



NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.00 pm at the Social Centre Bell Lane Northchurch**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Michela Capozzi

Chair

Mark Somervail

Vice Chair

Neil Pocock

Beryl Edwards

Gordon Godfrey

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

County Councillor

Terry Douris

Officer

Mrs U Kilich and two members of the public

### **73/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for absence

RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Godfrey to accept Cllr Rees's apology of absence.

### **74/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To declare an interest linked to any item on the agenda

Cllr Pocock declared interest in items 80/22 k and l.

### **75/22 Public Participation allowed 15 minutes**

- a. A request was received on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 from a member of the public regarding more information being made available on the matters under the Chairman's Report and the Clerk's Report for members of the public. This was responded to on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and the proposed solution is included on this agenda. For information please contact the [clerk@northchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@northchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- b. Questions were received on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 from a member of the Go20 Group on behalf of Northchurch Residents. A response was sent on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023. For more information please contact the [clerk@northchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@northchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## **76/22 MINUTES**

- a. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023.  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Godfrey seconded by Cllr Pocock to approve the Minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 as a correct record and, as such, be duly signed by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
- b. Matters arising from previous meetings that are not included as an agenda item below  
There were no matters arising from previous meetings.

## **77/22 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

To receive a report from Borough/County Councillors

The following report from County Councillor Douris.

- a. A Herts Lynx Demand Responsive bus service is planned to be in operation around September 2023 covering the villages linking to Tring Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead. The bus will run from 7 am to 7 pm from Monday to Saturday, there is no set timetabled route as people will need to book a seat in advance and this is a prepaid service. It will only go to pick-ups where there has been a booking. Further details will be forthcoming in due course.
- b. Hertfordshire County Council has set the budget for 2023/24 at a 4.99% increase from 2022/23 including a 2% increase for Adult Care Services.
- c. Cllr Douris will allocate money from his Highways Locality Budget for 2023/24 towards the reconstruction of the section of pavement on New Road from A4251 to the 40 mph sign.

## **78/22 CHAIRMAN's REPORT**

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

- a. An invitation 20's Plenty for Herts Zoom for Town and Parish Councillors  
09/01/2023  
[Click here](#)
- b. Countryside Management Service - land management for biodiversity  
24/01/2023  
in support of Hertfordshire County Council's Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy
- c. Members News 03/02/2023  
Update and the latest information regarding the upcoming election in May 2023 from Dacorum Borough Council.
- d. LGA Webinar 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 from 2pm to 3pm  
The Webinar is open to council members. Panellists from the Department of

Levelling Up, Communities and Housing Election Team and the Electoral Commission Communications Team will brief attendees on the new photographic voter identification requirements and the Commission's awareness-raising campaign launched earlier this month.

- e. National Lottery Grants Application:  
The National Lottery Community Fund is supporting communities across the UK to come together to mark the Coronation. Funding of up to £10,000 is available for Coronation-related events and activities via the National Lottery Awards for All programme. [Click here](#)
- f. Coronation Street Parties – to apply for road/pavement closures [click here](#)
- g. Bulbourne Report – the report produced by a member of the public, information available from the Clerk at [clerk@northchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@northchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- h. Agenda and Minutes for Dacorum Environmental Forum Meeting on Thursday, Feb 9th 2023. To access Agenda and Minutes [click here](#)
- i. Request to rescue a public bench on Northchurch Common – this was not within NPC's remit, therefore, the members of the public decided to raise funds to restore the bench.
- j. Cllr Capozzi to give an update on the installation of grit bins in Northchurch – three grit bins (two large and one small) have been purchased from Cllr Douris's Locality Budget contribution. The grit bins have been installed on Alyngton and the corners of Covert Road to Park Rise and Cover Road to Cover Close.
- k. Cllr Capozzi to give an update on the School Crossing Patrol grant previously made to the Friends of St Marys School – The costs of School Crossing Patrol has been taken back by Herts County Council as of immediate effect. An increase of 72% for the School Patrol was reported. Cllr Capozzi emphasised the fact that it is imperative that parents/children use the School Patrol as it forms part of the survey data.
- l. Cllr Capozzi to update on email from Cluttons on the 02 Mast at Sunnyside – Cluttons emailed offering £1,250 over ten year period compared to the previous offer of £856 over ten years. Telecom Infrastructure Partners are offering £100 more per annum with a 30-year lease.
- m. Cllr Capozzi to give an update on the road drains outside the recreation groundwork has been undertaken in the highway to unblock surface drains but more work is required to unblock/replace pipes within the recreation ground. HCC have sought permission to undertake the work after April 2023,

which NPC has granted.

- n. Changes to VAT on sports fees and procurement thresholds effective immediately

This for the Parish Council circulated to council members on 3/02/2023

- o. Newsletter from Berkhamsted Citizens Advice – Newsletter can be found [here](#)

## **79/22 CLERKS REPORT**

- a. HAPTC Nominations for Chair to attend Royal Garden Party 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (NPC not eligible due to cancelling membership with HAPTC)
- b. Internal Audit booked for 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- c. Changes to section 137 – without General Power of Competency the maximum amount we could donate in 2023/24 would be £9.93 per elector, up from £8.82.

## **80/22 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the YTD Summary for January 2023  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Godfrey to approve the YTD Summary for January 2023. Unanimously agreed.
- b. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the decision made for the grant application received from the Social Centre as per the email circulated on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023.  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock to accept the decision made for the grant application received from Social Centre as per the email circulated on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 **not** to award any further grant to Social Centre. Unanimously agreed.
- c. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the grant application for £5k from Northchurch Cricket Club to match the fundraising they have done since April 2022  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Edwards to award £5k to Northchurch Cricket Club having reviewed the evidence of NCC having raised more than £5k since April 2022. Unanimously agreed.
- d. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve a grant application of £300 to the Friends of Westfield School for Forest School Sessions.  
Motion changed to:  
Cllr Capozzi proposes to award a grant of £300 to the Friends of Westfield School for Forest School Sessions following a grant application for £1500.  
RESOLVED to change the wording of the motion proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock. Unanimously agreed.  
RESOLVED proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to award £300 grant to Friends of Westfield School for Forest School Sessions.  
Unanimously agreed.

- e. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve a grant application of £360 to Hannah Marie Dance Academy  
Motion changed to  
Cllr Capozzi proposes to award a grant of £360 to Hannah Marie Dance Academy following a grant application for £650.  
RESOLVED to change the wording of the motion proposed by Cllr Capozzi seconded by Cllr Pocock. Unanimously agreed.  
RESOLVED proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to award £360 to Hannah Marie Dance Academy. Unanimously agreed.
- f. Cllr Capozzi proposes to reverse the decision made on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 to carry out bi-annual playground inspection, to an annual inspections.  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to carry an out annual inspection of the recreation ground. Unanimously agreed.
- g. Cllr Capozzi proposes to award £126 grant to the Friends of St Marys School for the purchase of road cones to improve road safety.  
Motion change  
RESOLVED proposed by Cllr Capozzi to change from “Friends of St Mary’s School” to Northchurch St Mary’s School Association, seconded by Cllr Godfrey. Unanimously agreed.  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock to award £126 to Northchurch St Mary’s School for the purchase of rad cones to improve road safety. Unanimously agreed.
- h. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve the motion for “setting a 20mph default speed limit in towns and villages in Hertfordshire” and subsequently sending a letter Cllr Phil Bibby at HCC informing him that NPC has passed the motion.  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Edwards to approve the motion for setting a 20-mph default speed limit in towns and villages in Hertfordshire. Unanimously agreed.
- i. Cllr Godfrey proposes to install mirrors on New Road opposite the allotments and ensure any vegetation is cut back to provide visibility for costs up to £250.00  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Godfrey, seconded by Cllr Pocock to install mirrors on New Road. Unanimously agreed.
- j. Cllr Capozzi proposes to replace the broken gutter on the bus shelter and to replace missing roof tiles for costs up to £300.  
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock to replace the broken gutter on the bus shelter and to replace the missing tiles.  
Unanimously agreed.
- k. Cllr Capozzi proposes to undertake a trial to repair the sunken areas causing trip hazards around the team swing in the playground up to a cost of £750.  
REOSLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to undertake a trial repair of the sunken areas causing trip hazards around the team swing. Unanimously agreed.

## **81/22 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. To approve the installation of gate at the recreation ground £500
- b. Bulbourne study to award the appropriate contribution, chase the EA to see if the work will be going ahead before the grant can be awarded.
- c. Selection of solicitor for the 02 mast lease put on hold to get some more quotes  
Go back to Harrowell and Atkins

## **82/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**The next meeting will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 at 7 pm at the Social Centre, Bell Lane, Northchurch, HP4 3<sup>RD</sup>**

**The meeting concluded at 19.47**