



NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL
Held Via Virtual Meeting on 5th October 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jon Clarke	Chair
Mark Somervail	Vice Chair
Neil Pocock	
Beryl Edwards	
Susan Rees	
Lara Pringle	
Peter Holditch	joined the meeting at 8.11pm

ALSO, PRESENT

Councillor Douris

Officer Mrs U Kilich Parish Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer

Member of public: None present

31/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Due to technical issues, Cllr Godfrey was not able to join the meeting.

32/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare an interest linked to any item on the agenda

33/20 Public Participation allowed 15 minutes

There were no members of the public.

34/20 MINUTES To approve the minutes of the meeting of 14th September 2020 and report on matters arising that are not included as an agenda item below.

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2020 were received, approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman, proposed by Cllr Somervail and seconded by Cllr Pocock.

20/20: 8. **Website compatibility**

Update, the new website should be live around 9th October 2020. TEEC (web provider) has informed the Council that NPC's website will go live week commencing 12th October 20. The Public Sector Bodies (Websites & Mobile Applications No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 (to give its full title) came into force in late 2018. Its aim is to ensure public sector websites and mobile apps are accessible to all users, especially those with disabilities.

35/20 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

To receive a report from County and Borough Councillor's.

Following report from Cllr Douris.

- a) Councillor Douris reported that Herts County Council are working hard to ensure they are ready for the second spike of Covid 19.
- b) Since the new school term in September, few schools have reported cases of Covid, the schools have taken the measure to close for 1 to 2 days.
- c) Around 65 buses have been provided for schools, the school children are expected to wear a mask.
- d) The maintenance of the footpath on St Mary's has been carried out on both sides, the area that has not been dealt with will be done next year when there is money in the budget.
- e) Speed volume will be carried out on Mandlenys this being the first step to implement 20mph, the check has been put on hold during Covid.

Cllr Rees asked Cllr Douris on the flooding and the drains, Cllr Douris informed members that HCC has many flooding's being reported, a large number being in DBC. Cllr Douris also mentioned a pre-planned program with a frequency depending on vulnerability, if however, there are any drains that may not have been cleared to report them to Cllr Douris.

Cllr Pringle reported on the following.

- a) Planning White Paper is of a concern which proposes the changes to the current planning system which will give an automatic right to developers to build and to remove the consultation process from the Town/Parish Councils.

36/20 CHAIRMANS REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. To consider the grass cutting contract at the rec ground
Cllr Clarke advised members that 3 quotes were received for the grass cutting at the Recreational Ground, the cheapest one was from the Northchurch Cricket Club (NCC). Cllr Somervail proposed, and it was resolved unanimously to accept the quote from NCC.
2. To consider the wildflower contract
Cllr Clarke informed members that a quote from Sunnyside Rural Trust has been received, however, it was proposed by Cllr Clarke to wait for further quotes before a decision can be made. Cllr Somervail has emailed 4 other providers; one has got back referring NPC to Middlesex Wildlife.
3. Essex and Herts Ambulance
Cllr Clarke proposed to donate £250 to Essex and Herts as NPC has done in the past, it was resolved unanimously to donate £250.

4. HAPTC various training programs and Planning White Paper
Cllr Clarke informed members that the webinar he attended was particularly good on Planning White Paper which is explained in detail by a Planning Lawyer who happens to be a chairman at a parish council.
5. To purchase the dual bins for rec ground
Cllr Clarke informed members that it has been identified that NPC needs to replace/install up to three new dual-purpose bins. Cllr Clarke proposed, and it was unanimously resolved to purchase up to three dual purpose bins at a cost of £450 each. The Recreational Ground Committee will finalise the purchase.
6. To discuss picnic tables
Cllr Clarke suggested that the purchase of picnic tables discussed at the previous meeting will take place in Spring 2021. There are two parishioners who need to be consulted on the location of the table, the two concerned members will be invited to join the Rec Ground Committee.
7. To discuss the break in at the allotment
Cllr Clarke reported that around 5 allotment sheds have been broken into, Mr B Farrer has reported the incident to PCSO K Barham who was due to attend the virtual meeting. The allotment reps have changed the locks and have taken the necessary steps to eliminate further break ins.

37/20 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSE

1. Approval of Annual Governance Accountability Return 2019/20

The Clerk reported that due to virtual audit being carried out, PKF Littlejohn (external auditors) are carrying out extensive checks where they have asked for invoices relating to 2018/19. The Clerk will report at the next meeting once AGAR 2019/20 is signed off.

- a. Half year Finance Report for council members, investigate on the Income and Expenditure and Variance Analysis on 30 September 20, was noted and approved.
- b. To consider changing to Unity Trust Bank
Cllr Clarke proposed, and it was resolved unanimously that NPC moves over to Unity Trust Bank as it serves the purpose of having two councilors authorise payments that the Clerk will release. The mandate will reflect those on Finance and General-Purpose Committee.

38/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on the 16th November 20 by Virtual Meeting at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

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Cllr Clarke

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Date