

NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES - NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 13th July 2022 at 7.30 pm in Nassington Village Hall

22.2056. Attendance and apologies for absence

Present: Cllr Alan Burns, Cllr Elliott Clark, Cllr Rebecca Downey, Cllr Alain Kingsley, Cllr Charlotte Lemmon, Cllr Paul Monks, Cllr Robert Peterson (chairman) and Cllr Shane Rickwood. Officer present: The clerk. Apologies received from Derrick Mortimer due to clash of duties. It was **RESOLVED** to accept these apologies. One member of the public present.

22.2057. Declarations of Interest

There were declarations of personal interest only from Cllr Shane Rickwood regarding the development of Rockingham Forest and by Cllr Paul Monks and Cllr Rob Peterson regarding the planning item at Parkway Close.

22.2058. Approval of Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approved the minutes of the meeting in June 2022. The chairman signed the minutes.

22.2059. Questions or address from members of the public:

The clerk had circulated an email in advance of the meeting which contained points which the person in attendance wished to bring to the attention of the council:

- Handrail at the pocket park: The council agreed to investigate contractors/suppliers.
- Allotments – nuisance caused by muntjac deer; nuisance caused by garden waste being brought onto the allotment (by non-allotment holders); rubbish at the allotments. The clerk undertook to investigate whether any grant funding might be available for deer proof fencing.

22.2060. Neighbourhood Plan:

- The environment group has pulled together an enormous amount of work and is putting the last few pieces of data in the dataset for the consultants to formulate into the emerging draft plan. All members of the committee were thanked for their input.
- The intention is to take the draft plan forward without the heritage aspect forming part, with a view to including heritage aspects as part of ongoing reviews and revisions of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The clerk has undertaken to send out the site appraisal responses to landowners and/or their agents by the following Friday.

22.2061. Planning and Development:

- a) **Jacks Green** – opportunity for further discussion following site visit and agree final submission to planning consultation:
 - Representatives of the council visited the site since the previous meeting.
 - There had been a useful discussion about potential within the wider site of the Rockingham Forest Park, additional to the areas subject to planning control, to improve all round biodiversity and there will be engagement between the parish council's neighbourhood plan environment committee members / councillors and the site management team and environmental consultants.
 - The environmental commitments laid out in the planning application are not ideal, leaving some aspects lacking in detail, but the intention is encouraging. However, the site meeting allows the future opportunity for the parish council representatives to have direct access to the planning consultants and the environmental advisors.
 - The matter of community engagement was discussed. The council made the point that it would be positive if the site management could communicate directly with people in the local villages and let the wider community know that they are able to use the network of permissive footpaths through the park, that there

is full access to the memorial marking the site of Glen Millar’s last concert and that there are job opportunities.

- The parish council’s representatives made it abundantly clear that the council would strongly oppose further development of the site and were given a firm pledge from the management at the meeting that this would not happen.
 - It was **RESOLVED** that the parish council is not content with the proposal to install underground pipes and associated pumping equipment from the site to the sewer works at Kings Cliffe and will submit objections to the planning authority regarding this aspect of the application. Nassington Parish Council is confident that a reed bed system, for which there is sufficient land available, would be a suitable solution for the site.
 - In essence, the parish council appreciates why some people may have misgivings about the development of the site, as the park might not be to everyone’s taste, plus the cabins and the fencing of the right of way has altered how the area used to be. However, the council is of the opinion that, with local and national development plans being the legal framework within which decisions about the development will be made, it is necessary to work with the applicants to maximise the environmental and economic potential locally and to allow local people to benefit from the site too.
- b) **Black Horse** – Whilst the parish council recognises that if alterations to the Black Horse pub have been made without listed building consent which should have been sought, there is a general recognition that the wider community as a whole is supportive of the owners’ ambitions to improve the building and bring the business back to a working pub/restaurant. It was agreed that the council will make contact with the conservation officer at North Northamptonshire Council to reiterate that the pub was until relatively recently an Asset of Community Value and request that the matter be prioritised. Cllr Paul Monks was not in favour of supporting the project.
- c) NE/22/00769/FUL | Two dormers to front elevation, one dormer to rear elevation and addition of porch to side elevation | 10 Parkway Close. It was **RESOLVED** that the council has no objections or further comment to make.

22.2062. Governance Matters:

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to sign all relevant papers confirming new members as bank signatories and apply for the credit card payment facility, establishing a formal card payment facility via the council’s bankers to replace the existing prepaid mastercard system currently in place. It was further **RESOLVED** that there will be no encashment facility, as the council is unable to envisage the need for cash, that single transaction limit is £500 and that the credit limit is £1,500.
- b) The accounts for first quarter of 2022/23 financial year had been circulated in advance of the meeting, along with access to bank statements to cross check ledger balances against actual bank balances. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts as a true financial record of the council’s current financial situation. The summary of the council’s current assets was:

Current account	2,361.13
Nationwide 95 day saver	85,226.74
Tailored reserve	39,355.84
Pocket prepayment card (petty cash)	63.46
Total cash:	<u>127,007.17</u>

- c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve recommended additional and virement of budget headings:

- Virement 1 Increase income and expenditure budgets to reflect unbudgeted grant from lottery community grant for the jubilee celebrations
- Virement 2 Increase expected interest receipts due to increased interest rates
- Virement 3 £3,597 Increase carry forward general reserve (£109,626 budgeted, £113,223 carried fwd) and from general reserve to footpath project

22.2063. Playing Field:

- a) The North Northamptonshire Council Freedom Leisure Turn Up and Play sessions at the playing field on the first two Tuesdays of the holidays were noted.
- b) The annual RoSPA safety report had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was noted. It was agreed that the attention/repairs would be necessary to the slide, the seesaw and the zip slide surface and unit, as outlined in the report.
- c) Repair costs had not yet been received. However, a discussion ensued about the potential necessity to consider replacing some of the older timber items at the site, because strimmer damage has accelerated timber rot to the upright timbers with may affect structural integrity. Whilst the RoSPA risk levels are not highlighted above 10/medium, the council felt it advisory to begin exploring replacement options for the mulitplay climber and the trim trail. Weeds, in particular around the trim trail and Burma bridge and under the zip wire platforms would benefit from being treated with herbicides.

22.2064. Community / Projects:

- a) Allotments:
 - Following inspection of allotments, the following was reported:
 - 1 and 2b – eviction due to not being properly cultivated
 - 2a – New tenant
 - 3 – new tenant
 - 4a and 4b are okay
 - 5 (and 24) have no evidence of proper activity
 - 6 and 7b are new tenants
 - 8 is a new tenant who has cleared the site, but nothing is yet growing
 - 11 and 12 (and 27b) – eviction due to not being properly cultivated
 - 15 /15a and 16 – there are too many sheds
 - 16 and 17 are okay
 - 19 and 20 have been cleared recently
 - 21 and 22a are okay
 - 23a is cultivated, but a little overgrown – mitigating circumstances were considered
 - 23n is okay
 - 25 and 26b are good
 - 27a is good
 - 28 is good / okay

The clerk was instructed to write to the two allotment holders who were identified by the council as not abiding by the terms of their contract with the council and advise them that their tenancy has been cancelled with immediate effect. Furthermore, they must clear their allotments within two weeks of receipt of the letter.

The council will consider the tenancies going forward, to determine what is considered to be a reasonable and responsible shed/building size.

- It was **RESOLVED** to increase the budget for pond creation at the allotments to cover cost of operative plus fencing and hire of plant to £400 and to allow an additional contingency for fencing. The clerk will contact a local fencing supplier to obtain quotes for installation (and to consider the handrail at the pocket park at the same time)
- b) Stand at the garden show:

A rota would be drawn up so that there is always someone on hand at the council's stand at the show. The intention is to aim for communication engagement on matters such as:

 - climate mitigation measures,

- critical views in and out of the village and in the wider parish
- favourite/ important trees in the village/parish
- what projects people would like the council to consider promoting
- what play equipment people might like
- highlighting the neighbourhood plan and ways to become involved/reply to the consultations

c) Environment impact mitigation:

- It was agreed that a discussion paper will be drawn up to open discussions about an overarching biodiversity/environmental policy which will identify ways of prioritising elements under the council's duty to consider biodiversity, which will in turn inform and manage the maintenance of the playing field under the lease and licence arrangements with the cricket club. The paper could cover the pocket park, the churchyard, other amenity areas and the highways verges as well.
- To initiate a community wide discussion about community wide efforts to take positive steps in climate change mitigation, the council should try to enable change by making it easier for people to investigate changes they can implement. Ideas put forward included collective purchasing of oil and pv(solar), and provision of electric car charging points. Cllr Charlotte Lemmon undertook to draw up a discussion paper which will in turn look at setting up a working party to bring together ideas from the wider community.

22.2065. Highway matters:

a) SID:

- The installation of the new speed indicator device was noted.
- A proposed rota for management of the sites had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was approved in principle. Dynamic collaboration will facilitate the personnel to change the batteries and sites as necessary.
- It was noted that due to changes at North Northamptonshire Council highways, the installation of the post at the north end of Station Road will not be addressed until after the new contracts starts in September. The installation will have to be re-quoted.
- The H&S/risk management documentation for approval will follow. In the meantime, it was agreed that there must always be a minimum of two people changing the batteries and repositioning the sites. When necessary, people will wear high-viz safety tops.

b) It was **RESOLVED** to agree the adoption of street lighting in Fenn Close

22.2066. Financial matters:

a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

Goods/Service	Payee	Nett	Gross	Power
Donation to OVS	OVS		500.00	<i>LG and rating act S26i</i>
PAYE	HMRC		539.28	<i>LGAⁱⁱ S112</i>
Grasscutting	Plough		470.00	<i>HAⁱⁱⁱ S96 / PHA^{iv} S164 / LGAⁱⁱ S136</i>
Band - jubilee	YNBB		200.00	<i>LGAⁱⁱ S145</i>
Domain renewal	TsoHost	7.95	9.54	<i>LGAⁱⁱ S111</i>
Mapping software	ParishOnline/Geosphere	23.43	28.12	<i>LGAⁱⁱ S111</i>
Membership & Audit	Northants CALC	682.51	741.51	<i>LGAⁱⁱ S111</i>
Insurance valuation	Cardinus	130.00	156.00	<i>LGAⁱⁱ S111</i>
Paid by so/dd				
Electricity	SSE	102.61	107.74	<i>PC Act and Highways Act^v S301</i>
Staff costs		715.98		<i>LGAⁱⁱ S112 & Pensions act</i>
Paid by card				
Webhosting	TsoHost/Paragon	47.88	57.46	<i>LGAⁱⁱ S111</i>
VGA cable	Amazon	5.82	6.99	<i>LGAⁱⁱ S111</i>

22.2067. Official announcements, notices or reports / Correspondence / representations of note:

- a) NorthantsCALC Membership satisfaction survey was noted – the clerk had completed on behalf of the council and members would complete their own.
- b) There was a brief report from the Yarwell and Nassington cemetery meeting which had been held the evening before.
- c) <https://www.cpics.org.uk/> was noted for information
- d) A request had been received from a member of the public to plant a memorial tree to commemorate the passing of a life-long third generation resident. The deceased person had grown the tree from seed. As the tree in question is a sweet chestnut, the requested site of the village green was not considered appropriate, due to the nature of the roots and the eventual size of the tree. Some sites were suggested but deemed unsuitable because they are either too shaded or the land is not in the gift of the parish council to offer. However, the council will consider further options as to where the tree might be sited.
- e) Village hall: The council noted the correspondence from the Nassington village hall board of trustees. The council confirmed that it its intent has not been to cease the annual grant of £500 agreed in 2017, and that in the intervening 5 years, £4700 has been paid to the village hall as opposed to the £2500 grant allowance undertaken by the council. The council appreciates all that the hall contributes to the community and the council will continue to support and engage as the plans for a new village facility become clearer, as the Neighbourhood Development Plan emerges. Representatives of the neighbourhood plan committee will be in touch with the trustees in due course as part of the plan process.

22.2068. Newsletter / Social Media / community communications.

An update regarding the allotments, improvements and availability would be included, along with a note about what the council will be including at the garden show and an update again about the SID.

Date of next meeting: 14th September 2022

Approved by Nassington Parish Council:		
Signature of Chairman		Date:

- i LGR - [Local Government and Rating Act 1997](#)
- ii LGA – [Local Government Act 1972](#)
- iii HA- [Highways Act 1980](#)
- iv PHA - [Public Health Act 1875](#)
- v [Parish Councils Act 1957 s3](#) / [Highways Act 1980 s301](#)