



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

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**MINUTES OF NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY  
11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021 AT 7pm (HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM)**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jon Clarke	Chair
Mark Somervail	Vice Chair
Neil Pocock	
Beryl Edwards	
Susan Rees	
Lara Pringle	
Michela Capozzi	

ALSO, PRESENT  
County Councillor

Douris

Proper Officer

Mrs U Kilich

**57/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Godfrey sent his apologies as he was unable to connect via Zoom due to technical difficulties.

**58/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To declare an interest linked to any item on the agenda.  
No declaration of interest to report.

**59/20 Public Participation allowed 15 minutes**

There were no member(s) of public present.

**60/20 MINUTES** To approve the minutes of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and report on matters arising that are not included as an agenda item below.

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were received, approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman, proposed by Cllr Somervail and seconded by Cllr Pocock. Cllr Clarke informed members that due to Covid and Christmas break there are items that needs to be addressed such as repair of swings on playground and adult exercise equipment, however, there has been only one quote received.

## **61/20 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

To receive a report from County and Borough Councillor

Report from County Cllr Douris on the following;

- (a) The opening of Robertson House in Stevenage is used as vaccination hub for Covid, this is the first one of the seven to be carried out. Cllr Douris also reported that an enormous pressure has been put on schools as the number of pupils attending school from those “critical workers” has increased, at the same time teachers are carrying out remote learning. Nurseries will remain open as per governments instructions.
- (b) Free school meal over the Christmas period were a success, the scheme will also operate during February 2021 half term.
- (c) There has been a roll out of lap tops across the County, St Mary’s school have asked for two lap tops and order has been placed.
- (d) Berkhamsted and Tring libraries are operating for Ready Reads.
- (e) Cllr Douris advised that a quote has been requested to cut back the hedge on the footpath opposite the Recreation Ground. Cllr Douris informed council members that there is no fund available in his Locality Budget, should NPC wish to move forward with this, it will be down to NPC to bear the cost. It is estimated the project will be in the region of £350/£400. Cllr Capozzi confirmed she has been in contact with Highways on the subject.

Report from Borough Cllr Pringle on the following;

- (a) Cllr Pringle informed members that there is a consultation on Local Plan on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 which everyone is invited to attend. Cllr Pringle informed members that she has written to two MPs on the subject of Local Plan. Cllr Pringle suggested in holding an emergency meeting to discuss the subject further. DBC have applied extension for Local Plan which is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- (b) Cllr Pringle asked Cllr Douris whether he would advise elderly people in Northchurch to travel to a library, to which Cllr Douris suggested he would advise residents of Northchurch to stay home and stay safe, residents should not travel to a library as this does not class as “essential journey”.

## **62/20 Clerk’s Report – information circulated to members**

- HCC Vulnerable adults in Hertfordshire – Safeguarding Adults Digital Conference link shared
- HCC Your Connected Life Promotion 24/11/2020 - aims to help people who are isolated to connect to their communities during Covid
- Asset of Community Value re George and Dragon – the application for ACV was rejected for not having substantial information. The Clerk will write to DBC Legal Team.
- HCC Specialist Resource Provision Longdean School – a proposal from HCC to open a Specialist Resource Provision at Longdean School.
- Removal of bin by DBC – Cllr Rees informed members that she saw the bin being used Christmas 2019, so it was not removed “years ago” as stated by DBC. The Clerk to respond to Laurence Coleman’s (DBC Clean Safe & Green) to have the bin removed re-installed.

**63/20 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSE**

**a. To investigate and report on Summary Finance YTD**

Cllr Clarke informed members that income YTD is on trend. Cllr Somervail pointed out the adverse variance on staff expenditure and hall hire to which the Clerk informed members it was a case of mis-coding which will be rectified. The overspend on grant is Covid related, NPC made grant for scrubs and Age Concern Dacorum. Cllr Clarke informed members that as per NPC's Standing Order each Committee will take accountability for the expenditure and report at council meetings relating to adverse variance.

**b. To approve Precept form for 2021/22 for submission to DBC**

Cllr Capozzi pointed out that the budget preparation should reflect the expenditure from previous year, Cllr Clarke suggested in holding a F&GP meeting to discuss any issues the budget report presents and to resolve the issue in the coming days. The Budget for 2021/22 will need to be addressed before Precept form can be completed.

**c. Grant request from Hockey Club**

Cllr Clarke reported the Hockey Club do not have the necessary information available to present for the grant, therefore, it is anticipated this will be presented to Full Council at February 2021 meeting.

**d. Social Centre request for grant Mark Kitson**

Cllr Clarke reported that Social Centre do not have the necessary information available to present for the grant, therefore, it is anticipated this will be presented to Full Council at February 2021 meeting.

**e. To approve Clerk's Level 5 Community Governance**

Cllr Clarke informed members that the Clerk has completed her Level 4 Community Governance, it was proposed by Cllr Clarke the NPC fund 50% of the Clerk's Level 5, seconded by Cllr Somervail and was unanimously approved.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 pm.

**64/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Meeting at 7.00pm via Zoom Meeting.

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Cllr Clarke

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Date