



MINUTES - NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 14th September in the Village Hall, Nassington at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors: Alan Burns, (Chair), Yvonne Banke, Terry Boulton, Tony Cully, Barbara Curtis, Mike Ford and David Norman; also present Sarah Rodger – Clerk and Jeremy Taylor, District Councillor, East Northamptonshire Council

Before the meeting started, the chairman invited Jeremy Taylor to address the council. Cllr Taylor explained the background to the imminent closure of some of the facilities at the recycling centre in Oundle and detailed some of the decision making process by ENCⁱ which had been brought about by the transfer of the waste contract to Kier, starting on August 1st this year. The medium term plan is that Oundle Town Council will be purchasing the site with a view to reinstating all services, but in the meantime the facilities for the disposal of green garden waste and white goods would be suspended from October. Cllr Taylor encouraged the council to maintain pressure on the aforementioned councils. He mentioned that the new arrangements for collection of domestic waste across the district have been a very smooth transition. There is to be a new issue across the district regarding the closure of further public facilities, most notably public conveniences. There was a brief discussion regarding the ‘localism’ and planning proposals that are currently under discussion in parliament in favour of sustainable development and community cohesion, but at this early consultation stage, little is clear regarding what will eventually become statutory so meaningful discussion is not really possible.

Members brought up the matter of the red phone box near The Drove – the possibility of adopting it will be revisited. The number of signs at the drive to playing field was noted and it was generally concurred that to add ‘Nassington Playing Field’ to the number there would contribute to the ‘overcrowding’ of the signs, although it could be possible to put one on the gate. It was agreed that the new waste collection wheelie bin systems was generally accepted, although one or two terraced areas of the village were forced to house the bins on the street, but overall any problems had been small ones.

11.442) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Rachel Taylor – recovering from a medical procedure. Apologies accepted.

ACTION / NOTES

11.443) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

| | |
|--|---|
| David Norman | Neighbour of playing field / pavilion / preschool |
| Alan Burns | Churchyard wall as his wife is a deputy churchwarden and on the PCC |
| Personal interests. None of the declarations was made as prejudicial | |

Declarations of interest

11.444) MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 13TH AS PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the July meeting.

11.445) PLANNING:

- 11/01293/FUL and 11/01294/LBC 40 Church Street Nassington – Extension into roof spaces to the side and rear of the existing dwelling including conservation rooflights. Ground floor rear conservatory. Alterations to first floor to form shower room with conservation rooflight **RESOLVED** No comment or objection
- 11/01338/TCA – Tree works within conservation zone St Marys Close Nassington Trees adjacent to the footway, lift to give height clearance over the footway for pedestrians **RESOLVED** No comment or objection

The meeting had a look at the documents which had arrived that morning for 12a Station

Chairman’s Initials:

Road and the conversion of barns on Church Street, but these would be discussed in full at the next parish council meeting.

11.446) DIAMOND JUBILEE / 2012 CELEBRATIONS – There had been some discussion earlier in the year which had concluded that the parish council was in favour of taking the lead in organising an inclusive village wide celebration in the village. The view held is that it would be favourable to hold it at the playing field so that the celebrations can be open ended in terms of time – formal street closures are necessary for street parties and can only be for a short time. A meeting had been held, but it was not at a very convenient time so little had come out of it due to lack of attendance. The informal feedback from people chatting ‘on the street’ etc was that there is support and interest from the wider community. The parish council’s view is that any form of celebration must include everyone in the village so that it becomes a large community event to celebrate this almost unique occasion. There are a number of points that have to be clarified – should there be a marquee?, what will the entertainment be? Will there be a barbeque or a ‘bring your own’ picnic?, Is there an opportunity for community groups to hold fundraising events? Wider issues to think about which were put forward, namely the possibility of fireworks/bonfire (which led to the discussion/question of there being a national beacon lighting ceremony); there is a possibility of military fly pasts should there be planes being passing within the area; a proposal for 3 permanent flagpoles to commemorate the event was put forward and can the Yarwell & Nassington Brass Band attend? Other ideas suggested were an official photographer and sponsorship by locals companies. The matter of ‘villagers only’ was touched on, but generally agreed that it would be possible to work a “+guests” arrangement to ensure that local precept payers were not subsidising other people. It was agreed that the results of informal discussions with people from the village would be brought to the October meeting with a view to a formal meeting being arranged shortly thereafter.

11.447) FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN NASSINGTON The pit stop bus had been twice more over the summer period and attended the garden show on the August Bank holiday, but little tangible feedback has been forthcoming from teenagers, parents or 3rd parties. It was agreed that provision of facilities for older children/teenagers is something that the parish council is very much committed to and will continue to try to establish suitable provisions for the children.

11.448) CHURCHYARD WALL The clerk had followed instructions from the last meeting in July and met with the builders with a view to putting together a specification. The builder had strongly recommended using the specification drawn up by the Church’s architectural firm and also using that firm to oversee the work, as that would be the most cost effective way of working in the long run. This is a specialist area and professional advice must be taken into consideration. The clerk was instructed to prepare an invitation to tender, based on the specification prepared by the architect, with an additional proviso to allow for completion of the necessary works in two stages, but to also request formal advice on the wisdom of a ‘two stage’ approach. The matter of using the church architect to oversee the work was discussed, but, with the meeting closed, Jeremy Taylor confirmed the veracity of the architect’s qualifications and reliability. Other matters to be considered in the medium term are grant funding to help with the costs of the work and the fact that a faculty will be necessary.

*Meeting
closed
20.37,
reopened
20.38*

11.449) CONSIDERATION OF STRATEGY FOR LONG TERM BUDGET AND PRECEPTING The parish council is endeavouring to determine a strategic plan and a long term budgetary process based on its priorities, it is not looking for a means of building up a generic ‘slush fund’ to be held for no specific reason. Currently only the development of facilities for young people has been identified as a priority. The intention is not to generate a long wish list of things it would be

‘nice to have’, but to identify specific aims for the wider community.

After some discussion, it became apparent that neighbourhood safety and the environment are high priorities. It was concurred that the parish council does not have direct powers to implement a form of traffic calming, but would, in general, support the exploration of a scheme by a higher tier council. Community ‘well being’ is very important, which the council can support by enhancing what living in a rural village environment means. Priority would be given to this matter before the end of the year so that figures can be included in the budget which will be set at the January meeting.

11.450) LAND NEAR ALLOTMENTS / CHURCH STREET – There had been a multi agency meeting held to discuss the perceived public nuisance arising from cars, machinery and mechanical parts stored on the west verge of Church Street, where it meets Apethorpe Road, in the lane joining St Marys Way and Close and on the parish council’s allotment land. The suggested solution put forward to alleviate the objections to cars being parked on the verge was that a series of posts should be installed along the verge – the parish council had no objections to this approach and the clerk was instructed to write to the highways department advising of the council’s decision. The installation of posts to stop parking in other parts of the village was considered, but the conclusion was that cars were in fact temporarily parked in other areas, not given the impression of permanency and having being abandoned or broken for parts which is the case on Church Street. The council would continue to monitor the matter. It was considered that the allotments had been cleared of detritus to an acceptable level.

11.451) QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLAYING FIELD CHALLENGE – There has been a concerted campaign by Fields in Trust (FiT) to bring to the attention of community councils a scheme to protect open spaces for communities. Many emails concerning this matter had been forwarded to members since the beginning of the year. The scheme aims to protect open spaces across the country so that future generations have community spaces secured. There is a special event underway to create a number of “Queen Elizabeth II” (QEII) open spaces to tie in with the Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The proposal had been put forward to protect the playing fields in Nassington in this way. After some discussion, during which it was clarified that the parish council would not stand to lose either ownership or management of the field and, should there come a point where the parish council felt it necessary to sell or develop the land, the FiT QEII scheme would not prevent this, provided that it could be demonstrated that an alternative open space would be made available in replacement. There was a vote and it was **RESOLVED** to nominate Nassington playing field as a QEII FiT open space.

11.452) FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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

| Cheque Number | Goods/Service | Payee | Nett | Vat | Gross |
|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|--------|
| 300173 | Salary | S Rodger | 724.46 | | 724.46 |
| | Street lighting maintenance | E.on | 165.30 | 33.06 | 198.36 |
| | Emptying dog bin | ENC | 14.29 | 2.86 | 17.15 |
| | Audit | BDO LLP | 135.00 | 27.00 | 162.00 |
| | Water at allotments | Anglian Water | 144.29 | 0 | 144.29 |
| | Street light repair | Eon | 23.47 | 4.69 | 28.16 |

Chairman’s Initials:

A fixed penalty had been received from HMRC for late filing (£100). The clerk was instructed to appeal against this in writing on the basis that there is only one employee who can carry out this task, the amount in question is so small and it is public money.

2. **AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2011** The audit has been completed as unqualified, with a note to the audit for the reader of the accounts confirming that the asset figure in box 9 had been restated in line with revisions to legislation.

3. **ACCOUNTS TO DATE** Had been circulated and there were no matters arising

11.453) OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES OR REPORTS

1. **The Chairman** – None

2. **The Clerk** – Advised that she had been offered the position of clerk at Warmington parish council and would be taking up the offer

3. **Councillors** -

- Allotments: The gatepost is to be replaced – the clerk was to have obtained quotes, but did not understand that this was the case. The roadway through the allotments needs to be levelled. The wall to the north of the gate is being rebuilt by the tenant of the allotment closest to the wall with the stone. There are 3 people on the waiting list and there are 3 allotments not currently being worked.

- Burial Board: There was to be a meeting the following Tuesday. The stumbling block to the extension was currently the archaeological survey necessary to progress the planning application.

- Newsletter: Alan Burns and Mike Ford had attended the meeting earlier that week. It had been agreed that due to the healthy bank balance held by the newsletter committee, until it became necessary to make a grant, the parish council would not do so, but would undertake to underwrite the newsletter committee's financial commitments. It had been agreed that a competition would be a good idea to generate input to the magazine, with a £50 prize to generate interest.

- Pocket park: The noticeboard at the pocket park had broken slightly. Yvonne Banke had repaired it for the time being, but note was taken that a more permanent repair or replacement would be necessary before too long.

11.454) PLAYING FIELD RISK ASSESSMENT – It was agreed to carry this item forward until the next meeting

11.455) REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS CONSULTATION The council had no comment to make on this matter

11.456) CORRESPONDENCE

- Open spaces DPD consultation (circulated by email)
- Alternative lighting options from Eon (circulated by email) – Do not want to pursue
- Members allowances (circulated by email) – Do not want to pursue
- Rospa Report (circulated by email)
- ENC Chairmans event on 19th November
- Councillors' questionnaire from NCALC (circulated by email)
- High speed Broadband for Northants update
- Northants Police 'Have your say' – include in newsletter

11.457) NEWSLETTER

- Diamond jubilee celebration ideas
- Northants Police 'Have your say'

Clerk

Chairman's Initials:

- Street lighting – advise that there are no plans to do away with street lighting

11.458) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11.459) UPDATE ON MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM COMMUNITY COMPLEX PROJECT. There was nothing to report re this matter

The chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.45

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 12TH OCTOBER 2011, 7.30PM NASSINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Approved by Nassington Parish Council:

**Signature of Chairman
of following meeting:**

Date: 12th October 2011

ⁱ ENC = East Northamptonshire Council

Chairman's Initials: