



## **Nailstone Parish Council**

Minutes of a meeting held in All Saints Church at  
7pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Present: L Harris (Chairman), S Barton, D Crane, T Harrison (Councillors), W J Crooks (Borough Councillor), 5 members of the public, K Bates (Parish Clerk), C J Peat (Locum Clerk).

### **Public session**

#### **184/2024 Presentation from the LCC Health Inequalities Officer**

The Health Inequalities Officer had sent apologies and was unable to attend. An invitation had been extended for the September PC meeting.

#### **185/2024 Questions and comments from members of the public**

Four members of the public raised concerns regarding the maintenance of the open churchyard. Reports were that hedges and grass to the West and North were overgrown, tree roots were affecting headstones, urns placed on graves had been broken and flowers shredded by strimming on several occasions. It was agreed that the Clerk would pass on these concerns to the Churchwarden as the maintenance of the open churchyard is the responsibility of the PCC. The Clerk would confirm to the member of the public that this had been actioned.

#### **186/2024 Update from County Councillor B Harrison-Rushton**

There was none.

#### **187/2024 Update from Borough Councillor W R Crooks**

Cllr Crooks was thanked for an update on Borough Council business, which included the cost of garden waste bins (£42.50pa), improvements to H&BBC housing stock and an update on alternative fuel for Council vehicles. The first consultation meeting of the Local Plan at Newbold Verdon had been poorly attended.

A planning application on the edge of Barlestone/Osbaston for an initial 55 houses had been approved, but an amended application had been deferred as the garden land allocated did not meet minimum standards.

## **188/2024 Updates from Community Groups and other organisations**

Nailstone Footpath Group – a written report detailed that a bridge on footpath S44 had been repaired (034/2024 (c) refers). A report had been sent to LCC regarding footpath s48 being overgrown and unidentifiable.

Four members of the public left the meeting at this point.

### **Council business**

## **189/2024 Apologies for absence from Councillors**

**It was resolved** that an apology from Cllr Darlington be accepted.

## **190/2024 Declarations of interests (including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) and requests for dispensations in respect of items on the Agenda**

There were none.

## **191/2024 Minutes of the meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

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

## **192/2024 Updates from Councillors and the Clerk**

**HSBC**- HSBC had confirmed they had received the updated mandate and additional required documentation (143/2024 refers). HSBC had subsequently refused to pay a cheque on the grounds that one of the signatories was not on the current mandate. This matter would be dealt with by one of the original signatories.

**Redwood Bank** – A replacement cheque for the initial deposit of £10,000 for had been signed by Councillors, submitted and the money deposited. (128/2024 refers).

**County Record Office** – Signed PC minutes from 26.7.1995 to 9.3.2017 had been deposited on permanent loan under accession number DE10793 (048/2024 refers).

**Rotary benches** – A site visit with the Rotary regarding refurbishment of benches on Church Meadow and in the Closed Churchyard had taken place and the refurbishment work had been completed on 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August. The PCC **was thanked** for opening the Church for the volunteers. **It was agreed** that the Clerk would send a message of thanks to the Rotary on behalf of the PC.

**Vero's Lane** – a parishioner had complained that the verges in Vero's Lane had not been cut, and that vegetation was overhanging the road. The complaint had been forwarded to LCC Highways. An update on the complaint would be sought for the September PC meeting.

**Church Meadow** – a bough had broken off one of the oak trees in the recent storm. It was found to have plasticised rope tied around it and the tree had overgrown this, weakening the bough. The Gardening Group **were thanked** for moving the bough to a safe area in Church Meadow and arranging for a volunteer to clear the wood.

**Clerk training** – the Clerk had completed Clerk's 1 training on 28<sup>th</sup> August. Clerk's 2 and 3 were booked for October 2024.

### **193/2024 Planning applications submitted**

There were none.

### **194/2024 Comments submitted under delegated powers and applications determined**

**24/00708/CONDIT** Variation/removal of conditions 9 (WSI), 10 (Site Investigation and Post Investigation Assessment), 12 (occupation of sixth dwelling) of planning permission 18/01288/FUL. The Bulls Head 88 Main Street. PC had no objections.

### **195/2024 Tree Survey**

**It was noted** that the trees in Church Meadow and the Closed Churchyard had not been surveyed for some years. The trees in the middle of Church Meadow had begun to shade out the grass, those along the western boundary were leggy and some roots were affecting memorials in the open churchyard, and some trees and shrubs in the southern border were not appropriate for the site. The pair of Lawson's cypress in the closed churchyard were getting tall, and laurels along the eastern boundary had become rampant. These areas were both within the Conservation Area.

**It was resolved** that (a) a quotation for a scope of works be sought from Eden Trees as a former contractor and thereafter the scope of works be tendered and (b) the PCC be approached to offer the opportunity of the Open Churchyard trees being surveyed for a scope of works at the same visit.

### **196/2024 Civility and Respect Pledge**

The PC had been invited to adopt The Civility and Respect Pledge, an initiative promoted by the NALC, and this had been copied to Councillors. As part of the initiative the PC would be required to have a dignity at work policy and a training schedule for Councillors. **It was resolved** that (a) the NALC Dignity at Work policy be circulated to Councillors for consideration; (b) a list of training available from LRALC be circulated to Councillors; and (c) The Civility and Respect Pledge be considered at a future meeting.

### **197/2024 Quotations for the repair of street lights**

The PC was awaiting a quotation from LCC for the repairs required. LCC had advised that it would be more cost-effective in the long term to replace the existing lamps with LED fittings. The existing light outside Grange Cottages had not worked for many years and the column was in very poor condition and required replacement at an estimated cost of £2,500.

**It was resolved** that (a) the street lighting column outside Grange Cottages be disconnected and the Clerk to request a cost for both disconnection and disconnection and removal from LCC and (b) the Clerk to communicate this to the residents nearest once all information was available.

### **198/2024 Service Level Agreement for street lighting**

LCC had provided the PC with a multi option draft Service Level Agreement for the maintenance of the street lighting owned by the PC. The PC was awaiting a quotation from LCC for the required repair works. **It was resolved** that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

### **199/2024 Revisions to the Grounds Maintenance Contract**

Grounds maintenance had not been up to the usual standard, and it was considered that the contract required revision. Councillor Barton **was thanked** for drafting both a revised standard and variation specification which had been circulated to Councillors. **It was resolved** that (a) the contractor be consulted about the proposed changes; (b) the Clerk and Cllr Barton be authorised to instruct the contractor for an additional grass cut when necessary; and (c) prices for the variation specification be sought from the contractor.

### **200/2024 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).

A site visit had been held with KLB electrical to secure an updated quotation for the works within the PC's responsibility. Councillor Crane **was thanked** for attending with the Clerk. Councillor Barton **was thanked** for attempting to secure a competitive quotation for the highway works.

**It was resolved** that (a) the updated quotation of £5.070 incl VAT from KLB be accepted; and (b) the updated quotation of £7270.50 incl VAT from National Grid be accepted.

### **201/2024 Quotations for the repair of the play equipment in Church Meadow**

A quotation from the manufacturers for repair of the rotten wood on the equipment had been provided, £562 plus VAT (£674.40 total) for supply and £1,123 plus VAT (£1347.60 total) for supply and fit. It would be acceptable for the existing tamper-proof fixings to be replaced by capped coach bolts.

**It was resolved** that the Clerk be authorised to seek quotations from local carpenters for the replacement of the rotten wood.

### **202/2024 Update on the LCC Members Highways Fund (Bagworth Road Safety Scheme)**

The mounting posts for the MVAS had been installed on Bagworth Road and Main Street. LCC advised that the updated 30mph speed signs would be installed later in the month of August as one had arrived damaged. The MVAS unit was ready for installation and the Clerk had requested a mutually convenient appointment for this.

**It was resolved** that the Clerk ask Mrs T Brearley if she would be willing to prepare a risk assessment for the movement of the MVAS from post to post.

### **203/2024 Lych gate restoration project**

A list of the joinery works required had been prepared and copied to Councillors (177/2024 (iv) refers), but this investigation had revealed extensive rot in the northern cill beam, and shown that the structure was leaning towards the church. Because of concerns about the stability of the structure, a local specialist joiner had been asked to carry out an inspection and had advised that temporary softwood side timbers be installed to stabilise the structure until repairs could be carried out.

**It was resolved** that temporary softwood side timbers be installed without delay to ensure the stability of the structure.

The joiner had suggested that the rotten cill beams be replaced by raising the structure by about 6mm, sliding new green oak beams into place from the side, and then scarfing in and pegging a covering section of the beam for the tenons. The replacement of the missing side panel and rail, soffit and mouldings would be straightforward. An indicative price of £3,467 had been given for these works, but it was not clear whether this included both cill beams.

**It was resolved** that (a) the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk meet with the joiner on site to discuss the repairs, agree a detailed specification for the works, and obtain a quotation for consideration at the next meeting; and (b) that the Churchwardens be invited to join the site meeting.

### **204/2024 Monitoring report on Stoneshollow Solar Farm**

Cllr Barton reported that (a) there had been 13 entries in the monitoring log since the last meeting, most of which were routine; (b) the entries included one report of a near miss with a site vehicle at the beginning of August, but this was the only serious incident; (c) the banksman's cabin had been re-sited which allowed a more effective view of the PROW and vehicle movements, (d) stored fencing fixings had now been removed from the grass adjacent to the PROW. The Monitoring Group **were thanked** for their correspondence with H&BBC and site liaison on these matters.

### **205/2024 Monitoring report on the play equipment**

The inspection logbook was presented to the PC for examination and no new issues were identified (154/2024 refers). Ms L Julian had advised that she was no longer able to carry out the inspections and Ms Julian **was thanked** for her efforts. **It was resolved** that (a) Cllr Harrison would carry out fortnightly inspections on a temporary basis and the logbook be presented at each meeting and (b) the Clerk enquire if members of the public would be willing to carry out this task.

## 206/2024 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 August	267.00
Hames Partnership	Payroll services August	34.20
		<b>301.20</b>

## 207/202 Time, date and place of the next meeting

**It was resolved** that the next meeting be held on 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in All Saints Church.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

**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	PC	Parish Council