

NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES - NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7.00 pm in Nassington Village Hall

25.2510. Attendance and apologies for absence

Present: Cllr Sam Attenborough (chairman), Cllr Alan Burns, Cllr Elliott Clark, Cllr Rebecca Downey, Cllr Alain Kingsley, Cllr Charlotte Lemmon (from 7.25), Cllr Derrick Mortimer, and Cllr Andy Russell. Officer present: The clerk.

25.2511. 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 school, 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.

Alan Burns declared a pecuniary interest in the planning application that would be discussed later in the meeting.

25.2512. Approval of Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes, circulated in advance of the meeting, of the meeting held in December 2024, with a correction to a spelling typing error. [The parish council does not ^{^have^} the capacity to become involved in the organisation of the [VE day] event precluding ^{^its involvement^}] The chairman of the meeting signed the minutes.

25.2513. Questions or address from members of the public:

There were none.

25.2514. VE Day:

The VE day celebrations will not proceed as the cost of marquee hire is prohibitive.

24.2515. Planning and Development (1):

NE/25/00002/TCA/ | T1; Robinia - remove failed co-dominant stem. T2; Birch - remove. T3; Walnut - remove. | 20 Church Street Nassington Peterborough PE8 6QG. It was **RESOLVED** that the council would offer no objection or further comment. (Alan Burns had declared an interest and absented himself from discussion)

25.2516. Planning and Development (2):

- a) Neighbourhood plan: This will be discussed at a future meeting.
- b) Heat Nassington. The council is supporting the committee's open event the following week and as many members who could attend would do so.

25.2517. Finance:

- a) **Budget:** As requested at the last meeting, the clerk had prepared a complete breakdown of anticipated costs and provided a comprehensive breakdown of the impact of precept increases on actual bills to households, including the proposals from the other parties who make up council tax bills (North Northamptonshire Council Unitary Authority, and the Police and Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner). There had been ample opportunity for pre-meeting clarification and a process within the workbooks provided to understand impacts of alternative percentage increases. The projects that had been discussed and put forward at the December meeting were included in the draft budget, along with the anticipated costs of ongoing outgoings and commitments.

There was an acknowledgement of the need to keep a working general reserve fund, that approach being both prudent and in accordance with best practice. The intent to build reserve funds to support the

community hub, the cornerstone and the reason behind the neighbourhood plan, was also acknowledged. There will have been considerable investment in the history project, traffic calming, the allotments, the playing field and the play area, and website/email provision by the end of the financial year, which has necessitated use of existing reserve funds during 2024/25 financial year. The council is firmly committed to both natural and built environment heritage as reflected in its financial plans.

A side issue concerning the possibility of an eventual need for bought in grant fund application support was discussed, along with the possibility of including Northants ACRE in such discussions at a timely juncture

b) **Precept:** The precept has only increased once since 2020, and at that point by 2%,, supporting cost of living challenges over the past five years. It was **RESOLVED** to issue a precept demand of £66,628 for the financial year 2025/26. This will result in a billing monthly increase per band D household of £4.14 to £18 per billing month.

The budget was agreed as follows:

Budgeted expenditure		Budgeted income	
Salary / costs of staff	12,276.00	Precept	66,628.00
Pension Provision/NIC	1,692.00	Interest	4,000.00
Clerk's expenses	400.00	Allotment Rents	412.00
Office expenses	400.00	NCC highways	534.00
Bank charges	108.00	Wkg income	71,574.00
Professional fees	1,000.00	Reserves	143,321.00
Training budget	1,500.00		214,895.00
`Elections	1,500.00		
Insurance	1,000.00		
Website	1,200.00		
NALC, ACRE & SLCC	750.00		
Meeting facilitation	400.00		
Audit	840.00		
Burial Board	2,200.00		
Street Lighting	2,000.00		
Playing Field	1,500.00		
Footpaths / Environment	1,750.00		
Allotment Expenditure	1,000.00		
churchyard	856.00		
Highways / amenities	2,500.00		
Tree inspection/works	2,000.00		
Cohesion / wellbeing	3,000.00		
Nass Nature	5,000.00		
NDP project	1,500.00		
Conting / c'man's allowance	250.00		
Fwd Cont (to reserves)	5,000.00		
History Group	5,500.00		
VH Grant	1,000.00		
To capital project	5,000.00		
New play equipment	8,452.00		
Sub total	71,574.00		
Capital Projects			
Play area	22,801.00		
Recreation reserve	80,110.00		
General Reserve	35,635.00		
Cohesion reserve	2,775.00		
Election reserve	2,000.00		
Working cash	71,574.00		
Total reserves	143,321.00		
	214,895.00		

25.2518. Governance:

- a) Details of the government's **consultation on strengthening the standards and conduct framework** for local authorities in England had been circulated in advance of the meeting. However, it was agreed to delegate completion to the clerk in consultation with a working group. Members were encouraged to participate in their own right.
- b) Upcoming **elections in May 2025** – It was agreed that the Annual Village (parish) Meeting would be held at 6pm on March 12th as a forum to highlight achievements in recent years, whilst setting out the ambitious projects in hand, and to encourage people to stand for election. Village communication mediums would also be used to highlight the need for high-calibre candidates to bring the council's ambitions to fruition and publicise the upcoming election and the need for councillors.

25.2519. Playing field

It was agreed that a working party would consider the last version of the draft licence between the council and the cricket club, for use of the playing field to play cricket, taking into account advice that it should be a rolling licence, rather than fixed term. The matter of risk assessment of the playing field, in conjunction with advice received from the ECB would be taken into account along with the fact that the land is in trust as a Queen Elizabeth II playing field.

The basis of the licence will be used for agreements with other users, such as the school and the garden show committee.

25.2520. Community / Projects

- a) **Allotments:** There was a brief update on the clearance works currently in hand, along with the tree works and work to wall.
- b) **Pocket park:** Nassington Nature will begin investigations into a nature recovery management programme and include specialist advice from the Nassington and Yarwell Garden Society.
- c) **Churchyard.** Improvement works are ongoing, along with the biodiversity improvement plans.

25.2521. 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

25.2522. Highways

Information about DMMOs had been circulated to members, in advance of the meeting. It was agreed that Charlotte Lemmon would discuss the matter at hand with Nene River Trust.

25.2523. It was *RESOLVED* to re-open the meeting.

25.2524. Financial matters:

- a) The accounts to 31st December 2024 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was ***RESOLVED*** to approve accounts at 31st December 2024 as follows:

ledger balance current account	6,499.15
Tailored reserve	61,248.43
Nationwide 95 day saver	92,440.16
Total cash:	160,259.74
Per cash book	
Balance b/f	141,210.77
Add receipts for year	73,407.89
less payments for the year	54,358.92
Balance c/f:	160,259.71

- b) It was ***RESOLVED*** to note the following receipts and approve the following payments, details of which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Receipt	Goods/service	Supplier
£844.90	Interest	Since last meeting
£40	Allotment rents	

Goods/service	Supplier	Nett	Gross	Power
Groundworks	Plough		90.00	LGA S215 ⁱ
Legal fees	Wellers Headley	262.00	314.40	LGA S111 ⁱⁱ
History group expenses	KP		50.99	LGA S144 ⁱⁱ
History group website	HT	35.98	43.18	LGA S144 ⁱⁱ
<u>Direct debits/SOs/Credit card:</u>				
streetlighting	SSE	106.51	114.33	PCA ⁱⁱⁱ 1957 s3/ HA ^{iv} 1980 s301
AED in phonebox	SSE	8.64	10.37	PHAv s234
PO Box	Royal Mail	195.50	234.60	LGA S111 ⁱⁱ
Salary and pension			1107.44	LGA ⁱⁱ S112 & pensions act

25.2525. Announcements and correspondence – circulated in advance of the meeting.

Elliott Clark would attend a NNC councillor planning workshop event that the council has been invited to.

25.2526. Newsletter / Social Media / community communications

It was agreed to include details of the annual meeting on March 12th, with emphasis on the local elections in May, taking information from Danny Moody (Northants CALC CEO) ‘Build a Councillor’ workshop training session and emphasising the need for forward thinking people to contribute to the council’s ongoing professional ambitions. Brief details of recent achievements and upcoming plans will underpin the precept increase of £4 per billing month to £18 per billing month, which will be addressed at the annual meeting too.

25.2527. Items for following agendas:

A reminder that meetings will continue to start at 7pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 12TH February 2025

Approved by Nassington Parish Council:

Signature of Chairman		Date:
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ⁱ Local Government Act 1972

ⁱⁱ Local Government Act 1972

ⁱⁱⁱ PCAct -Parish Councils Act 1957

^{iv} HA- Highways Act 1980

^v PHA – Public Health Act 1936