



NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

9th January 2023 at 7.00 pm

at the Social Centre Bell Lane Northchurch HP4 3RD.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Somervail (Vice Chair)

Michela Capozzi

Beryl Edwards

Gordon Godfrey

Neil Pocock

Susan Rees

ALSO PRESENT:

County Councillor

Terry Douris

Proper Officer

Mrs. U Kilich and three members of the public

62/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence

Proposed by Cllr Somervail, seconded by Cllr Edwards to accept Cllr Pringle's apologies for absence for the reason mentioned in her message.

Unanimously agreed.

63/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare an interest linked to any item on the agenda

There were no declaration of interest to record.

64/22 ELECTION OF CHAIR

To elect Chair due to resignation of the previous Chair

Cllr Edwards nominated Cllr Capozzi to be the Chair, seconded by Cllr

Somervail. There were no other nominations put forward, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Capozzi as the Chair.

65/22 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

To elect Vice Chair

Proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Edwards for Cllr Somervail to remain as the Vice Chair.

66/22 Public Participation is allowed 15 minutes

To cover Road Safety requests made by members of the public.

Diane Yorke attended the meeting to represent the residents of Northchurch and Go20 Group to discuss road safety in Northchurch. Concerns raised included the pavements along New Road being so narrow they are deemed to be unsafe for pedestrians, namely parents and children going to St Mary's school and speeding traffic on the High Street and Tring Road and the lack of impact the Speed Indicator Device (SID) on the High Street has to speed and how it is often not working. Cllr Capozzi informed Diane Yorke that Cllr Pringle as a Borough and Parish Councillor is in talks with Herts Highways on the matter. A written response will follow.

67/22 MINUTES

- a. To approve the minutes of the meeting on 28th November 2022.
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Godfrey and seconded by Cllr Pocock to approve the Minutes of 28th November 2022 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 items below.
Nothing to report.

68/22 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

To receive a report from Borough/County Councillors

The following report from County Councillor Douris

1. Cllr Douris informed members that a date has been set to meet Cllr Pringle and Cllr Capozzi to discuss the survey for the proposed crossing between High Street South and the Recreation Ground. The date for the meeting is 16th February 2023.
2. The wider traffic/speed issue has been assigned to Andrew Freeman from Herts Highways who will be contacting Cllr Pringle to discuss the matter
3. The Clerk is to notify Cllr Douris that the Speed Indicator Device (SID) is not working
4. The costs of crossing patrol will be increased in Summer, Cllr Douris recommended that NPC speak to St Marys School for clarification.
5. Previously approved works including the double yellow lines on Mandelyns and Darrs Lane are in progress, however, there is no timeframe for when they

will be completed

6. There is a gas leak on Shootersway which is why there are temporary traffic lights in place.

69/22 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

- a. Falling branches on Kite Field have been reported to the Trees and Woodlands Officer at Dacorum Borough Council
- b. Minor changes to NPC PO Box which have been addressed
- c. Hedgehog Highway Project
- d. PKF Littlejohn appointed as external auditors for the next five years
- e. Webinar - Hertfordshire's response to the Cost of Living and Strategic Migration
- f. Update on social centre
- g. Update on climate adaptation and resilience in Hertfordshire 12/12/22
- h. To elect a member of the Council to represent the Ashridge Estate Committee
Cllr Capozzi asked for a member of the Council to represent Northchurch Parish Council at the next meeting of the Ashridge Estate Committee. Cllr Pocock volunteered to attend the February meeting.
Action: The Clerk is to notify Cllr Pocock of the meeting date.
- i. Recreation Ground Suggestions: Direct access through to the Grand Union Canal to ease resident access away from busy roads with narrow paths
Cllr Capozzi suggested that the landowner(s) be notified of the proposal, although this is not likely to be accepted.
Action: The Clerk will write to the land owner.

70/22 CLERKS REPORT

- a. HAPTC Study Tour 2023
- b. HAPTC Consultation Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2023/24
- c. Update on Castle Water invoice for 2022/23 - The invoices for the allotment have been amended. The recharging to Sunnyside Rural Trust and Sunnyside Nursery will be apportioned with an invoice.

71/22 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept grass cutting contract circulated on 4th January 2023.
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to accept the grass-cutting contract circulated on 4th January 2023 from Steve Broom.
Unanimously agreed.

- b. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the Earmarked Reserves Allocation presented on 19th December 2022 at the Full Council Working Group.
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Godfrey to accept the EMR allocation. Unanimously agreed. See below for EMR Cost Centre Allocation.

EMR Cost Centre Approval

Budgets	Budget
Recreation Ground	£ 126,218.17
Open Spaces	£ 3,000.00
Road Safety	£ 57,000.00
Allotments	£ 13,000.00
Grants & Donations	£ -
	<u>£ 199,218.17</u>

- c. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the YTD Summary for December 2022
RESOLVE, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to accept the YTD Summary for December 2022. Unanimously agreed.
- d. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the Budget for 2023/24
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to accept the Budget for 2023/24. Unanimously agreed.
- e. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the Precept for 2023/24
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to accept the Precept Form for 2023/24. Unanimously agreed.
- f. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the 30-year lease with payments over a 7 year period with Telecom Infrastructure Partners for the O2 mast at Sunnyside Nursery and to appoint Thursfields as solicitors to deal with the contractual side on behalf of NPC.
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Godfrey. Unanimously agreed.
- g. Cllr Somervail proposes to update the Council's website with an Incident Reporting Form
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Somervail, seconded by Cllr Godfrey. Unanimously agreed.
- h. Cllr Somervail proposes to purchase a grit bin (from the Locality Grant) corner of Ashby Road and Covert Road.
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Somervail, seconded by Cllr Godfrey. Unanimously agreed.
- i. Cllr Somervail proposes to move the grit bin from the recreation ground to the corner of Park Rise and Covert Road.
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Somervail, seconded by Cllr Rees. Unanimously agreed.

- j. Cllr Capozzi proposes that the F&GP Committee becomes an F&GP Working Group, and all items discussed will be put to Full Council for decision-making.
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail. Unanimously agreed.

- k. Cllr Somervail proposes to appoint a new chair for the Open Spaces Committee following Jon Clarke's resignation.
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Somervail to appoint Cllr Capozzi as the Chair for the Open Space Committee, seconded by Cllr Godfrey. Unanimously agreed.

72/22 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Nothing to report.

73/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next planning meeting will be held on 20th February 2023 at 7pm at Social Centre Bell Lane Northchurch HP4 3RD

The meeting concluded at 8.05 pm.