



NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL
Clerk to the Council: Usha Kilich
Northchurch Parish Council
116D High Street
Northchurch
HP4 3QN
Tel./Fax. 01442 876911
email: clerk@northchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

**MINUTES OF NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
15th February 2021 AT 7 pm (HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM)**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jon Clarke	Chair
Mark Somervail	Vice Chair
Beryl Edwards	
Gordon Godfrey	
Susan Rees	
Lara Pringle	
Michela Capozzi	

ALSO, PRESENT
County Councillor

Douris

Proper Officer

Mrs U Kilich

65/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence
Cllr Pocock sent his apologies which were approved by council members.

66/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare an interest linked to any item on the agenda.
There was no declaration of interest to record.

67/20 Public Participation allowed 15 minutes

6820 MINUTES To approve the minutes of the meeting of 11th January 2021 and Extraordinary Meeting held on 25th January 2021 and report on matters arising that are not included as an agenda item below.
Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January and 25th January. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council Minutes held on the 11th January 2021 be approved, signed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Cllr Pringle, seconded by Cllr Somervail, it unanimously approved by those present at the meeting on the 11th January 2021.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Extraordinary Minutes held on the 25th January 2021 be approved, signed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Cllr Somervail, seconded by Cllr Capozzi and unanimously approved by those councillors present at the meeting on the 25th January 2021.

Matters arising from the previous meeting

61/20.a Report on Local Plan; Cllr Clarke informed members that the NPC's draft response is ready for public consideration and comment before it is submitted to DBC. The draft contains 11 key objections which are summarized. It is the council's wish to request that the consultation period is extended and the Local Plan is revised to reflect current projections of housing demand. Cllr Pringle is currently working on getting the consultation period to be extended.

The Local Plan:

- Is unknown to many residents due to lockdown restrictions
 - Is deeply unpopular with those residents who are aware of it
 - Has a housing target (922 houses per year) that is far too high, based on out-of-date 2014 projections that are not supported by any Dacorum councillor. Since 2014, projections have fallen steadily and sharply
 - Would increase the population of Northchurch by over 50%
 - Would cause the loss of 40 acres of Green Belt in Northchurch, and 21,000 acres across Dacorum
 - Puts the need to meet housing targets above the Green Belt, climate change, sustainability, biodiversity, public health, and rebalancing the north/south economy. And it will damage the River Bulbourne
 - Will harm the physical health and mental wellbeing of local people
 - Fails to mention Northchurch or to protect its distinct community, history and rural character, or to prevent it "sprawling" into Berkhamsted
 - Fails to maximise the use of brownfield land for housing
 - Makes inadequate provision for infrastructure to cope with increased demand
 - Does not contain traffic management plans for each development showing the impact of increased vehicle journeys on congestion, road traffic collisions and air quality
1. Cllr Clarke proposed that NPC publicise the draft response online and hold an Extraordinary meeting on 22nd February 2021 to allow members of the public to comment.
Cllr Godfrey seconded, all members of the council in favour.
 2. Cllr Clarke proposed that NPC to publish a step-by-step guide showing local people how to respond and to sign, Cllr Somervail seconded and it was unanimously approved
 3. Andrew Farrow had circulated a draft response on behalf of the town and parish councils outlining the summary of objection that is similar to NPC's, Andrew Farrow asked town and parish council to support the draft by signing the document, Cllr Clarke proposed to support, Cllr Pringle seconded and all council members in favour.

69/20 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

To receive a report from County and Borough Councillors

Cllr Pringles report

- a. The flooding of Boswick and Dudswell Lane Cllr Pringle has been assured the matter will be dealt with and action plan to resolve the issue flooding.
- b. Tree cutting

- c. Cllr Pringle informed members that NPC has a clear identity, Cllr Pringle feels it is only right to retain Northchurch identity. Cllr Pringle will be proposing on the 24th February 2021 that the Local Plan be revised and redrafted. DBC is using an outdated formula, the method of consultation is inadequate. The document has not been circulated correctly and is not fit for purpose.

Cllr Douris Report

- a. Due to severe cold weather, the gritters were out and had done 6 run over the past weekend alone. The grit bins will be filled or have been filled already.
- b. Cllr Douris reported great work has been carried out by NHS hub in Stevenage and Herts Valleys CCG vaccination facility in and Maxted Road, Hemel Hempstead in proving vaccination for Covid.
- c. Cllr Douris is donating £500 to Cricket Club from his Locality Budget for the cricket net.

Cllr Pringle as a Chairman of Road Safety Committee asked Cllr Douris on the issue of double yellow lines on Darrs Lane and Mandelyns whether he is able to award NPC from his locality budget (2021/22), Cllr Douris advised that a large amount of his Highways Locality Budget has already been allocated, however, he will contribute if NPC also contributes towards the project, Cllr Douris did not specify the amount at this stage.

Cllr Somervail asked how much it would cost to implement double yellow lines Cllr Douris said it would cost around £7.5 k.

Cllr Somervail asked if grass verges can be replaced by tarmac as people often ruin by parking on the grass. Cllr Douris reported that a project of this nature would be funded through his Highways Locality Budget, however, but questioned if this was really required as it reduces the amount of green space as the grass verge should not be used as a parking bay, the road in question is wide enough for people to park cars on the road which would also slow down the traffic. One solution will be to put up bollards to deter people.

Cllr Pringle asked Cllr Douris if painted rocks can be used on the grass verge and if Herts County Council would provide this option, Cllr Douris has not seen any rocks on the grass verge and informed members that Herts County Council would not promote this. Cllr Pringle informed members that she has seen painted rocks on Covert Road.

Cllr Douris informed that Cllr Somervail's idea that his proposal that Dacorum Borough Council create verge hardening at the bottom of Darrs Lane could be an option but this was an issue for DBC. Cllr Pringle will follow this up with Road Safety Committee.

70/20 Clerk's Report

HCC Budget Consultation – The Clerk informed council members this is for information only and relevant email was circulated.

Update on LED lights – The Clerk advised having spoken to Graham Baggot the project is likely to take around 16 weeks.

Berkhamsted Citizens Newsletter – also circulated, the Newsletter focuses on the Local Plan Strategy.

Planning Enforcement Update – due to a high volume of complaints being received by Enforcement Team, the team will be dealing with complaints based on areas.

71/20 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSE

- a. To investigate and report Finance Report for council members
The Clerk reported that there is nothing to report, all the adverse variance were discussed at meeting in January 2021.
- b. The following policies are due for their annual renewal. All the policies remain the same as last year.
To adopt:
 - (i) Standing Orders
 - (ii) Financial Regulations
 - (iii) Risk Assessment
 - (iv) Code of Conduct
 - (v) Complaints ProcedureCllr Clarke proposed to defer the policies to F&GP to 22nd March to put the policies together, seconded by Cllr Capozzi and unanimously approved.
- c. To officially appoint internal auditor Audit Solutions
Cllr Clarke proposed to appoint Audit Solutions, to carry out internal auditing, seconded by Godfrey all members in favour.
- d. To review and vote on the Council's mission for 2021 to make Northchurch a safe, healthy and vibrant community by:
 - Helping local people to improve their physical health and mental wellbeing
 - Making the roads safer
 - Protecting and improving access to the Green belt and other open spaces
 - Preserving the environment and increasing biodiversity
 - Preserving the historic identity of Northchurch
 - Being open and accessible, and engaging local people in decision making

Cllr Clarke proposed to adopt the statement, seconded by Cllr Capozzi and unanimously approved by council members.

- e. Cllr Clarke proposes that NPC engage SRT over the next 5 years to plant and maintain a wildflower verge following National Guidelines. SRT will deploy a small team of about 4/6 workers to maintain the site. There will be no increase in cost to NPC.
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to accept the proposal.

Cllr Clarke called for an Emergency meeting on 22nd February to open the meeting to the members of public for Local Plan.

Meeting closed at 19.50

72/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 29th March 2021 @ 7.00pm via Zoom.