

NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes - Nassington Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 11th June 2025 at 7.00 pm in Nassington Village Hall

Preamble note: The newly appointed chair of the council was absent for the first/annual meeting of Nassington Parish Council following elections on May 1st 2025. He signed his declarations of office in advance of the meeting of the Joint Burial Committee meeting on 20th May, as he was acting in an official council capacity. He signed his Declaration of Office of Chair in advance of this evening's meeting.

25.2590. Attendance and apologies for absence

Present: Cllr Sam Attenborough (chair), Cllr Marcus Hurcombe, Cllr Charlotte Lemmon, and Cllr Derrick Mortimer. Apologies received from and Alain Kingsey and Andy Russell for personal reasons. Officer present: The clerk.

25.2591. Declaration of interests.

Dispensations were agreed for all members of the council who are also members of the cricket club, for members with allotments, for members with association/governorship 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.

25.2592. Approval of Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes, circulated in advance of the meeting, of the meeting held in May 2025. The chairman of the meeting signed the minutes.

25.2593. Questions or address from members of the public:

There were none.

25.2594. Planning and licencing applications:

- a) NE/22/00266/FUL| An amendment/additional information to Change of use of land to the west of Jacks Green at Rockingham Forest Park to provide a range of tourist accommodation (64 caravan lodges) along with the construction of a facilities building, with supporting infrastructure, including hard standing bases with drainage and service provision and landscape planting Location: Rockingham Forest Park Wansford Road Kings Cliffe Peterborough PE8 6FR.

It was agreed that the council does not yet have sufficient information to submit a response to the planning authority. This matter would be deferred to the July meeting and in the meantime, members would attend a site visit, which the clerk will arrange with the site management. The clerk will advise the planning authority that the submission will be submitted following that meeting. Members will also consider the proposals specifically with reference to the emerging neighbourhood plan.

25.2595. Planning and Development policies:

- a) **Neighbourhood plan:** Consider latest regulation 14 submission and responses: Historic England has questioned whether an SEA is necessary. The consultant has asked North Northamptonshire Council neighbourhood plan team for a ruling, but none has been forthcoming. The neighbourhood plan team has also undertaken to respond to last autumn's regulation 14 consultation, but no response has yet been received. The clerk was instructed to write to the planning authority to express disappointment that these matters have not been addressed and explain that it is holding up the progress of the Neighbourhood Development Plan process in Nassington. The ward councillors and the MP are to be copied into the formal email.

b) **Heat Nassington.**

- The council consider a report circulated in advance of the meeting re findings from the initial feasibility study. The council is not able to consider a further consultation process without fully

understanding the likelihood of feasibility scenarios coming to fruition and community impacts. A meeting between councillors and members of the NEAT committee would be arranged so that members can better understand the next steps and the process involved.

- It was **RESOLVED** to approve the final grant claim form for the first assessment.

25.2596. Election of members holding positions of responsibility or representation.

It was **RESOLVED** that members be appointed to following roles:

- a) Vice chairman: Derrick Mortimer
- b) Representative on Village Hall Trust: Alain Kingsley would be invited to consider
- c) Committees/working groups:
 - o Allotments: Sam Attenborough
 - o Burial Board: Sam Attenborough, Andy Russell and Marcus Hurcombe
 - o Newsletter: Sam Attenborough
- d) Neighbourhood planning: Charlotte Lemmon and Elliott Clark
- e) Neighbourhood Watch / PLR: The clerk
- f) Footpaths & rights of way: Charlotte Lemmon
- g) Playground / playing field safety checks: Rolling cycle of one councillor per month
- h) Environmental/nature recovery: Charlotte Lemmon

25.2597. Governance:

a) Insurance: Following the last meeting, the matter of insurance of the churchyard wall had been raised with the brokers. The broker advised that, whilst appreciating that NPCⁱ maintains the wall, but as it does not own the wall, it you shouldn't be responsible for replacing it in the event of damage. Normally the church building and the surrounding wall would be covered as a whole, unless there is a lease agreement in place which requires insurance of the wall. There is no lease in place – the responsibility to maintain the wall comes from the LGA^{Error! Bookmark not defined.ii} section 215. This information was concurred by one of the churchwardens. As NPC maintains the wall, liabilities would automatically be covered in the event negligent injury occurrence.

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the decision taken under delegation to proceed with cover with Clear Insurance underwritten by Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc, on a three-year LTA.

b) As part of the Civility and Respect pledge that the council is signed up to, there is a commitment to “put in place a training programme for councillors and staff”. This commitment is further embedded by a budgetary commitment to training. It was agreed to take advantage of opportunities available with Northants CALC Councillor Development Framework and that all councillors would endeavour to complete the foundation training module, which consists of three online training sessions and reading three ‘Good Councillor’ guides. The chair will aim to complete the foundation and leadership training modules.

c) History group cash receipts. The clerk and the chair will meet with the history group representatives to discuss the constraints faced by the council.

d) It was **RESOLVED** to confirm that in accordance with Section 112(1) and Section 270(3) of the LGA^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}, and furthermore in accordance with Section 151 of the LGA^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} the Council has appointed Sarah Rodger as its Clerk and Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer. This confirms and regularises the de facto arrangement in place since 2008.

25.2598. Playing field

a) **New slide** – the exact installation date is not yet known but expected to be before the next meeting. It is anticipated that there will not be a great deal of notice for the start, but that at least one member will try to meet with the clerk on the morning that it starts to agree with the installation team the exact siting. There will be a grand opening event. Ideal target date would be 11th July.

b) **Monthly play area / playing field safety inspection:** The monthly report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The repair to the HAGS ‘pirate ship’ Iktaz UniPlay unit has not yet been

addressed – the clerk undertook to contact suppliers to have the work carried out. The report noted ladders on the ground in front of the Muga rebound wall and a broken ‘dogs on leads’ notice which is also overgrown. This will be reported to NNC as the signs related to Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) The next monthly inspection would be carried out by Derrick Mortimer.

c) The annual RoSPA inspection has not yet taken place.

d) The first draft licence for all bodies to use the playing field for organised playing field activities had not been circulated to all members due to an oversight. It was agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting so that all members can apprise the matter in the interim, with particular attention to the matter of risk assessments and insurance cover commensurate with that required by the council’s insurers. It was agreed that it would be prudent to include the matter of new legislation enhancing safety measures in public spaces, imposing a duty to protect people, and promoting a proactive approach to safety, ensuring that organisers have clear plans in place in case of unexpected incidents.

25.2599. Community / Projects:

a) Nassington Nature update: The works to the magnolia trees in the churchyard were agreed to be commendable.

b) Allotments: There was a report on an allotment committee meeting that had taken place in the preceding days. The chair would be in touch with several allotment holders who are not taking care of the plots to such an extent that the plots are causing nuisance to other allotment holders. If the situation does not improve, they will be asked to vacate their plots. Some holders have still not paid and eviction notices will be issued if not paid following a final reminder.

A deposit scheme had been discussed at length and was agreed in principle by the council, to be ratified at a future meeting. The deposit will be returned on vacating the plot if it is left in the condition it was when taken on. The intention is to focus attention on the obligations of plot holders to look after their plot and the commitment involved.

c) New project: Interpretation boards. It was agreed that an inaugural working party meeting would be held to take an overview into what the project hopes to achieve and how to take it forward. The clerk, chair and vice-chair will be involved initially along with any councillors and members of the wider community who would like to become involved.

d) History group and Blue Plaque Trail feedback. The clerk and chair will discuss at the meeting with the history group and feedback would be reported at the next meeting.

e) Village Hall: Receive letter from village hall and consider request for re-allocation of funding agreed in September 2024. It was *RESOLVED* to grant £1,000 to the Village Hall Trust.

f) Consider tree protection orders for trees outside of the village conservation area: A number of trees were identified as being suitable for inclusion. Charlotte Lemmon will assess trees within the parish and at the cemetery and the wider community would be consulted.

g) Rights of Way: It was agreed to thank Mee farms for rectifying the boggy land near to Prebendal Manor on footpath NM27 via the newsletter. The council would like a pond in that area to support biodiversity and will consider covering the cost of the works.

25.2600. Financial matters:

a) The month end accounts to 31st May 2025 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was *RESOLVED* to approve accounts at 31st May 2025 as follows:

ledger balance current account	1,313.73
Tailored reserve	83,793.47
Nationwide 95 day saver	93,916.48
Total cash:	179,023.68
Per cash book	
Balance b/f	133,743.53
Add receipts for year	67,212.53
less payments for the year	21,932.38
Balance c/f:	179,023.68

b) It was **RESOLVED** to note the following receipts, details of which had been circulated in advance of the meeting with the detailed accounts:

Receipt	Goods/service
£293.41	Interest

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
Payroll bureau	DCK p'roll solutions	15.00	18.00	LGA ⁱⁱ S111
Churchyard maintenance	Plough env'ntal	90.00	90.00	LGA Act S215 ⁱⁱ Error!
Bookmark not defined.				
Pocket Park	Plough env'ntal	20.00	20.00	PHA Act S164 ⁱⁱⁱ
Village groundworks	Plough env'ntal	20.00	20.00	PHA Act S164 ⁱⁱⁱ
Urban verge cutting	Plough env'ntal	250.00	250.00	LGA S136 ⁱⁱ
History group	P'boro Print	113.40	117.19	LGA S144 ⁱⁱ
History group	Tolethorpe	290.00	348.00	LGA S144 ⁱⁱ
Insurance	Clear brokers	956.14	956.14	LGA S111 ⁱⁱ
Tree Surgery	NV Trees	350.0	420.00	LGA S215 ⁱⁱ
NEAT advice & support 1190S61F(1),(2) ^{iv}	Just1Action	600.00	600.00	NPLocalism/T&PA
NEAT advice & support 1190S61F(1),(2) ^{iv}	KateCookPA	3,270.28	3,270.28	NPLocalism/T&PA
Village Hall Grant	Nass.Village Hall	1,000.00	1,000.00	LGA S133 ⁱⁱ
<u>Direct debits/SOs/Credit card:</u>				
ICO registration	ICO	47.00	47.00	LGA S111 ⁱⁱ
AED in phonebox	Tomato Energy	7.00	7.35	PHA ^v s234
Streetlighting s301	SSE	110.07	118.15	PCA ^{vi} 1957 s3/ HA ^{vii} 1980
Mobile phone	Lebara	.83	1.00	LGA S111 ⁱⁱ
Salary and pension			1,119.46	LGAiiS112 & pensions act
Skip	Mick George	294.82	353.50	SHAA ^{viii} S23 & S25
Email subscription	Titan	17.88	17.88	LGA S111 ⁱⁱ

25.2601. Official announcements, notices or reports / Correspondence / representations of note:

- Correspondence from STAUNCH regarding proposed development at A14 / Titchmarsh / Thrapston. The council declined to pursue the invitation to contribution to the fundraising initiative for legal representation.
- The latest PLR update was shared in advance of the meeting and taken as read.
- Details of a new Town and Parish Council liaison officers at North Northamptonshire Council was noted.

25.2602. Newsletter / Social Media / community communications

Invitation to share ideas about the new interpretation boards and/or join a working group; invitation to share opinions about trees of note that contribute to the public amenity; note about magnolias in the churchyard; thank you to Mee Farmers for work on the footpath at NM27 plus

25.2603. Matters to note / to be carried forward

There was nothing to note.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 9TH JULY 2025

Approved by Nassington Parish Council:

Signature of Chairman

Date:

ⁱ NPC= Nassington Parish Council

ⁱⁱ LGA = Local Government Act 1972

ⁱⁱⁱ Public Health Act 1875, s.164

^{iv} T&P ATown & Country Planning Act 1990

^v Public Health Act 1936

^{vi} PAct -Parish Councils Act 1957

^{vii} HA- Highways Act 1980

^{viii} SHAA – Small Holding and Allotments Act 1908