



**MINUTES - NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011 in the Village Hall, Nassington at 7.15 pm**

**Present: Councillors: Alan Burns, (Chair), Yvonne Banke, Terry Boulton, Barbara Curtis, Michael Ford, David Norman and Rachel Taylor Also present Sarah Rodger – Clerk and 1 member of the public**

Before the meeting began, the chairman allowed for an open forum. The member of the public present declined to speak. Cllr Rachel Taylor advised the meeting of a recent call she had taken from a member of the public concerned about the removal of the bus shelter. The clerk had prepared a history of the inception, development, building and management of the bus shelter in the mid 1960s which proved beyond any question that the bus shelter was the property of the parish council. Cllr Taylor undertook to convey this information to the person concerned and the clerk would circulate the email to councillors.

**11.409) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Tony Cully – family illness - apology accepted.

**ACTION / NOTES**

**11.410) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

David Norman            11.417 Neighbour of playing field / pavilion / preschool  
 Mike Ford                Wife is an allotment holder  
 Personal interests. None of the declarations were made as prejudicial

*Declarations of interest*

**11.411) MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> AS PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED.** It was *RESOLVED* to adopt the minutes of the May meetings, with the date of the annual meeting of the parish council corrected. (other grammatical corrections since the drafts were circulated had been altered)

**11.412) PLANNING –**

- **11/00689/FUL 4** Fotheringhay Road Alterations and extension to existing holiday cottage to provide residential accommodation

It was *RESOLVED* not to object, or to make further comment

Planning application 11/00845 had arrived the previous day and was briefly looked at and will be considered fully at the next parish council meeting

**11.413) CONSIDER STRATEGY FOR LONG TERM BUDGET AND PRECEPTING –** A paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting outlining broad issues and various options open to the parish council, on behalf of the community, in the light of many of the cuts to services by the local and district councils and looking to establish some of the council’s ambitions for the village. This was intended to be an initial discussion to establish what, if any, the medium to long term plans of the council were likely to be, with a view to looking at precept requirements.

The principle of following the next tier councils in terms of cutting services was dismissed categorically. There was not an overall conclusion to the matter in terms of what the council wants to achieve, as it is intended to be an ongoing debate, but the initial outcome of discussion indicated that the council is not adverse in principle to increasing the precept in order to deliver specific facilities or services to the community, but this could only be achieved through careful planning and with budgeted figures and specific goals in mind. The council would not increase the precept and then decide what the money would be spent on.

The council was agreed that growth in the village is inevitable and that it must be proactive in anticipating the increased needs of the community and would begin to look at prioritising certain things. This would include the services that the next tier councils have been forced

Chairman’s Initials:

to cut and considering maybe filling some of the gaps whilst espousing the 'Big Society' philosophy and encouraging people to take some responsibility for their immediate environments. It was also put noted that the council's aims to provide some kind of facilities for young adults and older children also forms part of the discussion. The council was agreed that consultation and transparency form a critical part of the decision making process.

**11.414) FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN NASSINGTON** The 'Pit Stop' bus from Oundle had visited the village the previous evening. There had been a relatively good response from young people, although none had visited the playing field specifically to visit the bus. Some initial ideas had been forthcoming from the young people, including skateboard facilities and somewhere for football, which was noted. The immediate aim is to establish a youth club in the village that could be used as a focal point from which other ideas and projects could grow, as well as somewhere for the young people to meet and share time together. The parish council is very keen to support the young people and to listen to their ideas. It was **RESOLVED** that the parish council will pay the costs of the 'Pit Stop' bus to come back over the course of the summer, into September at the cost of £40 per visit, but these should not be weekly. The objective is to get a youth club constituted and up and running as soon as possible, possibly at the new preschool building and with the support of Jonathan Luchow and that the other outdoor facilities will form part of a longer term plan.

**11.415) 2012 CELEBRATIONS** This was an opportunity for the parish council to consider whether it would like to instigate commemorative celebrations to mark the Queen's diamond jubilee and/or the 2012 Olympics. The initial feeling of the meeting was that as the two events are quite separate and some weeks apart, it would be best to concentrate on the jubilee and join in with the 'big lunch' on the Sunday possibly with a community picnic at the playing fields. It was agreed that the clerk would get some dates for a meeting in the village hall to get together all the interested groups in the village to come up with some more specific ideas. The Olympics could be a joint village event with the school sports day and a barbecue but would be addressed separately.

**11.416) CHURCHYARD WALL** The clerk had had a meeting with the churchwardens at which a number of matters were pointed out as priorities. In the short term, the most important matter was highlighted at the collapsed tombs on the south-west corner of the church. The clerk advised that she had already started to try to find out who the descendants of the tombs are as legally they are responsible for the tombs. The matter of fees for the internment of ashes in the churchyard was raised and it was agreed that the clerk would contact the PCC to suggest that the parish council might be entitled to some of the fee as custodian of the churchyard, ethically rather than legally. With regard to the actual wall, the clerk undertook to find the background papers and circulate by email to ensure all members were furnished with the relevant information

**11.417) MATTERS ARISING FROM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD EARLIER THE SAME EVENING:**

- **Existing pavilion – replacement pavilion project** - Nothing has been received in terms of the land required for the project, so the first stage, i.e, lease, cannot be progressed.
- **Land near allotments / Church St** – A meeting between relevant agencies is to be arranged
- **Landscaping around the preschool** – The clerk had progressed this matter with the preschool and reported that a formal landscape programme would not be implemented as the land in question is outside that leased to the preschool and the planning officer had advised against it as it is more fitting if the area around the building stays as open countryside rather than landscaped. The matter of the stones on the slope to the north of the building was briefly discussed and Cllr Rachel Taylor, as chair of the preschool,

*Action RT*

undertook to discuss this matter with the preschool committee

- **Grasscutting at Parkway Close** - The clerk is to contact the residents to find out whether, now the first cut has been carried out, they are happy to maintain the area until the next cut is done by the county council in July. The clerk will continue to look for a contractor

*Action  
Clerk*

**11.418) FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

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

| Cheque Number | Goods/Service                              | Payee                         | Nett    | Vat    | Gross     |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------|---------|--------|-----------|
| 300160        | June salary                                | S Rodger                      | 362.23  | 0      | 362.23    |
| 300161        | Demolition of bus shelter                  | K H Contractors Ltd           | 920.00  | 196.00 | 1116.00   |
| 300162        | Nassington Village Hall hire               | Nass Village Hall             | 112.00  | 0      | 112.00    |
| 300163        | Infilling of collapsed grave in churchyard | John Lucas (Peterborough) Ltd | 565.00  | 113.00 | 678.00    |
| 300164        | Annual insurance premium (Came & Co)       | Broker Network                | 1000.00 | 0      | 1000.00   |
|               |  | TOTAL                         | 2959.23 | 309    | £3,268.23 |

2. **AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2011** The report from the internal auditor had been circulated in advance of the meeting and raised no issues or problems arising from the audit. The clerk was congratulated on the complimentary comments made regarding the excellent record keeping and standard of audit

**11.419) NEW BANKING ARRANGEMENTS** – Information and web-links regarding a bank account tailored to parish councils had been circulated in advance of the meeting by the clerk so that members of the council were able to apprise themselves of the relevant facts, in particular the Bank's terms and conditions, in order to make a resolution. After further clarification and some discussion, the following resolutions were made in accordance with the bank mandate:

- The council wishes to open an account with Unity Trust Bank plc and produced to the meeting a copy of the bank's terms and conditions for operating an account;
- The Bank's terms and conditions are approved and the council appointed the Bank as its bankers;
- The Bank's terms and conditions may vary from time to time and the council agrees to be bound by them;
- The mandate for the operation of the bank account, payment instructions and banking services be provided to the Bank by persons authorised to do so in accordance with the Bank's procedures;
- The Bank is entitled to rely upon the mandate until it receives a later mandate amending it.
- There will be 4 signatories to the account plus the clerk as an internet banking service additional authorised user. Cllrs Yvonne Banke, Barbara Curtis, Alan Burns and Terry Boulton agreed to be signatories and the clerk is the additional authorised user.
- All payments will be prepared by the clerk, as RFO and this will include the internet payments and bank transfers
- In accordance with Section 150 of the 1972 Local Government Act, every cheque shall be signed by two members of the council and every internet banking transaction shall be electronically authorised by two members of the council..

Chairman's Initials:

- In addition, the council authorised the issuing of an Alto card, which is a prepaid cash card used in a similar way to a debit or credit card, except that the funds are already on preloaded to the account of the card (this is in affect petty cash using a card facility). The council confirms that the cardholder will be the clerk who is an employee of the council. The council agrees to the terms and conditions relating to the Alto card and understands that there will be set up charge of £6.

#### 11.420) OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES OR REPORTS

1. **The Chairman** – None
2. **The Clerk** – Information had been received that morning from ENC Cllr Jeremy Taylor that an officer for the team responsible for the new arrangements for refuse collection would be available to come to the July meeting – this was seen as a good thing and the clerk was to publicise the event once it's confirmed. The clerk will be charging some archiving storage and filing equipment on expenses. The clerk will be attending a training session the following Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June organised by SLCC.

#### 3. **Councillors** -

- **Allotments:** The gate post needs replacing as it has rotted and a lock will be required for the gate; the wall on the northern side of the gate needs rebuilding; the road was not reinstated properly when the water pipe was installed in 2009 and needs levelling so that cars can drive to allotments; the fence on the southern boundary where the allotments border St Marys Close needs reinstating – it is being used as a short cut and is damaged; some of the allotment holders have requested that the council considers joining NSALG<sup>i</sup> but have been told that they would have to constitute an association if they want to apply; the first water tank is leaking – there is something wrong with the tap; the allotment holder who cuts the communal grass is asking for £25 payment for fuel costs; the rabbit proof fencing is letting in rabbits because the north-eastern corner could not be installed because the area is so boggy; and there are a number of rats on the allotments, attracted by the abundance of food and water. Some of the rat holes have been filled up so the situation would be monitored. A plumber would be asked to fix the water tank and prices for the gate post would be obtained along with quotes for completion of the work necessary to install it along with some of the other maintenance issues.
- **Burial Board:** The planning application has been withdrawn because there is a need for an archaeological survey and because the environment agency is concerned over the different bedrock under the extension site to the existing site. The application will be resubmitted when the results of the necessary investigations are known.
- **Pocket Park:** Some more of the posts along the highway are showing signs of age – the clerk has asked the NCC<sup>ii</sup> PEG<sup>iii</sup> scheme to reinstate them when the gang comes to Nassington. A new clasp is required for the noticeboard

#### 11.421) CORRESPONDENCE

- An email had been received and circulated asking if the council had any comments to make on the emerging right to buy legislation, but it was deemed by the meeting too early in the statutory process to be able to make informed comment
- The playranger dates have been booked for the village hall in the summer
- Details of workshops by Augean over the new expansion proposals at the East Northants Resource Management Facility (hazardous waste tip) had been circulated, but nobody was in a position to attend the workshops
- There had been an approach suggesting that the parish council might like to consider purchasing some of the land for sale by auction at the junction of Mill Road and Station Road, but the council decided this was not a route it would like to follow

- A contact form via the website had been received regarding developing the same piece of land for residential use. The clerk had replied that the highways and district council would be better placed to advise on the likelihood of support for such and scheme - the parish council did not have a set view but it is very likely that there would be opposition from the wider community as it would allow for linear expansion of the village and precedent for further development.

**11.422) NEWSLETTER**

- New refuse collections, at the next parish council meeting, per 11.420(2) above
- Youth club / Pit Stop bus per 11.414 above
- Play Rangers dates in the school holidays
- Grasscutting – encouraging people to cut immediate areas near their home
- Correction and apology re Cllr David Norman’s address in the last newsletter

**11.423) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Strategy for short and long term budgetary and precepting arrangements
- Jubilee celebrations

**11.424) UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960** It was *RESOLVED* to exclude members of the public present from the last remaining agenda item due to the fact that publicity could be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

**11.425) UPDATE ON MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM COMMUNITY COMPLEX PROJECT.** Tim Bale of JED Design had cancelled the scheduled meeting so there was nothing to update

**The chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.36**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2011, 7.30PM NASSINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

**Approved by Nassington Parish Council:**

**Signature of Chairman  
of following meeting:**

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

<sup>i</sup> NSALG - National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners

<sup>ii</sup> NCC – Northamptonshire County Council

<sup>iii</sup> PEG – Parish Enhancement Gang