

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
of the Parish of Nailstone, held at 7pm on Wednesday 28th May 2025 at All Saints
Church.

Present: L Harris, (Chair) Cllr D Crane, Cllr H Darlington, Clerk K Bates, County Cllr Melen, Borough Cllr W J Crooks, 6 members of the public.

**001/2025 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Wednesday 29th May 2024**

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

**002/2025 To receive the annual report from the Chair and Cllrs of Nailstone
Parish Council**

Chair's report:

On behalf of Nailstone Parish Council I am proud to share some of the successful achievements and outcomes we have attained over the past 12 months. Following extensive negotiations and contractual reviews with Stoneshollow Solar Development we received £180,000 for our community. We now look for inspirational ideas to maximise the benefit to all Nailstone.

We installed a new electricity supply into Church Meadow, allowing it to be more flexible for community events and Christmas celebrations.

We secured funding for the supply and installation of a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (speed sign), later upgraded to solar power, using green energy to invite our transiting drivers to take care of their speed in our village.

Complex repairs on the Lych Gate were completed, forming a safe entrance to our Church.

A 50% match funding grant was achieved for upgrading the street lighting to LED with more efficient fittings, A new kissing gate was installed to replace a wooden stile, and we are currently in the process of replacing the remaining wooden stile in the village, making our footpaths safer and more accessible.

The PC managed the installation of the solar development, monitoring safety, access and egress and general consideration of the contractors. In collaboration with the Rotary we repaired and repainted benches throughout the village.

We enjoyed the contribution and commitment of former Cllr Barton, who assisted with planning matters, developing the grounds maintenance contract and managing the interface with contractors and officers relating to Stoneshollow.

We welcomed Cllr Darlington to the PC and she has successfully transformed our Parish Newsletter as well as building our new website.

Thank you.

We supported the Nailstone Gardening group to deliver and maintain schemes in Church Meadow, including two of our flower beds and installation of the 'enchanted pathway' made from waste from the tree maintenance work. The Group also patterned our village with an array of colourful bulbs and opened up long forgotten pathways.

We also would like to thank Chris Peat, the Clerk for Carlton PC for stepping in and supporting Nailstone, bringing many years of experience and knowledge, we thank Kerry Bates for joining our team and leading us as Parish Clerk, investing in training and development with the aim to return the General Power of Competence to our Council.

We supported the Community Group in purchasing a gazebo for village events and worked with the Church community and Council, collaborating on key events including Christmas and VE Day.

Thank you for the support and guidance of our resident footpath warden Deryck Senior for passionately protecting and improving our privileged Rights of Way.

A thank you to all the community groups, including the W.I. and the History Group for bringing the community together in collaboration and spirit.

I would like to personally thank Derek Crane for years of knowledge, experience and commitment to our Council and our Vice Chair Tony Harrison for keeping the cogs turning, completing the details that make the applications and improvements to our village entirely possible.

Special thanks to our local Borough Cllr Bill Crooks who has attended nearly all our meetings, no matter how late his previous engagements have been. His presence and contribution have been warmly received and always makes us smile. Thank you, Bill.

The future is exciting, we have the opportunity to invest in our village, strengthen our groups, form new bonds and hopefully look back this time next year and celebrate our successes together.

Cllr Crane reflected on this year's H&BBC Rural Conference and looked forward to attending the next Rural Conference.

Cllr Darlington reflected on enjoyment of the teamwork over the previous year and looked forward to the outcome of the Community Consultation and the use of the Community Benefit Funding to benefit the village.

003/2025 To receive annual reports from community organisations

Nailstone Community Group

In the last year the Community Group has collaborated on Christmas and Easter events with the Church which were a success. The group is planning to move to less formal meetings and sees its role as an umbrella group for the other subgroups. The group has enjoyed imagining and suggesting potential uses for the Stoneshollow Community Benefit Funding to the PC and looks forward to the outcome of the Community consultation questionnaire.

PCC

The Churchwarden's report highlighted the recent drainage works that have been completed on the north side of the Church, the soakaway has been dug and installed, and vegetation has been cleared from the steeple. The village came together to clear the land under the Horse Chestnut tree to allow the soakaway to be dug. Future planned works include interior works to the North side of the Church. The Church is well used and holds 8 regular events through the month plus extra events such as the Village Show and Wreath Making. Last winter the coffee morning was successful in obtaining a Warm Spaces grant. The Churchwarden highlighted the Church's positive relationship primary school. On 19th June Historic England and the Diocese will be meeting at the Church to look at the 3-stage renewal process, including stage1 – kitchen renewal, stage 2 - lighting and heating and stage 3 - further interior works. A new Rector has started in the Benefice and the PCC has applied for a retrospective faculty regarding interment of cremated remains.

Gardening Group

A particular success in the past year was the Wreath Making event, two sessions were held and raised a total of £750 for the group to use on planting projects in the village. The Centenary bed has settled in better than expected and is a bed planned for later season colour. The Rock bed is planned for early season colour and in its third year some of the plants now need dividing. The Churchyard bed takes a little more care due to nearby invasive couch grass but is still full of colour. 1200 additional bulbs were planted in Autumn 2024 to add to the 5000 the previous year. The post-box path is now cleared, with a special thank you to Jason Howarth. The group has enjoyed working collaboratively with the Church to care for the Churchyard bed and brick gutters and with the PC on maintaining areas of Church Meadow. The group has also enjoyed contributing to other

village events and lending their 'manpower' to events such as the Seniors lunch and VE Day 80. The group is very supportive of its members who are very generous with their time. There have been many socials and outings, to Kew, Oxford, Cambridge, Thenford and Birmingham as well as local events.

Book Group

Book Group continues to meet monthly in members houses. There are 15 members but there is usually someone absent with a usual number of about 10 attending. Every other month there is a topic though the 'Poetry' topic is a fixture in September. We have 'free reading' in December as everyone is so busy and in January we go for a meal and in January this year we did a 'potluck' and selected a wrapped book. Other topics this last 12 months have included a book with an animal as a main character, inspired by a work of art, a romance of your choice, a book set on an island. The book we hated the most was 'The Queen and I' by Sue Townshend – most people disliked this, and we thought it very dated. A surprise was how many really liked the Cormoran Strike books by Robert Galbraith, despite having seen them on TV. Many books get swapped and passed around and attending the group really broadens our reading.

History Group

There are 9 people in History Group. Our project last year was to carry on with the recording of the memorials in the Closed Churchyard. These have now been entered onto a database which can be searched. Some interesting memorials have been found including one to a girl who was the daughter of the schoolteachers, whose classmates got together to pay for her headstone, and the oldest gravestone, that of Susanna Hood who dies in 1707 age 38. Research into some of the family groups will be undertaken. Members also continue to research their specialist topics. History Group were very pleased with the success of the VE Day 80 events. A display was mounted in the Church. Dovebank schoolchildren came for an assembly with singing and poetry and a Celebratory Tea was held on the Saturday which was very well attended. Many thanks to everyone, including the other groups, for their assistance.

Village Show

The 3rd Nailstone Village Show was held on 31st August 2024. A profit was made of £131.16 which was donated to the NCG. General feedback was very positive and the new category of people's choice in photography was popular. An extensive report was submitted to the NCG after the show. Jenn has stood down as Chair and Janet has also decided to step down.

We thank them for their contributions in setting up and supporting the Village Show for the past three years.

A new committee has been formed with the addition of Kerry and Teresa and planning has started for this year's show. It will be held on 6th September 2025 at All Saints Church. A new registration process, as used at other local shows will be implemented, with the aim of making it quicker and easier for exhibitors. Seed sowing events for sunflowers and runner beans have been held to increase the number of entries. The event held on Easter Sunday with other activities occurring at the Church on the same day worked well. Primary advertising for the show will be through the monthly village newsletter, which we would like to thank the Parish Council for and the village Facebook page. We are hopeful that we will have another successful show this year.

W.I.

The last 12 months have been busy and varied for Nailstone W.I.

The highlight of the past year was undoubtedly our 60th Anniversary celebrations. We held a 'do' at Bagworth Community Centre, inviting past members as well as representatives from other local W.I. groups. Our guest of honour was Barbara Payne, who founded Nailstone W.I. back in 1964.

We've had speakers ranging from "Discovering King Richard's Bones" to "Magic demonstrations" and "Goldwork Embroidery".

We've had meals at the Hercules and Liberteas. We've visited Wightwick Manor, David Austin Roses, Hotter shoes and the Concordia theatre.

We've entered, with varying degrees of success, the Ashby Show and our local group craft show. We've played darts and skittles. Most recently we had a fundraising Tombola stall at Hinckley market. We welcome any new members and in fact our July meeting will be an Open Meeting to which we will be inviting any local ladies who would like to come along and say hello. Our regular meetings are on the third Thursday of the month at All Saints Church.

Representatives **were thanked** for attending and presenting their reports.

The meeting closed at 19:35