



NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL**

**28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.00 pm at the Social Centre Bell Lane Northchurch HP4 3RD.**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

#### **ALSO PRESENT:**

County Councillor              Terry Douris

#### **51/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for absence

RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Edwards to accept apologies of absence from the Clerk for the reasons stated to the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

In the absence of the Clerk, Cllr Capozzi took the Minutes.

#### **52/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To declare an interest linked to any item on the agenda

There were no declaration of interest to report.

#### **53/22 Public Participation allowed 15 minutes**

There were three members of the public present at the meeting. The following items were discussed and resolved;

- a. It was approved to remove the trunk of the dead tree from the bottom of the recreation ground
- b. High Street South growth is to be cut back, Cllr Douris will look into this matter
- c. There is no further detail on phase 2 of the recreation ground, this will be determined in due course
- d. The trimming of the trees around the edge of the recreation ground
- e. Senior Path - SRT have tried to make the path more solid in a selected area, if it is successful the full length of the path will be done

- f. It was suggested that the football team clear up after their matches as there are complaints about the rubbish left behind

#### **54/22 MINUTES**

- a. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022.
- b. Matters arising from previous meetings that are not included as an agenda item are below.

RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Godfrey seconded by Cllr Pocock to approve the Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 as a correct record and, as such, be duly signed by the Chair.

Further to item 48/22 9. in the minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the decision was made to award Bulbourne Enhancement Study £1600. The decision was originally made at EGM on 18<sup>th</sup> July 05/22 a, as the decision was being reversed under six months, the decision is invalid as the special motion did not take place. *A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least 4 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee.*

Further to item 13/22, in the minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the item should read Committees and Working Group. Road Traffic falls under the Working Group.

#### **55/22 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

To receive a report from Borough/County Councillors

The following report from County Councillor Terry Douris.

- a. Highways – two jobs have been scheduled which involve the site being camera surveyed and the surface water system jetted and cleaned. Following this, HCC will replace dysfunctional side entry gullies and raise the kerb height where required to retain the surface water on the road to enter the system.
- b. Cllr Pringle advised members that the speed limit in 2018 – the response has been circulated to all councillors
- c. School Crossing Patrol – Cllr Douris will double-check when the road assessment was done. The mathematical criteria are below 1m, **BUT** the safety along that stretch should be required considered.
- d. From 16 January 2023, there is a 6-month-long application for work to be done in Pea Lane
- e. Pedestrian Crossing Count – NPC could organise this to be added to the Herts Highways Survey that NPC is paying for to ensure the survey pedestrian and vehicle movement. Cllr Douris suggested NPC liaise with Herts Highways about the crossing survey and be involved in scoping it.

The following report from Borough Councillor Pringle.

- a. Write to St Mary's to see if the pedestrian crossing is an issue.
- b. Flooding outside the school

- c. Parking attendants have been patrolling the school to prevent stopping on zig-zag
- d. NPC Road Safety Working Group meeting to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 via Zoom
- e. Drive safe scheme outside the recreation ground
- f. Local residents have started a Petition in support of a crossing at the recreation ground
- g. Parking issues on the bridge over the canal in Dudswell. The potential for double yellows or other street furniture may be a solution
- h. Tree on Bell Lane that lost a limb has been reported to DBC to get the tree trimmed.
- i. Poor lighting on street outside Social Centre

#### **56/22 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Items (a) to (o) have been circulated to councillors by email and are included here for recording purposes only.

- a. Hertfordshire Strategic Migration Bulletin 14 October 2022 18/10/22
- b. Centre for Sustainable Energy Planning Support - PLACE Project 20/10/2022
- c. Re: Berkhamsted advisory panel invitation BTC
- d. HCCSP event invite and registration details 27/10/
- e. Citizens Advise Bureau Dacorum Showcase & AGM 14th November 28/10/2022
- f. Dacorum Borough Council: New SPD Consultations available 28/10/2022
- g. School Admissions Consultation 2024/25 - Neighbouring LAs, District & Borough Councils and Diocesan Representatives 31/10/2022
- h. Correspondence received regarding the recreation ground gate
- i. Model Code of conduct training pack Mark Brooks 9/11/2022
- j. Affinity Water has launched its draft WRMP consultation with customers and stakeholders on 14 November 2022
- k. Dacorum Environmental Forum meeting Thursday, Nov 17th 7:30 pm
- l. Mitigation to protect Ashridge by introducing SANG
- m. Garden waste collection 18/11/2022 DBC
- n. Have your say on Hertfordshire County Council's budget spending (2023-24)
- o. Dacorum encourages residents to 'think global and act local' at the Climate Action Network event

#### **57/22 The following decisions/actions were made by F&GP Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022**

1. To review Year to Date Summary Report, Bank Reconciliation, and Management Accounts for October 2022.  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi and seconded by Cllr Somervail the YTD Summary reviewed. Unanimously agreed.

2. Cllr Capozzi proposes to award a further £300 to Northchurch United Charity in anticipation of a second application for funds to support local families in need  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail.  
Unanimously agreed.
3. Cllr Capozzi proposes the approval of a maximum budget of £350 for new signs to be erected in the recreation ground stating opening times  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail.  
Unanimously agreed.
4. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve the quote circulated on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to clear the triangle area on the recreation ground.  
RESOLVED proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Clarke to accept the quote from Sunnyside Rural Trust. Unanimously agreed.
5. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve 2 days of SRT time to clear the overgrown vegetation along 60m of the fence in the upper allotment site.  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Clarke.  
Unanimously agreed.
6. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve a quote circulated on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 for the planting of wildflower bulbs.  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi seconded by Cllr Clarke to accept the quote from Sunnyside Rural Trust. Unanimously agreed.
7. Cllr Capozzi proposes a review of donations towards St Mary's road crossing patrol and swimming lesson in 2022.  
Action: Cllr Clarke will liaise with County Councillor to review the road traffic by St Mary's school. Cllr Clarke to write to the Friends of St Marys to discuss budget constraints and proposal of parents contribution to the crossing patrol
8. Cllr Somervail proposes to approve £126 excl VAT for Playdale to undertake a survey on the wooden tyre traverse  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Somervail, seconded by Cllr Clarke.  
Unanimously agreed.
9. Cllr Capozzi proposes to review and recommend a new lease for the O2 mast  
Action: Cllr Capozzi will write to O2 and Telecom Infrastructure Partners to ascertain which lease agreement will be beneficial to NPC.

## **58/22 CLERKS REPORT**

- a. HAPTC training on Elections 2023

## **59/22 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a. HCC have asked NPC to pay £5500 for a survey to determine whether it is possible to install a controlled crossing between High Street South to Rec Ground, and the likely cost. Cllr Somervail proposes that NPC pay for this survey.  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Somervail, seconded by Cllr Pringle. Unanimously agreed.

In addition to the request in (a) above, NPC has received requests to contribute funds for:

- St Mary's School crossing and swimming lessons (child safety)
  - Northchurch United Charities (Welfare)
  - Social Centre (physical and mental well-being)
  - Hockey Club (physical and mental well-being, and environment)
  - Berkhamsted Raider's changing rooms/meeting room (physical and mental well-being/)
- b. Grant application received from Westfield School for £1500 for Forest School  
Cllr Capozzi proposes that since 20% of the pupils are from Northchurch a donation of £300 is awarded  
Item was withdrawn until further information can be obtained.
- c. Contacted Hightown Housing Association about repair work required to the fence of one of their properties adjoining the recreation ground. They have highlighted the need for us to remove the rotten tree adjacent to the fence.  
Cllr Capozzi proposes a maximum budget of £500 is approved to remove this tree  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Somervail, seconded by Cllr Pringle. Unanimously agreed.

#### **60/22 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. Access issue over canal bridge in Dudswell and NPC asking Herts Highways to survey and propose solution
- b. Bridge brickworks looks loose on New Road
- c. Is it possible for NPC can use the Parish Rooms at St Mary's?

**61/22** The next meeting will be on 9 January 2023 at the Social Centre at 7.00 pm