

NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES - NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 12th April 2023 at 7.30 pm in Nassington Village Hall

23.2250. Attendance and apologies for absence

Present: Cllr Alan Burns, Cllr Elliott Clark, Cllr Rebecca Downey, Cllr Alain Kingsley, Cllr Charlotte Lemmon, Cllr Derrick Mortimer and Cllr Robert Peterson (chairman). Apologies received from a Shane Rickwood due to personal commitments. It was **RESOLVED** to accept these apologies Officer present: The clerk. Also in attendance Sophie van den Bergh and four members of the public

23.2251. Declarations of Interest

Derrick Mortimer declared his standing personal but nonpecuniary interest in any matters relating to Nassington Preschool.

23.2252. Approval of Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes, circulated in advance of the meeting, of the meeting held in March. The chairman of the meeting signed the minutes.

23.2253. Presentation: Rockingham Forest Vision from Sophie van den Bergh from Nene Rivers Trust

Sophie presented information pertaining to a 2 year Heritage Lottery funded project to link the Rockingham Forest landscapes, people and wildlife. The defined area was historically from the gates of Stamford to the gates of Northampton and encompassing the Nene and Welland river valleys, meaning that the area is large and economically, culturally, and geologically diverse. The website <https://www.rockinghamforest.org.uk/> encapsulates ways in which the community can become involved, details how nature recovery plans will be rolled out and how the organisation aims to work with landowners to promote sustainability of the longer term outcomes of the project. Some dates and ideas were put suggested as ways in which the council can work with the Rockingham Forest Vision to encourage involvement in the projects and identify volunteers.

23.2254. Questions or address from members of the public:

There were none.

23.2255. Opportunity to consider co-option of new member of the parish council.

No formal applications had been received and the matter would be held over to the May meeting.

23.2256. Planning and Development:

- a) NE/23/00296/FUL | Construction of four single storey E(g) business units and associated car parking | Former Station Yard Station Road: It was agreed that the council has no objections to the proposals and, as demonstrated in the emerging draft neighbourhood plan, is actively supportive of initiatives that can provide local employment opportunities and support of the micro economy of the parish and immediate locality. As the council had not yet formally been apprised of the planning application, it was agreed to re-visit the matter if adverse comment appeared on the planning portal, or if the council was directly approached with concerns, prior to the next parish council meeting.
- b) NE/23/00284/TCA/ | Coniferous Tree (T1) Remove small tree at front of property to ground level, to be replaced with similar specimen in a more suitable spot; Eucalyptus (T2) Re-pollard to previous cuts, to a maximum of 2-3m. | 63 Church Street Nassington. It was **RESOLVED** that The council has no objections or further comment to make.
- c) NE/23/00235/PNA | Agricultural Livestock Building | Walnut Farm Mill Road was not discussed as the application had been determined.
- d) East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2: The consultation portal had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The council had no comment to make in response to the consultation. It was agreed that the document was indecipherable to anyone without an in-depth knowledge of the process

underpinning the consultation. There appeared to be no direct citations referencing where a lay-reader could find information relating to the original submission and a feeling that the process will mystify all but the most planning confident and technical of readers.

- e) Neighbourhood Plan: The notes following the environmental assessment of the proposed sites will shortly be with the consultants. A summary of the council's disappointment with the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan would be prepared for the clerk to forward to the consultants.

23.2257. Governance

- a) Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) had been circulated in advance of the meeting. However, the internal auditor's (IA) report had not been received in time for the meeting and could not be considered, meaning that the AGAR could not be considered and completed.

In the meantime, the clerk reported findings from the meeting with the auditor. The council had not undertaken a written assessment of the financial risks within the twelve month period covered by the AGAR (it having been undertaken the previous February, 2022). In addition, the Northants CALC Internal Audit Service (IAS) had produced a checklist in 2019 that was recommended as a checklist for each meeting to demonstrate transparency and best practice compliance. The recommendations had a reliance on written documentation and wet signatures, whereas Nassington Parish Council is paper free and cloud based in its approach. It was agreed that, in readiness for the consideration of the AGAR at the May meeting and the IA's report, a draft electronic version of the monthly compliance checklist be produced for adoption to be carried forward.

- b) The dates for the exercise of public rights (to inspect accounts and associated papers) were confirmed as 5th June – 14th July 2023.
- c) Public space protection order consultation: The council had no adverse comment to submit to the formal response, being content to continue with the current restrictions in place in the parish. However, the signage installed to date is not considered robust enough for the purpose and the council would request that metal signs that are not easy to remove or break are erected going forward.
- d) The council acknowledged submission of application for 23.00375.LAPNEW under the Licensing Act 2003, for the supply of alcohol Oak Lake Store Rockingham Forest Park, Kings Cliffe Road. There were no objections or cause for concern raised.
- e) Receive update regarding electricity supply for AED units:
 - o The re-negotiated rate for AED in phonebox was noted. The council noted that this process was not necessary, as BT/Openreach supports the installation and continued supply of electricity to AEDs in the phone boxes it has sold to parish councils.
 - o The process by which supply to the stand-alone AED cabinets on verges was provided requires irrefutable clarification. The council understands that the MPAN number was provided to National Grid, but is unclear of the wider process and implications of the units having been connected to the network. The council will attempt to ascertain how, both physically and on whose authority, the connection was made and whether the parish council is responsible in any way for any aspect of the arrangements.

23.2258. Playing field

- a) Concerns from users of the access road and carpark at the playing field continue. Costs of repair works have been sought and a meeting arranged.
- b) The council will continue in dialogue with the cricket club representatives to consider public liability implications and agree actions for licences / agreements for users of the playing field as per ongoing correspondence.

- c) The contractors have returned to address the zip slide surfacing. However, the council is not content with the quality of the works and require that the work is carried out to a proper standard so that all trip hazards are eliminated. The work should be carried out free of charge but cost of top soil will be to the council's account. Other maintenance works remain outstanding.

It was resolved that a commemorative tree would be planted at the playing field rather than placement of a coronation bench.

23.2259. Community / Projects:

- a) A litter pick and community event is scheduled for Saturday 22nd April. Cllr Elliot Clark will kindly collect the equipment from North Northamptonshire Council offices in Thrapston.
- b) Nature recovery updates:
- Hedge planting was successful and all plants appear to be thriving
 - Churchyard – nature conservation – some pintrest images were shared for the avoidance of doubt of the intention going forward. The council will discuss the issues with the grounds works contractor and instruct accordingly.
 - There is longer term challenge with regard to nature recovery in terms of verge maintenance and management because of public expectations and highway contracts. The matter will be discussed with stakeholders going forward.
 - A number of trees have been planted at the playing field. The commemorative Bird Blossom will be planted shortly and the previously agreed sweet chestnuts will be planted by the private donors in due course. The family planting the sweet chestnuts have been made aware of their obligation to protect and to water the tree.
 - It was **RESOLVED** to authorise £173 used to procure additional trees during the appropriate season.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure for display materials and presentation event sundries from budget brought forward from 22/23 budget balance).
- d) It was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure for equipment from donated carol singing fund for The Biscuit Tin social club/warm hub. A report detailing the groups activities and users had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The council put on record its gratitude to the village hall committee members for support with this initiative and commended the organisers for the enormous success of the club. In particular, the council thanked Robert P for his work in leading the social club and organising the group each week. Whilst it is now self-propelling as a social event, it is so because of his initiative and efforts.

23.2260. Financial matters:

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to adopt current assets to year end at 31st March 2023 and balances were approved as representative of the councils financial position:

ledger balance current account	1,821.68
Nationwide 95 day saver	86,519.84
Tailored reserve	24,769.01
Pockit prepayment card (petty cash)	2.23
Total cash:	113,112.76
Per cash book	
Balance b/f	113,223.00
Add receipts for year	73,530.37
less payments for the year	73,640.61
Balance c/f:	113,112.76

- b) Receive Section 2 of the AGAR would be approved at the May meeting, (see minute 2257 above)

c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments, details of which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Goods/service	Supplier	Nett	Gross	Power
Member/ audit fees	Northants CALC	684.32	737.52	LGA ⁱ 111
Prime (reduced)	Amazon	40.00	48.00	LGA ⁱ 111
DP fee	ICO		40.00	GDPR legislation
History group charge	K Palenski		42.48	LGA ⁱ 144
History group posters	Easiprint		21.54	LGA ⁱ 144
PAYE (Jul-Sept 2022)	HMRC		549.17	LGA ⁱ S112
Jubilee sundries	The Range (not claimed last year)		52.95	LGA ⁱ 145
Annual grant	village hall		500.00	LGA ⁱ 111
Annual grant	burial board		2,200.00	LGA ⁱ 214
Salary and pension			769.78	LGA ⁱ S112 & pensions

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23.2261. There were no official announcements, notices or reports / Correspondence / representations of note:

23.2262. Newsletter / Social Media / community communications would include

- Annual meeting in May
- Support Rockingham Forest inserts.

23.2263. Matters to carry forward:

- SID update.
- Annual meeting:
 - GNRP
 - Volunteer Action Oundle
 - Age UK Northants
 - Unitary councillors
 - Police/PCSO

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 10TH MAY 2023

Approved by Nassington Parish Council:

Signature of Chairman		Date:
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ⁱ LGA – Local Government Act 1972