



## Nailstone Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held at Dove Bank Primary School at  
7pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Present: L Harris (Chairman), S Barton, D Crane, T Harrison (Councillors),  
W J Crooks (Borough Councillor), 10 members of the public,  
K Bates (Parish Clerk), C J Peat (Locum Clerk).

### Public session

#### **079/2024 Questions and comments from members of the public**

Questions were asked about the Stones Hollow Solar Farm and the MVAS, both of which were answered in agenda items below.

A complaint was made that vehicles had begun parking on the grass verges around the Bagworth Road/B582/B585 cross roads. These verges were visibility splays at this busy junction and should not be obstructed. The complainant was advised that this was a Police matter, but it was unlikely that action would be taken unless safety became seriously compromised.

#### **080/2024 Update from County Councillor B Harrison-Rushton**

No update had been received.

#### **081/2024 Update from Borough Councillor W R Crooks**

Cllr Crooks reported that PALL-EX were planning to build a new operations centre with greater capacity nearer to Bagworth.

The grass in the centre of the Oval had been left uncut, and a notice had been erected to say that this was to encourage wild flowers. Cllr Crooks was asked to find out whether this was part of the *No Mow May* project or more permanent.

#### **082/2024 Updates from Community Groups and other organisations**

The Community Group was planning to buy a gazebo (see 090/2024 below). D-Day would be celebrated by a display in the church on 6<sup>th</sup> June; a working party had been organised for 15<sup>th</sup> June at 10am to clear weeds and rubbish from the heap in the churchyard (098 & 133/2023 refer ); a Race Night was planned but it was proving difficult to book a suitable venue.

The Footpath Group complained that RoW across the Stones Hollow Solar Farm were not clearly defined, and that warning signs had not been put up where access routes crossed them. **It was resolved** that the Traffic Management Plan be examined, and

that Cllr Harrison would walk the site, bring any issues to the attention of the Site Manager, and report to the next meeting.

### **Council business**

#### **083/2024 Apologies for absence from Councillors**

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

#### **084/2024 Declarations of interests (including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) and requests for dispensations in respect of items on the agenda**

There were none.

#### **085/2024 Minutes of the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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

#### **086/2024 Updates from Councillors and the Clerk**

The Chairman was very pleased to report that the Council was now in receipt of the £180,000 community benefit fund provided by JBM Solar. The funds are currently held in the HSBC savings account and tranches will be transferred into two new secure accounts where we can benefit from growth interest.

Given the significance of this opportunity we are looking to prepare a strategic investment plan, and will consult and advise the Parish at every milestone.

This is an exciting opportunity for the village and we look forward to making a long term impact for the legacy of the Nailstone community.

I would like to thank all those that attended the consultation meetings with JBM enabling us to achieve the community fund. We are looking to create a long term relationship with JBM through the construction and operation of the solar farm and hopefully encourage them to be a long term investor in Nailstone.

The Clerk reported as follows:

**Council Tax 2024-25** - the Band D Council Tax for Nailstone would be £2196.40. Out of 24 PCs and the Hinckley Urban area, 10 had a higher Council Tax than Nailstone.

**Bulls Head ACV** - the PC's application had been validated by H&BBC, and will be determined by 29<sup>th</sup> May (066/2024 refers).

**Street lighting** - NPower had requested a s38 Certificate from LCC; LCC had advised that it did not provide s38 certificates but had confirmed that it owned and operated the 3 street lights in question. This letter had been forwarded to NPower (061/2024, 039/2024 refer).

**Village Watch signs** - have been erected at the western end of Main Street and at the eastern edge of the built development on Bagworth Road (045/2024 refers).

**Highways work** - white road markings in the village had been refreshed. Cllr Harrison-Rushton **was thanked** for supporting the PCs request (032/2023 refers).

**H&BBC Community Equipment grant fund** - the grant conditions had been published after the last meeting (072/2024 refers), and in these a kissing gate was classified as a 'miscellaneous item' and only one could be applied for. An application for £400 for one kissing gate at the northern end of footpath S49 had been approved; the landowner had agreed to the change; and an order had been placed with LCC RoW. **It was resolved** that an application for the replacement of the stile at the junction of footpaths R66 and Q83 be made in the next grant round.

**Crown Farm** - Cllr Barton **was thanked** for reviewing planning application 15/00283/FUL and confirming that no new footpaths or bridleways had been proposed as part of this development.

**Country Park** - some drainage works had been carried out since the last meeting; the situation would be kept under review (061/2024 refers).

**Website** - the Clerk thanked Cllr Darlington for her assistance with uploading documents and updating the new PC website.

**Main Street** - a verbal complaint had been received about a hedge obstructing the footway in front of number 34. Cllr Harrison kindly volunteered to visit the owner of the property to request that the hedge be cut back.

**Market Bosworth Rotary Club** - had offered to help with manual projects in the Parish. The repainting of seats, cleaning of the church railings, cleaning road and street signs, and additional bulb plantings **were suggested** as possible projects.

#### **087/2024 Update on the LCC Members Highways Fund (Bagworth Road Safety Scheme)**

It had not been possible to contact the frontager for mounting post 1 for the MVAS; the frontager for the third location for post 2 had consented to the installation, and Cllr Barton **was thanked** for undertaking this consultation (062/2024 refers). The Clerk confirmed that the MVAS would be ordered and LCC Highways would be asked to erect the posts and other signage as soon as the consent of frontager 1 had been obtained.

#### **088/2024 Proposal to rejuvenate the Clock Bed in Church Meadow**

Discussions had been held with the interested parties, and it had been agreed that those plants in the Clock Bed with strong sentimental value and personal associations could be moved into private gardens (/2024 refers). **It was resolved** that the proposals for re-development of the Clock Bed put forward by the NGG be approved on condition that records be kept of the plantings and the maintenance required. Voting: for - Cllrs Barton & Harris; abstain - Cllrs Crane & Harrison.

#### **089/2024 Grant application from the Nailstone Gardening Group**

**It was resolved** that an application from the NGG for £553.34 for plants for the Clock Bed be approved and that expenditure would be reimbursed on production of VAT invoices. The invoices should be addressed to Nailstone Parish Council if possible.

#### **090/2024 Grant application from the Nailstone Community Group**

The NCG proposed to purchase a new 6m x 3m steel-framed gazebo for use at community events at a cost of £655.09. The Group had been awarded a grant of £327.54 from the H&BBC Community Equipment Grant Fund, and had applied for a

grant of £180 from the PC. Since this gazebo would be made available to the PC and other groups, **it was resolved** that a grant of £327.00 be awarded.

**091/2024 Quotation for the repair of street lights**

A quotation had not yet been received (067/2024 refers). **It was resolved** that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

**092/2024 Training course for all Councillors and the Clerk**

**It was resolved** that LRALC be asked to provide a bespoke training course for all Councillors and the Clerk at the Chairman's house at 7pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June at an estimated cost of £210.00 plus mileage.

**093/2024 Clerk training courses**

**It was resolved** that the Clerk be authorised to book places on the Clerk 1, Clerk 2 and Clerk 3 training courses provided by LRALC at an estimated cost of £150.

**094/2024 Opening of accounts with the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund and the Nationwide Building Society**

**It was resolved** that a Business Savings account be opened with the Nationwide Building Society; that this account be linked only to the HSBS Business current account; that this account be managed by the RFO; and that deposits be made by cheque up to a total of £85k.

**It was resolved** that an account be opened with the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund and that the account be operated by post; linked to the HSBC Business Money Manager account; interest and dividends be paid to the HSBC Business Current account; the account manager be the Clerk; the account be operated by any two of the authorised signatories; the authorised signatories be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Cllrs Barton and Crane; an initial deposit of £25k be made by cheque. An application and mandate form was completed and signed at the meeting

**095/2024 Receipts & Payments Cash Book and bank reconciliation for the financial year 2023-24**

The bank reconciliation was checked against the relevant bank statements and **it was resolved** that the Receipts & Payments Cash Book be approved.

**096/2024 Report 2024-05: Summary financial statement for the financial year 2023-24**

**It was resolved** that Report 2024-05 be approved.

**097/2024 Report 2024-06: Register of fixed assets held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

This Register had been revised: some items which were not fixed assets had been removed and previously unlisted fixed assets added. Some of the listed valuations were queried. The Clerk explained that the *Practitioners Guide* recommended that assets be listed at their book value, and this had been done as far as possible - for example, the

value of Church Meadow was listed as £100, which was the purchase price in 1924. Other items had been listed with a nominal value of £1, others at their insured value. **It was resolved** that Report 2024-06 be approved.

#### **098/2024 Internal Auditor's report for the financial year 2023-24**

In 2023 it had been resolved that TC Group be appointed Internal Auditors for 2023-24, but the appointment had not been made (005/2023 refers). Mrs Brearley had kindly agreed to carry out this work on the same terms as agreed for 2024-25 (026/2024 refers). The Internal Audit Report (Objective L) stated that the required documentation had not been published. The Clerk confirmed that the information would be published as soon as the reports had been signed and approved by the PC.

The Internal Auditor had suggested that a monthly limit might be imposed on payments as an additional protection against fraud. This was considered impractical, and it was also noted that the maximum sum at risk would be £45k which was more than covered by insurance.

**It was resolved** that the Internal Auditors report be accepted.

#### **099/2024 Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2023-24**

Statements 1-8 of the Annual Governance Statement were considered and answered in the affirmative, and the Statement was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

#### **100/2024 Accounting Statements for the financial year 2023-24**

The Accounting Statements, signed by the RFO, were presented. **It was resolved** that they be approved and they were signed by the Chairman.

#### **101/2024 Explanation of variances**

**It was resolved** that the explanation of variances be approved.

#### **102/2024 Breakdown of reserves held**

**It was resolved** that the statement of PC reserves be approved.

#### **103/2024 Dates for the period of public rights**

**It was resolved** that the accounts and supporting documentation be made available for public inspection at 46 Main Street from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July inclusive. The Clerk noted that in practice questions about the accounts could be asked at any time.

#### **104/2024 Invoices for payment**

The RFO presented a bank reconciliation which was checked and bank statement 576 was signed (Minute 025/2024 refers).

**It was resolved** that the following invoices be paid:

		<b>£.p</b>
K Bates	Clerk's Salary April 2024	213.60
K Bates	Stationery refund	2.95
K Bates	Stationery refund	13.50
LRALC	LRALC and NALC membership 2024-25	338.43
The Graphic	March Newsletter printing and delivery	85.00
T Brearley	Internal Auditor fee 2023-24	50.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>703.48</b>

### **105/2024 Planning applications submitted**

**24/00286/OUT** Outline planning permission (access only) for the erection of a single dwelling (C3 self-build). Land SW of Pinewood, Overton Rd, Ibstock. **It was resolved** that the PC object to this application on the grounds that (i) the construction of a dwelling in this site would be contrary to Policy DM4 of the Local Plan; and (ii) the additional access is unnecessary.

**24/00352/FUL** Erection of substation. Crown Farm, Bagworth Rd. **It was resolved** that the PC had no objections to this application.

### **106/2024 Comments submitted under delegated powers and applications Determined**

There were none.

### **107/2024 Changes in venue and costs for meetings in May, July and August**

Dove Bank Primary School would be closed on the dates proposed for PC meetings on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 31<sup>st</sup> July and 28<sup>th</sup> August. **It was resolved** that these meetings be held in All Saints Church at a cost of £25 per meeting.

### **108/2024 Time, date and place of the next meeting**

**It was resolved** that the Annual Parish Meeting be held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.00pm at All Saint's Parish Church to be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

**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
NCG	Nailstone Community Group	NGG	Nailstone Gardening Group
PC	Parish Council		