

NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES - NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 7.30 pm. GMT

In accordance with provision laid down by The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, during a period of encouraged 'social distancing', this meeting was held by means of internet video and telephone communication in a virtual setting, using Zoom software. All members were always able to hear proceedings and members of the public had been given opportunity to attend.

21/1865 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PRESENT: Cllr Alan Burns (Chairman) Cllr Tony Cooper, Cllr Dec Downey, Cllr Rebecca Downey, Cllr Robert Peterson. Apologies received from Ruth Rigby due to work commitments. Absent: Susie Tinsley, however after the meeting it transpired a technical issue had caused a problem with receipt of agendas. Officer present: The clerk. Gary Kirk, consultant from YourLocale was present until the end of the fifth item.

20/1875 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

20/1876 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the December 2020 meeting as a proper record of that meeting. The chairman will sign the minutes at an appropriate time once COVID-19 restrictions allow.

20/1877 ADDRESS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

There was none.

21/1866 NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN:

It was noted that the designation of the whole Nassington Parish has been designated as a neighbourhood plan area.

There was an opportunity all members to formally meet Gary Kirk from YourLocale and discuss first steps in the Nassington neighbourhood plan process. There was a brief exchange of information reiterating the purpose of the plan, the methodology and government/local authority statutory and financial support underpinning the process and the fact that once adopted, the plan becomes a crucial part of the legal planning system for the parish. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk and YourLocale apply for the first tranche of funding from Locality, the body who oversees the process for the government. This will fund the immediate work necessary to start to develop a picture of the parish, undertaking a housing assessment and a housing needs project to contribute towards the evidence base of the overall final plan. YourLocale will engage with the landowner and agents concerning the only identified site, so far, as suitable for a new community building and with ENC planners. Plus, YourLocale will prepare draft terms of reference to get the advisory working party committee up and running. The intention is that these would include member of the wider community as well as some parish councils. There would be delegated power to move things along, but all decisions would remain with the parish council as the statutory body. In addition, the clerk will meet with the chairman and the vice-chairman to talk through possibilities of who might want to become involved in the wider advisory committee

21/1867 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MATTERS:

- 20/01625/TPO/ | Sycamore (T1) - Remove Sycamore to ground level as it is in too close a proximity to surrounding trees. Removing it will allow more light and growth to the surrounding trees and hedge. This tree in our opinion is not TPO worthy and its removal will not affect the integrity of the local landscape. | 3 Prebendal Close Nassington. It was **RESOLVED** that the council has no objections or further comment to make.
- 20/01608/TPO/ | T1 Maple (Crimson King) - Remove lowest small branch (about 15 to 20cm diameter) at 1 metre high, back to the trunk; reduce branches facing house by 0.5 to 1 metre; reduce branches over road by 1 to 2 metres; reduce lower branch on the south side of the tree (15cm diameter) by 1 to

2 metres to shape. | 1 Prebendal Close Nassington It was **RESOLVED** that the council has no objections or further comment to make.

- Augean facilities at ENMRF in Kings Cliffe: There was a brief discussion, but the council has no objections or further comment to make.
- Adverse possession of land leading from the green to the playing field: Documents had been circulated in advance of the meeting: The council has no objections.

21/1868 COMMUNITY MATTERS / PROJECTS:

- Debrief on Christmas projects: The Christmas tree on the green had been an immense success. Thank you again to the Thorpe-Codmans for providing and removing the tree, to Mee Farmers for their help in manoeuvring it into place, to Susie Tinsley and Rob Peterson for helping to organise and to the Normans for generous supply of electricity.
- The outdoor gym is due to be installed in the next few weeks. The clerk will organise contractors to clear all the scrub from the area. At the same time as the installation works, efforts will be made to try to improve the ground at the gateway between the playing field and the land to the west. It is exceedingly muddy underfoot, due to the location of the area and remedial steps would be welcomed.
- in accordance with recommendation by NALC to make an appointment, It was **RESOLVED** to appoint the clerk as the police co-ordination person.
- It was **RESOLVED** to continue with section 136 arrangements to cut urban verges on a contractual basis for the highways authority, with the payment remaining as previous years.

21/1869 GOVERNANCE MATTERS:

Accounts to date were received, showing a current asset of £113,116.20

A proposed budget had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommended budget. It was further **RESOLVED** to raise a precept demand of £49,755, which is the same as the previous year.

Income	
Precept	49,755
Interest	-
Allotment Rents	450
Pavilion Lease	
Preschool	690
Misc	-
NCC highways	534
NDP grant	26,000
Wkg income	77,429
Reserves	120,880
	198,309

Expenditure	
Salary	10,000
Pension Provision/NIC	600
Clerks expenses	150
Office expenses	50
Professional fees	1,000
Training budget	400
Website	1,500
Street Lighting	558
Playing Field	1,500
Footpaths / Environment	1,750
Burial Board	2,200
Insurance	1,000
NALC & SLCC	400
Meeting facilitation	300
Audit	565
Allotment Expenditure	600
churchyard	850
Contingency / c'man's allowance	250
NHW	41
Fwd Contingency (to reserves)	3,000
Elections	1,000

VH Grant	1,000
Highways / amenities	2,500
Tree inspection/works	2,500
Cohesion / wellbeing	6,000
History Group	500
Street Lighting loan repayt	2,942
NDP project	26,000
To capital project	7,673
Sub total	77,429
Capital Projects	
Slide / play area	12,000
	Recreation reserve 55,245
	General Reserve 45,635
	Cohesion reserve 6,000
	Election reserve 2,000
	Working cash 77,429
	Total reserves 120,880

Professional fees are to cover legal costs. Website costs cover the cost of the website upgrade that will be taking place after the local government reorganisation. It is necessary due to the WCAG guidelines necessitating public sector websites' accessibility requirements; however, the emergence of the new North Northamptonshire Council makes it prudent to delay this project until that authority's online presence is established so that the Nassington website can tie in accordingly. In the meantime, the temporary website contains statutory papers.

There was a discussion regarding vacancies on the council and the upcoming elections. Councillors were asked to let the chairman and the clerk know of their intentions to stand for re-election or otherwise. A publicity campaign and direct approaches to possible candidates were agreed.

21/1870 NEWSLETTERS

The Neighbourhood Plan, Christmas tree project.

21/1871 ALLOTMENTS UPDATE:

- Some dead chickens were left on their plot for some days, causing some consternation to other allotment holders as there was evidence of cannibalism. There is no indication that this was caused by avian influenza. The RSPCA had been involved at the time.
- There was a discussion regarding the number of fowl on some plots, the lack of cultivation of some plots, wild birds accessing kept fowl on the allotments as birds are not inside in accordance with the Defra statutory directive in connection with stemming the spread of the current avian 'flu' outbreak. If evidence of breaches occurs, this will be passed to the local authority that deals with such matters.
- The council has written to all allotment holders reiterating the council's reasons for clamping down on the number of hens on plots and the insistence of cultivation of plots. It was recognised that the council has been attempting to deal with this issue for some time, with lack of compliance demonstrably apparent. The council has no option other than to bring the whole issue to a conclusion. It was agreed that at the end of the month, the chairman and the vice-chairman, who is chairman of the allotment committee, along with any other councillors who wish to join, will visit the allotments, suitably socially distanced and masked, to inspect the allotment plots. Any plots containing non-permitted poultry, or other animals, and non-cultivated plots will be deemed to be a contravention of contract. Any non-housed poultry contravening statute concerning avian flu will be reported to Trading Standards animal welfare / DEFRA. If anyone is in violation on the parish council's terms at this point, notice to quit will be issued.

21/1872 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

It was **RESOLVED** to approve invoices / accounts for payment or paid under delegated authority:

Goods/services	Payee	Nett	Gross
Village amenity cuts July	Plough environmental	220.00	1,120.00
Groundworks for gym		50.00	
Tree works Dec & July		350.00	
Urban highways July, Oct and Nov		500.00	
Burial board grant	Burial board	2,200.00	2,200.00
history group website	Paul Tate	61.20	61.20
Training - difficult people	SLCC	16.00	57.46
Conferences		9.38	
training - planning		11.25	
Excel accessibility		11.25	
External audit	PKF Littlejohn	300.00	360.00
Lighting	Zeta	11,767.50	14,121.00
Mole control	Peerborough Pestforce	275.00	275.00

21/1873 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT CONCERNS

There was an update about the matters brought to the attention of the parish council regarding possible planning enforcement breaches.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 10TH FEBRUARY 2021, 7.30PM

Approved by Nassington Parish Council:

**Signature of Chairman
of following meeting:**

Date: