



NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.00 pm at Social Centre, Bell Lane, Northchurch, HP4 3QW

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michela Capozzi	Chair
Mark Somervail	
Neil Pocock	
Lyndsey Abercromy	
Lara Pringle	Arrived at 7.35 pm

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs U Kilich Proper Officer.  
There were six members of the public present.

### 98/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence

Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to accept apologies of absence from Cllr Dix. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Douris also sent his apologies.

### 99/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare an interest linked to any item on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest to record.

### 100/23 Public Participation is allowed 15 minutes

- a. PCSO to talk about Parking Enforcement.  
PC Stover (387) and PCSO Brown (6018) from the Neighbourhood Policing Team attended the meeting to report on parking issues raised by members of public on Mandelyns. A truck with no lights and flat tyre has been parked on Mandelyns for sometime. After a lengthy discussion on the subject, PC Stover reported that such issues are the responsibility of Dacorum Borough Council Parking Enforcement. Neighbourhood Policing Team have limited powers to act on parking issues, they will only get involved if the issues are classed as "dangerous". Once the police visit the site and it is classed as non-dangerous a report is submitted to DBC, however, should DBC deem the vehicle to be abandoned, the owner will be given 14 days to move the vehicle. One of the solutions would be to have either double or single yellow lines on Mandelyns.

- b. Dr Maclean's presentation on grazing on the Common Berkhamsted Golf Club have been encouraged to graze the Common which has not been grazed in a long time. The Trust is spending several thousand pounds a year to keep the Common open to the public.
- The GPS-controlled collar will be worn by the cows, should the cows approach the boundary of a field, they will receive a gentle shock.
  - The grazing will start towards the end of April.
  - The grazing has been in place at Little Gaddesden
  - There will be signage at every entrance warning dog walkers and horse riders
  - Leafleting in local areas warning people of grazing to commence
  - The signs will have a QR code which members of the public will be able to use for information on where the cows will be grazing and the point of contact for the grazier

For more information please [click here](#)

- c. A member of the public asked if the playground upgrade will be on NPC's website, Cllr Capozzi confirmed once the tender has been agreed, the information will be on NPC's website.
- d. When considering the opening/closing times for the recreation ground gate, the following points should be considered by NPC:
- Antisocial behaviour
  - Parking issues from commuters and those living on the canal
  - Other commuters (travellers) where it may become an issue to evict them

## 101/23 MINUTES

- a. To approve Full Council Minutes from 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock to approve the Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 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
- i. Hannah Marie Dance Academy has stated that there are nine children from Northchurch are in the dance academy and has confirmed all nine are attending the competition.
  - ii. Berkhamsted Athletic answered questions on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Please see below item 106/23 d.

## 102/23 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

To receive a report from Borough/County Councillors

Cllr Douris sent his report to the Clerk as below:

- a. Cllr Douris will be engaging in an informal survey of resident regarding double yellow lines at the various junctions on the estate
- b. The double yellow line on the disabled parking bay outside Tesco has been reported for repainting.
- c. The Social Centre has received £750 from Cllr Douris for the renewal of the footpath around the building
- d. The naked pole on Merling Croft has been reported to Herts Highway to have a 20 mph notice installed or have it removed

Cllr Pringle reported on the following:

a. St Mary's Community Garden Project:

Cllr Pringle attended another meeting of the project. An application for a grant from DBC has been submitted before the end of the financial year. It is understood that it was granted, but the amount is to be confirmed. It is hoped that this will cover the costs of legal advice to draft the lease. The lease can be drafted in a way that protects the resources for the community. I will liaise with the group to ensure that the lease can satisfy NPC in an anticipated future grant application.

b. Parking in Mandelyns

I have received further reports of nuisance parking in the Mandelyns estate. I have referred to the police. Residents should continue reporting parking concerns to HCC. It seems that the only solution is for there to be adequate parking restrictions to prevent nuisance parking (I noted that a lorry was parked with the end hanging over the yellow lines at the corner - the lines do not go sufficiently far down the road to ensure parking does not obstruct vehicles entering the junction from the High Street).

c. Canal Bridge on New Road

I have received a report from a resident who is concerned about the level of disrepair to the Tring side of the canal bridge on New Road. I will enquire with DBC as to who is responsible for the repairs.

### 103/23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a. Berkhamsted Citizens Minutes and Agenda, please [click here](#) for more information.
- b. For information on Ashridge Ramblings please email the the Clerk for more information.
- c. Upper Bulbourne Report March 2024, please email the Clerk for more information.

### 104/23 CLERKS REPORT

- a. DBC Members News (Council members only)

### 105/23 ROAD SAFETY

Nothing to report

### 106/23 OPEN SPACE

- a. Cllr Abercromby proposes to issue the tender for the upgrade to the playground equipment Resolved, proposed by Cllr Abercromby, seconded by Cllr Pocock. Unanimously agreed.
- b. Cllr Capozzi proposes to change the dates gates open and close or go ahead with a trial of the gates being open from now until October, and start closing at the end of October (not beginning).  
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail. Unanimously agreed to go ahead with the trial of the gates being open from April to October will be in place. No overnight parking sign is to be displayed.
- c. Cllr Capozzi informed members that Steve Broom will continue to cut the grass at the recreation ground in 2024/25.

- d. Cllr Capozzi to inform members that Berkhamsted Tornadoes will continue to use Northchurch Recreation Ground every Sunday morning for the next football season for 2024/25. Berkhamsted Athletic will also be using the pitch on occasion and in case of excessive wear to the grass, NPC will discuss stopping play, if necessary, with Berkhamsted Tornadoes.  
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock should the Council feel the ground is being misused NPC reserves the right to say no to Berkhamsted Athletics.

#### **107/23 ALLOTMENT**

- a. Cllr Capozzi to update on works at the Allotments  
Cllr Capozzi will present the quote for the works o the allotment at the next meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024. The gate entrance issue has now been resolved. A survey will be carried out to ascertain the area SRT currently occupy to calculate the rent.

#### **108/23 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES**

- a. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the Year End Summary for March 2024 (DRAFT)  
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to accept the YTD Summary for March 2024. Unanimously agreed.
- b. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the quote for the Play Inspection to be carried out in May 2024  
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock to accept the quote received by Playground Inspection. Unanimously agreed.
- c. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve a contribution towards the EducArtEvent  
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi seconded by Cllr Pocock to award £175. Unanimously agreed.
- d. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve £1500 for an accurate upper allotment site plan and requests approval for F&GP to appoint a surveyor to carry out the necessary task.  
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pringle. Unanimously agreed.
- e. Cllr Capozzi proposes to discuss and approve the grant application for Hannah Marie Dance Academy  
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pringle to award £480.  
Unanimously agreed.

#### **109/23 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. To resolve whether Cllr Douris has an action on the proposed crossing by the recreation ground
- b. St Mary's Garden Project

#### **110/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.00 pm Social Centre Bell Lane Northchurch HP4 3 RD

**The meeting concluded at 20.42**