



**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL
Held Via Virtual Meeting on 22nd June 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jon Clarke	Chair
Mark Somervail	Vice Chair
Beryl Edwards	
Neil Pocock	
Lara Pringle	

ALSO, PRESENT

Councillor	Douris
Officer	Mrs U Kilich Parish Clerk
Member of public	Michela Capozzi, Roger Macklin and Nick Cave

15/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence – Cllr Rees and Cllr Holditch sent their apologies.

16/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Clarke declared interest in item 20/20 (7), Barchester Planning Application for Care Home.

17/20 Public Participation allowed 15 minutes

Michela Capozzi informed members that an overgrown hedge on Durrants Lane needs attention, Cllr Godfrey asked for the precise location so he can get it resolved.

18/20 MINUTES

To receive and approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 11th May 2020.

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2020 were received, approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

Matters arising from the meeting held on the 11th May 2020.

- a. 7.20.1 NPC successfully donated £1000 to both Age Concern Dacorum and Lions Club for scrubs for Watford Hospital.
- b. 7.20.3 Mr and Mrs Iles, owners of the donkey filed, declined the offer of financial help to build a footpath over the waterlogged section stating that they “have the funds to build one themselves using a design from their Wildlife Officer”.

19/20 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

To receive a report from Borough/County Councillor (s)

- a. Cllr Douris reported some road works was undertaken by Affinity Water without a permit being put in place, Cllr Douris informed Highways and a penalty has been imposed on Affinity Water.
- b. Cllr Douris informed council members that the obstruction caused on Two Pond Lane has been passed to Clayton Rae from Rights of Way Officer, should Clayton Rae need assistance with the matter he will liaise with the Enforcement Officer at Herts Highways.
- c. Cllr Douris reported that the white line on Mandelyns has been refreshed.
- d. The bollards on Darrs Lane has been reported to Dacorum BC and the water flow on New Road has also been reported to Highways fault reporting. Cllr Douris has donated £2k from his Locality Budget to Age Concern Dacorum to assist the vulnerable in Dacorum due to COVID 19.
- e. Cllr Douris informed members that allotment plot 76 has been waterlogged, the area is primarily used as a car park.
- f. Cllr Pringle reported that the parking restrictions will be enforced as of 29th June. The Local Plan will be updated which is from now until 2037/38, there will be huge pressure to meet the new target of 1000 dwelling per year, currently, the target is 400 dwelling per year, Hemel Hempstead will be the focal point. A draft consultation will be published in November 2020, Cllr Pringle urged all council members to read the draft and share their views to DBC.
- g. Cllr Pringle reported that the members of public often use the end of Spinney as a lavatory, once Herts Highways cut back the hedge the issue was eliminated, however, the same incident has been reported this year. This is a recurring issue and NPC may need to look into a long-term solution.
- h. Cllr Pringle proposed leaving grass verges uncut, and sowing native wildflowers seed to improve the biodiversity within NPC’s boundaries.

20/20 CHAIRMANS REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. Luke Gibbons A41
Cllr Clarke informed members whether to support Herts Highways proposal to close four sets of crossings along the A41 around Northchurch/Berkhamsted for safety reasons due to poor condition of the steps and risk posed to the public by crossing the A41. Another reason is that the steps do not form part of the right of way network, nor are they part of a footway, so Herts Highways are not obliged to provide crossing access to this point. Cllr Pringle recommended that Herts County Council to provide legal proof in their assertion does not exist, NPC would like legal opinion which would outline the evidence. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** Cllr Pringle's proposal.
2. Bus Shelter A4251(Geoffrey Williamson)
Cllr Clarke informed members that Herts County Council has a proposed installation of electronic bus information screen at bus stops to indicate to passengers when their bus is due, HCC has asked for NPC's permission to put a screen inside the shelter. This is entirely at HCC cost and there will be no charge to NPC for installation or ongoing maintenance. It was unanimously agreed to go ahead with the installation of the bus screen.
3. Northchurch Recreation Ground Byelaws
Cllr Clarke proposed whether NPC should consider to use Dacorum's draft Byelaws as a basis for NPC's Recreation Ground and submit them to the Secretary of State for approval. It was **RESOLVED** that NPC to prepare Byelaws to pass to Secretary of State.
4. Two Pond Lane (to consider whether to offer to contribute to the cost of removing two tractor tyre and cutting back overgrown hedges.
Cllr Clarke proposed that a progress report from Clayton Rae should be obtained, should this not be satisfactory than to request HCC to remove the tires and cut back the hedge, also to request Bridleway sign at the start and end of the lane. All members in favour.
5. Northchurch Park Rec Facilities
Cllr Clarke proposed to seek to the Open Spaces Committee to draw up plans in consultation with local people to improve the Recreation facilities. To provide soft surface surrounding the skate ramp, 3x3 basketball court, the proposal was unanimously agreed. RoSPA report, Cllr Clarke reported that only the report highlighted two areas of concern. The report overall is very good, Cllr Clarke thanked both Cllr Pocock and Cllr Godfrey in regularly inspecting the Rec Ground.
6. Tornadoes Use of Football Pitch
Cllr Clarke proposed to approve the full use of the football pitch by Berkhamsted Tornadoes FC. It was **RESOLVED** all in favour of the proposal.

7. Barchester Healthcare Ltd, Planning Application for Care Homes.
Cllr Somervail informed members that an email had been received about a prospective development proposal at the Berkhamsted Gold Driving Range site. Barchester Healthcare Ltd is in the process of preparing a planning application that would propose a new Care Home to be developed. Before a planning application being submitted Barchester Healthcare wish to engage with the local community and council members. It was proposed that when the meeting does take place to advertise widely so the community are aware of the process. It was **RESOLVED** to invite Barchester Healthcare to attend the next meeting, however, this has to be publicised so members of the public can attend.

21/20 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSE

1. Approval of Annual Governance Accountability Return 2020/21

- a. Financial Statement as at 31st March 2020
The Financial report for not available due to previous year not been approved.
- b. Audit 2019/20
The Clerk reported that the Annual Governance Accountability Regulations has not been approved by the Internal Auditor, the Clerk suggested in holding an Extra-ordinary meeting to get the AGAR form approved.
- c. Earmarked Reserves
It was **RESOLVED** to have a long-term strategy in place for Earmarked Reserves since COVID 19.

22/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on the 10th August 20 by Virtual Meeting at 7.30pm.