



Nailstone Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in All Saints Church at
7pm on Wednesday 25th September 2024

Present: T Harrison (Chair), S Barton, D Crane, H Darlington (Councillors), W J Crooks (Borough Councillor) K Bates (Parish Clerk), Kate Crowfoot (LCC Health Inequalities Officer), 3 members of the public.

Public session

208/2024 To receive a presentation from the LCC Health Inequalities Officer

Kate Crowfoot (Health Inequalities Officer) informed those present of the support available to members of the public. Support could be offered in the following areas: housing, benefits, financial, blue badge applications, reducing social isolation and aids and adaptations to enable independent living. Support was being targeted at over 18's in rural villages.

It was agreed that the Health Inequalities Officer would visit the Church Coffee morning, also that the literature would be published in the next newsletter and on the Community Group Facebook page.

209/2024 To receive questions and comments from members of the public

A member of the public asked whether the PC would be supportive of the purchase and placement of a wooden teepee-like structure behind the centenary bed and log seating beneath the trees on the Church Meadow/Open Churchyard boundary. This would be funded using the remainder of the play equipment monies held by the Community Group.

It was agreed that Councillors would carry out a site visit with the member of the public, so that the location and ideas could be explored before a proposal was brought forward to a Council meeting.

210/2024 To receive an update from County Councillor B Harrison-Rushton

Cllr Harrison-Rushton **was thanked** for a report which covered the application process for school admissions and free play sessions.

211/2024 To receive an update from Borough Councillor W R Crooks

Cllr Crooks **was thanked** for a report which covered Borough Council business, including planning news and regulations, the closure of the cinema in Hinckley and Twycross Zoo. One of the street sweeper vehicles had been non-operational.

212/2024 To receive updates from Community Groups and other organisations

Footpath Group – the Footpath group reported that obstructive crops in fields should now be cleared. It was queried if the kissing gates in the fields with solar panels (footpath s49) needed to be retained once the panels were in and the biodiversity areas were open.

It was agreed that the Clerk contact Ethical Power and request that the gates should not be removed and disposed of, as they could be reused.

PCC/Church – a representative from the Church reported that the MacMillan coffee morning raised circa £650. The Benefice service was scheduled for 29th September and the Harvest Supper for 12th October. Issues raised at the previous PC meeting regarding the Open Churchyard that were referred to the Church were being raised with the Archdeacon and the Grounds Contractor.

Nailstone Community Group – the Community Group reported that it had been decided that meetings were to be held every other month, and the next meeting was in November. Members of the Community Group had formed a Christmas subgroup to plan festivities for 2024. A subgroup to plan for VE Day 80 in 2025 had also been formed.

Nailstone Gardening Group – the Gardening Group reported that the Centenary bed had settled and flowered better than anticipated in its first year, and there were plans to divide plants in the Rock bed. The Groups display at the Village Show had been well received and the Group had welcomed a new member. The group had begun clearance of the overgrown grass on the footpath by the post box. Tickets for the wreath making event on 30th November were selling well with a current gross income of £670.

Council business

213/2024 To consider apologies for absence from Councillors

It was resolved that an apology from Cllr Harris be accepted.

214/2024 To receive declarations of interests (including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) and requests for dispensations in respect of items on the agenda

Cllr Barton declared an interest in item 223.

215/2024 To approve the minutes of the meeting of 28th August 2024

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

216/2024 To receive updates from Councillors and the Clerk

Cllr Harrison reported that Cadeby Tree Trust had offered to donate the Village Christmas Tree for 2024. It had not been possible to arrange an appointment to hold a site visit with Eden Tree Care.

It was agreed that Cllr Harrison contact Aboreco to arrange a site visit with the Clerk and other Cllrs.

Cllr Crane had located the key to Church Meadow main gate and had had 2 keys cut.

It was agreed that Cllr Crane be reimbursed for the cost of the keys and a key be held by Cllr Crane, Cllr Harrison and the Clerk.

Cllr Darlington reported that there would be no newsletter in October and the next newsletter would be in November.

MVAS - The Clerk reported that the MVAS had been installed on the Main Street mounting post. Mounting brackets had also been fitted to the Bagworth Road post. (202/2024 refers). The battery life would be monitored.

Street Sweep – A request for a street sweep had been sent to H&BBC for Main Street and Church Road due to large amounts of debris and weeds in the gutters, the sweep was carried out by H&BBC on 25th September.

Fly tipping - Fly tipping in the layby on Bagworth Road had been reported to the Clerk and reported by the Clerk to H&BBC.

Electricity to Church Meadow – (200/2024 refers) The contractor carrying out the works the PC was responsible for to supply electricity to Church Meadow was due to start work by late September. National Grid had confirmed they did not need to inspect the trench. National Grid had proposed a start date for the road side works to supply electricity to Church Meadow of 9/12/24.

Clerk training – Clerk's 2 and 3 were booked for October 2024

Redwood Bank – A cheque for the subsequent deposit of £75,000 was to be signed by Cllrs and submitted (128/2024 refers).

217/2024 To consider the H&BBC Local Plan 2020-2041: Regulation 18 consultation

Copies of the Local Plan had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The consultation was due to end on 27th September.

It was resolved that the PC make no comment.

218/2024 To consider planning applications submitted

24/00878/TCA Spruce Tree - Fell to ground. 54 Main Street Nailstone Nuneaton Leicestershire CV13 0QE

It was resolved that the PC submit a comment of no objection.

219/2024 To note 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 the sixth dwelling) of planning permission 18/01288/FUL. The Bulls Head 88 Main Street. Application returned.

220/2024 To consider a proposal from the Gardening Group for the reduction in height of the hedge between the Memorial Area in Church Meadow and the churchyard

The gardening group proposed a 1-2 foot reduction in the height of the beech hedge to allow more light into the Memorial Area and plantings and provide a visual link between the area and the Church. The work would be carried out by the gardening group and the prunings removed from site.

The proposal had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

It was resolved that this proposal be approved.

221/2024 To consider a proposal from the Gardening Group for Autumn bulb planting

The gardening group proposed to carry out top up plantings to the existing Spring flowering bulbs in the village. Consideration had been given to the outcome of the current plantings and the proposal considered the need for access to the defibrillator, visibility at the A447 crossroads and the need for Spring mowing. The proposal had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

It was resolved that this proposal be approved.

222/2024 To consider a grant application from the Gardening Group for Autumn bulb Planting

The application for a grant to fund the cost of the bulb plantings had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

It was resolved that the application be approved and the sum of £534.16 be reimbursed on production of receipts.

223/2024 To consider a specification and quotation for the lych gate restoration

A site visit had been held with a potential contractor, Councillors and the Churchwarden. (203/2024 refers) It was proposed that the structure needed to be supported by 4 acro props as it was raised by 6mm, to allow for the rotten wood to be removed and temporary softwood chocks to be inserted. A new green oak replacement plinth would then be inserted at the base of both sides of the structure. New side panels would be added. New soffits would be added to the canopy. Three quotations had been received: Quotation 1, £3896, for replacement of left side plinth, rail and soffit only, Quotation 2, £7594, for replacement of both plinths, rails and soffit and Quotation 3, £296, for replacement of the missing canopy mouldings.

Cllrs considered that this was a specialist task and that the structure was currently vulnerable going into the Autumn/Winter season.

It was resolved that quotation 1, for replacement of left side plinth, rail and soffit, and quotation 3, for replacement of canopy mouldings be approved.

224/2024 To consider the adoption of a Dignity At Work Policy

To sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge the PC was required to have a Dignity at Work Policy. (196/2024 refers) A model NALC Dignity at Work policy had been amended and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllrs considered that a Dignity At Work policy was desirable but the amended NALC version was inappropriate for the needs of Nailstone PC.

It was resolved that this policy was not adopted and that an alternative version be sought and brought forward to the next meeting.

225/2024 To consider the Operation of the MVAS

It was noted that the changing of the battery and the moving of the MVAS unit required the use of a step ladder and 2 people. An initial charge of the battery demonstrated a required charging time of 12 hours. Cllrs were concerned that the battery charge had lasted for only 7 days once installed on the MVAS. An 8mm spanner was required to move the unit. Cllrs Barton, Harris and Harrison had observed the process for changing the battery. Cllr Harrison had kindly volunteered to store and charge the

battery and hold the spare key. The data was to be downloaded to the Clerk's laptop. Mrs T Brearley had kindly confirmed she would carry out a risk assessment for the charging and storage of the battery, the changing of the battery and the moving of the unit.

It was resolved that the battery life be monitored and be reported at the next PC meeting.

226/2024 To consider the independent annual report on the Church Meadow play equipment

The annual ROSPA safety inspection of play equipment noted that a bolt on the climbing frame and slide needed tightening. The trim trail equipment did not meet the required standards; the remedial action required was to chamfer the edges of the vertical timbers. The main gate closing mechanism was not working correctly.

It was resolved that Cllrs wished inspect the trim trail equipment and the gate mechanism and that potential remedial action be placed on the agenda for the next PC meeting.

227/2024 To receive an update on the Community Equipment Grant (replacement of wooden stile with kissing gate)

The PC had secured a Community Equipment grant at the end of April to replace the wooden stile at the northern end of footpath s49. Despite numerous emails LCC had been unable to raise the works with its contractor and no contact had been successfully made. A site visit had shown the stile to be wobbly and Cllrs were concerned about the safety of the stile.

It was resolved that the Clerk email Cllr Harrison-Rushton to ask for assistance with expediting the matter and that this item be placed on the agenda for the next PC meeting.

228/2024 To consider the purchase of a wreath and additional poppies for Remembrance Day 2024

Cllr Harrison reported that the PC currently had circa 50 lamp post poppies and needed another 15. Remembrance wreaths needed to be ordered.

It was resolved that Cllr Harrison be authorised to purchase 2 Remembrance wreaths and 15 additional lamppost poppies and the cost be reimbursed on production of receipts.

229/2024 To consider the provision of a Village Christmas Tree for 2024

Cadeby Tree Trust had again kindly agreed to donate a Christmas Tree for the village. No further supplies for the tree were required.

230/2024 To consider quotations for the repair of street lights

LCC had provided an estimate for the repair and upgrade of the PC's street lights to LED lamps with dimmers. (197/2024 refers) On completion of these works the lights would be of a standard that LCC would adopt, freeing the PC of liability, maintenance and electricity costs. Disconnection and removal of the non-working streetlight outside Grange Cottages would save £2000 on the estimated cost. Cllrs considered that the initial cost would be recouped in electricity charge savings. Councillors considered that an application to the P&CIF in December for funding towards the cost would be an effective use of Council funds.

It was resolved that the Clerk ask LCC for an estimated timeframe for the works, that the street light outside Grange Cottages be disconnected and that an application to the P&CIF be made in December.

231/2024 To consider entering into a Service Level Agreement with LCC for Street Lighting

It was resolved that this item was not relevant.

232/2024 To receive an update on the Grounds Maintenance Contract

Mowing had taken place and the hedge along the Churchyard/Church Road boundary had been cut. The hedge in Church Meadow had been cut along the side but not the top and the hedge in Church Meadow bordering the jitty had not been cut. Cllrs considered that some elements of the grounds contract had not been up to standard.

Cllr Barton reported that she had held a site meeting on 3rd September with the contractor and the mowing and hedge cutting had been discussed. The contractor was removing eight one tonne bags of clippings per visit.

Invoicing would be twice yearly. The contractor considered that a hand mower would give a better finish and be safer around headstones in the Churchyard although the width of the cutting edge was equivalent to a ride on mower. The contractor had been requested to produce a priced variation schedule for additional works. Cllr Barton **was thanked** for her work.

It was resolved Cllr Barton would follow up on the outstanding hedge cutting.

It was resolved that Cllrs would consider the wording and specifications of the grounds schedule and that this item be included for discussion at the November meeting and for any subsequent decisions at the January 2025 meeting.

233/2024 To consider quotations for the repair of the play equipment in Church Meadow

Quotations were being sought for the repair of the rotten wood (210/2024 refers).

It was resolved this item be deferred to the next meeting.

234/2024 To consider a monitoring report on the play equipment

(154/2024 refers) Cllr Harrison had circulated a pro forma play equipment checklist prior to the meeting. Inspections would be carried out on a fortnightly basis.

It was resolved that the inspections would be carried out on a rota basis, with each Cllr having responsibility for 2 months at a time. Cllr Harrison would carry out inspections in October and November.

235/2024 To consider a monitoring report on Stoneshollow Solar Farm

Cllr Barton reported that a trench had been left open for 2 days before being filled in.

236/2024 To approve invoices for payment

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

It was resolved that the following invoices be paid:

Supplier	Details	£.p
K Bates	Clerks salary September 2024	267.00
K Bates	Stationery refund A4 printer paper	4.20
Hames Partnership	Payroll for August 2024	34.20
LRALC	Clerk's 1 Training	50.00
Coeval	Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign	6,399.60
Inspire Landscaping	Grounds maintenance – biannual invoice	2,400.00
National Grid	Electricity connection Church Meadow	7,270.58
Playsafety Ltd	ROSPA Play Equipment Inspection	93.60
The Graphic	Newsletter printing September 2024	100.00
TOTAL		16,619.18

237/2024 To confirm the time, date and place of the next meeting

Scheduled for Wednesday October 30th, 7pm, All Saints Church.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm.

Abbreviations in these minutes

H&BBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council	LCC	Leicestershire County Council
NALC	National Ass. Local Councils	LRALC	Leics & Rutland Ass. of Local Councils
MVAS	Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign	NGG	Nailstone Gardening Group
PC	Parish Council		

