first stile.

Local access to the countryside could be improved by replacing stiles by kissing gates. Local priorities, in order, were the stile at the junction of R66/S29; the stile at the southern end of the jitty on S49; and possibly stiles along Q83 which would create a stile-free route from the village to the new Country Park.

102/2023 Update from the Gardening Group

The Gardening Group reported that the bulbs and planting equipment had been ordered, and the churchyard bed, rock bed and memorial area had been weeded.

The Gardening Group **was thanked** for making detailed comments on the draft grounds maintenance specifications, and also for making clear the time commitments they felt able to make, which areas they would be able to manage and their vision for the longer-term development of village plantings (see 117/2023 below).

103/2023 Update from the Community Group

The Community Group had sent minutes and was continuing to hold the play equipment funding balance (see 113/2023 below).

The Christmas event at the Nut & Squirrel would be held on 2nd December; the Seniors Lunch on the 9th; Quiz and Nativity at Dove Bank School on 14th; and Songs Around the Tree on 18th.

104/2023 Update from the Christmas Group

There was none.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

105/2023 Apologies for absence from Councillors

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

106/2023 Declarations of interests (including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) and requests for dispensations in respect of items on the agenda

Cllr Crane declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 120/2023.

107/2023 Minutes of the meeting of 27th September 2023

It was resolved that the minutes be approved and they were signed by the Chairman.

108/2023 Updates from Councillors and the Clerk

Clerk. The Chairman reported that the position of Parish Clerk had been advertised on the Nailstone Facebook page and in the Newsletter. **It was resolved** that interviews would be arranged towards the end of November.

Newsletter. Cllr Darlington **was thanked** for preparing the November/December issue (096/2023 refers). **It was resolved** that all future issues be sent to the Legal Deposit Office (Serials) at the British Library. This is required for all local government printed publications under the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003.

Play equipment. The Chairman reported that RoSPA had approved the post caps and they would be installed shortly (092/2023 refers).

Footway fronting 18-24 Main Street. A complaint about the poor condition of the surface, lack of edgings and carrying of gravel onto the highway had been submitted (083/2023 refers). LCC Highways had authorised a low priority repair and written to advise the landowner that they were responsible for preventing gravel from being carried onto the highway

NHT Public Representative Survey. A response was agreed and **It was resolved** that it be submitted to LCC (096/2023 refers).

Declarations of Interests. The Clerk reported that although the Minutes recorded that Declarations of Interest had been signed after the elections in May (004/2023 refers), the Declarations had not been submitted to H&BBC and the documents could not be found. **It was resolved** that digital forms be completed by Councillors and forwarded to the Clerk asap.

159 bus service. Newbold Verdon PC had written to express concern that the responsive transport scheme provided by LCC after the withdrawal of the 159 bus service did not appear to be working properly. **It was resolved** that a letter supporting improvements to local public transport be sent to Newbold Verdon PC.

Memorial plaque. A parishioner had complained that although permission had been granted for the installation of a memorial plaque on the wall of the Miner's memorial, nothing had been done. Councillors had no knowledge of this matter, and the Clerk had found no reference to it in the PC Minutes. **It was resolved** that investigations be continued and that additional information be sought from the applicant.

Litter bin. Cllr Crooks had forwarded an enquiry from H&BBC about a request for bins, submitted some time ago - the Clerk had found no information about this matter (219/2022 may refer). H&BBC was willing to provide and empty a litter bin on Bagworth Road without charge. If dog waste bins were required, the PC would have to pay for the bin and for regular emptying. **It was noted** that two dog waste bins should have been provided in the Country Park, and Cllr Crooks was asked to check that this had been done. **It was resolved** that H&BBC be asked to instal a litter bin near to the tarmac footway road crossing on the southern side of Bagworth Road.

109/2023 Remembrance Service in Church Meadow

Poppies had been delivered and would be attached to street lighting columns by volunteers; wreaths would be supplied by Barlestone PC. A memorial service would be held in Church Meadow at 11.00am on Sunday 12th November.

110/2023 Planning applications submitted and comments submitted under delegated powers

23/00931/HOU Single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing conservatory). 89 Main St. The plans were tabled at the meeting. **It was resolved** that the PC had no objections.

23/00925/FUL Change of use of six agricultural buildings to storage and distribution use (Class B8) and associated landscaping and boundary treatment. Crown Farm, Bagworth Rd. PC had no objection; noted that T4 was shown on the landscaping plan but was not listed; suggested that one or two larger species of tree might be included in the screen plantings.

23/00930/TCA Reduce the row of poplar trees by half. Smithy Farm, Hinckley Rd. PC had no objections.

111/2023 Invoices for payment

It was resolved that the following invoices be paid:	£.p
National Power	249.80
Barlestone Parish Council (poppy wreaths)	34.00
C J Peat (refund for poppies)	212.50
The Graphic Print (October Newsletter & delivery)	125.00

112/2023 Report 2023-01: Financial statement for the period 1st April-30th September 2023

The reconciliations were checked against the relevant bank statements. **It was resolved** that Report 2023-01 be approved and published.

113/2023 s106 funds held by the Local Planning Authority

H&BBC Compliance & Monitoring Officer had advised that £1,250.80 of s106 funding (£817.80 for provision and £433.00 for maintenance) for Play & Open Space had been held since 2017, and that these funds might be released if a retrospective application was made in respect of the new play equipment. **It was resolved** that an application be submitted.

114/2023 Parish Council accounts for 2022-23

Paras 13-15 of the Local Government (Transparency Requirements)(England) Regulations 2014 require the PC to publish details of every item of expenditure above £100. The Clerk advised that the simplest and most transparent way of meeting this requirement was to publish the complete accounts. **It was resolved** that the complete receipts and payments accounts for 2022-23 be published.

115/2023 Gateway feature on Bagworth Road

This installation will be the first part of a traffic calming scheme to be funded by the LCC Members Highways Fund (093/2023 refers). A site meeting had been held on 30th September, and a report and proposals copied to Councillors.

It was resolved that the proposed design and location be approved and an application submitted to LCC Highways with a copy to Cllr Harrison-Rushton.

116/2023 Mobile vehicle activated sign

This installation will be the second part of the traffic calming scheme to be funded by the LCC Members Highways Fund (093/2023 refers).

The Clerk had obtained prices from 4 suppliers for comparable basic MVAS with data recording:

	£
Westcotec	3,554 + vat
SWARCO	3,192 + vat
Stocksigns	2,715 + vat
Traffic Technology	2,500 + vat

Data downloads are by bluetooth; Stocksigns offers USB cable as an option. Some of the above suppliers offered different display options, some at higher cost, including smiley/sad face displays and different colours.

It was resolved that an application to purchase the Westcotec basic MVAS be submitted to LCC Highways with a copy to Cllr Harrison-Rushton.

117/2023 Grounds maintenance specifications for 2024-2026

Site inspections had been carried out on 30th September and draft specifications copied to Councillors and the Nailstone Gardening Group (NGG) before the meeting. The NGG had submitted detailed comments on these specifications, and revised proposals had been put forward in a discussion paper which had been copied to all parties before the meeting. Following a detailed discussion, agreement was reached on what

maintenance work would be carried out by NGG, and what by a contractor; and on a longer-term approach to the replacement of neglected and overgrown plantings and their rejuvenation.

It was resolved that revised grounds maintenance specifications be prepared and copied to all parties asap, and revised if necessary so that agreed versions could be presented to the next meeting for formal approval.

118/2023 Councillor training in playground inspection

Councillor Smith had kindly volunteered to undertake training in playground inspection and **it was resolved** that a place be booked on the LRALC training Course on 21st June at a cost of £60.00.

119/2023 Potential applications to the P&CIF

The P&CIF had been revised by H&BBC for 2024. The Fund would now provide 50% grants for capital projects costing between £5k and £24k (or up to £40k for climate change, carbon reduction, conservation or biodiversity projects). Applications must be submitted by 12th January 2024.

Potential projects discussed included the repair of the church lych gate, restoration of the three original oil lamps in Church Road, landscaping of The Oval, and the replacement of stiles by kissing gates.

It was resolved that an application be prepared for the provision of an electricity supply to Church Meadow, for consideration at the next meeting.

120/2023 Update on the Stones Hollow Solar Farm Project Deed of Gift

The Chairman reported that the donors were not prepared to include any guarantees, bonds or charges on the land in the Deed of Gift. This meant that if the offered payment of £180k should not be made the PC would have to seek redress through the courts. The proposed trigger date for the payment was the commencement of works on site, expected to be in March. It was important that the Deed should be signed before this date. **It was resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Deed of Gift.

121/2023 Time, date and place of the next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting be held at Dove Bank Primary School at 7 pm on Wednesday 29th November

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Abbreviations in these minutes

H&BBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council	LCC	Leicestershire County Council
LRALC	Leics & Rutland Ass. of Local Councils	MVAS	Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign
NGG	Nailstone Gardening Group	NHT	National Highways & Transport
PC	Parish Council	P&CIF	Parish & Community Initiatives Fund
RoSPA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents		