



## Nailstone Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held at Dove Bank Primary School at  
7pm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Present:** I Harris (Chairman), D Crane, H Darlington, T Harrison, J Smith (Councillors),  
W J Crooks (Borough Councillor), 13 members of the public,  
C J Peat (Locum Clerk).

### PUBLIC SESSION

#### 122/2023 Questions and comments from members of the public

At the last PC meeting, a flippant remark had been made about building houses on the central grassed area of The Oval. During a general discussion about this area a number of ideas had been aired, including improved maintenance, landscaping works and the construction of a community centre. These remarks had been reported on social media, and had generated public concern. Four residents of The Oval were present, complained that these remarks had been insensitive, and asked what plans had been made about this area. The Chairman apologised for the insensitive nature of these remarks, confirmed that the PC had no current plans for The Oval, and made it clear that parishioners would be consulted about any future proposals. It was noted that the central grassed area was owned and maintained by H&BBC and defined as a green space in the Local Plan.

It was reported that the refurbishment of The Bulls Head was well advanced, and that the first floor was now occupied.

#### 123/2023 Update from Borough Councillor W R Crooks

Cllr Crooks **was thanked** for providing new background information on the Borough, and updates on the Local Plan and waste management.

H&BBC was pursuing the installation of litter and dog waste bins in the Country Park (099/2023 refers). Seats had been provided in the Country Park, but had been stolen and replaced by concrete sections (weighing 2 and 4 tons) and two of these had also been stolen.

The government had authorised an increase in planning fees, which should result in better funding of this service and further improvements in performance.

#### 124/2023 Update from County Councillor B Harrison-Rushton

Cllr Harrison-Rushton **was thanked** for information on a survey of EV charging provision and a grant scheme for food and fuel support.

### **125/2023 Update from the Footpath Group**

**It was noted** that the draft financial estimates included provision for the replacement of two stiles by kissing gates, subject to landowner agreement and grant support.

### **126/2023 Update from the Gardening Group**

It was reported that 65% of the bulbs had now been planted (087/2023 refers). A wreath-making workshop had attracted 16 participants. The Group was happy with the proposed grounds maintenance specifications. Cllr Crane **was thanked** for making complimentary remarks about the Group at a recent meeting of the Rotary Group.

### **127/2023 Update from the Community Group**

The minutes of the last meeting had been copied to the PC, and included information on Christmas events which had been advertised by flyer. The consolidated list below includes events organised by other organisations, but is presented here for easy reference:

- 2 Dec 4pm, Christmas Opening event, Nut & Squirrel
- 5 Dec Rotary Santa visit
- 9 Dec Christmas Coffee Morning in Church
- 9 Dec 12 noon – 2pm, Seniors Lunch in Church (almost fully booked)
- 14 Dec 7pm, Nativity Play & Christmas quiz, Dove Bank School, tickets £2.50
- 16 Dec 2pm, Children's Christmas party in Church
- 18 Dec 6.30 pm, Christmas songs around the tree
- 20 Dec 10am, Dove Bank School carol singing in Church
- 20 Dec 7pm, Carol Service in Church with mulled wine & mince pies

### **128/2023 Update from the Christmas Group**

There was no update; events are listed above.

### **129/2023 Update from the Parochial Church Council**

A Faculty had been granted for drainage works. The Clerk **was thanked** for removing the metal tank (098/2023e refers). Church events are included in the list above.

### **130/2023 Update from the Village Watch Group**

The Village Watch Group is not formally affiliated with the National Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, and operates informally through social media. The Group had recently reported a suspicious character who had been looking through the recycling bins put out for collection. The Group had requested that *This is a Neighbourhood Watch Area* signs be erected, and that the potential of a Smartwater Scheme be investigated.

**It was agreed** that Neighbourhood Watch signs would not be erected unless the Group became a formal Neighbourhood Watch Group, but that proposals for alternative signage might be considered at the next meeting. The Smartwater scheme was now operated independently, with advertised costs of £59.50 per household coding pack, and it was thought that this would be unlikely to be of interest to many parishioners.

## COUNCIL BUSINESS

### 131/2023 Apologies for absence from Councillors

There were none.

### 132/2023 Declarations of interests (including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) and requests for dispensations in respect of items on the agenda

Cllr Crane declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 145/2023. Cllr Darlington declared an interest in item 137/2023.

### 133/2023 Minutes of the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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

### 134/2023 Updates from Councillors and the Clerk

**Memorial plaque** – permission had been granted to place a memorial plaque on the wall housing the winding wheel in Church Meadow (060/2022 refers).

**Declarations of Interests** – forms had been completed and submitted to H&BBC (108/2023 refers).

**Bagworth Rd/B585 junction** – damaged road signage had been reported to LCC Highways and had been removed; new signs had not yet been erected.

**Litter bins.** Overflowing bins reported to H&BBC 26/10, and emptied soon after. The problems had been caused by changes to staff and rotas (098/2023a refers).

**Living Christmas tree** – a grant of £300 from the Shire Grant Fund had been awarded in Nov 2022, but had not been claimed and as a result had been withdrawn (130/2022, 186/2022, 211/2022, 214/2022, 240/2022, 243/2022, 264/2022, 289/2022, 098/2023c refer).

**Church Road** – the occupiers of The Manor House had been asked to cut back the tree which was obstructing a street light (098/2023b refers).

**Churchyard rubbish heap** – had been inspected by the Clerk. Brambles and other vegetation had been allowed to grow over this heap which made it look daunting. The heap was near to a low area of ground, and it was suggested that if the weeds and shrubs were to be sprayed out and cleared in the Spring it might be possible to level the area by spreading the soil with a mini digger and then cultivating and sowing grass seed (098/2023e refers).

**Water on B585** – the complainant had provided a photograph evidencing the problem and the location after recent rain, and this had been forwarded to LCC Highways (098/2023 refers).

### 135/2023 Invoices for payment

It was resolved that the following payments be made:

The Graphic Print	£.p 125.00
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Bosworth Groundcare	3083.19
C J Peat (refund for Microsoft 365 subscription)	59.99
T Harrison (refund for poppy wreaths)	49.98
T Harrison (refund for Christmas tree lights)	191.96

### **136/2023 Preliminary financial estimates for 2024-25**

Preliminary financial estimates had been copied to Councillors before the meeting, and minor adjustments were agreed. There was concern over the high cost and poor quality of the PC website, and Cllr Darlington kindly offered to build a bespoke website.

**It was resolved** that Report 2023-03 be approved, and that an updated version be presented to the next (Finance) meeting.

### **137/2023 Funding of the Trim Trail in Church Meadow**

A review had been copied to Councillors before the meeting. The Trim Trail equipment and initial inspection had cost £6,938.10 excluding VAT. The NCG had previously donated £6,325.20 to the project. H&BBC had now released £1,250.80 of s106 funding, comprising £817.80 for provision and £433.00 for maintenance. The PC had allocated £1,000.00 in the budget for 2023-24 for inspection and maintenance.

**It was resolved** that a refund of £618.90 be made to the Nailstone Community Group, with a written apology for the confusion and thanks for their support.

**It was resolved** that a reserve fund be set up for the repair and replacement of play equipment; an allocation of £1018.00 be made to this fund immediately; and an allocation of £900 be made in future financial years until further notice.

**It was noted** that the Trim Trail had been installed in grass and that safety surfacing might be needed if the nearby ground became badly trampled.

### **138/2023 Purchase of *Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration***

**It was resolved** that one copy of *Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration* be purchased at an estimated cost of £165.00 and the cost refunded to the Clerk.

### **139/2023 Asset of Community Value status of The Bull's Head**

The designation of the Bulls Head as an Asset of Community Value had expired on 22 June 2022 and it had been suggested that this be renewed. H&BBC had been asked for advice and **it was resolved** that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

### **140/2023 Grounds maintenance specifications for 2024-2026**

Revised specifications had been copied to Councillors and the NGG before the meeting (117/2023 refers). **It was resolved** that (i) the revised specifications be approved, and that contractors be invited to submit fixed price quotations for these works for 2024,

2025 and 2026, with an option to extend the contract to 2027 and 2028 on a *pro rata* basis; and (ii) quotations must be received by the Clerk by noon on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 for consideration at the next meeting.

### **141/2023 Revised signage scheme for Bagworth Road and Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS)**

The signage proposals agreed at the last meeting (115/2023) had not been acceptable to LCC Highways who would not install heritage signs – these would have to be sourced, installed under licence, insured and maintained by the PC. An alternative proposal, using approved LCC signage, had been prepared and copied to Councillors. A site investigation had revealed that the southern verge of Bagworth Rd was not wide enough to accommodate a gateway feature, only a 30mph sign.

LCC Highways had also offered to upgrade the 30mph roundels on Barton Rd, and had suggested an alternative MVAS from Coeval which could be supplied for less than £3k.

**It was resolved** that (i) LCC Highways be asked to replace the existing 30mph roundels on Bagworth Rd and Barton Rd with roundels backed by yellow squares; ii) a quotation for a bespoke MVAS be obtained from Coeval Ltd and submitted to LCC; (iii) the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to order the MVAS if it was approved by LCC; and (iv) designs for a heritage gateway feature at the chicane be prepared in conjunction with LCC Highways. **It was noted** that items (i) - (iii) would be funded through the LCC Members Highways Fund.

### **142/2023 Installation of an electricity supply to Church Meadow**

National Grid would have to lay a supply cable across Church Road to a cabinet in Church Meadow. National Grid would carry out all works in the highway and make the connection in the cabinet; the PC would be responsible for all other works in Church Meadow. Two quotations for the PC's works would be needed for an application to the H&BBC P&CIF. Drafts of the relevant parts of the P&CIF application form had been copied to Councillors before the meeting for comment; the closing date for applications was 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**It was resolved** that the supply cable be run through the vehicle entrance on the northern side of Church Meadow 3m from the northern site boundary, and that the cabinet be sited 10m from the road on the eastern side of the PC noticeboard.

**It was resolved** that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to obtain the necessary quotations, submit an application to the P&CIF, and report to the next meeting.

### **143/2023 Appointment of Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer**

**It was resolved** that this position be offered to Lyndsay Claire Julian under the NALC model contract and at the rate of £11.76 per hour with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

**144/2023 Planning applications submitted and comments submitted under delegated powers**

**23/00930/TCA G1** Reduce the row of poplar trees by half. Smithy Farm, Hinckley Road. PC had no objection. H&BBC had imposed a Tree Preservation Order on the row of 17 trees which were within the Conservation Area.

**145/2023 Update on the Stoneshollow Solar Farm Project**

The Chairman reported that the Deed of Gift was ready for signature, and it was signed by the Clerk and his signature witnessed by Cllr Darlington.

**146/2023 Time, date and place of the next meeting**

**It was resolved** that the next meeting be held at Dove Bank Primary School at 7 pm on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Abbreviations in these minutes**

H&BBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
LCC	Leicestershire County Council
LRALC	Leics & Rutland Association of Local Councils
MVAS	Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign
NCG	Nailstone Community Group
NGG	Nailstone Gardening Group
PC	Parish Council
P&CIF	Parish & Community Initiatives Fund
RoSPA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents