NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL
Clerk to the Council: Usha Kilich
Northchurch Parish Council
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MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 15 JUNE 2026 AT 7.00 PM
SOCIAL CENTRE BELL LANE NORTHCHURCH
HP4 3RD

To Councillors:

Michela Capozzi	Chair
Mark Somervail	Vice Chair
Neil Pocock	
Lara Pringle	
Sacha Hughes	
Parul Dix	
Chris Syers	

Dear Councillors
You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Northchurch Parish Council on Monday 15 June 2026 at 7.00 pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

To access the documents please visit www.northchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

Usha Kilich
Proper Officer
10th June 2026

AGENDA

23/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
To receive apologies for absence

24/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To declare an interest linked to any item on the agenda

25/26 MINUTES

a. To approve the minutes of the meeting of the.
   - Full Council Meeting on 12th May 2026

b. Matters arising from previous meetings that are not included as agenda items below

26/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (15 minutes)

27/26 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS
To receive a report from Borough/County Councillors
To update members from May County Councillor Report

28/26 CHAIR's REPORT/CORRESPONDANCE RECEIVED

a. Bulbourne Report
b. Two trees outside Tesco's which need attention have been reported to Herts County Council
c. Passing of Susan Johnson
d. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Presentation (for Council only)

29/26 CLERKS REPORT (verbal)

a. To produce action list and comments
b. To update on latest news from DBC

30/26 ROAD SAFETY

31/26 OPEN SPACE

a. Cllr Capozzi to update on installation of electricity meter
b. To discuss and decide on skate ramp space.

32/26 ALLOTMENT

a. Cllr Capozzi to update on any matters after first inspection on 21st May 2026
b. A request to update an allotment shed on the upper site with a plastic one.
c. A Freedom of Information request
d. Installation of large logs to prevent parking outside the upper allotment entrance

33/26 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

a. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve the YTD Summary April 2026
b. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve the bank reconciliation, receipts and payments April 2026
c. Cllr Capozzi proposes that the Council upgrades the commercial waste bin for a quarter charge at £108.73 and one-off admin fee at £50.00.
d. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve the quote for filling the pothole at the entrance to the upper allotment site for £1110.00

e. Cllr Capozzi to approve quote for the speed ramp on the allotment site for £1074.00
f. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve £180 for defib pads.
g. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve £25.00 for the manufacture and installation of the NPC signage on the upcycled public noticeboard

34/26 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 remainer of the meeting, because it is likely that publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution, arising from the nature of the business proceedings.

35/26 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

36/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 7th September 2026 at 7.00 pm Social Centre Bell Lane Northchurch HP4 3 RD

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES MONDAY 11TH MAY 2026 AT 7.00 PM SOCIAL CENTRE BELL LANE NORTHCHURCH HP4 3RD

The meeting started 19.03

Councillors Present

Michela	Capozzi	Chair
Mark Somervail		Vice Chair
Neil Pocock		
Chris Syers		
Sacha Hughes		
Parul Dix		

01/26 ELECTION OF CHAIR

To elect a Chair for the ensuing Council year

The item was opened by Cllr Somervail, who nominated Cllr Michela Capozzi as a Chair for the year 2026/27, this motion was seconded by Cllr Pocock. Unanimously agreed.

02/26 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF CHAIR

The Chair is to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of the Chair

The Chair signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair.

03/26 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

To elect a Vice Chair

Cllr Capozzi nominated Cllr Somervail as Vice Chair, seconded by Cllr Hughes. It was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Somervail as Vice Chair.

04/26 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF VICE CHAIR

The Vice Chair to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Vice-Chair.

Cllr Somervail signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Vice-Chair.

05/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence

Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Hughes to accept apologies for absence from Cllr Pringle. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Smith-Wright (County Councillor) also sent her apologies.

06/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

07/26 Public Participation is allowed 15 minutes

Nothing to report.

08/26 MINUTES

a. To approve the minutes of the meeting of the 27th of April 2026 Full Council Meeting Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock to accept the Minutes of 27th April 2026 as a true and accurate representation of the meeting. Unanimously agreed.

b. Matters arising from previous meetings that are not included as agenda items below
No matters arising from previous meetings.

09/26 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

To receive a report from Borough/County Councillors
Cllr Smith-Wright was unable to attend the meeting; however, she provided an update on matters outstanding in Northchurch. Please click here to view the report.

10/26 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a. Changes to Dacorums Scheme Delegation (Council only)
b. Enquiry made for Community Grant for Merling Croft – the application was withdrawn
c. Berkhamsted Citizens Association Fund Raising Event 7th May 2026
d. Upper Bubourne Report April 2026

11/26 CLERKS REPORT

a. DBC weekly Newsletter (Councillors only)

12/26 ROAD SAFETY

Nothing to report.

13/26 OPEN SPACE

a. Meeting in the recreation ground with a sewer treatment plant manufacturer where several options were discussed. Further investigation works required.

b. Proposal to pay for additional ad-hoc commercial bin collections instead of changing the contract. Please see below for the approval of ad-hoc commercial waste bin collection.

c. The old DBC wooden noticeboard has been refurbished and will be installed on the reverse of the NPC noticeboard outside the shops for members of the pubic to use.

14/26 ALLOTMENT

a. Allotment Inspection dates set, email sent out to Allotment Holders.

b. Cllrs Hughes & Dix assisting in resolving a matter with a plot holder on the upper site.

c. Copies of the reports submitted by the NAA Allotment Reps to the 2026 NAA AGM held on 25th April 2026. Both the upper and lower sites are looking nice and tidy. It was mentioned that allotment holders appreciate the inspection dates being shared with them.

15/26 Cllr. Capozzi proposes that NPC adopts the policies and governance documents. Please follow the link for the Policies for 2025, once approved the Policies will be replaced with May 2026 date. Policies - North Church Parish Council

Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Syers to approve the Policies and Procedures listed below. Unanimously agreed.

a. Allotment Disputes
b. Allotment Conditions & Cultivation Policy — the date on the policy needed amending
c. Allotment Rules and Regulations
d. Asset Management Policy
e. Code of Conduct
f. Complaints Policy — the link updated
g. Dignity at Work Policy
h. Equality and Diversity Policy
i. Financial Regulations
j. Freedom of Information Policy
k. GDPR Policy
l. Grant and Donation Policy
m. General Reserves Policy
n. Grievance Policy — the date on the policy needed amending
o. Habitual or Vexatious Complaints Policy — the footer date amended
p. Health & Safety Policy
q. Investment Policy
r. IT Policy
s. Model Standing Order Policy – Standing Order Policy 2026 — the policy should be Referred as Standing Order

t. Publication Scheme
u. Press and Media Policy
v. Recruitment and Selection Policy
w. Risk Assessment
x. Social Media Policy
y. Terms of Reference
z. Virement Policy
aa. Volunteer's Policy – — the date on the policy needed amending

16/26 Cllr. Capozzi proposes that the Councillors are appointed to the committees shown in the table below.

Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to accept the appointment of the committees shown below. Unanimously agreed.

Members for Committees								
Members	**Michela Capozzi**	**Mark Somervail**	**Neil Pocock**	**Lara Pringle**	**Chris Syers**	**Parul Dix**	**Sacha Hughes**	**VACANT**
Committees								
Planning Committee	✓	✓	✓	✓	Chair	✓	✓	
Allotments Committee	Chair	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Finance & General Purposes Committee	Chair	✓			✓		✓	

17/26 Cllr. Capozzi proposes that NPC appoint representatives from outside groups

Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Syers to appoint representatives from outside groups as table shown below. Unanimously agreed.

Representatives on Outside Groups	
Organisation	**Councillor**
Northchurch United Charities	Cllr Pocock and Cllr Dix
Canal and Bulbourne Liaison	N/A
Ashridge Estate Committee	Cllr Hughes

18/26 Cllr Capozzi proposes to adopt the Mission Statement for 2026/27

Mission statement as previously. Proposed by Cllr Capozzi seconded by Cllr Somervail. Unanimously agreed.

1. *Help local people to improve their physical health and mental wellbeing*
2. *Make our roads safer*
3. *Protect and improve access to the Green Belt and other open spaces*
4. *Preserve the environment and increase biodiversity*
5. *Be open and accessible*
6. *Engage local people in decision making*

19/26 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

a. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve the following documents relating to Audit 2025/26

- To approve the Asset Register for March 2026
- To review the Internal Audit Summary and Year End Internal Audit Observations
- To review the Internal Audit Report for 2025/26
- To approve AGAR Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2025/26
- To approve AGAR Section 2 Accounting Statements 2025/26
- To approve dates for the Exercise of Public Rights
- To approve CiL Schedule for 2025/26

Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to approve the documents relating to Audit 2025/26 in the order listed. AGAR Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 approved before AGAR Section 2 Accounting Statements 2025/26. Unanimously agreed.

b. Cllr Capozzi proposes to discuss and decide on Plan for Neighbourhood Proposal.

Dr Julier Battersby, who is a resident requested that Northchurch Parish Council (NPC) consider adopting a Neighbourhood Plan, which would provide benefits to the residents of Northchurch. Dr Battersby expressed support for the proposal; however, it was noted that the initiative would need to be led by a dedicated Working Group. NPC could consider adopting a similar template to that used by Berkhamsted Town Council.

It was resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi and seconded by Cllr Dix, that whilst NPC supports the principle of developing a Neighbourhood Plan, the Council does not currently have the resources to lead the proposal. Cllr Capozzi further stated that NPC would support any Working Group prepared to take the proposal forward.

The motion was unanimously agreed.

c. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve additional funds for ad-hoc commercial bin waste collection to cover the summer/early autumn months to a value of 6 x £24.30 = £145.80.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Syers to approve the costs related to ad hoc commercial waste bin. Unanimously agreed.

d. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve a budget of £100 for the installation (including fixings etc) of the noticeboard outside the shops
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Dix to approve a budget of £100 for the installation of the noticeboard outside the shops. Unanimously agreed.

e. Cllr Capozzi proposes that the Council discuss and determine which electricity supplier NPC should appoint for the electricity supply at the recreational ground.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail. Eon next. Unanimously agreed.

f. **General Power of Competence**
To agree by resolution that the Parish Council is entitled to use the above power, as set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012. The Parish Council is entitled as it has:

Northchurch Parish Council does not qualify to exercise the General Power of Competence because it does not currently have the required number of elected councillors as set out in the relevant statutory conditions. Although the Clerk holds the Level 6 qualification in Community Governance, the Council must also satisfy the elected Councillor requirement in order to be eligible to adopt the General Power of Competence.

20/26 Planning Application

Reference: 26/01023/TCA
Proposal: Works to tree
Address: Flat the George and Dragon 87 High Street Northchurch Berkhamsted Hertfordshire

NPC: Refer to the Tree Officer.

21/26 Future Agenda Items

Skate ramp some design will be presented. The skate ramp will be for the younger children.

22/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 15th June 2026 at 7.00 pm Social Centre Bell Lane Northchurch HP4 3 RD

The meeting concluded at 20.04.

Northchurch Newsletter Update
County Councillor Caroline Smith-Wright
Monday 11th May 2026

1 Highways

Northchurch 20mph Scheme & Road Safety Updates

- I continue to have ongoing discussions with Hertfordshire County Council Highways regarding the introduction of a 20mph scheme in Northchurch, particularly around St Mary's School, where road safety for children travelling to and from school remains a priority. A speed and traffic volume survey, which I funded, has now been completed and approved as meeting the criteria for a 20mph scheme. The current challenge is securing funding for the project. I am continuing to press Highways officers to ensure Northchurch is included within the county's 20mph programme, as unfortunately the area was previously omitted from the list of schemes under consideration.

- Alongside this, discussions are continuing around wider road safety improvements within Northchurch, including measures to help reduce speeding and the potential introduction of safer pedestrian crossing points. There has also been positive progress through the HCC *Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Programme (LCWIP),* which has identified the need for a pedestrian crossing near the recreation ground. This is encouraging news, as suitable projects like this will be considered when future funding for safer crossings becomes available.

- Concerns have also been raised regarding HGVs using **Darrs Lane** as a through route. At present, there is no Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in place to restrict HGV access along this road. Introducing a TRO would require support from residents and road users who may be affected by any future restrictions. Unfortunately, neither Hertfordshire County Council nor my current Highways Locality Budget are able to fund this type of scheme at present. However, the issue has been formally noted as an area of concern and may be considered for future funding opportunities should they arise.

- Following concerns raised regarding visibility and maintenance, the verge on the S-bend at New Road has now been added to Dacorum Borough Council's Clean, Safe & Green grass cutting routine. This should help improve visibility and ongoing maintenance of the area for road users and pedestrians.

2 New SEND Strategy for Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire County Council and NHS partners are preparing to launch a new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy designed to improve support and outcomes for children and young people over the next three years.

The new strategy focuses on six key priorities, including early identification and support, improved local provision, stronger communication with families, inclusion within local communities and helping young people prepare for adulthood and future opportunities.

SEND Services

3 Increased Fly-Tipping Penalties

The Council has announced tougher penalties for fly-tipping offences across the borough. Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued by council officers can now reach up to £1,000 — the maximum amount permitted under Government legislation.

The council's environmental enforcement team investigates all reported fly-tipping incidents and gathers evidence where further legal action may be appropriate. Areas experiencing repeated incidents may also be designated as "fly-tipping hotspots", allowing for additional clean-up operations, signage, patrols and CCTV monitoring.

The changes are intended to act as a stronger deterrent and help protect local neighbourhoods, rural lanes and public spaces from environmental damage.

Report Fly Tipping here

4 Winter Highways Service Update

As the winter season ends, Hertfordshire County Council has thanked highways teams who worked throughout one of the coldest winters in recent years to keep roads safe and accessible. Between October and April, 34 gritting runs were completed using nearly 10,000 tonnes of salt, with around 1,400 salt bins refilled twice during the season. Despite freezing temperatures and snowfall in January, teams responded quickly to keep key routes open. The county also trialled an electric gritter, helping reduce carbon emissions, and introduced 41 new gritters as part of a modernised fleet for the 2025/26 season. Around 150 highways staff remained on standby throughout the winter to support residents and respond to severe weather conditions.

Gritting Routes for Winter 26/27

5. Highways Issues

Residents and councillors are reminded that issues such as potholes, damaged road signs and overgrown trees, damaged paths should be reported directly to **Hertfordshire County Council** using the highways fault reporting system. .Hertfordshire Highways Fault Reporting This is the easiest and quickest way for fixes to happen, it also logs the fault with a case reference number, which allows the customers and me, your councillor to follow up.

For concerns relating to overgrown highway verges or grass affecting visibility for road users, residents should contact **Dacorum Borough Council's** Clean, Safe & Green Team at: cleansafegreen@dacorum.gov.uk

Thought this would be helpful to understand how repairs are prioritised.

6. How HCC prioritise Highway repairs

HCC can't guarantee all the faults that are reported will get repaired. They prioritise repairs based on:

- whether the fault is a safety hazard (as determined by our inspection manual)
- the type of road
- budget availability
- any upcoming work we've got planned in the same area.

Timescales for road repairs

When a fault is reported, HCC respond to each fault depending on its priority.

- Emergency or urgent works – dealt within 2–24 hours.
- Permanent pothole repair – within 1-4 weeks if the pothole meets intervention levels.
- Street lighting defects – repaired within 4 weeks if the fault is not on an A, B or C road.
- Non-emergency works – logged and assessed to be included in regular maintenance works, if possible. We try to group these together to be as efficient as possible.

If there's severe weather there may be a delay in these timescales.

6 Resident Feedback on Hertfordshire County Council Services

Recent figures presented to Hertfordshire County Council show that residents are continuing to engage positively with council services. During 2024/25, the council received 2,649 compliments compared to 1,966 complaints — an increase in

compliments of 200 on the previous year and 683 more compliments than complaints overall.

The highest number of compliments and complaints related to children's services and adult care services. Council officers advised that feedback from residents continues to play an important role in monitoring service performance and driving continuous improvement across departments.

The quickest way to complain, give a compliment or comment about a county council issue is using this service below:

Make a Complaint or Compliment

7 Herts Lynx
We want to hear from you! Help us choose new bus stop locations in Hertfordshire. The survey only takes a few minutes and your feedback is important to us.

Take part here: **Herts Lynx Survey**

8. Members' Locality Budget 2026/27 – Applications Open

As you know as a County Councillor I receive a £5,000 Locality Budget each year to support projects that benefit the local community and promote social, economic or environmental wellbeing.

Funding can support a wide range of initiatives, provided they are lawful and align with county council policies. Previous grants supported:

- Community and non-profit events
- Crime prevention initiatives
- Health and wellbeing projects
- Educational activities and resources

Please do share with the community and your parish councillors. If there is an organisation, charity, school or community group that would like to apply for funding, please contact me first to discuss your project and obtain my agreement before submitting an application.

Apply Here

UPPER BULBOURNE REPORT MAY 2026

Dear All,

May was a month of extremes starting with cool, damp days and nighttime frosts and culminating in a week of extreme sun and heat – which stopped as quickly as it had started on the last day of the month. The river in Dudswell has dried up several times but not yet completely stopped! Anyway, here for your enjoyment, are the monthly water table readings for the upper Bulbourne followed by Bob's rainfall report for May, Christian's Dudswell garden nature notes and Ned's recent observations on Rushey Meadow. Apologies for the delay in circulation this month – due to much needed holidays!

Helen and Christian

WATER TABLE ON 31 MAY, 2026 *Bob Farrer*

Dudswell Bridge – the northernmost datum point

The water table is 1.36 m below datum, a drop of 22 cm in the last month. There is still a just-detectable trickle flow about 20–30 cm wide over a gravel bed.

Northchurch Recreation Ground

I was unable to take a depth reading as the borehole casing remains blocked at about 80 cm but I note that Helen and Christian were able to get a reading here last month. It was then 1.23 m below datum. There is a brisk clear flow over a gravel bed and the width of flow varies from 1–3 m. Depth varies from 5–15 cm. The cress is tall and dense.

St Mary's Primary School

The water table is now 1.25 m below datum, a drop of 49 cm since late April. This significant reduction in a month is most likely to be due to increased extraction from the CRT borehole at lock 49, which is only 70 m from the school. Flow is brisk and clear over patches of gravel and fine sediment. The stream varies from 1–2 m wide and 5–10 cm deep.

Billet Lane Berkhamsted – the southernmost datum point

The water table is now 1.44 m below datum, a drop of 14 cm since the last measurement. The flow over a gravel bed is brisk and clear. The width of the stream here varies between 2–2.5 m and is 5–15 cm deep. The stream bed seems now to have a reddish 'tinge' which might be related to earth movement on the large building site nearby.

All three under-road ducts are clear.

RAINFALL RECORD FOR MAY 2026 *Bob Farrer*

A total of 19 mm of rain fell on Dudswell during May; the long-term average for Berkhamsted in May is 58 mm. There were nine rain days with most rain falling in the first half of the month. The second week of May was cold and several nighttime frosts badly affected recent plantings on our local allotment. Later on, the weather became intensely hot and dry with a new record high for May of 34°C.

There seems to be general agreement that our climate is gradually changing to a pattern of very wet winters and dry springs and summers. The last three months' rainfall data supports this: March had barely half the expected rainfall; April delivered just 5 per cent of the average; May had barely a third.

As a consequence of the intense heat and drought at the end of May, young hedge plantings started to die back, lawns dried up and much of our time was spent watering garden flowers.

MAY NATURE NOTES *Christian Sévigny*

There is so much going on in the garden in May that I decided to make this month's notes exclusively about birds. Crows and magpies have been landing on the lawn with chicks in tow, trying to teach them how to forage for food. At the beginning of May, I managed to get this photo of a starling and a chick. They came for two mornings in a row. The chick followed the adult around with its mouth open, shivering its wings and making loud, insistent squawking noises. The parent caught a worm from the lawn and fed it to the baby.

In early May, exhausted female mallards often came to beg urgently for food at our door. They gulped down the food in record time, all the time quacking – a loud, almost distressed call. Not far off, hidden in the water mint in the river, I could hear a faint quacking of ducklings responding to her. After only a minute or so, she was back in the water with them, teaching them how to feed themselves and survive.

Flocks of long-tailed tits, both adults and some young chicks already imitating adult behaviour, have been flying from tree to tree looking for grubs or bugs on the leaves and bark; the trees have so many insects at this time of year!

I was a bit worried about this one little long-tailed tit chick sitting all on its own on a branch, very still and motionless. Suddenly, a low-volume call came from a nearby tree – it was the mother. The chick instantly came to life and replied with a soft, hushed sound. It then fluttered off to join her and she fed it.

I was happy to spot a blue tit going in and out of an old neglected and cobwebby bird box that I made a few years back. It has never had any birds in it before, so I am delighted it is being used! The parents came to and fro every two minutes or so. Blue tits feed their young with bugs like aphids or spiders, but the most important

part of a chick's diet is caterpillars, which are vital as the only source of hydration as they grow. Each chick needs 100 caterpillars a day, so if a brood has ten chicks, that is 1,000 caterpillars daily! Adult blue tits find most food for their chicks in oak trees where there is an explosion of moth caterpillars in April and May. While those green juicy caterpillars can also be found on other trees, oaks are definitely the best. Blue tits have only one brood a year, specifically timed to coincide with the oak leaves coming out.

While I was gardening, a female robin got very close and started to snatch some bits of moss I was removing. I noticed that she was making a nest in an ivy-covered tree about 5 m from the blue tit bird box. She kept coming back and forth taking more moss, allowing me to take a few snapshots of her. In the robins' world, it is the responsibility of the female to make the nest while the male looks after the territory. Rather touchingly, while she was making the nest, a male twice came with a mouthful of grubs to feed her. During the nesting season, males want to prove they can take care of their partner and potential brood. They often bring presents to the female, generally a grub or caterpillar and he will feed her when she is sitting on the eggs. While both parents feed the nesting chicks, it is the male that looks after the fledglings, while the female starts a new nest somewhere else in the garden.

A few days later, this inexperienced and clumsy baby robin flew into a window. Luckily, it did not hit it very hard, but it was stunned and confused. A few minutes later, Dad came to get it and they flew off together.

MAY REPORT FROM RUSHEY MEADOW

Ned Hunt

As expected, water levels in our two ponds within Rushey Meadow have dropped steadily over May, but given the unseasonal searing heat at the end of the month it's surprising there's any water at all. The tiny flowers of the wild watercress are fully out now and masses of buttercups and flag iris too around the margins. At the beginning of May, we hosted a group to search at dusk for toads and newts, but with the exception of one smooth newt, this was not particularly rewarding, although as a social like-minded activity it felt quite special returning in complete darkness across the field listening to a tawny owl. Any toadlets that were there in the ponds must have already gone.

A trodden animal path leading from the edge of the canal across the grass to the remains of an American Signal Crayfish and its claw, prompted me to place a wildlife camera nearby, hoping, perhaps, to film an otter. No such luck; only a rabbit, a fox and a crow passed by. Maybe the crayfish was dropped by a heron. American crayfish are voracious predators and eat anything from algae and leaves to fish and tadpoles and have eradicated our own native small crayfish that years ago used to dominate the muddy canal bed.

On a positive note, our lambs are doing very well, but as I write this their heavily wool-laden mothers are desperate to be sheared.

Northchurch Parish Council

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 31/05/2026

Cost Centre Report

		Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
100	Income							
1076	Precept	49,823	49,823	0			100.0%	
1090	Investment & Interest	0	1,000	1,000			0.0%	
1110	O2 Mast	0	2,500	2,500			0.0%	
1120	Sunny Side Rural Trust	608	3,477	2,869			17.5%	
	Income :- Receipts	**50,431**	**56,800**	**6,369**			**88.8%**	**0**
	Net Receipts	**50,431**	**56,800**	**6,369**				
110	Administration							
4000	Staff Salary	3,946	31,375	27,429		27,429	12.6%	
4010	Employers NI Contribution	0	5,000	5,000		5,000	0.0%	
4030	Pension Employer Contribution	125	1,000	875		875	12.5%	
4070	Staff Expenses	0	200	200		200	0.0%	
4080	Staff Training	0	200	200		200	0.0%	
4085	IT Equipment	0	600	600		600	0.0%	
4090	Chairman's Allowance	68	300	233		233	22.5%	
4095	Councillors Training	0	300	300		300	0.0%	
4100	Councillors Expense	0	300	300		300	0.0%	
4110	Bank Charges	19	100	81		81	18.8%	
4120	Audit Fees	525	1,200	675		675	43.8%	
4130	Legal Fees	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
4140	Subscriptions & Memberships	0	150	150		150	0.0%	
4150	Insurance	0	3,000	3,000		3,000	0.0%	
4160	Stationery & Postage	0	100	100		100	0.0%	
4170	Telephone	0	120	120		120	0.0%	
4180	IT Support	420	800	380		380	52.5%	
4200	Grants and Donations	0	6,000	6,000		6,000	0.0%	
4230	Hall Hire	0	800	800		800	0.0%	
4240	Administration Costs	61	1,200	1,139		1,139	5.1%	
	Administration :- Indirect Payments	**5,163**	**54,745**	**49,582**	**0**	**49,582**	**9.4%**	**0**
	Net Payments	**(5,163)**	**(54,745)**	**(49,582)**				
140	Allotments							
1400	Rent Received - Allotment	132	4,250	4,118			3.1%	
1405	Allotment Deposit	120	0	(120)			0.0%	120
1410	Water re-charge - SRT	292	3,000	2,708			9.7%	
1411	Water re-charge - Lower site	0	250	250			0.0%	
1412	Water re-charge - Upper site	0	400	400			0.0%	
	Allotments :- Receipts	**544**	**7,900**	**7,356**			**6.9%**	**120**

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Northchurch Parish Council

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 31/05/2026

Cost Centre Report

		Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
4250	Maintenance	0	7,275	7,275		7,275	0.0%	
4400	Water - Upper SRT charges	579	3,000	2,421		2,421	19.3%	
4410	Water - Lower site charges	155	250	95		95	62.1%	
4420	Water - Upper site charges	86	400	314		314	21.4%	
	Allotments :- Indirect Payments	**820**	**10,925**	**10,105**	**0**	**10,105**	**7.5%**	**0**
	Net Receipts over Payments	**(276)**	**(3,025)**	**(2,749)**				
6001	less Transfer to EMR	120	0	(120)				
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	**(396)**	**(3,025)**	**(2,629)**				
150	Recreation Ground							
1500	Football Pitch/Sports Income	0	1,000	1,000			0.0%	
	Recreation Ground :- Receipts	**0**	**1,000**	**1,000**			**0.0%**	**0**
4250	Maintenance	607	8,425	7,818		7,818	7.2%	
4500	Grass Cutting	0	2,500	2,500		2,500	0.0%	
4510	Gate Locking	0	1,174	1,174		1,174	0.0%	
	Recreation Ground :- Indirect Payments	**607**	**12,099**	**11,492**	**0**	**11,492**	**5.0%**	**0**
	Net Receipts over Payments	**(607)**	**(11,099)**	**(10,492)**				
160	Open Spaces							
1100	HCC Grass Cutting	3,920	3,714	(206)			105.6%	
1600	Open Spaces Income	16,100	16,100	0			100.0%	
1610	Warden Services	2,695	2,645	(50)			101.9%	
	Open Spaces :- Receipts	**22,715**	**22,459**	**(256)**			**101.1%**	**0**
4250	Maintenance	570	4,000	3,430		3,430	14.3%	
4620	Cemeteries	400	2,000	1,600		1,600	20.0%	
	Open Spaces :- Indirect Payments	**970**	**6,000**	**5,030**	**0**	**5,030**	**16.2%**	**0**
	Net Receipts over Payments	**21,745**	**16,459**	**(5,286)**				
170	Playground							
4250	Maintenance	220	2,090	1,870		1,870	10.5%	
4700	Safety Checks	0	300	300		300	0.0%	
4710	Repairs	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
	Playground :- Indirect Payments	**220**	**4,390**	**4,170**	**0**	**4,170**	**5.0%**	**0**
	Net Payments	**(220)**	**(4,390)**	**(4,170)**				

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Northchurch Parish Council

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 31/05/2026

Cost Centre Report

		Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
180	CIL Projects							
1080	CIL Levy EMR Funding	1,573	0	(1,573)			0.0%	1,573
	CIL Projects :- Receipts	**1,573**	**0**	**(1,573)**				**1,573**
4191	NPC CiL Project	765	0	(765)		(765)	0.0%	765
	CIL Projects :- Indirect Payments	**765**	**0**	**(765)**	**0**	**(765)**		**765**
	Net Receipts over Payments	**808**	**0**	**(808)**				
6000	plus Transfer from EMR	765	0	(765)				
6001	less Transfer to EMR	1,573	0	(1,573)				
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	**0**	**0**	**0**				
999	VAT Data							
115	VAT on Receipts	1,320	0	(1,320)			0.0%	
	VAT Data :- Receipts	**1,320**	**0**	**(1,320)**				**0**
515	VAT on Payments	714	0	(714)		(714)	0.0%	
	VAT Data :- Indirect Payments	**714**	**0**	**(714)**	**0**	**(714)**		**0**
	Net Receipts over Payments	**606**	**0**	**(606)**				
	Grand Totals:- Receipts	**76,583**	**88,159**	**11,576**			**86.9%**	
	Payments	**9,259**	**88,159**	**78,900**	**0**	**78,900**	**10.5%**	
	Net Receipts over Payments	**67,324**	**0**	**(67,324)**				
	plus Transfer from EMR	**765**	0	(765)				
	less Transfer to EMR	**1,693**	0	(1,693)				
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	**66,397**	**0**	**(66,397)**				

Northchurch Parish Council

Bank Receipts and Payments for May 2026

Date	Cheque/Ref	Amnt Paid	Amnt Banked	Stat Amnt	Payee Name or Description
01/05/2026	DD	20.49		20.49	Sage
01/05/2026	BACS	630		630	Auditing Solutions
01/05/2026	DD	145.39		145.39	Nest Pension Fund
01/05/2026	BACS	194.2		194.2	Dacorum Borough Council
11/05/2026	1105		3920.46	3920.46	Herts County Couuncil EA
11/05/2026	1105		304.08	304.08	SRT Rent
15/05/2026	BACS	67.5		67.5	Expenses
19/05/2026	1905		116	116	Allotment Rent and Deposit
19/05/2026	1905		220.61	220.61	Allotment Rent and Deposit
22/05/2026	BACS	1889.84		1889.84	Staff Salary
22/05/2026	DD	26.39		26.39	Sage
22/05/2026	BACS	118.87		118.87	Castle Water Lower Siite
26/05/2026	DD	662.03		662.03	Castle Water Upper Site
26/05/2026	BACS	1410		1410	Sunnyside Rural Trust Maintenance
27/05/2026	2705		66	66	Allotment Rent and Deposit
27/05/2026	2705		40	40	Allotment Rent and Deposit
31/05/2026	BACS	8.95		8.95	Unity Trust Bank Charges
31/05/2026	30		30	30	Allotment Rent and Deposit
		5173.66	**4697.15**		

Signed .....

Signed .....

Northchurch Parish Council

Bank - Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 31 May 2026

Confirmed Bank & Investment Balances

Bank Statement Balances

31/05/2026	NS&I Account	205,475.89	
31/05/2026	St James Place	0.00	
31/05/2026	Allotment Tenants Deposit Acco	757.36	
31/05/2026	Current Account Unity Trust	111,472.05	
31/05/2026	Reserve Account Unity Trust	0.00	
			317,705.30

Receipts not on Bank Statement

	0.00
Closing Balance	**317,705.30**

All Cash & Bank Accounts

3	NS&I	205,475.89
4	St'James Place- CLOSED	0.00
5	Allotment Deposit Account	757.36
6	Current Account Unity Trust	111,472.05
7	Reserve Account Unity Trust	0.00
	Other Cash & Bank Balances	0.00
	Total Cash & Bank Balances	**317,705.30**