

# NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



## MINUTES - NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30 pm in Nassington Village Hall

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### 24.2359. Attendance and apologies for absence

Present: Cllr Rebecca Downey, Cllr Elliott Clark, Cllr Alain Kingsley, Cllr Charlotte Lemmon, Cllr Derrick Mortimer, and Cllr Robert Peterson (chair). Apologies received from Sam Attenborough due to personal circumstances. Alan Burns was not expected to attend. It was **RESOLVED** to accept these apologies. Officer present: The clerk. One member of the public, until the end of item 24.2362

### 24.2360. Declarations of Interest

Dispensations are in place for all members of the council who are also members of the cricket club, for members with allotments, for members with association with the preschool, and for members with association with the church. The council has previously acknowledged that associations with and membership of other organisations might on occasion be pecuniary in nature but felt those to be incidental to the member's council role rather than of pecuniary advantage or disadvantage to the member, that the roles would not conflict, and that members would put their statutory duty as duly appointed members of the council as priority in any decision making process.

Cllr Robert Peterson declared an pecuniary interest with matters relating to planning under 24.2364.

### 24.2361. Approval of Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes, circulated in advance of the meeting, of the meeting held in December 2023. The chairman of the meeting signed the minutes.

### 24.2362. Questions or address from members of the public:

A member of the public present advised that they had applied for and been awarded a grant from Peterborough Environmental City Trust for the pocket park. The grant had been awarded for the procurement of a mahogany bench and materials for a pond with chicken wire covering approximately 1m<sup>2</sup> along with pebbles and pond plants. The application and grant funding award documentation would be forwarded to the council as the grant may have been applied for as the council as principal.

### 24.2363. Planning, development, and licensing (1):

- NE/23/01321/FUL | Replacement windows to front, alteration to side entrance involving section of external wall removal, insertion of new door, frame and sidelights, and part removal of external boundary wall. | 22 Church Street Nassington
- NE/23/01322/LBC | Replacement windows to front, alteration to side entrance involving section of external wall removal, insertion of new door, frame and sidelights, and part removal of external boundary wall. | 22 Church Street Nassington

Following a wide-ranging examination of the application during which the council considered the content in detail, it was **RESOLVED** that the council would submit an objection to this application. The response would make clear that there is no objection to the proposals relating to the windows and door. However, the council objects to the proposed removal of part of the boundary stone wall. Original stone walls are noted as a common boundary treatment throughout Nassington in the design code (produced by AECOM via Locality) as part of the emerging Nassington Neighbourhood Plan. The parish council is keen that traditional stone walls are preserved as far as possible, particularly in the conservation area of the village, within which the property is located

- NE/23/01296/TCA/ | T1-T6, T10 Apple, T9 Pear - crown lifting 1-2 metres, T7-T8 Apple, T11 Crabapple - fell. | 37 Church Street Nassington

it was **RESOLVED** that the council objects to the proposals as there is insufficient information within the application to make an informed decision. There is no evidence of need for the works within the curtilage of a listed property in the conservation area.

#### **24.2364. Planning and Development (2):**

- a) Information regarding promotion of two sites within Nassington for development.

Promoters/land agents acting on behalf of two separate owners of two separate sites in the village have submitted interests in meeting with the council to promote the merits of housing development on the sites.

One of the sites has not been considered as a potential site during the Neighbourhood Development Plan site allocation process as it had not been a site promoted as part of the East Northamptonshire Council Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) when the Neighbourhood Plan site assessment took place. It was agreed that the site could not be included in the current Neighbourhood Plan, but could be included in the considerations of the first revision of the plan. There would be little point in meeting with the land agents at this stage.

The other site has been included in the Neighbourhood Plan site assessment process and the pertinent correspondence sent to a previous agent/promoter. It was agreed to send copies of previous correspondence to the new land agent who had made the latest enquiry and is acting on behalf of the land agents.

- b) Neighbourhood plan

The environment policy amendment agreed at the last meeting had been prepared and forwarded to the consultants. The consultants had responded with an alternative and some advice as to how to word the policy to be as clear as possible, leaving as little ambiguity and 'silence' on potential proposals as possible.

The council's ambition is to allow, via the Neighbourhood Plan, each proposal to be considered on its own merit, being mindful that the technology behind renewable energy is still in its infancy and schemes may well come forward as the emerging technology encompasses increasing ways to harness natural resources and reuse existing or waste energy. The council would not want to stymie potential solutions to environmental and energy challenges, but is also mindful of the impact of un-manged built development, for which the plan must mitigate.

It was agreed that the council would take the advice laid out in the consultant's latest email and ask for advice as to whether any further additions to the policy could make it more robust in being able to counter impactful and inappropriate developments. For instance, the council would not want large turbines that could impact the landscape, but would not want a policy that did not allow for a cluster of smaller turbines outputting the same as one larger turbine.

It was agreed that the pre-consultation open event previously discussed would proceed on 6<sup>th</sup> March, late afternoon into early evening and again the following weekend, most likely on the Saturday.

#### **24.2365. Community / Projects:**

- a) The inaugural meeting to discuss "Heating Nassington" had taken place the previous week. It was agreed that as the parish council's repository of land registry reports had been taken from a publicly accessible website and were all in the public domain, no GDPR issues would be contested if the reports were shared with the Heating Nassington Group (HNG). It was further reiterated that the parish council would be amenable to considering an application for seed funding for the group.
- b) The pocket park handrail had been installed, the grit bin at the pocket park emptied, the playing field carpark and lane potholes filled, and the bench on Parkway constructed and affixed with earth anchors to the ground. The speed humps on the playing field lane would be installed the following week. It was agreed that rocksalt to fill the grit bin at the pocket park could be procured, with a budget of £200 allowed.
- c) The village carol singers had donated that evening's takings to the parish council to be contributed towards the maintenance of village community and cohesion events. It was agreed that the council

would begin to look at large baubles for future Christmases to help decorate the cherry tree on the village green.

- d) Allotments. It was agreed that nobody could be issued with notice to vacate their allotment plot because they do not live in the parish. Allotment legislation is very clear on such matters.

The lead councillor for the allotments would be calling a meeting of all allotment holders. The matter of the poly-tunnel was discussed and the council's recollection was that permission for its construction was on the understanding that all allotment holders would be able to use it. The lead councillor would organise a working party to clear it. Inspections would be left until later in the year.

#### **24.2366. Playing field**

Responses were yet to be received following distribution of draft licences for use of the field to the cricket club and to the garden show committee.

#### **24.2367. Highways**

- a) SID: It was agreed to proceed with the PCC safer roads grant fund application on the basis of the data already obtained from the SID .
- b) Flood maps show all areas recently affected by run off being at risk. The council has been reporting incidences to the flood team via their online reporting portal and been in discussions with highways to try to ascertain any means by which the parish council can support endeavours to clear what appear to be blockages or collapses within the drainage system. The clerk will endeavour to establish legal obligations with regard to access to drainage and engage with third parties for advice.

#### **24.2368. Governance:**

- a) Accounts to third quarter of 2023/24 financial year had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The lead member for internal control confirmed that these had been checked and verified. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts as a true account of the council's financial affairs.
- b) The accounts detailed expenditure and income year to date against anticipated budget. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommended virements between budget headings, as follows:
- Virement 5 Increase anticipated interest income by £2632
  - Virement 6 Increase misc income by 221 to reflect donations.
  - Virement 7 Increase NDP grant income by £4500 to reflect status of grant received.
  - Virement 8 Increase overall income by £7353.00, increase reserves by same amount.
  - Virement 9 Increase history group exp budget to £570 to reflect donation received
  - Virement 10 Increase carol singing/biscuit tin budget by £150
  - Virement 11 Vire £1500 from reserves to NDP
- c) Note that no call for election was received by North Northamptonshire Council and the co-option process will proceed, with publicity via the newsletter.

#### **24.2369. Financial matters:**

- a) Following approval of the budget for 2024/25 at the previous meeting, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a precept demand of £50,750, which remains the same as the previous two years. A significant variation in the tax base is not anticipated, so the expectation is that the parish council portion of residents' council tax bills should remain the same.
- b) Accounts to date and up to date income and expenditure against budget figures had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to note and approve the accounts and expenditure against budget to second quarter end at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The accounts stand at:

ledger balance current account	3,187.69
Tailored reserve	58,618.54
Nationwide 95 day saver	88,647.12
<b>Total cash:</b>	<b>150,453.35</b>

**Per cash book**

Balance b/f	113,112.76
Add receipts for year	69,672.46
less payments for the year	32,331.87
Balance c/f:	150,453.35

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

<b>Goods/service</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Nett</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Power</b>
Balance - groundsworks	James Broughton	780.00	936.00	PHA <sup>i</sup> s164 HA <sup>ii</sup> s96 HA <sup>ii</sup> s136
Groundswork	Plough environmental		660.00	PHA <sup>iii</sup> s164 HA <sup>ii</sup> s96 HA <sup>iv</sup> s136 LGA 215
Membership	Northants Acre		35.00	LGA <sup>i</sup> S111
<u>Direct debits/SOs:</u>				
Streetlighting December	SSE	102.71	110.26	PHA <sup>v</sup> s234
AED December	SSE	8.33	10.00	PHA <sup>v</sup> s234
Salary and pension			1394.83	LGA <sup>i</sup> S112 & pensions act

**24.2370. Official announcements, notices or reports / Correspondence / representations of note:**

- Progress report was noted.
- It was noted that the west and south facing walls between the churchyard and the Old Vicarage had been commissioned for rebuilding with original stone and lime mortar.
- The agenda accompanying an invitation to an area cluster meeting of town and parish councils to discuss a National Landscapes strategy for North Northants was considered, however nobody from the parish council would be able to attend on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

**24.2371. Newsletter / Social Media / community communications would include**

- Thank you to the carol singers for their donation
- The casual vacancy would be publicised encouraging people to come forward;
- A ‘heads up’ about the neighbourhood plan pre-consultation open event in March;
- Advance notification about the new play equipment;
- Reiterate the council's support for the “Heating Nassington” project;
- The precept will be staying the same
- Maintenance jobs completed
- Exclusion of public

**24.2372.** It was **RESOLVED** under the public bodies (admission to meetings) act 1960 to exclude members of the public present from the following agenda item as content could be prejudicial to the public interest

**24.2373. Play equipment at the playing field**

The submissions received in response to the Invitation to Quote had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was felt that a non-timber option was the most suitable option for the setting. The clerk was instructed to discuss options with the potential suppliers with a view to a proposal to commission being available at the February meeting.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

**Approved by Nassington Parish Council:**

<b>Signature of Chairman</b>		<b>Date:</b>
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- i Public Health Act 1875
  - ii HA- Highways Act 1980
  - iii Public Health Act 1875
  - iv HA- Highways Act 1980
  - v PHA – Public Health Act 1936