



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

8th January 2024 at 7.00 pm at St Mary's Parish Rooms, Northchurch, HP4 3QW

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michela Capozzi	Chair
Mark Somervail	Vice Chair
Neil Pocock	
Lyndsey Abercromby	
Lara Pringle	Cllr Pringle arrived at 7.12 pm

ALSO PRESENT:

Officer	Mrs U Kilich Parish Clerk
County Councillor	Mr T Douris

71/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence

Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock to approve Cllr Godfrey's apologies of absence, as per the email. Unanimously agreed.

72/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare an interest linked to any item on the agenda

Cllr Pocock declared interest in the NUC grant application.

73/23 Public Participation is allowed 15 minutes

There were no members of the public present.

74/23 MINUTES

a. To approve the minutes of

To approve Full Council Minutes from 27th November 2023

Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock that the Minutes of 27th November 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

Nothing to raise

75/23 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

To receive a report from Borough/County Councillors

Cllr Douris reported on the following

a. The Herts Lynx is operating well, the service is appreciated by the local community. The service is only operated within the Dacorum area and is used by schoolchildren as well as the community.

The service is run on a non-competitive basis so it will not visit locations served by existing bus services. The service is funded by Hertfordshire County Council and is guaranteed for two years.

- b. Herts County Council are proceeding with the pedestrian crossing (dropped kerb crossing) on New Road by the canal, it is a slow process. Cllr Douris emphasised the fact that funding is scarce, this being the pattern across the country.
- c. Cllr Douris has chased the relevant team regarding the crossing by the recreation ground.

Cllr Pringle reported on the following

- a. Local Plan consultation is now closed, it is in the process of reconsideration and a re-draft will be published. The conclusion of the previous Local Plan was not to build any new development in Northchurch and that will remain.
Cllr Pringle would like to propose Suitable Alternative Natural Green (SANG) space in Northchurch, however, Cllr Capozzi pointed out there are criteria that must be met. Cllr Pringle suggested putting some form of pressure on Lidl to do something with the building site at Billet Lane.
- b. Pathways: there is a big hole in the recreation ground, the concern was that it could be dangerous at night. It may need a warning sign.
Cllr Capozzi said that she will contact Sunnyside Rural Trust to repair the path.

76/23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a. Dacorum Environmental Forum Minutes can be found [here](#).
- b. Update on Train Station Ticket Office Closure & no staff in January and concerns raised, more information can be found [here](#).
- c. Results from Herts County Council's Annual Survey of Local Councils 2023 are now in and the rescheduled Annual Meeting has been for Tuesday 5 March 2024, more information can be found [here](#).
- d. Temporary Road Closure on Shootersway Berkhamsted from 29th January 2024 on the bridge over the A41 towards Cock Grove([Hertfordshire Order no 2, 2024](#)).

77/23 CLERKS REPORT

- a. DBC Members News (Council members only)

78/23 ROAD SAFETY

- a. To update council members on the Road Safety incident by Cllr Abercromby
Cllr Abercromby described the incident that took place before Christmas, a car mounted the pavement and drove along with one side of the car in the pavement. Cllr Pringle asked Cllr Douris if any measures can be taken by Herts Highways to avoid such incidents occurring, Cllr Douris will follow up with the Highways Manager, however, he stated there is no funding available.
- b. Lack of pedestrian access outside new development at 49-53 High Street, Northchurch.
Cllr Somervail informed members that a planning application was submitted in 2017 for the redevelopment of the site, one of the 15 conditions on the original plan stated that there must be a provision for the pedestrian crossing to the north side of the High Street as the path on the south side is non-existent or narrow. There was an access footpath between the two houses possibly 51 and 53, the modified plan was submitted and accepted, subsequently, the Highways Department ascertained the path on the north side to be too narrow to meet the requirement for pedestrian crossing. There was a bit of grass between the path and the Meads, however, the area could not be used as a crossing as the land does not belong to either Herts CC or Dacorum. The developer went ahead disregarding the provision, they constructed the footpath at the edge of the vehicle entrance. The original report stated that it was dangerous for the pedestrian to share the vehicle entrance with reasons as follows:

- Inadequate visibility splays for vehicles coming out
- No footpath on the High St on either side
- Not enough width for large vehicles to turn into the entrance safely if the pedestrian is at the point

Cllr Pringle raised a question as to why Herts Highways did not pick up on the issue in their report, if there was condition attached to the application, why was it passed. The item will be discussed at the Planning Committee Meeting soon after Full Council.

79/23 OPEN SPACE

- a. Recreation Ground update
Cllr Capozzi suggested that the Clerk/Cllr Capozzi get in touch with SRT to inspect the recreation ground path.
Chris Sayers wishes to carry out the necessary work for the drainage of the pitch on 12th January 2024.
- b. NPC have reclaimed a bench from the allotments. Cllr Pocock has done a great job refurbishing and it will be used to replace the broken bench by the football pitch.
- c. There will be a Zoom meeting on 15th January 2024 to discuss the results of the playground survey

80/23 ALLOTMENT

- a. Cllr Capozzi to update on works at the Allotments
Gate installation is going ahead on 17th and 18th January 2024; another member has been served notice to quit, and plots 77 and 78 have been cleared by two allotment members.
- b. The individual taps on the upper allotments need to be turned off.
- c. Cllr Capozzi has spoken to a contractor about repairing the tarmac on the upper site, a specification will be put together and quotes obtained. The contractor will also carry out the additional work on the pipelay for the dip tanks to stop the use of hose pipes as of Spring 2024.

81/23 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

- a. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the YTD Summary for December 2023
Resolved proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to accept the YTD Summary for December 2023. Unanimously agreed.
- b. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve the Precept for 2024/25 at £44k, F&GP members to sign the Precept form.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to approve the Precept for 2024/25 at £44k, F&GP members signed the form. Unanimously agreed
- c. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve an additional £360 plus VAT to replace the bent gate post at the Upper Allotment which could not be straightened.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock to approve £360 plus VAT to replace the gate post at the Upper Allotment. Unanimously agreed.
- d. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve the grant application to NUC for the sum of £600
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Abercrombie to approve the £600 for NUC. Unanimously agreed.
- e. Cllr Capozzi proposes to discuss and agree on a decision on the BU5s grant application
Cllr Capozzi proposed that the BU5's come in to do a presentation before NPC make a final decision. All in favour. Action: The Clerk will liaise with Cllr Abercromby and Cllr Pringle to put a few questions to BU5.

82/23 Exclusion of Press and Public: To resolve that under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be 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.

HR Matters, These items were deferred to the next meeting since a Special Resolution is required to reverse a decision.

83/23 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Clerks Salary 2023/24 Special resolution
Benches

84/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 11th March 2024 at 7.00 pm St Mary's Parish Room Northchurch
HP4 3QW

The meeting concluded at 20.40