



# Nailstone Parish Council

## Minutes of Nailstone Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 31st July 2019, 7.00 PM in the Parish Church, Nailstone.

**Present:** Cllr Fortune, Cllr Crane, Cllr Luczywo, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Crooks, plus 7 members of the public. Parishioner Sarah Tonkin agreed to take minutes during the meeting.

**585/2019. Resolution to receive apologies for absence**

- Cllr Burns & Cllr Ould sent apologies in advance of the meeting

**586/2019. Resolution to receive declarations of interest on items of the agenda**

- None declared

**587/2019. Resolution to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

- Minutes approved by all. Cllr Harrison proposed and Cllr Luczywo seconded.

**588/2019. Update on previous actions by Councillors**

- Cllr Fortune agreed at the last meeting to investigate whether the current gardening works should include the footpath opposite the Church gates. The Contract in place does not cover this works (has been done in previous years but not clear if Parish contractor or Highways) and it is believed that the hedges either side of the paths are to be maintained by the relevant home owners. Some sections of hedge have been trimmed. Other sections will not be trimmed for another six weeks. A letter had been sent to a resident. Only hedge is the homeowners. Stated clearly that it was highways responsibility. County Council highways are responsible for the actual path who will need to be contacted. Stinging nettles now biggest issue.

**Action** – Cllr Luczywo to put another footpath report in.

- Cllr Fortune advised the meeting that the former Clerk had responded to the issued letters formally resigning. The content of this letter raised more questions that the Council will work through with the assistance of LRALC.

**589/2019. Councillor & Police updates where available**

- Playground/garden inspection update. Cllr Luczywo has spoken to insurers and RoSPA. Weekly playground inspections are now happening. Yearly inspection being done by RoSPA. Will be a full playground and equipment check with risk assessment in September. Councillors working from approved checklist.
- Concerns over footpath to new house near Bulls Head. Cllr Crooks has not had a reply from the head of planning. Cllr Luczywo noted that some work was notified on HBBC website going to take place between 100 and 102 on the footpath but this has now



been removed. Cllr Crooks raised it at a pre-planning briefing due to safety issues with another planning application. Another planner mentioned it was potentially a safety issue. Concern over the safety of having a 'rockery' next to the road with the potential for vehicles to hit the rocks.

- Storage container on Bagworth Road – Once again Cllr Crooks has enquired but had no response. The storage container had a deadline of being removed today (31/07/19).
- Cllr Fortune advised that with regret the decision has had to be made to significantly reduce the scope of works undertaken by the gardening contractor due to budget constraints. The Council have requested that only the closed church yard, verge & footpath are to be mowed. All other works are to be suspended until further notice. This has been acknowledged & accepted by the Contractor and our thanks have been given for his continued support. Grounds are looking particularly nice at the moment and we wish to keep it this way for the church fete and the commemoration event.
- Cllr Fortune praised the Snap Dragon event held last week in the garden, a fantastic day that was very well attended. Told 150 children attended the event.
- Action – Cllr Fortune is to send note to organisers to express thanks for their excellent organisation and clearing up. We would like them to come back again. Cllr Crooks issued his monthly report to Councillors prior to the meeting. Major concern are the issues surrounding planning. There is a three year land supply where land needs to be found and houses built. Only houses that are built are counted. Council have been told that they can reduce the amount of time to build. Originally builders were given three years but now council will put a time limit of 18 months leaving towns and villages vulnerable to building applications. Environmental improvement fund – Nailstone is a conservation area so we can get money from there. Starts around Christmas time. However, you do need to have match funding. Nailstone has done well out of the Parish funding to date receiving £58,000. Cllr Luczywo asked what this money went on but Bill was unsure – projects around the church and conservation area. Also there are the Shires grants from the county to tap into. 7<sup>th</sup> August there will be a large planning meeting about the five year land supply as the council is 1000 houses short. If planning applications want to be rejected will need a lot of public letters. Holycroft and Argents Mead have both been awarded green flag status.

## 590/2019. **Resolution to approve outstanding payments**



BACS	Bosworth Groundcare	Mowing/planters	£956.50
	LRALC	Councillor Training 5/6/19	£40.00
	EON	Electricity supply July 2019	£170.29
	HBBC	Election charges	£1153.90
	Parish notice board Company	Works to notice board turn key	£18.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>£2338.69</b>

- Cllr Fortune advised that if all the above invoices were to be paid then the bank balance would be reduced to just £138.43.
- The Parish Council have requested permission from HBBC to defer the payment for the election invoice until the balance of the precept is received in October. This will allow for the Parish Council to continue paying for the reduced garden maintenance and any emergency payments that may arise in the interim period
- Cllr Harrison advised that this has been approved and payment can be made in October.
- Agreed. Proposed by Cllr Fortune & seconded by Cllr Crane

#### 591/2019. **Update on Bank mandate changes & resolution to approve VAT reclaim**

- Cllr Harrison has been unable to see the one person that he needs to see in order to progress.
- Cllr Crane has suggested that if he goes to the bank, as a signatory, then he may be able to sign new councillors up to mandate and remove the previous signatories. Cllrs Harrison and Crane to sort this out.
- Cllr Luczywo has discovered (from the available records) that the Parish Council have not, to date, submitted any VAT reclaims. Initial estimates for the past 3 years accounts indicate that this may generate between £4,000 and £5,000 back to the Parish Council. Currently, there are a few invoices missing and copies have been requested from the relevant companies.
- Unfortunately this could have been done since 1994, as this has not happened significant money for the Parish has been lost. Current legislation only allows us to reclaim for the past 3 years. The first VAT reclaim will be submitted within the next week by Councillors.

#### 592/2019. **Public Questions**

- A Parishioner asked; Does the precept come in two payments? Yes in April and October. How much is the precept? Documented previously as 11,000 now 15,000
- A Parishioner asked; Do we know why VAT has not been previously claimed?



No, because of the nature of the resignation of the Clerk and no communication with previous Councillors we have been unable to ask. It may be that it has happened previously but there is no record of this.

- A Parishioner asked; How could the Shire funding and other types of funding be used? Could it be used on Church meadow for planting etc? Confirmed yes it could be for garden but the issue is we cannot match fund at the moment. Previously it has been spent on benches/road signs. There is approximately £1200 that we have from s106 money so we could use that to match fund.
- A Parishioner asked; As we have lots of groups in the village, could each group/planter take responsibility for an area in the garden or a planter? Agreed a lovely idea and that a lot of people from the community already donating a large number of plants and time to try and tidy and improve the area. Discussion about possibly a competition, moving into a long term idea of groups taking responsibility.

**593/2019. To discuss the community speed watch – rescheduled dates**

- Cllr Fortune updated the meeting that due to planned traffic calming work dates being changed the difficult decision had been taken to cancel this year's speed watch campaign. Name of the village is already down for next year. There is still historic data that can be used to compare to new data obtained once the traffic calming is in place.
- Question from parishioner - Did we ever get the results of the alleged survey (consultation)? No one saw any results. Cllr Crooks advised to discuss with Cllr Ould.

**Action – Confirm with Cllr Ould**

**594/2019. Update to ownership of the wall at Malt House Close and agree actions if any**

- Councillor Fortune cannot see anything that shows that the Parish Council are responsible for the update of the wall. It was agreed that the item is closed on the agenda as there is no clear proof the council own it. If evidence of responsibility is presented, then the item can be reopened.
- Proposed by Cllr Fortune seconded by Cllr Luczywo.

**595/2019. Update from the Footpath working group**

- Specific email set up for people to report to and Deryck Senior is going to monitor it.
- There will be a piece in the next community newsletter drawing attention to this issue.

**596/2019. Update from the Garden working group**

- Cllr Fortune advised that two very productive sessions in the garden have already taken place with lots of people giving up their time to support.



- Parishioners Stephen & Heather Smith had donated many bedding plants that have gone into the newly cleared borders. Many thanks to both for the time & plants donated.
- Thanks to Stephen Smith for cleaning the block paving in the garden and continuing weeding of the garden.
- Members of the village have very kindly agreed to water the planters and part of the garden. The planter on the A447 has been deemed too dangerous to water. Cllr Luczywo to contact Highways about moving the planter to the tarmac triangle on the Crossroads.
- Cllr Fortune has also received donations from the Nailstone Community group quiz night takings and parishioner Janet Jennings to be used to purchase spring bulbs.
- Regular gardening days will continue & all support offered is greatly appreciated. The next date will be 10<sup>th</sup> August to ensure the garden is tidy ready for the Church fete the following weekend.

**Action** – Cllr Luczywo to contact highways to get permission to move the planter to the triangle.

**597/2019. Update with regards to the traffic sign repairs on the A447 & Bagworth Road**

- Cllr Harrison advised that a new post has been put up by the school and will chase again on Friday for further updates to the replacement sign and the repair to the A447 sign.

**598/2019. To agree any forthcoming Village events**

- Church fete already agreed to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> August. Help required setting up & for donations of goods requested.

**599/2019. Planning applications received**

- Cllr Luczywo - The Bulls Head application is on the planning committee. Cllr Crooks has flagged up the traffic safety and the pub restoration to still be on the application as there are now more houses. Need to ensure that the traffic calming measures are specifically in the planning. Planning committee will only pass plans if the traffic calming is in there. Need to have these things written as conditions before passed. County highways will then need to pass the traffic calming. Developer had previously agreed to pay £32,000 for traffic calming.

**600/2019. Resolution to appoint a Councillor(s) as interim Clerk and/or RFO**

- Due to current budget restrictions the council do not have the funds to employ a Clerk/RFO. Cllr Harrison will take on RFO duties and is accepting email aspect of the clerk's job also. This is planned only as a temporary measure.



- Propose the temporary position of temporary RFO by Cllr Harrison. Agreed by all.  
Proposed by Cllr Crane and seconded by Cllr Luczywo

601/2019. **Resolution to agree next meeting date**

- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019 7pm in the Parish Church.

**Public meeting closed at 7.50pm**

Approved