

**Minutes of the Nash Parish Council Meeting held on
Thursday 25th September 2025 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Collyer (Chair), Cllr Nicholson, Cllr West, Cllr Evans, Cllr Wyke, Cllr Lascelles, Kelly Harris, Clerk & RFO

In attendance: 6 members of the public (MoP)

1. To receive apologies for absence

None received, all Cllrs were present.

2. To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

3. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 24th July 2025

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

4. Public participation session

A MoP talked about the derelict barns on Stratford Road and expressed his disappointment that the deadline to rebuild Church Farm had little effect. The Parish Council was asked if they were still pressing Bucks planning on this, and the Clerk advised that in the 2.5 years she has been with the council, the council has never pressed Bucks planning to act and it hasn't been something that has been mentioned to her before. It was mentioned that there is usually a deadline to start work once planning consent has been granted, but the Clerk and Cllrs were unsure that a deadline to complete the work is given. The MoP felt there was now a conflict of interest as the owner of Church Farm is a Cllr. **Action: Clerk to speak with Bucks planning**

5. Planning

(a) Planning applications

25/02132/APP - Land To The South And North Of Nash Road And Land To East Of Thornton Road

Installation of a solar farm comprising ground mounted solar PV panels with an installed capacity of 49.99MW AC including mounting system, inverters, underground cabling, stock proof fence, CCTV, internal tracks and associated infrastructure, landscaping, biodiversity net gain and environmental enhancements for a temporary period of 50 years and a permanent substation

Cllrs resolved to OBJECT to this application on the following grounds:

- Significant loss of arable land in the area
- Increased risk of flooding. This area is known to flood (2020, 2024 floods) and there is concern that installing a solar farm in this area will only add to the problem
- The design does not take into account the latest ecological designs available for solar farms
- The visual impact on the area will be significant. The scale of the proposal, which is far larger than neighbouring solar farms, contributes to the loss of existing landscape character. Large-scale solar farms transform the rural character of an area into an industrial landscape. Vast arrays of panels and associated infrastructure like security fencing and CCTV are visual pollution
- The proposed transport route from the A421 means that the roads through Nash will be vulnerable to persistent HGV traffic during the overall construction period. There is nothing in the application about how any damage to the roads will be repaired after the construction period. The proposal also does not state how traffic levels will be controlled to prevent an increased hazard to children in the village due to expected increased levels of traffic during construction, including a significant amount of HGVs

- Wildlife mortality - insects and birds can mistake the reflective surface of solar panels for water, potentially impacting their reproductive biology and leading to collisions. Given that we are quite close to the River Ouse, the impact on water fowl in flight should be a consideration
- Recyclability and reinstatement - questions are raised about the long-term recyclability of the panels and the effectiveness of reinstatement bonds to restore the land
- Invasion of privacy - CCTV is generally installed as a deterrent against theft and vandalism, and to provide continuous monitoring and evidence in the event of incidents like unauthorised access, panel theft, or copper cable theft. The use of CCTV is an invasion of privacy if sited close to the boundary with residential properties.

PL/25/2942/KA – Bass Hill Farmhouse

1. West garden - Hawthorn tree in the middle of the lawn. Fell and remove. 2. West garden - tree adjacent to trampoline. Multistemmed glossy privet. Fell and remove. 3. Along driveway - 6 x wild plums to be felled and removed. 4. North east of paddock - 3 Dead ash - fell and remove. 5. 2024 felled Hazel near the house and suggested replacement would be a copper beech. Would like to have it approved not replacing the tree as it's so close to the house and would be inappropriate in that location. 6. Ash - adjacent to barn. Dual trunk, the bent right hand trunk in the photo, to be felled and removed to focus on the straighter trunk and even out the canopy. 7. Mid sized ash, weak tree and numerous dead branches. Adjacent to a larger ash. Fell and remove to leave space for larger tree above. 8. Wild plum - fell and remove, weakened tree with branches increasing drooping to touch the ground. Increasingly looks like will crack and fall. 9. Pine tree - out of place with the immediate landscape. Fell and remove. 10. Wild plums x 2 - in the shade of larger tree above. Fell remove. 11. Triple stemmed tall Ash - fell and remove the 2 side trunks to create space for the primary trunk.

Cllr resolved they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application.

PL/25/3418/PNAD - Barns at Stratford Road

Prior notification application (Part 3, Class Q) for change of use and conversion of an existing agricultural barn into 1no. dwelling

Cllr resolved they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application.

(b) Ongoing Planning Matters

To receive the written report about ongoing planning matters

The Clerk confirmed that planning application 25/02317/APP - The Long Barn Cromwell Court Thornborough Road has now been approved.

Cllr Lascelles mentioned a field in the parish that he had been informed might be purchased as a traveller site. Cllr West advised that he knows the owner of the field, and he has been assured that this would never happen.

(c) Any Other Planning Matters of Relevance to Nash

- To discuss the Parish Council responding to the Bucks draft local plan and to discuss the possibility of Nash Parish Council working with neighbouring Parishes to respond to Beachampton being included as one of 3 possible sites for a new garden city of between 11,000 and 13,000 homes

The Clerk should have sight of an article shortly that can be used to help formulate our response to the draft local plan.

The Nash Neighbourhood Plan was mentioned. The Clerk will look into how often plans should be updated and will report back. Professional help might be needed and Des Hickey, who worked on the original plan, advised he would be happy to be involved should the plan need updating. **Action: Clerk**

6. Finance

To consider and approve as appropriate the information provided in the finance reports:

a) **Payments and Receipts and financial position on 31st July 2025 and 31st August 2025 as circulated**

The information in the finance reports for July and August 2025 was unanimously approved.

b) **To note the conclusion of the 2024/25 external audit**

Cllrs noted that the audit had concluded and that no issues had been highlighted.

7. To receive updates on matters around the village

a) **Nash recreation ground and play area**

The painting of the 40ft container was mentioned. Cllr Collyer and the Chair of the Village Hall committee believes this should wait until Easter 2026. The colour of the paint is still to be agreed. Ventilation was mentioned, but it was felt that as long as items are put into the container dry it should be fine. This will be monitored, but no action is to be taken at this stage.

b) **Street and road signs**

Cllr Nicholson has checked the signage in the village and believes only one sign is now missing. Cllr Collyer mentioned that a sign near a memorial bench has been knocked down and he will report via Fix my Street.

c) **Footpaths and hedgerows**

High Street to Ladies Walk has been cut back. The path beside the village hall is overgrown with ivy and needs clearing. The Clerk was asked to contact our grass cutting contractor for a quote to clear. **Action: Clerk**

d) **Any other matters around the village**

- To discuss the pond and agree next steps

The Clerk mentioned she had an online meeting with a flood officer from Bucks Council regarding the pond. Questions have been sent to Cllrs following this meeting and the Clerk is still waiting for a response. Once this information has been sent across the next stage is a site visit.

A MoP mentioned the idea of leaky dams and the concerns that this could make the flooding elsewhere even worse. It was mentioned that if the ditches near Weir Cottage were deeper, they wouldn't be affected by flooding, but others were concerned that this just moves the issues elsewhere.

A MoP mentioned there is a drain at Wood End that needs to be repaired by Bucks Council.

A MoP talked about a report produced on the pond 4-5 years ago. The report found the pond was full of silt and vegetation and was in need of redesigning. Reed beds placed at the entrance of the pond were considered to prevent silt getting into the pond. The removal of debris and invasive vegetation, and the addition of the reed beds would mean in the future the pond would not need to be maintained in the same way as needed now. At the time, quotes for the work were from £12,00-35,000.

A MoP will look into clearing the brook and will come back to the PC with a quote for the work.

- To discuss resident request for the Parish Council to clear trees and bushes by the pond and agree next steps
Approval to spend up to £800 +VAT to clear the trees and bushes was given. Cllr Wyke will obtain another quote for the work and report back.
- To discuss whether to install a safety ring adjacent to the pond following confirmation of costs
It was agreed to shelve this idea for now and reconsider as part of the general pond maintenance plan.
- To agree to pay £377.12 for the wood being used to rebuild the bridge at the pond
Cllrs unanimously approved this cost, and the Clerk will make payment.
- To discuss the Parish Council purchasing the Nash Old Baptist Graveyard and agree next steps
Cllr Nicholson questioned why the PC would take on the responsibility of the graveyard and whether the restriction of being a member of the Baptist Church would be lifted if the PC were to take it on and open us up to dealing with burials.

Cllrs felt if the PC take on the graveyard, the PC should have access to the trust and all of the money they hold.

Cllr Nicholson questioned whether the PC could just take on responsibility for grass cutting at the graveyard.

A MoP mentioned that responsibility for the walls around the graveyard would also fall to the PC.

It was agreed that responsibility for the graveyard was worth more than the £10,000 being offered. The Clerk was asked to go back to the Nash Strict Baptist Charity to find out if the PC could take over the whole trust, depending on how much money is available. It was agreed that the PC requires more information before a decision can be reached. **Action: Clerk**

8. To note that the projects sub-committee agreed at the July 2025 meeting will be a full committee with members appointed by the council, and that committee meetings will follow the same rules as those applicable to full Parish Council meetings

The Clerk advised that you cannot have a sub-committee without a committee and that committees and sub-committees follow the same rules as Parish Council meetings.

Cllr Collyer questioned the point of having a committee as it was felt it would slow down the process for agreeing projects and involve more meetings and more work.

Cllr Collyer asked Cllrs if they felt it was appropriate to continue down this route, and the majority were in favour of shelving the idea of a committee.

Cllrs felt a working group might be more relevant when projects are agreed to help move them forward.

9. To receive updates from Buckinghamshire Councillors

Cllr Chilver sent his apologies and no representatives from Bucks Council were present.

10. Cllrs to formally introduce themselves and give insight into their working background/skills they bring to the Parish Council

Cllr Collyer – electrical subcontractor for the past 30 years

Cllr Wyke – heath care background

Cllr West – lived in the village for 5 years and has a background in IT within the banking industry

Cllr Nicholson - responsible for running retail business

Cllr Evans – lived in the village for 8 years. She has been Parish Clerk and is a member of the social committee and Village Hall committee. Previously ran her own holiday rentals business

Cllr Lascelles – background in process improvement

11. To report on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council

Cllr West attended the BMKALC AGM at the start of September. He will share the notes and report from this meeting with the Clerk and Cllrs. **Action: Cllr West**

12. Future meetings

To note the date of future NPC meetings:

Thursday 20th November 2025

NPC Meeting

All meetings will be held in Nash Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

The Clerk was asked to add the following to the next agenda:

Funding options available to the Parish Council

Pétanque league

Welcome wagon

Open actions as a standing agenda item

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution, and declared the meeting closed at 21.28.

Chair:

Date:

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