



NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Usha Kilich

Northchurch Parish Council

PO Box 2603

Kings Langley

WD4 4EJ

Tel.07543493002

email: clerk@northchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.northchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

**26th June 2023 at 7.00 pm at the Northchurch Social Centre Bell Lane
Northchurch HP4 3RD**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michela Capozzi Chair
Neil Pocock
Lyndsey Abercromby
Lara Pringle

ALSO PRESENT:

Officer Mrs U Kilich Parish Clerk
County Councillor Mr T Douris
Members of the Public Two

18/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence

Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock to accept the apologies of absence received from Cllr Somervail, Cllr Dix and Cllr Godfrey for the reasons stated in the email. Unanimously agreed.

19/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare an interest linked to any item on the agenda

Cllr Abercromby declared interest in item 28/23.

20/23 Public Participation is allowed 15 minutes

The following questions were raised by Northchurch Allotment Association and an Allotment Holder.

- a. Water butts – has the Council decided whether water butts will be in use, who will be responsible for organising them and how many.
Cllr Capozzi informed members that on her recent visit to the upper site allotment, the following issues were highlighted
 - Leaking taps – which have now been resolved
 - Water butts – there are far too many hose pipes on the allotment site which is not environmentally friendly. Once the price for the water butts has been ascertained there will be another meeting between NAA and NPC to finalise the next step. There is no time scale, however, it is likely to be within the next three to six months. The water taps will be used as a backup only.

- NAA and NPC relationship – there needs to be better communication between the two for the allotment to run efficiently and to understand the roles of each entity.
- b. Item 28/23 what is the £500 for?
Cllr Capozzi informed members that £500 will be used to hire a skip to clear out all the rubbish left behind by the previous allotment holder. The new allotment holder has made progress in tidying the plot. The breakdown of £500, £250 will be to hire the skip and £250 for SRT to have the team clear out the rubbish, also to cover getting rid of specialised disposal for electrical items.
- A member on the upper site will receive assistance from NPC with assistance from the Allotment Representative to dispose of items from the plot.
- c. Another member asked how much the water bill the lower site, and the Clerk informed members that the lower site bill is around £300. A discussion will take place between NPC and NAA to finalise the issues on the water before relaying the message to allotment holders. The upper site water bills are around £700/£800 every six months.

21/23 Co-option due to insufficient candidates at the election

The Clerk reported that there have been no applications received.

22/23 MINUTES

- a. To approve the minutes of the meeting of the 12th May 2023 Annual Meeting of the Full Council Meeting
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Abercromby to approve the Minutes of 12th May 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 agenda items below
To approve the APM Minutes 16th May 2022 item 22/APM/05 5, with an amendment reported at the APM held on 12th May 2023.
RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock to approve the APM Minutes of 16th May 2022, as a correct record and, as such, be duly signed by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

23/23 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

To receive a report from Borough/County Councillors

Cllr Douris reported on the following;

- a. Darrs Lane and Mandelyns double yellow line is under progress
- b. Mandelyns 20 mph is under progress
- c. Dudswell Lane will be resurfaced
- d. Hamberlyns Lane is on the drainage register for ditching, curbing, and washing out road material and sweeping. This is on Highways Budget, possibly from 2023/24
- e. The flooding on the recreation ground was reported and immediately rectified
- f. Mirror on New Road is underhand, Cllr Douris mentioned that HCC are waiting on the price
- g. Canal & River Trust are responsible for the footpath going down the canal which needs attention. Cllr Douris will aim to get pricing for the job.
- h. New Road has no drains and the upper site allotment is collecting the rainwater, potentially putting soakaways. Cllr Douris will look into this and will liaise with Cllr Capozzi.
- i. Cllr Terry Douris is now the Chairman of Herts County Council
- j. It was reported that a tree on Bell Lane had come down, a Tree Surgeon will be attending the site

Cllr Pringle reported on the following;

- a. Cllr Pringle is on Police and Commissioners Committee
- b. Cllr Pringle reported that another tree branch has come down on Bell Lane which has been reported to DBC, also previously reported to Trees and Woodland Officer.

24/23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a. Dacorum Borough Council – News Bulletin (Councillors only)
- b. Changes proposed by St James's Place (Councillors only)
- c. Dacorum Environmental Minutes 11th May 2023, for more details please click [here](#)
- d. Cllr William Allen has been appointed the new Mayor of Dacorum.
- e. Northchurch Recreation Ground issue raised regarding the picnic tables – A member of the public feels that the raised area of the recreation ground, will attract a younger, noisier crowd. It was reported that police were called out, however, the area is an ideal spot for mums to use during the day. Cllr Capozzi suggested revising this subject with more thought around the issue.
- f. Information on Standard Committee from Dacorum Borough Council

25/23 CLERKS REPORT

- a. Nothing to report

26/23 ROAD SAFETY

- a. Parish driveway erosion from 7 to 11 Tring Road – One of the residents from 7 to 11 Tring Road made contact with NPC, the residents are at a high level of Tring Road, their deeds show their land, there is a shared drive which is crumbling away, NPC does not own or maintain that strip of land. NPC will liaise with DBC and HCC to see who owns the area.

27/23 OPEN SPACE

- a. To discuss the Playground Inspection Report – three out of four posts on the team swing are rotten, within 24 hours of it being reported, the swing was removed. Due to a lack of councillors being present at the meeting, this will be deferred to the next meeting.
- b. Cllr Pringle proposes that NPC write to HCC regarding the drain on Hamberlyns Lane drainage – Cllr Douris reported that Hamberlyns Lane drainage is part of an improvement programme, the proposal was seconded by Cllr Capozzi. Cllr Pringle will draft a response for the Clerk to send to HCC. Unanimously agreed.
- c. Cllr Capozzi has contacted Proludic to adjust the zip wire – touching the ground, Proludic has been notified to adjust the zip wire. Instructions received from Proludic, Cllr Capozzi and Cllr Pocock will adjust the zip wire.
- d. A complaint was received about potentially locating the picnic tables on the recreation ground – an item addressed under Chair's report.
- e. After the heavy rain and storm on Monday 12th June, there was some damage on the ground around the new soakaways in the recreation ground, Herts Highways attended the site on Wed 14th June to reinstate and the ground is stable. Cllr Capozzi informed members that this will need to be reviewed in the next couple of months.
- f. The heavy rain on Monday 12th June caused parts of the senior footpath to wash away. This has been repaired by SRT and will be monitored – Cllr Capozzi informed members that the work has been carried out and will need to be reviewed in the next couple of months.

28/23 ALLOTMENT

- a. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve £500 to clear allotment plot 66
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock. Unanimously agreed.
- b. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve £2k for the purchase of water butts and allotment signposts
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock to approve £2k expenditure for the allotment. Unanimously agreed.
Resolution to change the wording to allow allotment residents to approve the sign.
Resolved, as proposed by Cllr Capozzi, the example of the allotment sign will be available for allotment holders to decide.

29/23 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

- a. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the YTD Summary for 2023/34
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Abercromby to accept the YTD summary for May 2023/23. Unanimously agreed.
Proposed by Cllr Capozzi to change the date to 2023/24, seconded by Cllr Pocock. Unanimously agreed.
- b. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve for new information sign for the recreation ground. There is £1k allocated to this project in the EMR.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock. Unanimously agreed.

30/23 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

31/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 4th September 2023 at 7.00 pm Social Centre Bell Lane Northchurch HP4 3 RD

The meeting concluded at 20.10.