



Nailstone Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held at Dove Bank Primary School at 7pm on Wednesday 28th February 2024

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

Public session

031/2024 Questions and comments from members of the public

Complaints were received about (i) litter and fly tipping in the lay-by at the eastern end of Bagworth Rd which had been reported but not cleared; (ii) a damaged road sign and debris on the grass verge on Bagworth Rd; and (iii) the depth of water and mud on many parts of the circular walk in the Country Park. **It was resolved** that (i) and (ii) be investigated immediately and that (iii) be referred to the Country Park site manager.

032/2024 Update from County Councillor B Harrison-Rushton

Cllr Harrison-Rushton reported that LCC had been awarded funding from central government to look at new models of bus transport and had met with the Lead Member for Highways & Transportation to point out that it was only fair that the area previously served by the 159 service should be at the top of the list when it came to new services.

Cllr Harrison-Rushton also reported on the recent flooding problems, and that drop-in events were being held to provide information to the people and businesses affected. Giga Hubs were being installed across Leics; the nearest being at Nailstone Depot. All planning applications would be required to deliver an increase of 10% in biodiversity from 2nd April and a training session for PCs was being planned.

033/2024 Update from Borough Councillor W R Crooks

Cllr Crooks had received complaints about water from the Aldi site running across Wood Road, and these were being investigated by LCC Highways (see also 098/2023d; 134/2023).

H&BBC's element of the Band D Council Tax would rise by £5.00 in 2024-25. H&BBC was the 3rd lowest funded (out of 164) by central government, and yet still had the 14th lowest council tax. The annual charge for green waste collection (brown bin) would increase by £5 to £37.50.

034/2024 Updates from Community Groups and other organisations

a) Nailstone Community Group

The following events were planned:

16th March, Saturday – Litter Pick meeting at Church porch 1030 am, returning by 12 noon for tea and cakes, rubbish to be left at gates to Church Meadow.

30th March, Saturday . Easter egg hunt in conjunction with Church Tea.

6th June, Thursday. D-Day Commemoration Event, details tbc.

31st August, Saturday. Village Show, Dove Bank School to be organised by the Village Show Group.

b) Nailstone Parochial Church Council

The following events were planned:

30th March, Saturday – Easter Tea & children’s crafts.

12th April, Friday – Ibstock Choir Concert.

11th May, Saturday – Spring Lunch.

July – date to be decided – Fete.

c) Nailstone Footpath Group

It was reported that a plank bridge near Lount Road was damaged, and that a kissing gate installed as part of the *Miles Without Stiles* project had been removed and replaced by a stile. Both matters had been reported to LCC RoW with photographs.

d) Nailstone Gardening Group

It was reported that the bulbs were now coming up and some discussions about proposed works to the Clock Bed had been held on site (005/2024refers). **It was resolved** that proposals for works to the Clock Bed would be discussed with all members of the PC before a formal proposal and grant application was brought forward.

Council business

035/2024 Apologies for absence from Councillors

There were none.

036/2024 Co-option of Parish Councillor

Formal notice of the casual vacancy had been published by the H&BBC Returning Officer on 23rd January, and it had been advertised on the PC noticeboards and in the Newsletter. A by-election had not been called, and the PC was therefore now free to co-opt. **It was resolved** that Samantha Barton be co-opted as a Member of the Council. Ms Barton signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed by the Chairman.

An updated bank mandate was signed and **it was resolved** that bank accounts be continued with HSBC Bank and the Bank is authorised to act on any Instructions provided they have been given by those persons named in the Specimen Signature section by any two listed persons together; that any debt incurred to the Bank under this mandate shall, in the absence of written agreement by the Bank to the contrary, be repayable on demand; that the Responsible Financial Officer is authorised to supply the Bank, as and when necessary, with lists of all persons who are authorised to give instructions on behalf of the Parish Council, and that the Bank may rely on such lists; that the Parish Council accepts the accounts and banking relationship with the Bank will be governed by and subject to the Business Banking Terms and Conditions (a copy of which has been provided) as amended from time to time, together with any terms and conditions in respect of specific products and services requested by the Parish Council; that these resolutions be communicated to the Bank and remain in force until cancelled by notice in writing to the Bank, signed by the Chairperson or Responsible Financial Officer from time to time acting or claiming to act on behalf of the Parish Council, and the Bank shall be entitled to act on such notice whether the resolutions have been validly cancelled or not.

037/2024 Declarations of interests (including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) and requests for dispensations in respect of items on the agenda

Cllr Crane declared an interest in item 052/2024.

038/2024 Minutes of the meeting of 31st January 2024

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

039/2024 Updates from Councillors and the Clerk

The Clerk and Locum Clerk reported:

Education Centre – at Nailstone Country Park can be booked through <jez.perkins@maydencroft.co.uk>

Country Park – dog waste bins had been installed at the Bagworth Road entrance and at the Battram car park.

Street lighting – the 10 street lights on the PC's inventory with Central Networks had been surveyed: 3 were the property of LCC; 1 was operating properly, 1 was permanently on and 5 were not working. The lights were on unmetered supplies, so 30% of the PC's electricity bill was duplicating payments made by LCC and 50% for lights that were not working. The previous maintenance contract with Central Networks had been allowed to lapse. **It was resolved** that the inventory (now with National Power) be corrected, and quotations for repairing the broken lights be considered at the next meeting.

Investment Strategy – would be required when the Community Benefit funding was received from JBM Solar.

Church Meadow – was a registered charity (No.507878) with Helen Chadwick (former Clerk) as Trustee. The land was registered; PC minutes recorded that the pre-registration title deeds were in the possession of Angela McCarthy (former Chair) but these documents had not yet been found.

040/2024 Appointment of Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

There had been one local applicant for the post, and Ms Kerry Bates had been interviewed by all Councillors and the Locum Clerk on 6th Feb. A job description and an employment contract based on the NALC model had been prepared.

It was resolved that Ms Kerry Bates be appointed Parish Clerk and RFO with effect from 1st March 2024 at a salary of £3204.00 pa with a contract of employment based on the NALC model; and that approved expenses would be reimbursed on the production of receipts.

041/2024 Appointment of payroll administrator

Three local accountancy firms had been invited to submit prices to manage the Clerk's monthly payroll; one had closed its local office. Lilley & Co of Ibstock had quoted a fee of £45 pcm; Hames Partnership of Market Bosworth had quoted an initial set-up fee of £50 and £28.50 pcm (all prices + VAT).

It was resolved that Hames Partnership be engaged as payroll administrator from 1st March.

042/2024 Appoint of a grounds maintenance contractor for 2024-2026

A site meeting had been held with the preferred bidder on 10th February. **It was resolved** that Inspire Landscapes be appointed grounds maintenance contractor for 2024-26. **It was resolved** that a letter of thanks be sent to Bosworth Groundcare for their careful work and co-operation throughout the period of the previous contract.

043/2024 Update on the LCC Members Highways Fund (Bagworth Road Safety Scheme)

The grant of £5,276.00 had been received from the LCC Members Highways Fund for the purchase and installation of an MVAS. Pegs had been placed at the preferred locations for the MVAS mounting posts and had been agreed by LCC Highways. LCC required that the adjoining landowners be consulted but one had gone away and the other had objected to the installation of a post. An alternative location would now be sought, and consultations would continue (016/2024 refers).

044/2024 Application to register The Bull's Head as an Asset of Community Value

The current occupier of The Bulls Head had kindly shown the Locum Clerk around the refurbished pub and had been advised that re-registration was being sought. A draft application had been copied to Councillors before the meeting (017/2024 refers). **It was resolved** that the application be submitted to H&BBC.

045/2024 Quotations for signage for the Village Watch Group

Two quotations had been received: £200.00 from MB Sign Design and £64.80 from Nuneaton Signs (018/2024 refers). **It was resolved** that the quotation from Nuneaton Signs be accepted.

046/2024 Adoption of new website and migration to a new internet services provider

Cllr Darlington had demonstrated her website to Councillors on 6th February (013/2024; 136/2023 refer). **It was resolved** that the PCs website be migrated from Cuttlefish to Wix, which would result in a saving of about £300 pa. **It was resolved** that Cllr Darlington investigate the feasibility of also migrating the PC's email addresses to another provider.

047/2024 Complaints Policy

A draft policy had been copied to Councillors before the meeting. **It was resolved** that the policy be adopted.

048/2024 Preservation of Parish Council minutes

It was resolved that the signed minutes of the Parish Council for the financial years 1995-96 to 2016-17 inclusive be deposited on permanent loan at the Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

049/2024 Disposal of old invoices and receipts

NALC advice is that invoices and receipts should be kept for 6 years (Legal Topic Note 40). **It was resolved** that invoices and receipts dated earlier than 2016 be destroyed.

050/2024 Approval of invoices for payment

The RFO presented a bank reconciliation which was checked and bank statement 574 was signed.

It was resolved that the following invoices be paid:

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Nuneaton Signs Ltd | Village Watch signs | 64.80 |
| LRALC | Clerk 1 course fee | 50.00 |
| Bosworth Groundcare | Grounds maintenance | 450.00 |
| Wix* | Website hosting | 108.00 |

*Reimbursement to Councillor Darlington

051/2024 Delegation of the power to comment on planning applications

It was resolved that in cases where the consultation timetable precludes consideration of a planning application at a meeting of the Council, the power to make comments be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman or his deputy.

052/2024 Planning applications submitted, comments submitted under delegated powers and applications determined

24/00120/CONDIT : Variation of conditions 2,4,12,21,22 and 23 to planning permission 21/01395/FUL. Amendment to the access, required management and maintenance, construction traffic management plan, construction access improvements and vehicular visibility splays. Church Farm, Washpit Lane, Barlestone. **It was resolved** that the PC had no objections.

053/2024 Next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting be held at Dove Bank Primary School on Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed _____

Date _____

Abbreviations in these minutes

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|-------|--|-------|-------------------------------------|
| H&BBC | Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council | LCC | Leicestershire County Council |
| LRALC | Leics & Rutland Ass. of Local Councils | MVAS | Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign |
| NALC | National Ass of Local Councils | NGG | Nailstone Gardening Group |
| PC | Parish Council | P&CIF | Parish & Community Initiatives Fund |
| RFO | Responsible Financial Officer | RoW | Rights of Way |