



NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Usha Kilich

Northchurch Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

9th September 2024 at 7.00 pm at Social Centre, Bell Lane, Northchurch, HP4 3 RD

Members Present:

Cllr M Capozzi Chair
Cllr N Pocock
Cllr L Abercromby
Cllr C Syers

ALSO PRESENT:

County Cllr T Douris
Parish Clerk Mrs U Kilich
Members of the public 8

36/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence

Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Syers to accept the apologies of absence from Cllr Somervail, Cllr Dix, and Cllr Pringle, for the reasons stated in the email. Unanimously agreed.

37/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

38/24 Public Participation is allowed 15 minutes

One of the members of the public attended the meeting concerning item 41/24 m & n. The member reported the Permanent Right of Way (PTRO), administered by Herts County Council and approved by DBC, which proposes to prohibit parking around the monument. A temporary parking area will be established, which will help determine the location of a permanent parking area. The consultation period for this proposal will close on 30th October 2024.

39/24 MINUTES

- a. To approve the minutes of the meeting of the 17th June 2024 Full Council Meeting
To approve the minutes of the EOM of 29th July 2024
To approve Allotment Minutes 10th July 2024
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Syers that these Minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chair, unanimously agreed.

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

40/24 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Douris reported on the following:

- a. An informal survey was conducted, with only positive feedback (i.e., "yes" responses) being counted. Of the 242 questionnaires distributed, 92 were returned, with 85 respondents supporting the implementation of double yellow lines from A4251 into Mandelyns as the primary location. Additionally, two other areas identified for double yellow lines are opposite Kite Field and opposite Herons Elm. Councillor Douris has communicated with the Hertfordshire Highways Manager to explore the possibility of applying double yellow lines in other areas of Northchurch. The work has been put in the works programme. Cllr Douris will try and have the double yellow line on the junction of Bell Lane and Granville, but cannot guarantee this will happen.
- b. A request from the residents of Hamberlins to have the prohibition sign bigger and at the bottom of the Hamerlins is an unsuitable sign which should be removed.
- c. The new drop kerb on the New Road has been completed.
- d. Pedestrian Crossing at the Recreation Ground: A feasibility study is required, and while NPC has allocated funding for it, there is concern about the substantial cost, especially if Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) ultimately deems the project unviable. Recent communication from an HCC officer confirmed that HCC would support crossing improvements at the location if NPC funds the feasibility study or the initial investigation. One key requirement is that traffic conditions must justify the need for a pedestrian crossing, which will form part of the study's report. NPC seeks clarity on the thresholds for various parameters to understand how close current conditions are to meeting these criteria, based on existing data. Since traffic has increased following the playground upgrade and is expected to rise further after phase 2 is completed, NPC will wait until the playground's upgrades are finalised before proceeding with the feasibility study. Councillor Capozzi has inquired if DBC would fund the study, as it has been included for consideration under Dacorum's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). Councillor Capozzi will liaise with Councillor Pringle to determine if DBC can provide funding for the project through the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)
- e. Cllr Douris thanked Rita Griffiths for all her input and hard work over the recent months.

41/24 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a. The Collett (school) consultation letter for more details please [click here](#)
- b. Parking issues on Darrs Lane and by Tesco – Cllr Capozzi reported that there is nothing NPC can do about the parking issues.
- c. DBC's changes to parking and hours of operation for more information please [click here](#)
- d. Services for Young People (SfYP) Summer Term Report 2024 [click here](#) for more information
- e. Join us in creating an Age-Friendly Community [click here](#) for more information
- f. Electric Vehicle Charger installation in the parish for more information please [click here](#)
- g. Community Parade Invitation for Community Groups - Dacorum 50 Fest! [Click here](#) for more information
- h. Herts Lynx Evening Service For more information please [click here](#)
- i. Upper Bulbourne Report July 2024 (ask the Clerk for more information)
- j. Update on street lights
- k. Consultation on Dacorum Borough Council Draft Pavement Licensing Policy [click here](#) for more information

- l. Clearance of debris on Pea Lane requested (email directed to DBC enforcement)
- m. Pea Lane PTRO consultation for more information (see a link to Northchurch BOAT 25) please [click here](#)
- n. Public Consultation relating to a proposed change to the Rights of Way access on Monument Drive (see link to Aldbury BOAT 71) for more information please [click here](#)
- o. Herts County Council Campaign. Please [click here](#) for more information
- p. A major development in Berkhamsted please [click here](#) for more information

42/24 CLERKS REPORT

- a. DBC weekly Newsletter (Councillors only) – Circulated to councillors on weekly basis
- b. Town and Parish Budget Information Request – the first part of the form has been completed and submitted to DBC, and the second part needs to be submitted to DBC by 27th September 2024.
- c. Berkhamsted Under 5's grant has been refunded back to NPC – The Clerk advised members that the grant awarded to BU'5 has been paid back to NPC.
- d. Unity Trust Bank changes (charges to be implemented every month)

43/24 ROAD SAFETY

- a. Pedestrian Crossing at the Rec Ground update – covered under 40/24 d.
- b. Road Safety concerns on the junction of Bell Lane and Westfield Road – covered under 40/24 a
- c. Overgrown hedge on Dudswell obscuring visibility when leaving the Cricket Club drive – this has now been resolved.

44/24 OPEN SPACE

- a. Bell Lane Cemetery is not being managed by SRT- this has now been resolved
- b. Cllr Somervail attended a meeting with Proludic to discuss the final details of the playground upgrade – start date to be determined.
- c. Cllr Capozzi proposes to lock the car park gate in the evenings to avoid fly-tipping all in favour.

45/24 ALLOTMENT

- a. A request was made for a gazebo on plot 68 – this was accepted
- b. A request for a mirror at the entrance of the upper site allotment - Cllr Douris will follow up on this.

46/24 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

- a. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the YTD Summary for August 2024/25
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock. Unanimously agreed.
- b. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the insurance renewal
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Abercromy to accept the insurance renewal quote. Unanimously agreed.
- c. Cllr Capozzi proposes to award Jean and Bob Farrer with garden vouchers.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock to purchase gift vouchers for £100 for Bob and Jean Farrer. Unanimously agreed.
- d. Cllr Capozzi proposes to increase the allotment rent for 2024/25 for full plots £45 and half plots £25
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock, accept the rent increase for full plot £45 and half plot £25. Unanimously agreed.

47/24 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.

Nothing to report.

48/24 Future Agenda Items

- a. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the Financial Regulations and Working Party Terms of Reference
- b. Cllr Capozzi proposes to review TEEC contract
- c. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the updated FOI and Public Scheme
- d. Cllr Pringle to report on the defib at the upper allotment site

49/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 11TH November 2024 at 7.00 pm Social Centre Bell Lane Northchurch HP4 3 RD

The meeting concluded at 19.49