



Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of Nailstone Parish Council held at All Saints Church, Church Road, Nailstone at 7:45pm on Wednesday 28th May 2025.

Present: L Harris (Chair), Cllr Crane, Cllr Darlington, Clerk K Bates, County Cllr Melen, Borough Cllr W Crooks, 6 members of the public.

Council business

099/2025 Election of Chair and Acceptance of Office

It was resolved that Cllr Harris be elected as Chair for the forthcoming year. Cllr Harris signed the Acceptance of Office

100/2025 Election of Vice Chair and Acceptance of Office

It was resolved that the election of a Vice Chair be deferred to the next PC meeting when all Cllrs would be able to attend and vote.

Public session

101/2025 To receive questions and comments from members of the public

A member of the public reported that the weight restriction sign on Bagworth Road was currently obscured by overgrown foliage. County Cllr Melen kindly reported this issue to Highways during the meeting.

A member of the public raised whether a plant growing outside a property on Main Street was Japanese knotweed. A subsequent inspection by 3 knowledgeable gardeners revealed that this was not the case.

A member of the public asked if there was still a Cllr vacancy on the PC. The Chair replied that there was still a Cllr vacancy as no applicants for the vacancy had come forward.

A member of the public asked about the outcome of the Stoneshollow Community consultation questionnaire. Cllrs responded that there had been 41 responses and that the Clerk would be collating and processing the data during June to present to Cllrs. It was intended to report on the data in the June PC meeting.

A member of the public asked about the data from the MVAS and its uses. The Chair and Cllr Crane replied that the data was downloaded and could be used to highlight any time of day for speeding issues or whether the average speed was too high. No identifying data was recorded.

102/2025 To receive an update from County Councillor Melen

Cllrs welcomed County Cllr Melen to the meeting and Cllr Melen **was thanked** for attending. Cllr Melen reported that there had been a 38% voting turnout in the Market Bosworth division which was higher than neighbouring areas. Cllr Melen has 13 PC's and 30 villages within his area. Cllr Melen kindly offered to assist the PC with the outstanding Highways enquiries.

103/2025 To receive an update from Borough Councillor W R Crooks

Cllr Crooks **was thanked** for an Annual report on Borough business which included information on Planning, Government White Papers and Warm Spaces Grants. Cllr Crooks reported that the development of The Bull's Head was being checked for compliance with planning permission by Planning Officers. Cllr Crooks reported that Planning Officers at H&BBC were unsure if the status of Nailstone as a rural hamlet would be upgraded to rural village given the new planning dictates. It was thought that the village may be upgraded due to having a Church and a school. Cllr Crooks also outlined changes to the planning regulations following Government policy changes.

104/2025 To receive updates from Community Groups and other organisations

Reports from the Nailstone Community Group, the PCC, the Gardening Group, the Village Show, the Book Group, the History Group and the W.I. were given in the Annual Parish Meeting earlier in the evening.

Council business

105/2025 To consider apologies for absence from Councillors

It was resolved that apologies from Cllr Harrison be accepted.

106/2025 To receive declarations of interests (including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) and requests for dispensations in respect of items on the agenda

There were none.

107/2025 To approve the minutes of the meeting of 30th April 2025

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

108/2025 To receive updates from Councillors and the Clerk

Cllr Harris gave an Annual Chair's report in the Annual Parish meeting earlier in the evening.

The Clerk reported that:

National Grid refund: A cheque for a refund for the sum of £500 had been received from National Grid due to an underspend on National Grid's part whilst installing electricity on Church Meadow.

Cllr Crane **was thanked** for kindly volunteering to pay in the £500 cheque.

Village Trees: The three trees planted by the contractor earlier in the year had been noted to be leaning against the prevailing wind direction and required re-staking. The Clerk had contacted the contractor who had advised that they would remedy this.

Stile replacement: Landowner permission to replace the remaining wooden stile with a kissing gate was required. Cllr Crane kindly said he would grant permission and would email the Clerk to this effect.

109/2025 To consider planning applications submitted

There were none.

110/2025 To note comments submitted under delegated powers and applications determined

There were none.

111/2025 To review and approve the PC's Property Register

The PC's property register had been updated and amended and circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting.

It was resolved that the register be approved.

112/2025 To review and approve the PC's Code of Conduct

The PC's Code of Conduct had been circulated to Cllrs during the month prior to the meeting and no alterations had been suggested.

It was resolved that the Code of Conduct be approved and uploaded to the PC's website as required.

113/2025 To approve the quotation for the PC's Insurance for 2025-26

The PC's revised requirements had been emailed to Gallagher as resolved in March (061/2025). The renewal premium for 2025-26 totalled only £1.69 greater than that of the previous year.

It was resolved that the premium be accepted, and the Clerk was to pay the premium directly following the meeting to meet the 30th of May deadline.

114/2025 To review and approve the review of condition of Memorials within Closed Churchyard

The condition and safety of memorials within the Closed Churchyard had been reviewed. The four memorials that showed movement when pushed had been noted and photographed. The report had been circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllrs further tested the memorial to KNOWLES 1906 due to its prominence near the Lych Gate and found it could not be moved off the pedestal. The memorial to BARRS 1887 could only be moved very slightly.

It was resolved that the report be approved and the memorials to HARRIS 1965 and CLARKE 1974 be laid flat for safety and the memorials to KNOWLES 1906 and BARRS 1887 be left standing.

115/2025 To consider and approve the response for the request for an Image License from PA Media Group

Advice had been sought from LRALC about the request for payment for an Image Licence for the 'road closed' image used on the PC's website.

LRALC noted that 3 Parish Councils in the area had also had requests for Image Licences. LRALC's advice was that it was necessary to pay but the amount may be able to be negotiated. It was noted that the image had not been used in a commercial sense and there had been minimal page traffic.

It was resolved that the Clerk be authorised to contact PA media Group and offer to pay a negotiable amount starting at £50 and moving upwards in increments up to the maximum originally requested.

116/2025 To consider a proposal from the Gardening Group for additional planting in the Memorial Area

The Gardening Group had proposed augmenting the planting within the Memorial Area by extending the current beds and providing additional planting with an emphasis on year-round colour with an especial accent at Remembrance time. The existing planting was to be retained entirely and incorporated within the new scheme. The Group also proposed to create a visual delineation of the Memorial Area by making a living screen in Miscanthus grass. It was hoped this would mark the Memorial Area as an

area for reflection. The Group proposed to purchase the plants from the proceeds from the Christmas Wreath making event. The proposal had been sent to all Cllrs prior to the meeting.

It was resolved that the proposal be approved, and Cllrs requested that care should be taken over the installation of the edging so that it was flush with the existing level of the grass and did not form any trip hazard.

117/2025 To consider an invitation from NCG for the PC to contribute to a Village Fete

The Community Group planned to hold a village fete in August, and it was planned to invite contributions from the subgroups and other organisations in the village. The PC had been invited to contribute, and Cllrs discussed the potential provision of a Hog Roast. The PC was prepared to offer food provision but wished for further details regarding proposed numbers and if the Community Group wanted to charge for the food.

It was resolved that the Clerk inform the Community Group that the PC were prepared to offer food but required details regarding numbers and charging.

118/2025 To consider a quotation from LCC for upgrading work to the PC's streetlights

The Clerk was continuing to chase a response from LCC Highways which had as at the time of meeting not been forthcoming.

119/2025 To review the progress of items reported to H&BBC and LCC:

14/01/2025 FS678650871 - 982360

Bagworth Road, Nailstone. Damaged direction signs. Works Ordered - scheduled before 30/3/25 **UPDATE -works completed**

15/01/2025 FS679009549 - 982549

Wood Road, Nailstone. Missing Ironwork. Works Ordered by Utility company

Wood Road, Nailstone Re-reported Carriageway in poor state. Passed to Officer for response. Carriageway damage first reported in 2022 via FS 403010734 and again in February 2024 via FS 591 66212. This matter was followed up in April 2024 by Borough Cllr Crooks FS590803459. **UPDATE-response sought**

6/3/2025 FS666305927

Vero's Lane, Nailstone Re-reported Carriageway in poor state. Passed to Officer for assessment. Issue first reported in December 2024 via case FS666305927 which was closed following the placement of 'mud on road' signs. **UPDATE:Response sought**

07/03/2025 HC/5000-988652

Grange Lane, Nailstone Pot hole in carriageway, bend warning sign needing replacement, reported by Borough Cllr Crooks. Works ordered, no timescale given. **UPDATE: Potholes repaired. Awaiting sign.**
28/4/25 FS709830357
Main St/Bagworth Rd, Nailstone Non illuminated bollard hit and missing. **UPDATE: Works ordered.**

It was resolved that the Clerk would email the list of outstanding Highways enquiries to Cllr Melen for assistance with progressing them.

120/2025 To consider a monitoring report on the play equipment

The contractor due to repair the monkey bars equipment had been advised by Cllr Darlington that their quote had been successful and anticipated that the repair work would commence in June.

Cllr Harrison **was thanked** for carrying out the inspections and no new issues had been communicated.

121/2025 To receive any updates regarding Grounds Maintenance

As requested, a cut had been made to the areas where Spring bulbs had been planted, and the clippings had been taken away.

122/2025 To consider any monitoring reports on Stoneshollow Solar Farm

There were none.

123/2025 To consider a response to the Diocese following email from Rupert Allen

In March, as resolved in agenda item 059/2025 the Clerk had emailed the Diocese requesting evidence of any faculty granted regarding ashes interments in the Closed Churchyard. Rupert Allen had replied on May 13th 2025 that:

"It would seem that the Parochial Church Council thought that they had permission but the records do not support this. The PCC is in the process of seeking a Faculty to regularise the situation."

Further advice was sought from LRALC on behalf of the PC about the position of the PC regarding any new faculties being granted in a Closed Churchyard maintained by the PC.

LRALC's advice highlighted Case law from Ely Diocese that stated

"The Secretary of State has received advice from the Law Officers of the Crown to the effect that it is not possible to revoke an Order in Council closing a churchyard. The Law Officers' reasons are that there is no express statutory power to do so, and that the power under section 1 of the Burial Act 1855 to "vary" a previous Order in Council does not extend to revoking the Order altogether, although it can be used, for example, to redefine the boundaries of the churchyard where they have been inaccurately described, or to change the categories of burial which are still allowed."

LRALC's advice further to this was that:

"I'd suggest council communicates its concerns to the Diocese of Leicester regarding any changes and the process by which they propose to consult. Once you have a response, see if the terms are acceptable to parish council. If necessary, we can refer upwards at that point for you for legal opinion."

Cllrs discussed that the matter of a retrospective faculty was a Church matter, and that Cllrs had been clear with their resolution in prior meetings that no new or further interments could take place, and this had been communicated to the PCC and recorded in the PC minutes.

It was resolved that at this point no further action need be taken.

124/2025 To approve invoices for payment

The Clerk and RFO presented the invoices, payment schedule, bank reconciliation and breakdown of reserves, which were checked and signed by the Chair.

It was resolved that the following invoices be paid:

Supplier	Details	£.p
K Bates	Clerk's salary May 2025	289.15
HMRC	PAYE May 2025	32.60
K Bates	Brother Ink Subscription refund	4.49
Hames Partnership	Payroll for April 2025	34.20
The Graphic	Newsletter printing for May 2025	225.00
Gallagher	Insurance for June 2025-26	703.92
Nailstone PCC	Hire of Church x5 PC meetings	125.00
TOTAL		1414.36

125/2025 To confirm the time, date and place of the next meeting; scheduled for 25th June 2025, 7pm, All Saints Church.

The meeting closed at 21:20.