



Nailstone Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held at All Saints Church, Nailstone at
7pm on Wednesday 31st July 2024

Present: L Harris (Chairman), S Barton, D Crane, H Darlington (Councillors), W J Crooks (Borough Councillor), 3 members of the public, K Bates (Parish Clerk), C J Peat (Locum Clerk).

Public session

158/2024 Questions and comments from members of the public

There were none.

159/2024 Update from County Councillor B Harrison-Rushton

Cllr Harrison-Rushton **was thanked** for a summary of recent LCC consultations and information about summer holiday events.

160/2024 Update from Borough Councillor W R Crooks

Cllr Crooks **was thanked** for a report on Borough Council services and notice of H&BBC summer events and grants. H&BBC had been awarded first place for planning excellence at the recent RTPi East Midlands award ceremony.

A Reg 18 consultation on the Local Plan had just begun, and would end on 27th September. This would be followed by a Reg 19 consultation early in the new year and submission by June 2025. H&BBC currently has a 5.6 year housing supply.

161/2024 Updates from Community Groups and other organisations

A PCC representative reported that the mound of rubbish in the churchyard had been cleared and levelled by the Gardening Group and other community volunteers (134/2023; 098/2023 refer). The new soakaway would be installed in this area.

The following events were planned:

14 Sept	MacMillan Coffee Morning; Ride & Stride
29 Nov	Wreath-making workshop
14 Dec	Children's party
18 Dec	Carol service
23 Dec	Songs around the tree

A Gardening Group representative reported that the Group had worked hard to clear around the Churchyard and the collaboration with the PCC had been beneficial.

A Footpath Group representative reported that a working party had been arranged to clear the Leicestershire Round (R66) at the weekend (139/2024 refers).

Council business

162/2024 Apologies for absence from Councillors

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

163/2024 Declarations of interests (including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) and requests for dispensations in respect of items on the Agenda

There were none.

164/2024 Minutes of the meeting of 19th June 2024

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

165/2024 Updates from Councillors and the Clerk

Cllr Crane remained disappointed by the standard of grass cutting (136/20124 refers). Although the grounds maintenance specification allowed for extra cuts, it was not clear how these would be arranged or paid for and Cllr Barton had kindly offered to review the terms of the contract. **It was resolved** that the Clerk arrange for an extra cut in August, that Cllr Barton and the Clerk liaise with the contractor, and that the grounds maintenance contract be reviewed at the next meeting.

Cllr Darlington reported that the September Newsletter would be issued later than usual, and would not be delivered with the Graphic.

The Chairman reiterated that the PC would be consulting with the community in future regarding the allocation of the Community Benefit funding.

The Clerk reported as follows:

External Audit – had been completed and notices had been posted on the noticeboards and uploaded to the website.

HSBC- HSBC had confirmed they had received the mandate and additional required documentation (143/2024 refers).

Redwood Bank – the PC's application to open a 95 day savings account had been accepted and a cheque for the initial deposit of £10,000 for had been signed by Councillors and submitted (128/2024 refers).

Letter to Mrs J Crane - a letter thanking Mrs Crane for her hard work in looking after the plantings on Church Meadow had been sent on behalf of the PC.

Church Meadow – the PC is Trustee of this Charity (Number 507878, Name: Recreation or Pleasure Ground, Nailstone), but a previous Parish Clerk had been registered as the only Trustee and had not responded to repeated requests for the log-on details and password for the Charity Commission website. The Clerk had written to the Charity Commission to request assistance with regularising and updating the trusteeship details and returns (061/2024 refers).

166/2024 Correspondence with H&BBC about the Bulls Head ACV application

The revised application (066/2024) had been rejected by H&BBC Planning on the grounds that use of the Bulls Head had ceased in 2016, and insufficient evidence had been submitted of community use in the period before this date (118/2024, 111/2024, 066/2024, 044/2024, 017/2024, 139/2023 refer). The PC had questioned this decision, but H&BBC had reiterated the need for more information about historic community uses. This information was not available, and had probably not been preserved. **It was noted** that if community uses recommenced when the pub re-opened, a new application might be prepared. **It was resolved** that no further action be taken, and that the applications submitted by the PC and the related correspondence be uploaded to the PC website.

167/2024 Planning applications submitted

There were none.

168/2024 Comments submitted under delegated powers and applications determined

24/00623/HOU Installation of 10KW air source pump. 123 Barton Lane.
PC made no comment.

24/00437/LBC Replacement of three sash windows, on the upper floor of the front elevation of the house, with three casement windows. Elmside Farm, Barton Lane. Permitted.

24/00487/HOU Single storey rear extension and addition of rear dormers (including the demolition of existing conservatory). 97 Main Street. Permitted

169/2024 Protocol for communication between the PC (as employer) and Hames Partnership (as payroll administrator)

It was resolved that the Chairman or Vice-Chairman (as employer) be authorised to take appropriate and prompt action with Hames Partnership (as payroll administrator) to resolve any problems concerning payroll experienced by the Clerk; and that the Clerk should notify the Chairman or Vice Chairman of any problems and not contact Hames Partnership directly.

170/2024 Invitation to the LCC Health Inequalities Officer to attend the next meeting

The LCC Health Inequalities Officer wished to make contact with the community. **It was resolved** that this Officer be invited to address the next meeting for 10 minutes.

171/2024 Quotations for the repair of street lights

LCC Highways had confirmed that the street lights would be surveyed and that quotations for their repair and a maintenance contract would be provided (145/2024 refers). This information had still not been forthcoming, in spite of reminders. **It was resolved** that this item be deferred.

172/2024 Quotations for the repair of the Pit Wheel Memorial plinth

Quotations for re-pointing the brickwork and re-setting the capstones had been received from Mr R Johnson for £465 and Mr N Pennelli for £320. Mr Pennelli had advised that the bricks were not suitable and had quoted £1,020 to re-build the plinth. It was noted that the plinth had been in place for 20 years, and it was hoped that the brickwork would last for another 20 if re-pointed.

It was resolved that the quotation from Mr Pennelli be accepted, and that he be asked to apply a coat of sealant to the brickwork if this could be done for less than £50.

173/2024 Contract for the provision of PC email accounts

The PC's previous email host 2-commune had ceased trading and been taken over by Cuttlefish Ltd. Cuttlefish had been asked to provide a quote for the hosting of emails only (not website). Cllr Darlington had researched like for like alternatives and had found Cuttlefish to be cheaper than other providers. **It was resolved** that the Clerk be authorised to accept the new 12-month contract with Cuttlefish and pay the invoice amount of £282.00.

174/2024 Updated quotations for the electricity supply to Church Meadow

In December 2023 the project cost had been estimated to be £11,103.52 comprising £5,628.52 National Grid connection, £4,025.00 cabinet installation and £1,450.00 contingency (015/2024 refers), and a grant of £5,552.00 had been offered by H&BBC on the basis of these figures (143/2024 refers).

An updated quotation of £7,270.58 had been received from National Grid for the connection, an increase of more than 5% (143/2024 refers). The Clerk had arranged a site meeting with KLB Electrical for 5th August in order to obtain an updated quote.

It was resolved that an additional quotation for the grid connection be sought from a Distribution Network Operator, and that quotations be considered at the next meeting.

175/2024 Quotations for the repair of the play equipment in Church Meadow

Local carpenters had been unable to quote for the repair because of the tamper-proof fixings (152/2024 refers). The original suppliers – Outdoor Play People – had been asked for quotations for supply only and supply and install but had not yet responded.

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

176/2024 Project proposal from the Market Bosworth Rotary Club

Market Bosworth Rotary Club had offered to re-paint the bench seats in the Parish, if the PC would provide the necessary materials. The Rotary Club had provided a copy of its risk assessment, a schedule of the proposed works, and a copy of its certificate of insurance. A list of materials had been copied to Councillors before the meeting. **It was resolved** that this kind offer be accepted, and that the Clerk be authorised to purchase the necessary materials up to a total cost of £250.00 with immediate reimbursement to be supported by receipts presented to the next meeting.

177/2024 Report 2024-09: Restoration of the church lych gate

This Report was considered, but the recommendations in it were not approved in full. **It was resolved** that

- (i) the Lawsons cypress tree nearest to the lych gate be removed, subject to the agreement of the PCC and H&BBC;
- (ii) the Gardening Group be asked to reduce the level of the ground along the church side of the lych gate to below the base of the stone cills, subject to the agreement of the PCC;
- (iii) the gates be treated with tung oil;
- (iv) specifications for the works to the lych gate and retaining wall be sought from specialist contractors for approval by the PC, and the Clerk be authorised to seek specialist advice if necessary;
- (v) a Faculty application for works to the lych gate and retaining wall be prepared and submitted as soon as possible;
- (vi) quotations for the works to the lych gate be sought for consideration at the October PC meeting;
- (vii) grant applications be prepared for the H&BBC Environmental Improvement Programme in 2025, and other sources of funding as appropriate;
- (viii) the re-pointing of the lychgate brickwork and repair of the adjacent retaining wall be deferred until 2026.

It was envisaged that the budget for the project would be developed at the end of 2024, and that the works would commence in summer 2025, subject to funding and the necessary approvals being in place.

178/2024 Venue for future Parish Council meetings

Dove Bank Primary School was no longer available during school holidays, and the caretaking fee had increased. However, the school hall could provide more suitable accommodation if a large number of members of the public were expected to attend.

It was resolved that future meetings would normally be held in the church at a cost of £25/session.

179/2024 Update on the LCC Members Highways Fund (Bagworth Road Safety Scheme)

LCC Highways had advised that the mounting posts and new 30mph signage would be installed on 2nd August.

180/2024 Monitoring reports on Stoneshollow Solar Farm

Cllr Barton reported that 31 incidents had been logged between 25/4 and 6/7 and because of the number of serious incidents and concerns about public safety, on 6/7 (i) a letter of complaint and the log had been sent to the Planning Compliance Officer at Ethical Power; (ii) a breach of planning conditions complaint had been submitted to the Local Planning Authority (H&BBC); and (iii) a breach of Health and Safety conditions complaint had been submitted to the Health and Safety Executive. These actions were **endorsed**.

The Planning Compliance Manager at Ethical Power had sent a detailed response stating that the issues raised had been addressed. The LPA had reported that the Planning Enforcement Officer at H&BBC had visited the site and given advice, and that further reports of violations should be reported to the HSE. The HSE had advised that the information provided by the PC was being kept on their files to better direct future interventions.

Cllr Barton reported that since 6/7 a further 12 incidents had been logged, but that the site could now be considered secure. The Monitoring Group **was thanked** for its work, which would continue (121/2024 refers).

It was resolved that the Planning Compliance Manager for Ethical Power be thanked for his response, and advised that monitoring would continue.

181/2024 Monitoring reports on the play equipment

The inspection log was examined, and no new issues were identified (154/2024 refers).

182/2024 Invoices for payment

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

It was resolved that the following invoices be paid:

		£.p
K Bates	Clerk's Salary July	267.00
K Bates	Brother Ink – overage printing	18.69
The Graphic	Newsletter printing June 2024	220.00
Hames Partnership	Payroll June 2024	34.20
Life MAT	Hire of Dovebank School (8 meetings)	240.00
T Harrison	Defib4life defibrillator pads	106.80
Moore LLP	External audit	252.00
Cuttlefish	Provision of emails (173/2024 above)	282.00
Total		1,420.69

183/2024 Time, date and place of the next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 28th August 2024 at 7 pm at All Saints Church, Church Road, Nailstone.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Abbreviations in these minutes

H&BBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council	LCC	Leicestershire County Council
NGG	Nailstone Gardening Group	NHT	National Highways & Transport
PC	Parish Council	PCC	Parochial Church Council
P&CIF	Parish & Community Initiatives Fund	RoSPA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
RTPI	Royal Town Planning Institute		