

Newsletter



Senior's Christmas Lunch with home-made cakes and festive catch-up, held in Church on the 4th of January.

Update from the Nailstone Parish Council

Precept

At the November 2024 meeting, the PC determined the amount of the precept for the Parish. For several years the PC has held the precept amount at £20,565 which has been sufficient to cover the statutory responsibilities the PC undertakes. Councillors determined that an increase in the precept amount was now required for the year 2025-26, in order to cover increases in certain areas of the precepted budget and to cover the increased amount spent on capital projects. The new precept amount for 2025-26 was set at £23,125, an increase of £2,560. For a Council Tax Band D property in Nailstone this means an increase of 11.33 per year. As Council Tax is payable over 10 months this equates to £1.13 per month for a Band D property. This equates in real terms to the price of 2 Tesco Luxury Soft Toilet Rolls each month.

Budget

The budget for the 2025-26 year ahead will be

discussed at the January meeting of the PC and increases and changes in expenditure will be approved. For transparency, the budget will then be published on the PC's website.

Streetlighting

The PC is responsible for 7 streetlights in the Parish, which are currently in need of complete refurbishment. An application for grant funding towards the cost of refurbishing and updating the streetlighting the PC is responsible for has been submitted to the Parish and Communities Initiative Fund, run by H&BBC. The Awards are due to be determined in May 2025. The PC would like to update it's streetlighting by upgrading the existing old sodium lamps to LED, with the addition of a dimmer and timer function. New lighting columns and poles are also required to bring the lighting up to current standards. This will save on electricity costs for the PC and will also reduce carbon emissions, due to increased energy efficiency.

Next meeting: 26th of February, 7pm, the Church.

Coming up in February

Thursday 20th February, 7:30pm, Church - The WI, The Samaritans with Elizabeth York. Tea/coffee by Margaret Allen and Dorothy Flanagan. Competition - a favourite cup and saucer or mug. Visitors welcome for £3.

All Saints Cafe

Every Tuesday morning with new opening times - 10:15am to 12:15pm.

Little Fishes

The popular children group continues in February in the Church. 10:30am - 12pm every third Wednesday of every month.

Village trees

Queen's trees

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tree is the existing Cherry tree planted to the left of the Oval entrance behind the laurel shapes. An additional tree, to commemorate the reign of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has been planted on the right side of the Oval entrance to pair the existing tree. The new tree is also a Cherry Tree, it is at mature height and will provide pink Springtime blossom. The PC now has plaques for both trees. The PC appreciates the cooperation of H&BBC who gave their permission for the trees to be planted on the ground they own.

Additional trees

The PC's grounds contractor, Inspire Landscaping offered the PC 3 free trees as part of Tree Week. Jamie and his team kindly offered to provide and plant the trees for free. One of the trees is the new Queen's Commemoration Tree and the other two trees, Pyrus 'Chanticleer' have been planted at the South end of the Oval green space. The trees were chosen specifically for the space available, both the Pyrus have an upright, not spreading habit and are deciduous, so will provide structure without too much shade and they will balance out the existing tree planting. The trees have been staked and will be maintained by Nailstone PC. The PC would like to thank H&BBC again for their kind permission to plant the trees on the Oval green space and for Inspire Landscaping for the provision and planting of the trees.

Memorial Area Hedge

Despite the cold weather, members of the Gardening Group have been very busy! Last year the PC approved the group's proposal to reduce the height of the beech hedge between the Memorial area on Church Meadow and the Churchyard. The hedge had become overgrown and it was felt that the Memorial area had become too enclosed and dark. Reducing the height of the hedge would allow light, sun and air into the area, helping the plants to grow and providing a lovely visual link to our beautiful Church.

One sub-zero Saturday morning, members set to, and used pruning saws, loppers and secateurs to reduce the hedge and leave a neat level finish. The prunings were collected in two massive builders' bags and were then shredded by members. As we finished pruning, the sun shone through the frosty fog and illuminated the area, light which could not reach the area at all an hour previously!

Group members really enjoyed helping out with serving and washing up at the Senior's Christmas lunch which was a fabulous community collaboration.

Members are looking forward to our early season planning and social meet up, and we have trips planned to Thenford Arboretum and Kew Orchid Festival in February.

