

North Mymms Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Parish Office, 1a Bushwood Close, AL9 7YZ on Wednesday 10 January 2024 at 19.00hrs

Those Present:

Councillors Mrs Teresa Travell Chairman
 Mrs Mia Americanos-Molinaro
 Mr James Bentall
 Mr Paul Ferguson
 Mr Tony Green
 Mr Paul Thomson

Officer Mrs Christine Wootton

Member of the Public: Mr Neil Farnsworth - Head of Planning,
 Cala Homes (North Home Counties)

2023/FC/129	<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Councillors Isabel Moritz, Jacqui Boulton and Stephen Boulton. These apologies were accepted.</p>
2023/FC/130	<p>Interests</p> <p>a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda Councillor James Bentall, as a Trustee of North Mymms Youth & Community Centre and a member of the North Mymms Youth Project Committee, declared an interest in Item 2023/FC/138 Councillor Paul Thomson, as a member of the North Mymms Memorial Hall Committee, declared an interest in Item 2023/FC/138 Councillor Teresa Travell, as a member of the North Mymms Memorial Hall Committee, declared an interest in Item 2023/FC/138 Councillor Tony Green, as Chairman of North Mymms Memorial Hall, declared an interest in Item 2023/FC/138</p> <p>b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests Councillor Paul Ferguson confirmed he is the owner of Welham Estates.</p> <p>c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate None.</p>
2023/FC/131	<p>Public Participation – to consider requests by members of the public to speak at this meeting, in accordance with the Parish Council’s Public Speaking Arrangement.</p> <p>None had been received.</p>
2023/FC/132	<p>To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27 November 2023</p>

	<p>It was proposed by Councillor Mia Americanos-Molinaro, seconded by Councillor Paul Ferguson and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27 November 2023, copies of which had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting, be approved and were signed by the Chairman.</p>
2023/FC/133	<p>To note the Clerk's Report – January 2024</p> <p>The contents of the Report were noted. No questions were raised.</p>
2023/FC/134	<p>Introduction by Neil Farnsworth (Head of Planning, Cala Homes (North Home Counties) to the Cala Community Pledge Scheme in relation to the housing development at Little Heath</p> <p>Mr Farnsworth circulated the planning layout of the development at Little Heath (Planning Application 6/2022/2317/MAJ - Demolition of the dwellings known as Videne and Tanum Farm and outbuildings to the rear of Studlands and the erection of 63 dwellings with associated accesses, parking, amenity and open space and landscaping). He noted the plans include a proposed footpath from the development to the Little Heath Playing Field (owned by the Parish Council). Members of the Parish Council voiced concern there is no lighting in that area and the proposal does not include an access gate. Decision as to whether to include this footpath will be made by the Parish Council.</p> <p>The Cala Community Pledges encompass bespoke activities tailored to the community as well as four core initiatives: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showhome of Support which celebrates local suppliers and up-and-coming talent found close to the development show home. • Urban Wildlife Strategy – commitment to wildlife measures including bat and bird boxes, invertebrate bricks and hedgehog highways, on every new home and development built. • Land to life – a curriculum-base schools programme teaching children about sustainable development. • Stay Safe, Stay Away – a school learning programme to raise awareness among young people of the dangers of playing on building sites. <p>The Parish Council will consider ideas for “bespoke tailored pledges” such as community building refurbishment, local defibrillator donation, annual community clean-up in a public open space and feed these back to Cala Homes.</p> <p>Mr Farnsworth was thanked for his time and outlining the Pledge Scheme.</p>
2023/FC/135	<p>To ratify Receipts & Payments and Bank Reconciliation November & December 2023</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Paul Thomson and seconded by Councillor Tony Green to ratify the Receipts and Payments and Bank Reconciliations for November and December 2023.</p>
2023/FC/136	<p>To ratify Month End Accounts November and December 2023</p>

	It was proposed by Councillor Mia Americanos-Molinaro and seconded by Councillor Tony Green to ratify the November and December 2023 Month End Accounts.
2023/FC/137	<p>To consider the proposed budget, recommended by the Finance Committee, and set the precept for financial year 202/2025</p> <p>Members discussed the proposed budget and noted increased costs, especially for the maintenance of trees in the parish with the spread of Ash Die Back disease.</p> <p>It was suggested that a notice should be put up at Gobions, explaining the costs involved in maintaining the woodland. A QR code on the notice requesting donations toward the upkeep of the trees could generate some contributions. Action: Clerk</p> <p>A great deal of work goes into applying for grants to support the budget and to financially help specific projects.</p> <p>As the original agreement for the building of the Burns Pavilion limits the hiring to sports-related groups, it is difficult to increase revenue from letting the facilities.</p> <p>The budget as recommended by the Finance Committee was considered and accepted and a precept of £227,952 was set. This is an increase of 9% on the previous year's budget. It was proposed by Councillor Paul Thomson and seconded by Councillor Teresa Travell and agreed unanimously by all Councillors present.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to submit precept demand to Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council</p>

2023/FC/138	To consider NMPC Grants for 2023/2024																																
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	Royal British Legion	£50	Remembrance Day wreath
	St Mary's Church	£1,100	Churchyard maintenance - mower maintenance, tree surgery and maintaining the Memorial Garden
	St Mary's School**	£0	Replacement of chairs for two classrooms
	St Mary's School PTA	£300	Purchase of Christmas Tree for Welham Green
	Welwyn Hatfield Citizens Advice Bureau	£500	Purchase of two laptops for volunteer advisors
	<p>* This sum will be "ring-fenced" until the future of the Youth & Community Centre is assured with the agreement of a new lease.</p> <p>** Schools are funded by central Government.</p>		
	Action: Clerk/Bookkeeper to arrange grant award payments.		
2023/FC/139	To receive update on ownership of Jonas Way		
	<p>It was agreed by Members that if the road surface was repaired to an agreed standard and the offer price was reasonable, the Parish Council would be interested in purchasing Jonas Way from Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. Action: Councillor James Bentall to progress when appropriate.</p>		
2023/FC/140	To note interim Audit Report		
	<p>The interim Internal Audit had taken place on 5 December 2023. The recommendations made by the Auditor were noted by Members. Action: Clerk to implement the four recommendations.</p>		
2023/FC/141	To discuss parking restrictions at junction of Dellsome Lane/Bushwood Close		
	<p>Drivers are parking Inconsiderately at this junction, causing concern that an accident will occur if measures are not taken to provide better visibility.</p> <p>Councillor Teresa Travell had discussed this with both the Headteacher and Chair of Governors at St Mary's School.</p> <p>It was decided to invite the local Police Constable Special Officer (PCSO) to patrol the area and issue parking tickets to deter offending motorists.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to write to the Leader of Hertfordshire County Council to make him aware of the situation and ask for intervention from the council, ie yellow-lines, before a serious incident occurs. Action: Clerk</p>		
2023/FC/142	To consider arrangements for NMPC Civic Service on 25 February 2024		

	<p>Councillor Teresa Travell has prepared the Service Sheet and invitations to the service have been sent.</p> <p>The catering arrangements for the light refreshments were agreed.</p>
2023/FC/143	<p>To receive reports from Councillors - including reports from representatives on other bodies and organisations and reports from Councillors on matters related to their ward.</p> <p><u>Brookmans Park</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A local business has incurred three parking tickets in one week which seems unreasonable. However, it was pointed out, that if business owners were allowed to park on the road without penalty, it would prevent shoppers from finding car spaces and local residents who have permits. • The noticeboard outside the Estate Agents office has been damaged during Storm Henk. The Clerk has communicated with the Manager regarding the replacement of the board. <p><u>Welham Green</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The large Horse-Chestnut tree on the green had fallen during Storm Henk. The stump will be removed by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council in March and replaced in due course. • The damaged Memorial Bench on the green has been replaced. • Remedial works to prevent flooding on Station Road have been scheduled for the end of March 2024. The road closure is yet to be confirmed. • The security barrier at North Mymms Youth & Community Centre has been damaged and will be dismantled to be replaced with a lockable drop barrier. <p><u>Little Heath</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report.
2023/FC/144	<p>To suggest agenda items for the next meeting of the Parish Council</p> <p>Details should be sent to the Clerk.</p> <p>The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 February 2024.</p>

The meeting closed at 20.45 hours.

Signed _____

Date _____