



NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Usha Kilich

Northchurch Parish Council

PO Box 2603

Kings Langley

WD4 4EJ

Tel.07543493002

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

11th November 2024 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 Dix

ALSO PRESENT:

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

50/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to accept apologies for absence from Cllr Pringle. Unanimously agreed.

51/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

The Council observed one minute of silence.

52/24 Voting on Co-option

It was resolved that Sacha Hughes be co-opted to the position of Councillor, effective immediately. A majority vote passed the resolution.

53/24 Announcement of New Parish Councillor & Acceptance of Office

Councillor Capozzi announced the appointment of Councillor S. Hughes as the co-opted councillor. Councillor Hughes, along with the Clerk, subsequently signed the Acceptance of Office form.

**54/24 Public Participation is allowed 15 minutes
In support of the Toy Hub Grant Application.**

Toy Hub is a children's charity serving families and caregivers in the HP4 and HP23 areas by providing toys and gifts for children to unwrap this Christmas. Founded in the winter of 2022, the charity supported 474 children and their families in its first year. Toy Hub's mission is to offer new or gently used gifts thoughtfully selected to match each child's interests. It is estimated that there may be as many as 77 children receiving gifts through the Toy Hub this Christmas.

55/24 MINUTES

- a. To approve the minutes of the meeting of the 9th September 2024 Full Council Meeting
To approve the EOM minutes of 18th September and EOM dated 30th September 2024.
Allotment Working Party Minutes dated the 18th of September 2024.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock that these Minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chair.
Unanimously agreed.
- b. Matters arising from previous meetings that are not included as agenda items below
 - Councillor Capozzi reported that the investment with St. James's Place has been closed, and the funds have been transferred to the Unity Trust's current account to ensure timely payment of Proludic invoices.
 - Sunnyside Rural Trust (SRT) using the recreation ground car park whilst their car park was upgraded has worked well.

56/24 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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

- a. Bell Lane will be submitted for consideration for road resurfacing.
- b. A request has been made for a mirror on New Road; however, due to its cost, Councillor Douris will consult with Councillor Capozzi to explore alternative solutions.
- c. The new car park for Sunnyside Rural Trust has been completed and Cllr Douris attended the opening ceremony the previous week.
- d. The Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils will soon release its annual survey, which is encouraged to be completed.
- e. Councillor Douris visited Toy Hub and made a £250 donation.
- f. Councillor Douris noted that the current school consultation will not impact Northchurch.
- g. Councillor Douris visited Dudswell Lane to assess reported flooding issues but observed no signs of flooding during his visit.

Councillor Capozzi, in her capacity as a Tring Borough Councillor, and in the absence of Borough Councillor Pringle provided the following updates:

- a. The Neighbourhood Division has decided to remove all red dog waste bins, as the black bins are now designated as dual-purpose and are being emptied by Sunnyside Rural Trust

(SRT).

- b. SRT's maintenance contract is set to be reviewed, with the likelihood of increased bin-emptying frequency due to dog waste being placed in the black dual-purpose bins. Additionally, there is potential to replace some red dog waste bins with black dual-purpose bins.
- c. Dacorum Borough Council is considering a reduction in funding for NPC for the 2025/26 fiscal year.
- d. The Local Plan was approved on October 15, 2024, though not by a unanimous vote. Public consultation on the plan is now open. Please follow the link below under item 57/24 b to complete the survey.

57/24 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a. BCA Newsletter 05/10/2024
- b. Local Plan Dacorum Borough Council 2041. Plans have been approved, and are open for public feedback [click here](#)
- c. National Trust AGM [click here](#)
- d. For a List of School Consultations [click here](#)
- e. St Mary's School Admission Consultation [click here](#)
- f. Dacorum Environmental Forum Agenda and Minutes [click here](#)

58/24 CLERKS REPORT

- a. DBC weekly Newsletter (Councillors only)

59/24 ROAD SAFETY

- a. Pedestrian Crossing at the Rec Ground update – Cllr Capozzi is unsure if this item meets the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) criteria. The item will be discussed in the December meeting.
- b. Flooding on Dudswell Lane 27/09, please see item 56/24 g.

60/24 OPEN SPACE

- a. For the Asset of Community Value application for Park Rise, it was suggested that NPC may wish to apply for Green Space Status. Updates will be made to Facebook and the website to promote this initiative.
- b. Regarding the mirror for the Upper Site Allotment on New Road, Councillor Capozzi will provide a report at the next meeting after further discussion with Councillor Douris.
- c. Electric Vehicle Charger in Northchurch – NPC has contacted a consultant with expertise in helping towns and parish councils install EV chargers. The proposal is non-committal, with ownership of the equipment remaining with the provider, who would lease two parking spaces for an annual rental fee of approximately £200-£300 per space. The potential 25-year lease includes pre-existing power access within the recreational ground. Due to the proximity of other EVCP around Northchurch the need for them in the recreation car park is not deemed urgent and the proposal will be revisited at a later date.
- d. Update on Phase 2 of the Recreation Ground – All equipment has been installed, and the edging around safety surfaces is complete. NPC will confirm project completion with Proludic and coordinate a soft opening with St. Mary's School and the nursery children.

61/24 ALLOTMENT

- a. Allotment numbering for both the upper and lower sites is scheduled for 2025/26. The Northchurch Allotment Association (NAA) has approved NPC's plan to proceed with numbering the plots. NPC will obtain an updated quote, as the previous one was received in June 2024.

62/24 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

- a. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the YTD Summary for October 2024/25
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to approve the YTD Summary for October 2024. Unanimously agreed.
- b. Cllr Capozzi proposes to update on Budget 2025/26
Cllr Capozzi informed members that the Budget for 2025/26 cannot be finalized until DBC make their decision on awarding the Concurrent and Wardens Grant.
- c. Cllr Capozzi proposes discussing and awarding a grant to Toy Hub
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Dix to award a grant to Toy Hub for £750. Unanimously agreed.
- d. Cllr Capozzi proposes to discuss and award a grant to Northchurch Allotment Association
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi seconded by Cllr Dix to put questions the following questions to NAA before making the final decision:
 - NAA to provide cost breakdown, indicate a contribution from NPC and direct funding by the committee themselves
 - Will NAA have insurance cover the summerhouse and the contents
- e. Cllr Capozzi proposes to award a grant to NUC.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Dix to award a grant to Northchurch United Charities a sum of £600. Unanimously agreed. To review NUC's surplus and decide how much to contribute for 2025/26.
- f. Cllr Capozzi proposes to carry out a site audit for WCAG2.2
All in favour of withdrawing the item until further notice.

63/24 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.

64/24 Future Agenda Items

- a. Earmarked Reserves Account
- b. Financial Regulations Policy
- c. Pedestrian Crossing at the Rec Ground update
- d. Mirror on New Road

65/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 2nd December 2024 at 7.00 pm Social Centre Bell Lane Northchurch HP4 3 RD

The meeting concluded at 20.05.