



Nailstone Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held at Dove Bank Primary School at 7pm on Wednesday 27th March 2024

Present: L Harris (Chairman), S Barton, D Crane, H Darlington, A Harrison (Councillors), W J Crooks (Borough Councillor), 8 members of the public, K Bates (Parish Clerk), C J Peat (Locum Clerk).

Public session

054/2024 Questions and comments from members of the public

See Minute 057/2024 (a) below.

055/2024 Update from County Councillor B Harrison-Rushton

Cllr Harrison-Rushton **was thanked** for a report on LCC business. Flooding had caused serious problems in Leics, and work would be prioritised to deal with the worst affected areas first. Information was available from the LCC website.

Cllr Harrison-Rushton would like to hear from any young people who took advantage of the free bus travel scheme.

056/2024 Update from Borough Councillor W R Crooks

Cllr Crooks **was thanked** for a report on H&BBC business. Cllr Crooks had received complaints about HGV's travelling through the village at unsocial hours; parking on zig zag lines at Dove Bank Primary School; and flooding of paths in the Country Park. H&BBC still needed to allocate land for 2,000 additional houses. All new developments of 10 or more dwellings would have to provide a biodiversity net gain of 10%, which could be provided off-site.

057/2024 Updates from Community Groups and other organisations **a) Nailstone Gardening Group**

The Gardening Group explained the background to agenda items 064 and 065: the Group sought clarity and a documented decision on the future development and management of the Clock Bed in Church Meadow (034d/2024 refers). The Group had followed the procedures required by the PC, had advertised its proposals in the Newsletter without any objections from the public, and had now submitted revised proposals and an application for funding. The Chairman and Councillors Crane and Harrison explained that they had now received strong objections to the proposed replanting of the Clock Bed from residents who had created the current plantings, donated plants and devoted time and money to creating this bed. These Councillors considered that previous voluntary work and plantings should be respected and

conserved and that a programme of gradual enhancement was required. The PC was very appreciative of the work carried out by the Gardening Group, and anxious to involve the community in enhancing the village environment. **It was agreed** that discussions be held with all interested parties to try to arrive at a mutually acceptable way forward and that consideration of items 064 and 065 be deferred to the next meeting.

The Group **was congratulated** on the appearance of the recent bulb plantings (005/2024 refers).

b) Nailstone Community Group

Litter picking had been carried out by individuals and the proposed group event had been postponed and then cancelled (034a/2024 refers). A Race Night was being planned for 24th May.

c) Parochial Church Council

Bags of grass clippings had been left at the church gate for several days before being collected. **It was agreed** that the Clerk would ask the PCs' contractor not to leave bags of grass clippings for later collection.

The closed churchyard was being mowed on Saturdays, but the Clerk confirmed that the contractor would be happy to change this day if a wedding or other church event was planned for a Saturday. It would be helpful if notice of at least a week could be given.

d) Nailstone Footpath Group

The report made at the last meeting had been found to be incorrect – the kissing gate at the Nailstone end of footpath S47 had not been replaced by a stile, and this footpath was stile-free between Nailstone and Harry's Grave at Carlton (034c/2024).

Council business

058/2024 Apologies for absence from Councillors

There were none.

059/2024 Declarations of interests (including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) and requests for dispensations in respect of items on the agenda

There were none.

060/2024 Minutes of the meeting of 28th February 2024

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

061/2024 Updates from Councillors and the Clerk

The Clerk reported:

Church Meadow - a copy of the conveyance dated 28th March 1924 had kindly been provided by the Nailstone History Group and had been copied to all Councillors. **It was noted** that the conveyance had taken place exactly 100 years ago. Mrs Helen Chadwick, the current Trustee had been asked to transfer the Trusteeship to the Clerk (039/2024 refers).

Bagworth Road – damaged direction sign had been reported to LCC Highways (031/2024 refers).

Bagworth Road – fly tipping at lay-by near cross roads re-reported to H&BBC and cleared up shortly afterwards (031/2024 refers).

Bagworth Road – blocked gully and flood at SW quadrant of cross roads reported to LCC Highways.

Street lighting – Npower had been asked to update their inventory (039/2024 refers).

Wooden planters – had been removed from in front of the village nameplate on Barton Lane, and the triangle at the Main St/A447 junction. Both planters had been in poor condition.

Wood Lane – complaint about flooding made on 29th February investigated. Flooding was caused by the adjacent watercourse overflowing at a point where there is a dip in the road. On 22/3 LCC had notified the Clerk that the road had been closed until further notice due to unsafe carriageway conditions: this notice had been copied to the PC website and the village Facebook Group. The road had been re-opened, but would need to be closed again within the next 6 months for repairs to be carried out.

Cultivation licences – the validated licence for Occupation Rd/Main St had been received; the licence for the A447 crossroads was signed by the Chairman and would now be submitted to LCC (065/2023 refers).

H&BBC Rural Conference – the PC had been represented by the Clerk, and a report on the event copied to Councillors.

Bank mandate – had been signed and submitted. **It was noted** that any new signatory who did not have an account with HSBC Bank would have to attend a branch and provide personal identification before signing cheques.

Country Park – complaints had been made about flooding of the paths and poor drainage: H&BBC was requiring remedial works to be carried out.

062/2024 Update on the LCC Members Highways Fund (Bagworth Road Safety Scheme)

Two mounting posts for the MVAS were required. For post 1 the frontager had been out of contact; for post 2 two locations had been rejected by frontagers and a third location was under consideration. Cllr Barton kindly offered to contact the frontager about the siting of post 2.

063/2024 Insurance requirements prior to renewal

Apart from public and employer liabilities, the current insurance policy covered only street furniture to the value of £9,000 and the defibrillator cabinets. The seats, gazebo, notice board and play equipment in Church Meadow had not previously been insured, nor had the churchyard lych gate. The PCC had confirmed that the PC was responsible for the repair and maintenance of the lych gate. **It was noted** that there had been no vandalism or damage in Church Meadow so far, and the site was well overlooked. **It was resolved** that street furniture be insured for £9,300; that the lych gate be insured for an estimated rebuilding cost of £25k; and that the contents of Church Meadow not be insured.

064/2024 Proposal to rejuvenate the Clock Bed in Church Meadow

It was resolved that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

065/2024 Grant application from the Nailstone Gardening Group

It was resolved that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

066/2024 Supplementary submission to the application to register The Bulls Head as an Asset of Community Value

H&BBC had rejected the application submitted on 1st March, and had sent details of their evidence requirements (139/2023; 017/2024; 044/2024 refer). A draft reply to this letter, and a supplementary file of evidence had been prepared and copied to Councillors before the meeting. The Clerk **thanked** the Community Group for providing most of the evidence cited. **It was resolved** that the draft response be approved and submitted to H&BBC.

067/2024 Quotation for the repair of street lights

A request had been submitted to LCC Highways only, as they had also been asked to update their inventory and consider the adoption of selected lights (039/2024 refers). A reply had not yet been received. **It was resolved** that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

068/2024 Members Code of Conduct

A revised draft had been copied to Councillors before the meeting. **It was resolved** that the revised Code of Conduct be adopted.

069/2024 Publication Scheme

An updated Publication Scheme had been copied to Councillors before the meeting. **It was resolved** that the revised scheme be adopted with the addition of the postal addresses of Councillors.

070/2024 Data Protection Policy

A draft Data Protection Policy had been copied to Councillors before the meeting. **It was resolved** that the Data Protection Policy be adopted.

071/2024 Investment Strategy

Where the amount to be invested in any financial year is expected to exceed £100k, the PC must have regard to *Capital finance: guidance on local government investments* (MHCLG, 2018). Practical advice had been provided by LRALC and the Clerk to Ashby Town Council, and a draft Investment Strategy had been copied to Councillors before the meeting.

It was resolved that (i) the last paragraph of the draft strategy be replaced by the wording "Investments may be made in the HSBC Bank plc Business Money Manager Account, the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund and the Nationwide Building Society Business Savings account."; (ii) the revised draft be adopted; and (iii) the Clerk be authorised to prepare applications to open additional accounts when necessary for approval at a future meeting of the PC.

072/2024 Application to the H&BBC Community Equipment Grant Fund

It was proposed to seek 50% funding for the replacement of two stiles with kissing gates (064/2023 refers). This fund would go live on 1st April and on-line applications would be considered on a first come first served basis. It was therefore important for the application to be made promptly. One stile was at the northern end of footpath S49; the other was at the junction of footpaths R66 and Q83. The total cost of replacement had been estimated as £1,200 (Report 2024-04) but LCC RoW had advised that the cost to supply and install two gates had now increased to £1,600. **It was resolved** that the Clerk be authorised to make two applications, one for each of the locations listed above.

073/2024 Review of the Crown Farm Solar Farm project

Planning permission for the Crown Farm Solar Farm had been granted on 30th September 2015. A representative from Sunventures 4 Ltd had attended a PC meeting on 8th October 2015 and promised a Community Benefit Fund (56/2015 refers). The proposal had been discussed at three PC meetings (67/2015, 76/2015 and 80/22015). In March 2016 a representative from Sunventures 4 Ltd had attended the PC meeting with details of a Community Benefit Fund of £20k. A Memorandum of Understanding and Deed had been signed, and it had been confirmed that this agreement was a condition of the sale of the land and would ensure that the fund would remain in place if the lease should be sold (110/2016).

PC minutes record that the lease had been sold to Solarplicity (157/2016); the Clerk had been unable to secure the release of the Community Benefit Funding (173/2016, 188/2016 refer); and no further action had been taken. However, a searches at Companies House had revealed that Sunventures 4 Ltd (Company number 09520779) was incorporated on 1st April 2015 and was still trading. This company was a subsidiary of Solarplicity UC Holdings Ltd (09743249), which was in turn a subsidiary of Gravis Asset Holdings Ltd (10976455).

It was resolved that a letter be sent to Sunventures 4 Ltd to request payment of the promised community benefit funding.

074/2024 Donation to Carlton Parish Council

Dr Peat had agreed to act as Locum Clerk, and had requested that a donation be made to the Parish Amenities Fund of Carlton Parish Council instead of receiving a personal salary for this work. **It was resolved** that a donation of £1,800.00 be made to Carlton Parish Council.

075/2024 Purchase of a scanner/printer for use by the Clerk

The Clerk tabled specifications for A3 scanner/printers. **It was resolved** that the Clerk be authorised to purchase a Brother Eco-Pro MFC-J654ODWE all in one wireless inkjet printer; the purchase price of £199.99 be refunded when the order was placed; and the Clerk be advised to take out a supply contract for printer ink

076/2024 Invoices for payment

The RFO presented a bank reconciliation which was checked and bank statement 575 was signed (Minute 025/2024 refers).

It was resolved that the following invoices be paid:

		£.p
The Graphic	March Newsletter	125.00
C J Peat	Locum Clerk refund of costs	200.00
Carlton Parish Council	Donation for services of Locum Clerk	1800.00
Lexis Nexis	Arnold-Baker 13 th Ed*	160.89
Hinckley & Bosworth BC	Election recharge	77.40
K Bates	Clerk salary March	213.60
K Bates	Stationery	26.60
K Bates	Refund for printer scanner	199.99
Christmas Group	Materials for event**	55.91
TOTAL		2859.39

* reimbursement to CJ Peat

** reimbursement to T Brearley

077/2024 Planning applications submitted, comments submitted under delegated powers and applications determined

There were none.

078/2024 Time, date and place of the next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting be held at Dove Bank Primary School on Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed

Date

Abbreviations in these minutes

H&BBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council	LCC	Leicestershire County Council
LRALC	Leics & Rutland Ass. of Local Councils		
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government		
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		