



MINUTES - NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 12th January 2011 in the Village Hall, Nassington at 7.15pm

Present: Councillors: Barbara Curtis (Chair), Yvonne Banke, Paul Burgess, Stephen Hewitt, Darren Lee, David Norman and Rachel Taylor. Also present Sarah Rodger-Clerk, 12 members of the public

Before the meeting started, the Chairman explained that generally people spoke at the start of the meeting, but that the agenda item pertaining to each of the visitors would be opened to the floor to allow useful participation. There were no speakers. Some letters had been received from members of the public and were read out. There was no comment from the floor or from the parish council. A prospective co-option candidate had advised that he had a concurrent appointment and would be late. The agenda order was revised during the meeting and these minutes reflect the order with which matters were dealt.

11.322) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

None

**ACTION /
NOTES**

11.323) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Darren Lee	11/331 He has an allotments (personal interest)
Mike Ford	11/331 His wife has an allotment (personal interest)
David Norman	11/328 Neighbour (personal interest)
Rachel Taylor	11/328 Chair of preschool committee & 11/326 (agenda) 325 (minute) as a neighbour
Barbara Curtis	11/326 (agenda) 325 (minute) as a friend of one of the party acting on behalf of the trustees to the land

*Declarations
of interest*

11.324) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN DECEMBER AS PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of 9th December 2010.

11.325) (Alteration to agenda order. The chairman closed the meeting, opening discussion to the floor to allow a presentation and to facilitate useful discourse) PRESENTATION OF PLANNING PROPOSAL –

David Shaw introduced himself as a planning consultant, his colleague John Wythe as an architect and James Major as surveyor/agent, as a group representing the trustees of the house and land at 30 Woodnewton Road in Nassington. He explained that the group is approaching the parish council and wider community in the spirit of the emerging 'localism' legislation, even prior to formal discussions with the LPA¹. John Wythe presented plans for a small development of 9 new dwellings in addition to the house that presently stands on the plot of 1.8 acres. The density would be relatively low, compared with the numbers permitted under planning law. The scheme aims to embody the feel of traditional rural housing in Nassington, with maximum 2 storey dwellings and using a variety of building materials in the scheme. There would be a new entrance, with which NCC² Highways appear satisfield and most of the road within the site would be to adoptable standard, with small 'courtyard' type developments as spurs, similar to the development on the south side of Woodnewton Road. Some comments were raised from the floor regarding roof heights, the proximity of house no. 9 to the neighbouring gardens which do not benefit from privacy afforded by the high density hedging on the site, which will remain. One of the council's main concerns was that if the houses along the Woodnewton Road faced the road, people would be tempted to park at the front, causing a traffic hazard. The council also requested that the possibility of smaller houses be considered. The matter of streetlighting was briefly discussed. *The chairman reopened the meeting and closed it to members of the public.* The chairman thanked the representatives for coming and asked that the trustees be thanked for putting their proposals to the council

At this point all but one of the visitors and public left the village hall

11.326) (Alteration to agenda order). CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER

After a brief discussion with a prospective candidate it was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Alan Burns as a member of the parish council. Mr Burns signed his acceptance form and joined the meeting,

Chairman's Initials:

although it was pointed out that he would not be eligible to take part in any decision making process.

11.327) UPDATE ON PAVILION PROJECT –

Prior to the meeting, the clerk had distributed copies of all email correspondence between the council and JED Designs, all documentation received from JED Designs and all available correspondence between the ‘project team’ that were involved with the pavilion and preschool project . (This had been requested in time for the December PC meeting, but the clerk had not provided it). There was a protracted discussion regarding the background to the project and how a fees note had arisen. The council explained that it was unable to pay for goods or services that it had not previously resolved to procure and that none of the paperwork received from JED designs had been sent to the correct address or with the Parish Council’s name on so were technically invalid as far as an audit trail was concerned. The council explained that as far as it was concerned, the whole project was one and that as JED designs had been paid in part by the preschool and it was adamant that it had not been advised in advance that there would be money due in advance of instructing for the work. Tim Bale from JED Designs explained that the initial part of the project had been without charge, but his arrangement was that as soon as professional drawings are required, the fee structure commenced. This was not made clear to the council. A long discourse followed, the conclusion of which was that the council would contact the cricket club in order to obtain a clear indication of its requirements for a new building and details of firm funding sources and amounts available. From that point, a meeting between the parish council and the cricket club could agree what is needed from the building and a further meeting with JED designs could take place. At that point, the council can consider whether it wants to go out to tender for the next stage, planning permission. The point was made that the new building would be a community asset, not merely a unit for the cricket club. The point was also made that a new lease for the cricket club must play some part in the meetings

Mr Bale left the meeting at this point

11.328) PRESCHOOL BUILDING –

Since the previous meeting, the preschool had contacted the council to advise that it had secured additional funding as requested by the council and would therefore be installing a self contained self contained sewage treatment plant as requested by the council. The clerk was instructed to pass on the council’s appreciation of the efforts to secure the additional funding.

11.329) FINANCIAL MATTERS:

1. **RESOLVED** To approve the following payments:

Cheque Number	Goods/Service	Payee	Nett	Vat	Gross
300139	Clerks salary	S Rodger	357.03	0	357.03
300140	Hire of the village hall	Nassington Village Hall	98.00	0	98.00
300141	Electricity consumption	Eon	231.19	11.56	242.75
300142	PAYE deductions	HMRC	125.40	0	125.40
300143	Photocopying	Nassington School	50.10	0	50.10
		Totals	861.72	11.56	£ 873.28

2. **Receive accounts:** Accounts had not been circulated/

11.330) BUDGET AND PRECEPT:

A draft budget had been circulated in November following the meeting of the P&R³ committee. This had been held over for ratification once the final details of the burial board financial requirements due to the possible expansion were clearer and once the budgeted costs of the elections in May were known. £2000 would be budgeted for the precept paid to the burial board for

Chairman’s Initials:

the project to expand the cemetery and an amount of £600 for the election. It was agreed that the reserve funds should reflect the Council's commitment to carrying a contingency fund not earmarked for specific expenditure but in the case of unforeseen eventualities. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to demand a precept of £17,080, against a budget of £30,790, which includes an estimate of £12,600 reserve carried forward. The budget is attached to these minutes.

11.331) OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES OR REPORTS

1. **The Chairman** – A report had been received from Nassington's twin town, St André de la Marche in France. The chairman reminded all councillors that they are not in a position to represent the council other than when given specific delegated powers to do so.
2. **The Clerk** – The clerk apologised for the tardiness of recent documentation circulation.
3. **Councillors:**
 - Burial Board – As advised at the previous meeting, Cllr Yvonne Banke had made arrangements to attend the January meeting of Yarwell Parish Council (YPC), as clerk to the burial board, with a view to furthering that councils input to the expansion project of the joint cemetery. She had collated some background information detailing the reasons for the need for expansion and the option thus far progressed and passed a set of papers for each councillor to the clerk of YPC for distribution. At the meeting, it became apparent that the matter was not on the agenda for discussion and that the members of the council had not received the briefing papers prepared by Cllr Banke. She had made a brief presentation to YPC under free time at the beginning of the meeting. There was little opportunity for discussion among the councillors and Cllr Banke was subjected to hostile remarks, from people other than members of the council, about historical matters and inaccuracies none of which pertained to the matter at hand. The following day, the clerk to Nassington Parish Council was approached by an independent 3rd party who expressed how appalled they were at the treatment of Cllr Banke at the meeting and stated that they had never witnessed such behaviour. In addition, Cllr Banke advised that there is a possibility of obtaining an interest free loan from ENC for the cemetery expansion if necessary and the burial board is in the process of claiming on insurance for damage to the wall caused by a car hitting it. The meeting nominated the newly co-opted Cllr Alan Burns to the burial board until the annual meeting in May.
 - *At this point, with the resolution of the meeting, the chairman closed the meeting to the press and public, in order that a confidential matter could be discussed.*
 - Allotments – The clerk was instructed to write to the owner of 66 Church Street expressing the council's deep concern over public safety on the lane between St Marys Close and St Marys Way, over vehicles parked in a very anti social manner of the south-west side of the junction between Church Street and Apethorpe Road and of safety at the business carried out by the owner of 66 Church Street. The council had already approached the HSE⁴ over its concerns and would be bringing the matter to the attention of the police, fire service, environment agency, environmental health department and trading standards. The council reiterated that its only concern is with public safety.

11.332) CRICKET CLUB:

The council had been approached by Nassington Cricket Club and asked to consider proposals for artificial surfacing at the practice net area of the playing field (in the southwest corner, running along the western fence) with a view to supporting the club's commitment to the village and to youth cricket. It was **RESOLVED** that there were no objections to the club's proposals and that the council fully support the club's plans and ambitions.

11.333) GRIT BINS:

Since the last meeting, the clerk had been investigating the possibility of procuring grit bins. It was agreed to pursue the project with a view to procuring lockable grit bins to be installed on the corner of St Marys Close and Church Street, at the pocket park (to service the Drove, Apethorpe Road and Fenn Close), on the Elton Road near Little Orchard and on Eastfield Crescent. This is on the premise that the bins are in the region of £100 each.

11.334) 2011 ELECTIONS

NCALC⁵ and ENC⁶ are encouraging councils to engage with communities, urging them to promote and attract candidates for the Parish Council elections in May this year. It was agreed to link via the village website, use the newsletter and make the leaflets available when they are received.

11.335) YOUTH CLUB PROPOSALS

The clerk updated the meeting on progress since the last meeting. Jonathen Luchow (who had attended that meeting) had secured the 'The Pit Stop' from Oundle Ark, a van/bus aimed at attracting young people (by means of Wii console, coffee, music and a 'chillout' area). The clerk has arranged that the bus will come to the village on the first two Thursdays in February. The aim is to interest the young people by means of the bus and then speak with them to find out what activities they would like, what they would be looking for from a youth club in Nassington and how to proceed.

11.336) NEWSLETTER

- Youth club / pit stop bus
- Elections
- Grit bins.

11.337) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (INCLUDING CORRESPONDENCE WHICH HAD BEEN OMITTED FROM THE AGENDA)

The meeting agreed that it is willing to accept planning documents electronically

The meeting closed at 22.25

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 9TH FEBRUARY 2011, NASSINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Approved by Nassington Parish Council:

**Signature of Chairman
of following meeting:**

Date: 9th February 2011

¹ LPA = Local Planning Authority

² NCC = Northamptonshire County Council

³ P&R = Policy & Resources

⁴ HSE = Health and Safety Executive

⁵ NCALC = Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils

⁶ ENC – East Northamptonshire Council