



NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Usha Kilich

Northchurch Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

6th January 2025 at 7.00 pm at Social Centre, Bell Lane, Northchurch, HP4 3 RD

Members Present:

Cllr M Capozzi Chair
Cllr M Somervail Vice Chair
Cllr N Pocock
Cllr C Syers
Cllr S Hughes

ALSO PRESENT:

County Cllr T Douris
Parish Clerk Mrs U Kilich
Members of the public: Five members of the public.

81/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to approve apologies for absence received from Cllr Dix and Cllr Pringle. Unanimously agreed.

82/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare an interest linked to any item on the agenda
There were no declarations of interest to record.

83/24 Public Participation is allowed 15 minutes

Nothing to report.

84/24 MINUTES

- a. To approve the minutes of the meeting of the 2nd December 2024 Full Council.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to amend the minutes of 2nd December 2024 under item number 68/24 to "that the issue has **not** been reported".
The amended minutes will be presented to Full Council on 17th February 2025 for approval.
- b. Matters arising from previous meetings that are not included as agenda items below.
On Full Council Minutes from 2nd December 2024, under item 74/24 Open Space the proposal should have read "Cllr Dix proposes to register Park Rise under Village Green

Space with Herts County Council. Upon the application being completed it will be submitted to HCC. Unanimously agreed.

85/24 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor Douris in his capacity as a County Councillor provided the following updates:

- a. Cllr Douris proposed that he and Cllr Capozzi engage in further discussions to reach a resolution regarding the Mirror on New Road.
- b. The implementation of additional yellow lines on Mandelyns is scheduled to take place this year, with funds already allocated for the project.
- c. Cllr Douris has communicated with the Case Officer for the Dementia Care Group to address concerns regarding access to and egress from the site onto New Road, emphasising the associated safety issues.
- d. The A4251 crossing near the recreation ground remains pending. Cllr Capozzi informed Cllr Douris that two key aspects need to be considered: determining the availability of funding through LCWIP and postponing the traffic survey. Cllr Capozzi emphasised the importance of obtaining an accurate reflection of traffic patterns following the playground upgrade. It was suggested that this matter be revisited in six months. Cllr Douris noted that the budget for this project will fall within the next financial year, 2026/27.
- e. The deadline for registering rights of way in England has been extended to 2031. However, the Government has announced its intention to repeal the 2031 cut-off date.
- f. The UK Government has set a deadline of 10th January 2025 for local authorities to express interest in devolution deals and potential reorganisation. Cllr Roberts stated that the council would not be submitting a bid by this date, allowing additional time to explore options thoroughly.
- g. A request has been submitted for the installation of a white line along New Road.
- h. Cllr Hughes expressed gratitude to Cllr Douris for HCC's efforts in cutting back the verge on New Road.
- i. Cllr Douris stated that his surgery has received visitors.
- j. Hertfordshire County Council will provide the Hospice of St Francis with 34 bags of grit, each weighing 20 kilograms. However, the landowners on the opposite side of the hedge are not maintaining their area, which is likely to exacerbate the flooding issue.
- k. Cllr Capozzi requested that Cllr Douris inspect the additional drainage on New Road near the allotment.

86/24 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a. Dacorum's Reg 19 Local Plan Consultation [click here](#).
The above item was listed in an error.

87/24 CLERKS REPORT

- a. DBC weekly Newsletter (Councillors only)
- b. Clerk to report on the progress of the Village Green Space Application
The Clerk has nearly completed the application and is preparing it for submission.

88/24 ROAD SAFETY

Nothing to report

89/24 OPEN SPACE

- a. Cllr Capozzi to report on the progress of the dog waste bin. It was agreed to replace the dog waste bin that had been removed, and to potentially install an additional bin in its original location as well as another at Herons Elm.

90/24 ALLOTMENT

Nothing to report.

91/24 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

- a. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the YTD Summary December 2024
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to approve [YTD Summary](#) for December 2025. Unanimously agreed. The Clerk amended the date to December 2024.
- b. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the bank reconciliation and payments summary for December 2025
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Syers to approve the [bank reconciliation](#) and [payments summary](#) for December 2024. Unanimously agreed. The Clerk amended the date to December 2024.
- c. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the Budget 2025/26
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, to bring this item to 27th January 2025 calling an Extraordinary Meeting.
- d. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the Precept for 2025/26
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to bring this item to 27th January 2025 calling in an Extraordinary Meeting.
- e. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve the Financial Regulations
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to approve the [Financial Regulations](#). Unanimously agreed. Cllr Syers abstained from voting until he has seen the Financial Regs.
- f. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve up to £600 for appointing a Planning Consultant for the Dementia Care Group.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock to approve up to £600 to appoint a Planning Consultant. Unanimously agreed.
- g. Cllr Capozzi proposes to engage Proludic to undertake the zip wire inspection and service for up to £1500
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to approve £1500 to undertake the zip wire inspection service. Unanimously agreed.

- 92/24 Exclusion of Press and Public: To Resolve** that under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 the public and press excluded for the remainder of the meeting, because it is likely that publicity would prejudice the public interest because of the confidential business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution, arising from the nature of the business proceedings.

93/24 Future Agenda Items

- a. Mirror on New Road
- b. SRT Lease Agreement
- c. SRT Maintenance Contract
- d. To update the Small Grants and Donation Application
- e. To update the Unity Trust Bank Mandate

f. Dog waste bin

94/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 17th February 2025 at 7.00 pm Social Centre Bell Lane Northchurch HP4 3 RD

The meeting concluded at 19.39.