



NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL 5<sup>th</sup> September 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  
Proper Officer                  Mrs. U Kilich  
Three members of the public were present at the meeting

### **30/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for absence  
There were no apologies for absence to record.

### **31/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To declare an interest linked to any item on the agenda  
Cllr Pocock declared interest in item 37/22 (3).

### **32/22 Public Participation allowed 15 minutes**

- a. A member of the public sent an email to Herts Highways regarding Bon Soiree parking their vehicles outside the coffee shop blocking the traffic, Herts Highways informed the concerned member that shops are permitted to park on double yellow lines whilst loading/unloading. The member expressed her concern at the lack of visibility in the traffic coming from the opposite side of the road. Herts Highways suggested that the member consults with the local County Councillor.
- b. The path at the playing field needs attention, Cllr Clarke confirmed that a meeting with Sunnyside Rural Trust has been requested to resolve the issue.
- c. More bins around the parish are needed, especially near the zip wire. Cllr Clarke suggested signs to inform the public to keep the area tidy is also needed.

Action: To include the item on the F&GP Committee.

### **33/22 MINUTES**

- a. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> July, Extraordinary Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July, and Extraordinary Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

**RESOLVED**, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Godfrey that these Minutes dated 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED**, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Godfrey that these Minutes dated 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED**, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Godfrey that these Minutes dated 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

- b. Matters arising from previous meetings that are not included as an agenda item below  
Nothing to report.

### **34/22 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

To receive a report from Borough/County Councillors

Councillor Douris reported on the following;

- a. In terms of the Bon Soiree parking issue, Cllr Douris asked for the email to be forwarded to him as this matter is not Hertfordshire Highways but a Parking Enforcement for Dacorum Borough Council. Cllr Douris will deal with the matter once the email has been forwarded to him.
- b. Drain by the recreation ground: Cllr Douris has asked for it to be cleaned and it will be investigated following that operation if it is necessary.
- c. Darrs Lane resurfacing work (paid through Cllr Douris' Highways Locality Budget) will commence from level with 4 Pleasant Hill to outside property number 14 on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm.
- d. Signalised crossing at the recreation ground. Cllr Douris has instigated the process, however, this is not likely to be quick progress.
- e. Mandelyns 20mph and Double Yellow Lines on Darrs Lane and Mandelyns, the funding is there and the work should be done by the end of this financial year.
- f. Cllr Douris suggested at the agenda items to give feedback on Hertfordshire Mineral and Waste Local Plan. Item (f) Consultation on South West Joint Strategic Plan does not have any impact on Dacorum Local Plan.
- g. Cllr Clarke asked Cllr Douris to look into the drains that lead from Hamberlins Lane to High Street, the drains are blocked. Cllr Douris asked for an email from Cllr Clarke identifying the location.

Action: Cllr Clarke to send an email to Cllr Douris with the location.

Cllr Clarke welcomed Cllr Pringle back after her time away due to the reasons mentioned in her emails.

Cllr Pringle reported on the following.

- a. Hamberlins Lane: Cllr Pringle met with the residents at the beginning of the year, who are concerned about road safety, gravel runoff, flooding, water course contamination, poor management of the hedge grows, and other matters which affect road safety and accessibility on Hamberlins Lane. This is clearly a multi-agency matter. Cllr Pringle has been in contact with Herts County Council, Dacorum Borough Council officers, and the environment agency with a view to arranging a site visit. This may need the involvement of more than one Councillor. Cllr Pringle will update the residents with progress.
- b. Road Safety – residents have contacted Cllr Pringle during her absence, raising the road safety concerns that have been aware of historically. In 2018 Herts County Council passes a motion calling for a review of road safety in Northchurch. This was delayed due to a county-wide review of the Speed Management Policy and 20 mph zones. Cllr Pringle is eager to get the Road Safety Working Group going and will be working with local colleagues to move forward on this.
- c. Local Plan – the current moratorium on development in the local area, due to the surveys showing concerning damage to the historic woodlands at Ashridge.
- d. Cllr Pringle reported the ash tree on the corner of Loxley Road and Bell Lane to Dacorum Borough Council, which lost a limb recently. There is a concern that the tree remains a danger following drought stress and recent heavy rainfalls. Cllr Pringle has asked for an urgent review of the tree, which was already being monitored by DBC.

### **35/22 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- a. Hertfordshire Mineral and Waste Local Plan. Draft Plan Consultation 22<sup>nd</sup> July to 30 September 2022
- b. Northchurch Social Centre Community Open Day Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022 from 10 am to 3 pm
- c. HCCSP Behavioural change Action Plan Feedback request – Change people's behaviour towards
- d. Services for Young People Local Offer Dacorum
- e. Consultation on South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan- high level does not have an impact on Herts – five councils that make up Herts on Education housing, etc.
- f. Cllr Edwards would like to bring to the attention of the Council a meeting which will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall Berkhamsted. Cllr Edwards circulated a leaflet, that she would like it displayed on the noticeboard. Cllr Edward suggested people attend the meeting. Cllr Edwards proposed that NPC supports the cause, seconded by Cllr Somervail. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Edwards will circulate the information to other parishes/town councils.

### 36/22 F&GP COMMITTEES RECOMMENDATION

- a. Furtherer information will be made available about the EMR in the October meeting, Cllr Capozzi informed members that all members will be involved with thoughts and ideas for phase 2 of the recreation ground within budget. There will be a presentation on future projects which will be sent out prior to the meeting.
- b. T Clubb has been contacted to carry out the necessary work on the top gate into the playground area at the recreation ground (an item from the Playground Inspection Report).
- c. F&GP Committee has accepted Trish Pocock's request for an increase of 8% in her maintenance fee. Agreed by F&GP Committee.
- d. Cllr Capozzi and the Clerk will complete a questionnaire for Gallaghers to finalise NPC's insurance quote.
- e. NPC will remain with SAAA-appointed auditors for the next five years
- f. NPC will install one or two noticeboard/s asking rec ground users to be considerate of residents and keep quiet near the entrance. It was suggested to prepare a sign for the dog litter and keep the area tidy.
- g. The Audit for 2021-22 has been signed off by an external auditor with "no concerns".

### 36/22 CLERKS REPORT

- a. HAPTC on training – Cllr Edwards has enrolled for one of the training.

### 37/22 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Cllr Capozzi proposes NPC approves Year to Date Summary Report, Bank Reconciliation, and Management Accounts for July/August 2022.  
**RESOLVED**, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Godfrey. Unanimously agreed.
2. Cllr Clarke proposes to discuss the money invested by St James Place which has seen a loss of £5k in the last quarter. Cllr Somervail informed members that this is not a major concern as the high risk has been sold off, and the remaining investment is on long-term investment. In the long term should NPC face major expenditure, that will be the time to surrender long-term investment?  
**RESOLVED**, proposed by Cllr Somervail to leave the funds with St James Place, seconded by Cllr Capozzi. Unanimously agreed.
3. Cllr Clarke proposes to accept the quote for a French drain circulated to Councillors by email on 22 August at 21.10.  
**RESOLVED**, proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Capozzi . Unanimously agreed. Cllr Pocock left the room during discussion.
4. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept Gallaghers Insurance renewal quote of £2097.14.

**RESOLVED**, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Godfrey .  
Unanimously agreed.

**38/22 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. St Johns ambulance to see who owns the land  
Action: The Clerk to ascertain who owns the building before the next meeting.
- b. Northchurch United Church grant £900 to £1000
- c. To include more dustbins around the parish and signs

**39/22** The next meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.00 pm Social Centre Bell Lane Northchurch HP4 3 RD

The meeting concluded at 19.50