

Minutes of the Annual Nash Parish Meeting held on Thursday 23rd May 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Williams (Chair), Cllr Collins, Cllr Phillips, Cllr Collyer, Kelly Harris, Clerk & RFO
Buckinghamshire Council: Cllr Stanier
8 members of the public (MoP)

1. Introductory Matters

- (a) Cllr Williams welcomed everyone to the annual parish meeting.
- (b) Apologies received from Cllr Nicholson.
- (c) Appointment of a Clerk for the meeting – Kelly Harris was appointed as Clerk for this meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Williams / Seconded: Mr Meardon / Agreed unanimously

2. Annual Parish Meeting Minutes 2023

The draft minutes were agreed unanimously and approved and signed as a true record by the Chair.

Proposed: Cllr Williams / Seconded: Cllr Collins / Agreed unanimously

3. Nash Parish Council Annual Report and Review

Cllr Williams read through his PowerPoint presentation (copy attached).

In addition to the presentation, the following was highlighted:

- The Neighbourhood Plan needs to be updated by Christmas 2024.
- A litter pick will probably be organised towards the end of the summer season Cllr Nicholson is actively working on the village pump repair.
- The PC has signed a 100 year lease for £1 per year for the Safesmart field. The project for this field has been delayed due to the wet weather.
- The Nash book exchange has been a success, but more volunteers are required.
- Dog litter can still be deposited in the bins in the village hall car park.
- Grass cutting contracts have been successfully renegotiated with a 5% increase, and our contractors will cut the recreation ground ahead of the fete and Nash Fest.

4. Village Organisations and Activities

NASH IN BLOOM - report by Robert Meardon

Achievements

Two judges from the RHS visited us again in June last year. We chatted as we walked around the village and when we received their report, we had progressed from the previous year's Level 3, 'Advancing,' to Level 4, 'Thriving'. Well done team.

In the autumn, we planted a further 1200 daffodil bulbs around the village in the grass verges.

This year, we marked out for the mowing contractor to avoid a slightly larger area than normal on the bank above the pond where the Cowslips and buttercups grow. This has been successful with the whole area filled with flowers. We are hoping to find orchids in this area later in the summer.

Herb plants have been planted in the border of the village hall carpark, including sage; mint; chives and thyme. Residents are encouraged to help themselves to leaves.

The small area around the large tree in the corner of the village hall carpark has been weeded and planted with shrubs.

Families continue to look after the six planters at the village entrance signs. The mowing contractor now clears the grass for a distance beyond the planters making them more visible to motorists.

We organised 'Nash Open Gardens', the first time since 2017. 8 gardens were opened and around 60 visitors toured the gardens and enjoyed the homemade cakes etc at the village hall before, during and after their travels. After printing expenses, there is a profit of £280.

We produce a brief report in the village newsletter to keep everyone updated.

Lessons learned

Last year, we asked the mowing contractor to leave a much longer area than usual strip along the big bank above the pond, in order to create a larger wild meadow. It was not attractive and in the autumn when the tall grass was eventually mowed, it left heaps of rotting grass cuttings, so we then spent a lot of time and effort raking it up. We decided not to repeat that this year.

Bank account

Thanks to another cheque from Trustees of the Nash Baptist Graveyard (because several villagers have taken over keeping it tidy); to income from the Open Gardens and occasional donations, the account currently holds approx. £680.

Plans

Last year, the RHS judges that visited our village, later recommended that for 2023/24 we push ourselves into the competitive levels, but having joined their annual review Zoom meeting and heard about the lengths to which some of the competitors go, we have decided to continue in the, 'It's Your Neighbourhood', category, meaning keen, but not obsessive.

We will hold more informal meetings of residents interested in supporting the NiB project and are always keen to hear ideas for projects and offers of help in their implementation.

Nash Village Hall Committee – Richard Evans

- NVH has had a successful year 2023.
- NashFest 23 sold just under 500 tickets and made just over £700.
- Lemon booking online system was adopted in the Autumn. This gives greater visibility to Hall bookings and less work for our bookings secretary.
- All the Christmas events were combined into a one-day event. The tree light-up, Santa, carol singing and the December Pump.
- The Christmas eve Pump was particularly successful selling nearly £1000.
- In the New Year we noticed a considerable increase in the bookings as a result of the new online system and we are pleased to see a wide range of different groups and activities in the Hall.
- NVH will run the Fete this year on June 8 in conjunction with the Church.
- We have invested in a PA system to power the speakers already owned.
- NashFest will run again July 6. We hope to have made substantial cost savings this year and sell more than 500 tickets. A higher priced VIP ticket will be introduced.
- NVH continues to support and work with NPC on projects in the Rec.
- It is our intention to refurbish the Kitchen in the Hall later this year.

Parochial Church Council

Numbers have remained stable. The Church has been involved with some large projects, including the replacement of lighting and heating which involved a lot of fundraising and grants. Both projects have been completed and the installation of the new path has taken place.

Allotment committee

The Treasurer unfortunately passed away and was a signatory on the bank account. This has been time consuming and difficult to rectify. Most of the post is still sent to the treasurer which has made life difficult for the allotment committee, however, they are hopefully on the right path to getting this sorted. All the plots are taken, but not all are being used. When plots are returned, they will be broken up into smaller plots moving forward.

Village Fete

The village fete takes place on 8th June from 2pm. Activities will include a fun dog show, tug of war, games, plants, and raffle.

Elmer’s Charity – Mick Hedges

Elmers continued to provide support to five villages (including Nash). The education fund has made allocations to several requests from villagers ,allowing for the purchase of books and equipment for school or college age children.

The main fund has also helped individual cases of hardship and has also now started to recognise the need to help the villages with financial help with projects that have a wider beneficial effect on the environment .

5. Electors - To consider any matters raised by local government electors on the current electoral roll for Nash for future consideration by the Parish Council

A MoP expressed how grateful he is to the Parish Council and all council members for their hard work.

6. Any Other Urgent Matters for Discussion

There were no urgent matters raised for discussion.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution, and declared the meeting closed at 19.37.

Chair:

Date:

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