



**MINUTES - NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011 in the Village Hall, Nassington at 7.30 pm**

**Present: Councillors: Alan Burns, (Chair), Terry Boulton, Tony Cully, Barbara Curtis, and Rachel Taylor; also present Sarah Rodger – Clerk and 3 members of the public and 2 members of the police**

**11.460)** The chairman invited members of the public to raise any points. Mr David Watkins was at the meeting to discuss the matter of the proposals by Northamptonshire County Council to install wooden posts along a stretch of the west side of Church Street. This scheme is to prevent cars parking on the verge, thus keeping the vision of sight as open as possible on the junction of Church Street, Apethorpe Road and Northfield Lane. The main areas of concern were that the people living close by had not been consulted and the cars that had been parked on the verge would now have to be parked on the roadway. There was also a question over the length of verge that is being protected. A protracted discussion followed. Mr Watkins said that his only option now was to park cars in front of neighbours' houses. The parish council sympathised with that situation as it is similar to many other parts of the village. (The police officers present at the meeting pointed out that in the case of a fatal accident, parking within 10 metres of a junction (contrary to S217 of the highway code) can sometimes result in the culpable owner of a vehicle being prosecuted for causing death due to illegal parking.) Mr Watkins explained that he would no longer be storing or parking commercial vehicles or vehicles associated with his business on Church Street, but he used two vehicles regularly and his partner also has two cars. The parish council strongly made the point that none of the actions taken were in any way meant to jeopardise the business activities of the commercial premises. The point was also made that as a registered business, the cars should not be stored on the public highway. Mr Watkins also pointed out that he had had abandoned vehicle endorsement notices to a number of vehicles related to his business which were in the road between St Marys Way and Close. This led to a discussion regarding the way that cars are stored at the rear of the premises and the fears for public safety, in particular those of younger people. Mr Watkins mentioned to the clerk that he had not received a letter referred to in minutes from the beginning of the year. The clerk agreed to look into this. The clerk was instructed to speak with the district council regarding the enforcement notices affixed to the cars.

The police officers (PCSO Tony Greening and PC Mitch Mitchinson) updated the meeting on the latest crime figures. There was a long discussion about traffic and speeding. The police officers undertook to carry out some speeding surveillance at entrances to the village.

**11.461) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Yvonne Banke – holiday. Mike Ford – work commitment  
David Norman – another meeting. Apologies accepted.

**ACTION /  
NOTES**

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

Alan Burns Churchyard wall as his wife is a deputy churchwarden and on the PCC  
Rachel Taylor Churchyard wall as her husband wife is a churchwarden and on PCC  
Personal interests. None of the declarations was made as prejudicial

*Declarations  
of interest*

**11.463) MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> AS PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED.** It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the July meeting.

**11.464) PLANNING:**

- 11/01443/FUL 21 Church Street Nassington – Modifications to application 10/00296/FUL - Conversion of existing barns to two dwellings and widening of existing access and erection of oak framed double open carports/garaging **RESOLVED** No

Chairman's Initials:

comment or objection

**11.465) LAND NEAR ALLOTMENTS / CHURCH STREET** – It was clarified that the posts to be erected would be ‘nice looking ones’ e.g. wooden rural style. Once possible solution would be that the posts are not along such a long stretch. Mr Watkins was permitted to join the discussion and claimed that only 2 of the cars parked on the verge to date have been his own cars and ideally he would park his own cars outside his own gate only. He asked whether he would be able to park the cars associated with his business in the lane at the rear of the properties fronting that part of Church Street, but this is not a matter over which the parish council has any jurisdiction and would be passed to the next tier councils for clarification.

**11.466) EMERGING PLANNING LEGISLATION** – Some papers had been circulated in advance of the meeting detailing current planning consultations being carried out on a national level. The council did not feel able to make a comment on those papers. There was also a discussion paper from East Northants council. This requested input as to how parish councils can work closely with the district council to ensure community involvement with sustainable planning in the future and how the community might benefit from the community infrastructure levy (CIL) which would be forthcoming with the emerging changes in planning legislation. It was agreed that the parish council should be involved in these discussion at the earliest possible opportunity and that it wanted to be as involved as possible in discussions and decision making regarding sustainable development. The conclusion of the discussions regarding wider infrastructure requirements was that the council is very much in favour of being involved in the planning process under the new requirements and would like suggestions as to how be kept apprised. A suggestion that the council would make to ENC<sup>1</sup> is for training workshops about the new planning system.

**11.467) DIAMOND JUBILEE / 2012 CELEBRATIONS** – Members had been discussing the matter with their friends and families and in general there feeling abroad is in favour of a party and, although nobody has actually expressed an interest in doing so, the parish council see this as an opportunity for village groups to do some fund raising. A meeting is to be organised to take place after the half term break but before the next parish council meeting, to which various village groups would be invited and a general invitation would go in the newsletter.

**11.468) CHURCHYARD WALL** A surveyors report and the church architect’s report and suggested specification had been circulated, along with a discussion paper from David Norman following a meeting that he and Alan Burns had had to look at the wall. The architect’s specification had dealt with the south facing wall, whereas the west facing wall seems to be the one in need of more urgent attention. It was agreed that the previous decision to go out to tender was rescinded (the procedure called for under standing orders has not yet been followed). It was also agreed that the council will begin to budget for long term repairs to the wall, building up a reserve sum which would be accounted for separately in the financial records. The clerk had discussed the matter of the wall with the church architect who had undertaken to carry out a site visit, as the 2007 quinquennial report referred to a different part of the wall to the 2001 report. A suggestion had been made by the council that the wall be monitored by specialist engineers and the clerk was instructed to ask the church architect’s opinion over this matter. At this stage, the parish council envisages having to have the wall repaired and repointed rather than completely rebuilt.

**11.469) PLAYING FIELD RISK ASSESSMENT** – This would be held in abeyance until the next meeting because David Norman would be carrying out the inspections. The inspection papers had been circulated in advance, and the clerk pointed out that these were taken

directly from the RoSPA booklet on playground safety. It is a condition of the insurance policy that the inspections are carried out.

**11.470) CONSIDERATION OF STRATEGY FOR LONG TERM BUDGET AND PRECEPTING** It was suggested that £10,000 be set aside for teenage facilities and £2,000 for jubilee celebrations.

**11.471) FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

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

Cheque Number	Goods/Service	Payee	Nett	Vat	Gross
300006	Salary	S Rodger	362.23		362.23
300007	Repair to trough at allotments	Roger Munro	25.00	0	25.00
300008	Pit Stop bus for teenagers	Ark Foundation	46.00	0	46.00
		TOTAL	433.23	0	£ 433.23

2. **ACCOUNTS TO DATE** Had not been updated as no cheques had been issued due to insufficient funds in the new bank account.

**11.472) NEW BANKING ARRANGEMENTS** The new bank account with Unity Bank is open, although the transfer of funds from the previous account by HSBC had required monitoring and chasing but should be expedited in the next few days. It was **RESOLVED** that a paying in facility should be set up with Nassington Post Office; and that a standing order be set up to pay the clerk's salary and that the clerk and one councillor should be set up as authorised telephone users to discuss the accounts and transfer money between accounts only.

**11.473) TWINNING** A request had been received from the twinning committee requesting an increase in the 2012 twinning grant as the French are visiting in what would usually be a 'gap year'. The twinned visitors would like to come to enjoy the UK during 2012 as it is an important year for this country. After some debate over the merits of the twinning exchange programme with regard to the wider community, it was **RESOLVED** to increase the grant, for the year 2012 only, to £500.

**11.474) STREET LIGHT ON CHURCH STREET:** There was a short report concerning the disappearance of the street light near 16 Church Street and information regarding the implications of an insurance claim. It was **RESOLVED** to go ahead with the repair without pursuing the insurance claim.

**11.475) DOG WASTE COLLECTIONS:** **RESOLVED** that the parish council would like to continue with the current arrangements for dog waste collections with ENC<sup>i</sup>'s new contractors Kier at a cost of £45.94 p.a.

**11.476) OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES OR REPORTS**

1. **The Chairman** – None

2. **The Clerk** – None

- **Councillors** - Burial Board: There had been a burial board meeting at which it had been reported that PCC Cllr Heather Smith had taken the matter of the planning proposal up with the archaeology department at NCC who had agreed that only one trench would be necessary and that the costs would be to the account of NCC. ENC<sup>i</sup> has expressed its support for this way forward. The application would be progressing on this basis and the burial board is intending taking up an interest free loan.

**11.477) OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**

- **Facilities for Young People in Nassington** – The clerk had circulated a link to the type of Chairman's Initials:

*Clerk*

facility that could be a welcome solution to the needs of the young people, at the playing field. It was agreed that feedback for this – a rebound / multi goal wall - should be sought via the internet facilities and funding sources should be investigated too

- **QEII Fields in Trust** – The clerk had been in discussion with the FiT organisers and the application was in hand
- **Severe winter planning** – At the beginning of the year, it had been agreed that grit bins should be installed in the village at places which are considered locally to be danger spots but which do not fit the county council installation criteria. The location and cost of the bins was considered. It became increasingly obvious during discussion that the mechanics of the operation of keeping the bins in operation was not an easily solvable challenge. The grit-salt would be stored in 25kg bags and storage was not seen as a problem. The foreseen problem was getting the grit-salt from storage into the bins and then from the bins to where it would be needed to clear ice. The complications of refilling the bins during the bad weather was discussed in terms of public liability insurance and felt to be untenable. The matter would be discussed before the next meeting to see if there is a solution as the council is very keen to provide this service to people in the village.

#### 11.478) CORRESPONDENCE

- Oundle 2020 meeting of interested villages in Glapthorn (circulated by email)
- Parish Enhancement Gangs (circulated by email) – Clerk to reply in the affirmative
- Augean Leafelts – Distributed to each member
- Acre annual report (circulated by email)
- Local Democracy week – circulated in advance

#### 11.479) NEWSLETTER

- Grit bins
- Jubilee meeting – open invitation
- Speeding, with emphasis on the police involvement
- Teenage facilities
- Street light on church street

#### 11.480) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Portrait of the Queen

**11.481) UPDATE ON MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM COMMUNITY COMPLEX PROJECT.** A meeting had taken place between representative of the parish council and JED Designs. A paper concerning that meeting and the consequential proposals was handed out at the meeting. Nothing had been circulated in advance to everyone. A number of proposals had been put forward to bring the matter to a close. After some deliberation, it was **RESOLVED** that a payment of £2500 plus £50 printing costs would be paid to JED Designs in full and final settlement of the account. As an aside, the clerk advised the meeting that she was in contact with the police regarding the contracts which had been produced purporting to have been signed by her. The chairman had advised that the council would not pursue this matter and it would be a private concern between the clerk and the company concerned.

**The chairman declared the meeting closed at 22.35**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2011, 7.30PM NASSINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

**Approved by Nassington Parish Council:**

**Signature of Chairman  
of following meeting:**

**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011**