



# Nailstone Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in All Saints Church  
at 7pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Present: L Harris (Chair), T Harrison (Vice Chair) Cllr Barton, Cllr Crane, Cllr Darlington, K Bates (Clerk), Borough Cllr WJ Crooks, Cllr J Crooks, 3 members of the public.

## Public session

### **238/2024 To receive questions and comments from members of the public**

A member of the public commented that the waste bin on Vero's Lane had not been emptied.

**It was agreed** Cllr Harrison would contact Streetscene at H&BBC to request it be emptied.

### **239/2024 To receive an update from County Councillor B Harrison-Rushton**

Cllr Harrison-Rushton **was thanked** for a report on LCC business which included flooding support, a consultation on methods of contacting LCC and traffic management schemes.

### **240/2024 To receive an update from Borough Councillor W R Crooks**

Cllr Crooks **was thanked** for a report on Borough Council business which included planning news, the closure of the cinema in Hinckley and the appearance of sinkholes in the Borough. Cllr Crooks gave his apologies in advance for the November PC meeting.

### **241/2024 To receive updates from Community Groups and other organisations**

Nailstone Community Group – there was no update.

Nailstone Gardening Group – a representative from NGG reported that the group had been nominated for an award within the environmental category of H&BBC's 'Making a Difference' Awards. At a recent meeting the group had weeded and tidied all areas in their responsibility with especial care given to the Memorial Area in advance of Remembrance Sunday. Further meetings were planned to plant the 1000 Spring flowering bulbs and to

reduce the height of the hedge in the Memorial area. The community wreath making event was planned for 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Nailstone Christmas Group - a representative from the group presented the programme of events planned for Christmas 2024, which were planned in collaboration with the Community Group and the PCC. Events included Christmas window decoration, letters to Santa, Christmas light switch on (1<sup>st</sup> December) a Snowman trail, a Church fair (7<sup>th</sup> December), Children's party (14<sup>th</sup> December) and a Christmas sing along.

Nailstone PCC- a representative from the PCC reported that at present the Church had no clergy and was advertising the vacancy. The recent Harvest lunch was successful. Work had been carried out on the guttering on the North side of the Church. The Health Inequalities Officer had visited the Church coffee morning.

Footpath Group - a repair was scheduled for a bridge located on s48 footpath.

## **Council business**

### **242/2024 To consider apologies for absence from Councillors**

There were none.

### **243/2024 To receive declarations of interests (including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) and requests for dispensations in respect of items on the agenda**

There were none.

### **244/2024 To approve the minutes of the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

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

### **245/2024 To receive updates from Councillors and the Clerk**

Cllr Harrison reported that a parishioner had approached the PC for assistance and had been signposted to the appropriate agencies.

Cllr Barton reported that she had been providing dog waste bags around the village for some time. The dispensers needed renewal, and it was proposed to use hard plastic dog waste bag holders at points around the village. Cllrs offered to consider funding a bulk order of waste bags for the future.

Cllr Crane reported that the Rotary Santa sleigh was due to visit Nailstone on the evening of December 9<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Crane raised that two footpath gates in the village impede accessibility for wheelchairs and pushchairs. (Footpath gate next to Lych Gate and gate at northern exit of Church Meadow).

**It was agreed** that this item would be placed on a future agenda for consideration.

Cllr Darlington reported that she had been approached by a parishioner regarding a tree on private property blocking a streetlight on Church Road. It was noted that the responsible authority for this matter was LCC Highways Dept and that following requests to cut back the tree the PC had referred the same matter to LCC Highways in January this year. (098b/2023, 134/2023 and 013/2024 refers)

The Clerk reported that:

**Bagworth Road Safety Scheme** – the updated 30mph signage had been installed on Barton Road by LCC Highways

**HSBC** – HSBC had not responded to the email regarding the new bank mandate

**P&CIF Application for Electricity on Church Meadow** – H&BBC had confirmed that all invoices need to be paid first to claim the £5552 grant. National Grid had now provided an MPAN number.

**It was agreed** that the Clerk would contact Npower and ask them to supply a new meter.

**It was agreed** the PC would stay with Npower as the current electricity supplier until the connection to Church Meadow was completed.

LCC had sent 2 conflicting road closure notices for the works scheduled for December.

**It was agreed** that the Clerk would contact LCC to confirm the PC had agreed that the works would commence on 9<sup>th</sup> December and a grant had been awarded on the basis of the quotation for the works being completed on a weekday.

**Clerk training** – Clerk's 3 training had been completed

**Redwood Bank** – the cheque for £75,000 had been deposited in the Redwood Bank account.

**Lych gate repair** – A faculty for the works had been applied for with the Church of England via their website.

**246/2024 To consider planning applications submitted**

There were none.

**247/2024 To note comments submitted under delegated powers and applications determined:**

**Ref. No: 24/00878/TCA T1 - Spruce Tree - Fell to ground. 54 Main Street Nailstone Nuneaton Leicestershire CV13 0QE Status: Declined to Make**

**248/2024 To consider a grant application request from the Christmas Group**

For 2024 the Christmas group proposed to work collaboratively with the Church and other Community Groups. A programme of events with costing and a grant application request of £314 had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The PC had made allowance of up to £400 within the budget. **It was resolved** that the grant application be approved up to a value of £400 and the group be reimbursed on production of receipts.

**249/2024 To consider the purchase of a plaque for the Platinum Jubilee tree**

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee tree planted in May 2023 was in good health. Minute 286/2022 specified that the PC would purchase a plaque for the tree however this had not been done. The Community Group had provided information on two potential plaque options, this been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

**It was resolved** that the Clerk purchase a slate plaque for the tree up to a value of £20 and be reimbursed for the cost. The inscription should read 'Planted by Nailstone Parish Council and Nailstone Community Group for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022'.

**250/2024 To consider the specification and quotation for Tree works**

A meeting between Cllrs, the Clerk, the Churchwarden and Aboreco had taken place to survey trees on Church Meadow, and the Open and Closed Churchyard. (216/2024 refers). A detailed quotation had been received for recommended works in all areas.

Quotation 1 for works to the Closed Churchyard, £1350 plus VAT.

Quotation 2 (for the PCC only) for works to the Open Churchyard, £950 plus VAT.

Quotation 3 for works to Church Meadow, £1550 plus VAT.

The quotations had been circulated to Cllrs and the Churchwarden prior to the meeting.

**It was resolved** that considering there being works necessary to ensure safety and the difficulties there had been in sourcing quotations, that the requirement for obtaining 3 quotations be suspended.

**It was resolved** that quotations 1 and 3 be approved and the Clerk instruct Aboreco to carry out the works.

The PCC had resolved to approve quotation 2 for works to the Open Churchyard and **it was agreed** that the Clerk would communicate this to Aboreco so that the all works could be carried out together.

**251/2024 To consider the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday**

Cllr Harrison **was thanked** for ordering the Remembrance wreaths and additional lamppost poppies.

**It was resolved** that Cllr Harris and Cllr Harrison would lay the wreaths on behalf of the PC and the community on Remembrance Sunday.

**252/2024 To consider the arrangements for Remembrance Poppies placement**

**It was resolved** that Cllr Harris and Cllr Harrison would fix the lamppost poppies over the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> November and would remove the poppies after Remembrance Sunday. Cllr Harrison would continue to store the lamppost poppies.

**253/2024 To consider that the Precept decision for 2024/25 be made at the November 2024 meeting of the PC**

The PC was required to submit its precept request for 2025-26 to H&BBC by the end of January 2025. The Clerk was preparing a statement of accounts for Cllrs to make an informed decision. The PC was not scheduled to meet in December 2024 and it was considered by Cllrs that making a decision on precept in the scheduled January meeting would be too tight a timeframe to notify H&BBC of the precept request.

**It was resolved** that the Clerk circulate the statement of accounts prior to the November meeting and that a decision on precept be made at the November meeting.

**254/2024 To consider an application to the P&CIF towards funding of street light repairs and upgrades**

H&BBC had confirmed that the latest application round for the P&CIF was due to open in December 2024. Decisions on awards were scheduled for May 2025. Cllr Crooks **was thanked** for confirming that the PC could make an application to the P&CIF towards funding the required repairs and upgrades to the streetlights. LCC had confirmed a lead time of 6-8 weeks from instruction to commencement of repairs. Cllrs considered that as the estimated cost for repairs and upgrades was circa £10,000 -12,000 grant

funding towards the cost should be sought although it was regrettable that repairs would not commence before Winter 2024.

**It was resolved** that the Clerk apply to the P&CIF for funding when the scheme opened.

**255/2024 To receive an update on the lych gate restoration**

Quotation 1, £3896, for replacement of left side plinth, rail and soffit only and Quotation 3, £296, for replacement of the missing canopy mouldings had been approved at the September PC meeting (223/2024 refers). Cllr Harrison reported that the contractor had been instructed and the proposed start date for the works was in November.

**256/2024 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. (227/2024 refers). The wooden stile had now been replaced with a kissing gate. Cllr Harrison-Rushton **was thanked** for his assistance in expediting this matter. The Clerk had contacted LCC to request an invoice for the works in order that the grant monies could be claimed from H&BBC.

**257/2024 To consider the independent annual report on the Church Meadow play equipment**

(226/2024 refers) The annual independent safety inspection of play equipment reported 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. The trim trail had been inspected and half of the vertical timbers were already chamfered at the edges, half were not. Bolts on the climbing frame had been checked and were found to be tight. The gate mechanism was found to be working. Cllr Darlington reported that she had contacted the trim trail suppliers Red Monkey regarding the report's recommendations, and they had stated that the trim trail passed all required H&S requirements in the state it was supplied. Cllrs considered that the issues raised were of very minimal risk.

**It was resolved** that remedial action was not required.

**258/2024 To consider a monitoring report on the play equipment**

Cllr Harrison **was thanked** for carrying out the play equipment inspections. Cllr Harrison would carry out the inspections until January. One quotation had been received for repairing the rotten section of wood and Cllr Harrison was securing a 2<sup>nd</sup> quotation.

**259/2024 To consider the Operation of the MVAS**

The battery on the MVAS had been requiring changing and charging every 6-7 days. Cllr Harrison **was thanked** for undertaking this. Cllr Crane **was thanked** for contacting Barlestone PC and obtaining assistance on altering the operational parameters. Cllr Harrison reported that the parameters had been changed to preserve the battery life and the effect would be monitored.

**It was resolved** that Cllr Harrison research the feasibility and cost of a solar panel to help power the unit.

**260/2024 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) At September's meeting Cllrs considered that a Dignity At Work policy was desirable but the amended NALC version was inappropriate for the needs of Nailstone PC.(224/2024 refers) and an alternative be sought.

**It was resolved** that the Clerk source an alternative policy and this be brought forward to a future meeting.

**261/2024 To receive an update on the Grounds Maintenance Contract**

The top of the hedge inside the main Church Meadow gate and the hedge along the jitty between the Open Churchyard and Churchyard had now been cut. The contractor had carried out the contracted 14 grass cuts. Additional cuts were priced at £250.

Cllr Barton reported that the weather had been mild and damp and the grass had continued to grow. The contractor had been instructed to carry out an additional grass cut to all areas before Remembrance Sunday and remove the clippings.

Cllr Barton **was thanked** for her work with the grounds contract and for liaising with the contractor.

**262/2024 To consider a monitoring report on Stoneshollow Solar Farm**

Cllr Barton reported that since the last PC meeting there had been 2 near misses and gates were left open on the weekend. There had been one instance of Sunday working. The PROW had become very muddy due to a blocked culvert and vehicle movements.

**It was resolved** that no immediate action was required, and that monitoring would continue. Cllr Barton **was thanked** for her work with monitoring.

**263/2024 To approve invoices for payment**

The RFO presented a bank reconciliation which was checked and signed. (025/2024 refers). The Clerk's October 2024 Salary had been paid on 25<sup>th</sup> October (155/2024) and therefore did not appear on the payment schedule. **It was resolved** that the following invoices be paid:

<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>£.p</b>
K Bates	Stationery refund – Stamps	6.80
Hames Partnership	Payroll for September 2024	34.20
LRALC	Clerk's 2 Training	50.00
KLB Electrical	Works to date Church Meadow Electric Supply	4,800.00
Inspire Landscaping	Grounds Maintenance Biannual invoice	2,400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7,291.00</b>

**264/2024 To confirm the time, date and place of the next meeting**

Scheduled for Wednesday November 27th, 7pm, All Saints Church.

The meeting closed at 21:00.