

# Nash Annual Meeting of the Parish 2021

**Minutes of the Nash Annual Meeting of the Parish held on Thursday 20 May 2021 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall**

**Attendance:** Cllr Williams (Chair); Cllr Carter; Cllr Collins; Cllr Hickey; Cllr Wyke; Cllr York. Buckinghamshire Council Cllrs Goss and Sir Beville Stanier. 17 Residents and Alison Robinson (Parish Clerk).

## **1 Introductory Matters**

- 1.1 Cllr Williams welcomed those present to the meeting and asked everyone to comply with the Covid security arrangements.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Cllr Howard, The Reverend Dove and Cllr Chilver.
- 1.3 Alison Robinson was appointed as Clerk to the meeting.

## **2 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes 2019**

- 2.1 The emergency legislation, put in place because of the pandemic in May 2020, had removed the requirement for annual parish meetings to be held for a year.
- 2.2 The minutes of the previous Nash Annual Meeting of the Parish, held on 8 May 2019, were proposed by Cllr Wyke, seconded by Cllr Wyke, and approved by those electors who had also been present at that meeting.
- 2.3 There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

## **3 Nash Parish Council Annual Report and Review**

- 3.1 Cllr Williams (Chair 2015 – 2021) presented the report on behalf of the Parish Council. He explained the Parish Council would be electing a chair for the forthcoming year at its annual meeting which followed after the Annual Meeting of the Parish.
- 3.2 Cllr Williams presented a PowerPoint<sup>1</sup> about the Parish Council's activities since 8 May 2019. In summary, it covered:
  - Councillors - resignations and appointments
  - Elections 2021
  - Finance
  - Planning
  - Parish Council Responsibilities – routine ongoing, one-offs and periodic
  - Activities – current and planned.
- 3.4 In response to a question, Cllr Williams confirmed the S106 funding spend deadline was not imminent (14/00534/APP, £37,716, spend deadline 3 March 2025).
- 3.5 In response to another question about the proposal to convert the redundant bus shelter into a book exchange, Cllr Williams explained the Parish Council was still investigating how best to proceed because of the poor condition of the bus shelter. He talked about the possibility of the book exchange being extended to include other community facilities such as a seed exchange and/or outlet for surplus allotment crops.

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<sup>1</sup> The presentation is published in full on the Nash Parish Council website: <http://www.nash-bucks-pc.gov.uk/meetings>. Copies are also available on request, email: [clerk@nash-bucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@nash-bucks-pc.gov.uk), M: 07724567186.

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## 4 Village Organisations and Activities

4.1 Reports were received from organisations and residents engaged in village activities.

### Allotment Committee

4.2 All the allotment plots were currently let; the plot holders were happy and looking after their plots well. When future vacancies arise consideration will be given to splitting some of the plots to make them more manageable in size. The Nash Allotments were now fully organic, and the Committee was currently in the process of sourcing some English hardwood fencing.

4.3 The Allotments Committee was unable to hold the customary Christmas tea for the older residents of the village in 2020. Instead, individual teas had been delivered to older residents who lived alone.

4.4 In response to a question about the provision of a water supply, John King, Chair of the Allotment Committee, explained there was not a consensus amongst the plot holders because the cost would require significantly increased plot rents.

### Elmer's Charity

4.5 The history and scope of the Elmer's Charity was outlined by one of the Trustees, Mr Mick Hedges. He explained the charity had originally been set up in 1653 to support the old and needy of the parishes of Beachampton, Calverton, Maids Morton, Nash and Whaddon. Its charity registration status was originally based on the provision of:

- Grants to help fund post-compulsory education and training
- Other help for the poor and needy.

4.6 The Trustees had successfully applied to the Charity Commission to widen the focus to benefit the five parishes for the greater good. Recent examples of grants included funding for benches and a disabled ramp. Cllr Wyke had now joined the Trustees who meet quarterly to consider applications for funding.

For further information: email [mick.hedges2@btinternet.com](mailto:mick.hedges2@btinternet.com), 01908 508350.

### Fibre to the Property (superfast broadband)

4.7 Although it had not been possible to secure the project before the 31 March 2021 deadline, dialogue was ongoing with Openreach. The Department for Digital Culture, Media and Sport, and Buckinghamshire Council were expected to make further funding available – decisions were expected next month. Residents would then be asked to pledge their fibre to property vouchers to fund the project.

For further information: email Luis Ponte ([luisp.carpediem@gmail.com](mailto:luisp.carpediem@gmail.com)).

### Nash Neighbourhood Plan

4.8 The Nash Neighbourhood Plan was now nearing completion after being delayed by the establishment of the unitary authority, the pandemic and more recently by document accessibility legislation which was not in place when the process commenced. The external examination was expected to commence shortly so the parish referendum could take in summer 2021.

For further information: email Des Hickey ([desmoh@hotmail.com](mailto:desmoh@hotmail.com)).

### Nash Newsletter

4.9 The newsletter was started in the pre-digital age under the auspices of All Saints' Church. It was currently published six times a year as an A5 booklet and delivered to every house in the village (except at the peak of the pandemic). The newsletter was also available on the Nash Village Hall website and by email. Commercial advertising generally covered the print costs (c£300 per annum) with any shortfall being underwritten by the Church, Parish Council and Village Hall. The newsletter was primarily intended to provide village news and information to the community. Other information was included when space permitted.

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- 4.10 In response to a question, Margaret Hedges (temporary editor) explained the newsletter would cease in its current form when pre-pandemic activities resumed if the ongoing vacancy for a new editor remained unfilled.

For further information about the editorial vacancy, please email Margaret Hedges ([m.s.hedges@btinternet.com](mailto:m.s.hedges@btinternet.com)).

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

- 4.11 Cllr Williams explained why the Nash Neighbourhood Watch Scheme had lapsed and invited volunteer co-ordinator(s) to come forward to enable it to be re-established.

## **Parochial Church Council**

- 4.12 The pandemic had stopped many of All Saints Church's activities, including the 2020 and 2021 annual fetes. Fortunately, the PCC reserve was currently sufficient to cover its running costs. However, there were concerns about the possible cost of repairs to the roof which may require village fundraising. As the contractor invited to quote had proved unreliable, a new contractor had been approached and was expected to shortly undertake a site visit. The PCC was currently relooking at the management of the churchyard to find ways of preserving the wildflowers without it becoming untidy. There were two paths in the churchyard which required renewing. The Gift day that normally takes place at the same time as the annual litter pick or the annual churchyard and village hall tidy remained a very important source of funds for the church.
- 4.13 The Reverend Jacqueline Dove, Rector for the new Buckingham Benefice, was unable to attend the meeting because of another commitment. The loosening of lockdown meant she was looking forward to being able to attend a forthcoming Nash social event to meet more of the residents she had not already met.

## **Nash Village Hall<sup>2</sup>**

- 4.14 The ownership, governance structure and membership were explained by Mike Williams, in his capacity as Chair of the Village Hall Trustees. The financial position was fairly healthy – the reserve (c£17,000) was sufficient to cover 2 years' of running costs. Whilst many of the social and fundraising activities had been cancelled by the pandemic, some had taken place albeit it with Covid security or digitally. Volunteers were required for bar duty and to clean up for the PUMP which was expected to restart on 3 July 2021. The possibility of then holding a 'Thank You' event the following day (4<sup>th</sup>) was under discussion.
- 4.15 The meeting voted to elect Simon Lascelles as a village representative on the Management Committee.

## **5 Electors**

The local government electors on the current electoral roll for Nash were invited to raise matters for future consideration by the Parish Council.

- 5.1 Cllr Williams talked about a Parish Council recruitment drive and encouraged residents to find out more.
- 5.2 In response to a question, the Clerk confirmed the Parish Council had not been notified of the work taking place on Stratford Road.

## **6 Any Other Urgent Matters for Discussion**

- 6.1 No urgent matters were raised for discussion.

Cllr Williams thanked all those present for attending and formally closed the meeting.

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<sup>2</sup> Detailed information is provided in slides 26 – 29 of the PowerPoint presentation.