

NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes - Nassington Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 13th May adjourned to 20th May 2020, via electronic communication in a virtual setting at 7.30 pm.

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. All members were always able to hear proceedings and members of the public had been given opportunity to attend.

The chairman outlined how the meeting would proceed, in line with legislative guidelines, with members of the public able to speak at the appropriate point in the meeting.

20/1893 (13/5) The current temporary legislation allows for the suspension of the annual meeting usually held in May, in accordance with legislation. This meeting would have been the first meeting of the new parish council following elections. However, the elections have been suspended until 2021, due to social distancing precautions because of the coronavirus Covid-19, so this is unusually a 6-year term of office for remaining elected members. There will be no annual meeting this year. The legislation allows for the continuation of the current chairman, for a two-year period of office. It was **RESOLVED** that the current chairman would remain in office.

20/1894 (13/5) ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Cllr Alan Burns (Chairman) Cllr Tony Cooper, Cllr Rebecca Downey, Cllr Paul Monks, Cllr Robert Peterson, and Cllr Susie Tinsley. Councillors Dec Downey and Ruth Rigby had technical issues in attending the start. Officer present: The clerk. Members of the public were also in attendance, as was a landowner to discuss a pre-application planning matter.

20/1895 (13/5) MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the April 2020 meeting as a proper record of that meeting. The chairman will sign the minutes at an appropriate time.

20/1896 (13/5) QUESTIONS OR ADDRESS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: A point of order was raised by a member of the public pointing out that the agenda for the meeting of 13th May had not been available via the village website until earlier that day. The clerk had not been aware of this until during the same day, having loaded the agenda the previous week, but on investigation, it was obvious that not all procedures had been followed on the website management portal and it had not published.

It was agreed that the meeting could not continue under these circumstances and the meeting was adjourned until the following Wednesday, with the full agenda being published in plenty of time.

20TH MAY 2020 – RECONVENING OF MEETING AT 7.30PM

20/1897 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Cllr Alan Burns (Chairman) Cllr Tony Cooper, Cllr Dec Downey, Cllr Rebecca Downey, Cllr Paul Monks, Cllr Robert Peterson, Cllr Ruth Rigby, and Cllr Susie Tinsley. Officer present: The clerk. Members of the public were also in attendance, as was a landowner to discuss a pre-application planning matter.

20/1898 QUESTIONS OR ADDRESS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were none

20/1899 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

a) Consultation: proposal for development at Woodnewton Road Nassington:

This was a pre-application procedure, as encouraged by the government's NPPFⁱ guidelines, whereby a developer or landowner will engage with a community, usually via its parish council, to provide a broad outline of proposed intentions for a development prior to formal engagement with the local planning authority. The rationale to this approach is in keeping with the localism act, in that communities should not have planning

'done to them' and to encourage a collaborative approach to planning and development or for a potential developer to understand why there might be some adverse views to a proposal.

A broad outline of the matter to be discussed this evening had been made available electronically in advance of the meeting. The chairman explained that the parish council is not the planning authority and will not be making a design but is a statutory consultee whose views are considered by the planning authority. The parish council customarily has a permissive view towards organic growth, supporting infill or small mixed developments within the village, allowing for the community to support several small retail / consumer focussed businesses within the parish. However, this proposal is beyond the existing village envelope and could create undesirable infill sites. The general feedback that the council has received from members of the public has been against the council supporting this proposal. The highway aspect of development in the proposed part of the village, being both a pinch-point in itself and feeding on to a blind junction, already of concern to the council and wider public, at the end of Woodnewton Road was agreed to be a major negative factor. The creation of a potential infill site, on an area protected by virtue of its curtilage being a listed medieval monument was considered a matter of great concern. The council would be mindful of self-build plots being allowed a great deal of leeway as the village is generally cohesive in design and adherent to the spirit of Rockingham Forest Design Code principles. The consensus was that the proposals for the scheme would not be supported on the site proposed.

- b) 20/00533/FUL | Proposed Erection of new detached building for a workshop and store use | 39 Station Road Nassington – **This had been withdrawn.**
- c) 20/00504/FUL | Single storey rear and first floor rear extension; porch canopy to front door; demolition of existing garages to be replaced with new detached garages | Swans Nest Fotheringhay Road Nassington – **It was RESOLVED that the council has no objections or further comment to make.**
- d) 20/00490/VAR | Variation of condition 5 pursuant to 09/00663/FUL dated 24.7.09 - to change to long term rental accommodation from five self contained holiday units | Frog Hall 27 Northfield Lane Nassington. **It was RESOLVED that the council has no objections but would comment that it would reiterate the applicant's point in section 5 that the lifting of the restriction is to be a temporary one, in order to support both the applicant's business and people in need of temporary housing.**
- e) 20/00473/LBC | Internal alterations and new staircase | 53 Station Road Nassington – **the council had no comment to make.**
- f) 20/00461/OUT | Outline application: Erection of dwelling and parking (Access, Appearance, Layout and Scale to be considered - Landscaping reserved for later approval) | 60 Church Street Nassington - **This had been withdrawn and replaced by a new application. It was agreed that the replacement application would be discussed at the June meeting.**
- g) Variation of conditions 9 and 19 to allow crushing to produce recycled aggregate of planning consent ref: 15/00092/WASFUL LOCATION: Stonehill Quarry, Off King's Cliffe Road, Near Wansford/Yarwell, PE8 6NU. **Following discussions, it was agreed that this is not in the parish.**

20/1900 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- There was a brief update on the upgrading of path to the playing field from the village green. This will be addressed in more detail at the June meeting.
- Herbicide treatment of the scrub to the south of the brook bordering the playing field has commenced, in readiness for the outdoor gym project. The clerk has been doing some background research into options for the gym equipment and associated guidelines and will prepare an outcome based tender document for approval at the June meeting.
- The new bench project is in hand and new benches and noticeboard will be installed once national movement guidelines allow.

20/1901 GOVERNANCE MATTERS:

- a) Section 1 of the AGAR along with guidelines laid out by SAAA Practitioners Guide had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was *RESOLVED* that members of the council acknowledged their responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. Furthermore, members confirmed, to the best of their knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020, for each of the statements, to answer in the affirmative to confirm: The council prepared accounting statements in accordance with the accounts and audit regulations; made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding public money and resources in its charge; has only done what it has the legal power to and has complied with proper practices in so doing; gave all persons the opportunity to inspect and question the accounts; considered and documented financial and other risk and dealt with them properly; arranged for an independent internal audit and disclosed everything it should have about business activities and *RESOLVED* to approve section 1 of the AGAR. The chairman and the clerk will sign the annual governance statement prior to its submission to the internal auditor in a social distanced responsible way.
- b) Local government reorganisation **update was briefly discussed.**
- c) It was *RESOLVED* to open a business savings account with Nationwide building society, with signatories as standing with the existing account.
- d) It was noted that Axa insurance (now Pen) with Came and Company on LTA will carry forward from 1st June 2020.

20/1902 COMMUNITY MATTERS:

- a) Allotments update: All plots are now taken. All allotment holders are working hard to keep on top of their plots. Bonfire nuisance has been dealt with by the councillor who acts as the allotment liaison officer. The matter of cockerels had been raised again, specifically by people living close to the allotments because of noise nuisance. After much discussion, considering the matter from all points of view and deliberating a number of alternative solutions, it was agreed that notice would be given on all allotment holders giving notice that NO cockerels would be permitted henceforth, with notice of 30 days to all allotment holders. The matter of additional fowl would be addressed in the same way.

Notice would be given to all allotment holders to advise that it is not permissible to drive vehicles beyond plot numbers 9-10.

The matter of beehives and bees living in neighbouring gardens and land was discussed at length. The clerk was tasked with speaking with the closest beekeeper to speak about ways of alleviating possible nuisance on the allotments, possibly by moving the hives.

There appears to be a rat infestation in the area of and near the allotments. The clerk was tasked with engaging with East Northamptonshire Council to discuss the possibility of rat eradication.

The matter of mare's tail weed has been raised by a number of allotment holders. It is invasive and pervasive. The clerk was tasked with investigating eradication methods to bring back to the June meeting.

20/1903 PLAYING FIELD:

- a) The playing field is being well maintained during lockdown.
- b) The RoSPA inspection is booked for June. An extra one-off service was offered whereby the inspector would draw up a check list for weekly/monthly inspections of the play equipment, bespoke to our site. It was noted that this has been booked in addition to the usual check,

20/1904 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to receive, approve and adopt annual accounts to 31st March 2020 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve Section 2 of the AGAR which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
- c) Approve invoices / accounts for payment or paid under delegated authority:

Goods/Service	Payee	Nett	Gross
Clerks salary	S Rodger		564.49
Pension	Nest		95.09
Insurance	Came & company		982.39
Int. Audit & membership	Northants CALC		662.58

20/1905 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES OR REPORTS / CORRESPONDENCE / REPRESENTATIONS OF NOTE:

- A complaint had been received from a resident regarding noise nuisance emanating from Yarwell Mill every week, during the clapping for NHS workers tradition.
- The footpath at NM38 requires that the hedges are cut back.
- Complaints have been received about a particular pavement in the village. The clerk was tasked with attempting a solution, which may need community support to solve.
- Footpath NM27 requires infilling.
- The wall bordering the east side of the churchyard, adjoining the neighbouring property may need some attention.
- The speeding alleviation village gateways on Fotheringhay Road have collapsed. It was agreed that they will be removed.
- Coronavirus notices are to be put up on footpaths if possible so that people realise that gates are open so that people can avoid touching them.

Date of next meeting: 10th June 2020,		
Approved by Nassington Parish Council:		
Signature of Chairman of following meeting:		Date:

ⁱ NPPF = [National Planning Policy Framework](#):