



NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4th APRIL 2022 at 7pm in SOCIAL CENTRE BELL LANE NORTHCHURCH HP4 3RD

Those Present: are Cllr's Jon Clarke (Chair), Mark Somervail (Vice-Chair), Michela Capozzi, Neil Pocock, Gordon Godfrey, and Susan Rees.

Also present: are County Councillor Terry Douris, Mrs. Usha Kilich Parish Clerk, and three members of the public.

137/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Cllr Edwards sent apologies of absence.

RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Capozzi to accept the apology of absence from Cllr Edwards Unanimously accepted.

138/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a. To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda
 - b. To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests; and
 - c. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate
- No Declaration of Interest to record.

139/21 Public Participation allowed 15 minutes

- a. A member of the public asked if the new path around the senior seating area in the recreation ground has been completed as it is too uneven for a rollator or wheelchair. Cllr Capozzi informed members that it is not completed. Cllr Clarke said that he would liaise with SRT on the subject and update those concerned. NPC will ensure the finished surface of the path is suitable for wheelchairs.
- b. Another member asked if the conifers behind the seating area will be cut back on the recreation ground. Cllr Clarke informed members that NPC will obtain a quote from SRT, after the nesting season NPC will cut back the conifers to a safe height. Cllr Clarke also informed members this there is no immediate danger.

140/21 MINUTES

- a. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 14th March 2022.
Cllr Clarke informed the Clerk to make an amendment to item 132/21 on the Minutes of 14th March to read "to which £350 will be added".
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Pocock. Unanimously agreed.

- b. Matters arising from previous meetings that are not included as an agenda item below.
- 100 trees planted in Dudswell by volunteers (21/02/22 item 132/21)
 - Four bins to be installed at the recreation ground (2020/21)
 - Northchurch drive safety signs installed (2019)
 - Recreation ground playground equipment and fitness area installation complete, apart from a few snagging (04/01/21 – 90,92,93/21 and EGM 12/04/21 item 15/21).

141/21 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

To receive a report from Borough/County Councillors

Cllr Douris reported on the following:

- a. Cllr Douris will have the “redundant” Northchurch welcome sign removed. This is on the A4251 coming in from Tring
- b. Over the next year various highways work, such as resurfacing will be carried out on Norcott Hill, Wharf Lane, Applecroft, and Shooters Way.
- c. Drains work from Wigginton to Chesham Road
- d. A Speed Volume Survey will be carried out on Durrants Lane
- e. Cllr Douris has secured a package that included the 20 mph zone for Mandelyns and double yellow lines on both Darrs Lane (up to number 5) and on Mandelyns, hopefully, to take place in 2022/23. The funding will be from Cllr Douris’ Highways Locality Budget.
- f. Further funding through the HCC Household Fund scheme for school meals may be passed by Central Government to HCC
- g. There is one hotel in the DBC area (Bourne End) that is taking refugees (not from Ukraine). In Dacorum, 53 residents have offered to host Ukrainian refugees
- h. Secondary school transfer went ahead on 1st March 2022 with no issues for children in Northchurch

142/21 CHAIR’S REPORT

- a. Street Light Installation by HCC and Ringway
Cllr Douris has sent another email to Peter Simpson at Herts County Council to ascertain the current status of the street light transfer from NPC to HCC.
- b. To report on additional costs for the recreational ground
Additional costs have been incurred when carrying the upgrade work in the recreation ground, such as the installation of a drain & soak away and raising the level of some of the equipment which also led to laying of new grass. The total cost of additional work was less than £3k.
- c. Alex Peacock Tree Survey Report
The arboricultural report indicated the following:
 - Urgent work required to 3 trees, including felling one of them
 - All other trees to be pruned as soon as possible
 - The life expectancy of the trees is such that NPC have been advised to consider felling them in the future

In addition to the work suggested in the report, NPC will also

 - Take cuttings to replace trees when they die (in about 10 years’ time)
 - Put up four warning signs and 1 explanation sign of the work to be done to the trees
 - Keep grass long under the trees to discourage people from going underneath
- d. Berkhamsted Tornadoes FC 50th season celebration 17th April
On Easter Sunday, 17th April 2022 at 2 pm Berkhamsted Tornadoes will be playing a team of previous players at Berkhamsted Football Ground (near Waitrose) to celebrate 50 years of football. The Football Club is in need of new goals.

- e. The planning application for Berkhamsted Golf Club 21/04770/MF
The overflow carpark was granted permission with restriction on use, including when it can be used but it is needed within these restricted times because the original carpark is too small. The Proposal: variation of condition 6 hours of use. To vary this condition to allow for more flexible and functional use of the overflow parking area.
The overflow parking area shall only be used when the main car park is full and closed at all other times.
The application will be discussed by the Planning Committee.

143/21 -CLERK'S REPORT

- a. HAPTC NALC letter to smaller councils to address services NALC could provide
NALC would like to hear from small councils about what other services NALC could consider providing.
- b. HAPTC NALC has reviewed the salary for 2021/22 to be applied
Salary reviewed and backdated for the financial year 2021/22
- c. HAPTC training available
Various training available, Neighbourhood Plan Training and Clerks refresher course.
- d. Local Government Act 1972 section 137(4)(a) is £8.82
LGA 1972 section 137 gives councils the right to set aside a sum of money (£8.82 per elector) each year which can be applied for by local organisations. NPC can practice General Power of Competence as 2/3 of the councillors are elected and Clerk is qualified.

144/21 Correspondence Received

- a. Letter of support for Berkhamsted Raiders CFC requesting NPC support for a clubhouse on Durrants Lane
Herts County Council and Dacorum Borough Council have given Berkhamsted Raiders FC a 25-year lease on Durrants Lane. The car park (but not pitches) will be shared with Egerton Rothesay.
Berkhamsted Raiders FC wants to build a £400k clubhouse but is £115k short.
- b. Social Centre support due to refurbishment i.e. grant funding
Mark Kitson, chair of Northchurh Social Centre has asked NPC for a grant towards a £500,000 rebuild project, they are short of £60k. The Finance and General Purposes Committee has asked the Social Centre to complete the grant application form. Once received, it will be put to Full Council with a recommendation.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

145/21 To approve and recommend to Full Council the YTD Summary Report for Feb/Mar 2022

Cllr Capozzi proposed to approve YTD Summary Report for Feb/March, seconded by Cllr Somervail. Unanimously agreed.

146/21 Cllr Clarke proposes to award the Dance Academy £300

Cllr Capozzi proposed to amend the motion to award £500, seconded by Cllr Somervail.
Cllr Capozzi proposed to award £500, seconded by Cllr Clarke. Unanimously agreed.

147/21 Future Agenda Items.

- a. Cut back rec ground conifers to a safe height
- b. Add litter picking in the alley between the Recreation Ground and Herons Elm to SRT Contract
- c. EGM re Rec: team swing (£2K); repair skate ramp (£5k); resurface tarmac (£5k), Saturday coffee, replace adult and junior goals Football Foundation provide 75% grants, £2k goals would cost NPC £500.

- d. To hold a Road Safety meeting to agree on priorities
- e. Communication strategy via local WhatsApp & email groups.
- f. Recruit Friends of Northchurch
- g. Renewing Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town/Councils renewal.

148/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on the 16th May 2022 at 7.00 pm The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at Social Centre Bell Lane Northchurch HP4 3RD.

The meeting concluded at 20.32.