



NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Usha Kilich

Northchurch

Parish Council

PO Box 2603

Kings Langley

WD4 4EJ

Tel.07543493002

email: [clerk@northchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@northchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk)

[www.northchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.northchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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**MINUTES OF NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY  
21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7 pm SOCIAL CENTRE BELL LANE  
NORTHCHURCH HP4 3 RD**

***Those Present: Cllr's Jon Clarke (Chair), Beryl Edwards, Neil Pocock, and Susan Rees.***

Also in attendance was County Councillor Terry Douris  
In the absence of the Clerk, the Chair took the Minutes.

**118/21 APOLOGIES FOR THE ABSENCE**

To receive and accept apologies for the absence.

Family illness: Cllr Pringle

Unwell: Cllrs Capozzi, Godfrey

Covid reasons: Cllr Somervail

Proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Rees. Reasons approved by all.

**119/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.  
Cllr Pocock re items 127 and 129 (Cllr Pocock left the room for these items)
2. To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests; and
3. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate  
None requested

**120/21 Public Participation allowed 15 minutes**

Malcolm Rolls from Mandelyns said that 3 Alder trees in Roman Way had grown so large they were in danger of falling into his garden and his neighbours'. Consequently, he was paying £1800, shared with 2 other neighbours to have the trees trimmed this week to a safe size. He said that HCC, DBC and the Canals & River Trust had all denied being responsibility for the river bank. Cllr Clerk said that NPC would find out if anyone had a legal responsibility or whether this was unadopted land.

## **121/21 MINUTES**

1. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022.  
Proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Rees. Unanimously approved.
2. Matters arising from previous meetings that are not included as an agenda item below. Nil.

## **122/21 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

To receive a report from Borough/County Councillors. Cllr Douris said that the drainage work in Dudswell Lane was complete, and he was hoping to fund a speed survey in Darrs Lane.

## **123/21 CHAIR'S REPORT**

a. Street Light Installation by HCC and Ringway

Cllr Clarke reported that, although the lights were installed by HCC months ago, we are still waiting for HCC to assume to start paying for the electricity. Cllr Douris offered to make inquiries with HCC.

## **124/21 CLERKS REPORT**

**Cllr. Clarke reminded all councillors of the following:**

1. Climate Action Course for Parish and Town Councils 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 (HAPTC)
2. Bunting installation permission required by HCC
3. HCC Voice for Budget 2022/23

## **125/21 Correspondence Received - Nil**

## **126/21 To approve the contract to supply of two benches to Dacorum Borough Council and to award the contract to install the benches to Hertfordshire Drive & Gardens Ltd.**

Proposed by Cllr Clarke who explained that these presented the best value for money. Seconded by Cllr Rees. Unanimously approved.

## **127/21 To award a contract to Cllr Pocock to install a new opening into the rec ground.**

Proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Rees. Unanimously approved.

## **128/21 To approve a maximum budget of £200 for the planting of new hawthorn bushes at the original entrance into the rec ground**

Proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Rees. Unanimously approved.

**129/21 To appoint Cllr Pocock as NPC's favoured contractor for jobs up to the value of £500**

Cllr Clarke explained the reasons

1. NPC have found it difficult to get other contractors to quote on these smaller jobs.
2. They also have a longer lead time to complete the work whereas Cllr Pocock will complete the work in the quickest time possible.
3. Cllr Pocock's previous work has been cheaper than others and completed to an excellent standard.
4. Cllr Pocock will provide a quote prior to any work showing the cost of labour and materials

Proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Rees. Unanimously approved.

**130/21 To appoint Cllr Somervail as the NPC representative on the Review Committee for the Community Use Agreement for the new Astro at Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club**

Proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Rees. Unanimously approved.

**Financial Matters**

**131/21 To approve the YTD Summary Report for January 2022**

Cllr Clarke said the F&GP reviewed the financial reports YTD to end of Jan 2022 and recommend them for approval by FC.

Proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Rees. Unanimously approved.

**132/21 To approve tree planting on Dudswell costing £700, of which £350 will be contributed from HCC Queen's Canopy funding**

Proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Rees. Unanimously approved.

**133/21 To award the contract to inspect the willow trees in the recreation ground to Alex Peacock.**

Cllr Clarke explained there were two quotes and based on scope and cost, Alex Peacock is recommended.

Proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Rees. Unanimously approved.

**134/21 To approve a budget for SRT to plant bulbs in the grass verge adjacent to Verona House.**

Cllr Clarke gave a wildflower verge (WFV) progress report. Last year, the grass was inadvertently cut by the farmer too early, and the seeds did not grow. Cllr Clarke has spoken to the farmer's manager who has taken an action to ask the farmer to contact NPC. The farmer uses a tractor to cut the hawthorne hedge that runs along the WFV. The tyre marks damage the flowers so this year the WFV will start at the wider section of verge thus avoiding the tyre marks. The costs for 2022 provided by SRT are:

- 2 cost payments – March & Sept £600 each time (2022).

- Maintenance – 16 visits (2x month Mar - Oct) £2800 per year (2022). Using ride-on mower. Future years – maintenance only estimated down to £1600 Mar – Oct. This will result in an annual saving of £1400.

Now SRT have taken on the maintenance, the verge by Dudswell adjacent to the property ‘Verona’ is looking neat and tidy and would benefit from some bulbs.

Proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Rees. Unanimously approved.

### **135/21 Future Agenda Items**

1. NPC to find out whether anyone has responsibility for the canal side in Roman Way or whether it remains unadopted land.
2. Cllr Pocock to remove the redundant bollards at the rec and fill the holes.
3. To examine ways to publicise NPC activity
4. To enquire with other organisations whether they would like to celebrate the Jubilee on the land in High Street South.

**The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.**

### **136/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00 pm Social Centre Bell Lane Northchurch HP4 3RD.