

North Mymms Parish Council

Address: 1a Bushwood Close Welham Green Hertfordshire AL9 7YZ
 Phone: 01707 268418
 Email: clerk@northmymms.org
 Website: www.northmymms.org



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Parish Office, 1a Bushwood Close, AL9 7YZ on Wednesday 21 February 2024 at 19.00hrs

Those Present:

Councillors	Mrs Teresa Travell Mrs Mia Americanos-Molinaro Mr James Bentall Mrs Jacqui Boulton Mr Paul Ferguson (except Item 2023/FC/171) Mrs Isabel Moritz	Chairman
Officer	Mrs Christine Wootton	

2023/FC/145	<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Councillors Tony Green, Paul Thomson and Stephen Boulton. These apologies were accepted.</p>
2023/FC/146	<p>Interests</p> <p>a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda Councillor Jacqui Boulton declared an interest in Item 2023/FC/162</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/147	<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/148	<p>To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 January 2024</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 Wednesday 10 January 2024, copies of which had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting, be approved and were signed by the Chairman.</p>
2023/FC/149	<p>To note the Clerk’s Report – February 2024</p>

	<p>The Clerk reported that reports are now received of Temporary Footpath Closures following a request to Hertfordshire County Council.</p> <p>The contents of the Report were noted. No questions were raised.</p>
2023/FC/150	<p>To ratify Receipts & Payments and Bank Reconciliation January 2024</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Teresa Travell and seconded by Councillor Mia Americanos-Molinaro to ratify the Receipts and Payments and Bank Reconciliations for January 2024.</p>
2023/FC/151	<p>To ratify Month End Accounts January 2024</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Teresa Travell and seconded by Councillor Jacqui Boulton to ratify the Month End Accounts for January 2024.</p>
2023/FC/152	<p>To ratify payment amendments Q3 2023-24</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Teresa Travell and seconded by Councillor Jacqui Boulton to ratify the payment amendments for the third quarter 2023-2024.</p>
2023/FC/153	<p>To note expenditure over £500 Q3 2023-24</p> <p>The expenditure for invoices over £500 (Q3 2023-2024) was noted.</p>
2023/FC/154	<p>To note HCC Annual Report 2022-2023</p> <p>The HCC Annual Report provides an opportunity to look back on the achievements over the year just gone, as well as the challenges and opportunities in the year ahead. The report was noted.</p>
2023/FC/155	<p>To review and approve the following Policies:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Safety • Risk Register • Risk Management Strategy • Business Continuity Plan • Treasury and Investment Policy <p>The Policies, which had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting, were adopted by all those present.</p>
2023/FC/156	<p>To note response from Councillor Paul Zukowskyj regarding proposed yellow lines at the corner of Bushwood Close and Dellsome Lane, Welham Green</p> <p>North Mymms Parish Council has in the past requested that double yellow lines be painted at the corner of Bushwood Close and Dellsome Lane in order stop irresponsible motorists from parking on this very narrow corner.</p> <p>Bushwood Close is the entrance to the car park into the playing field and Parish Office and is used by parents to park when dropping off or collecting their children from</p>

	<p>Sunshine Nursery, which is situated just off of the car park and St Mary's Primary School which is situated a few yards away from this entrance.</p> <p>Councillor Zukowskyj will ask the Safety Team to look at whether putting in yellow lines would be possible but advised the Police may potentially object "on the basis that restricting parking almost always results in an increase in vehicle speeds". Action: Clerk to confirm with Police if installing yellow-lines is permissible.</p>
2023/FC/157	<p>To discuss Hatfield Community Sports Fund correspondence relating to Facilities Strategy for North Mymms Parish Council</p> <p>North Mymms Parish Council are looking for financial support towards the extension to the Burns Pavilion and have been offered a grant of £10,000 from Hatfield Community Sports Fund (HCSF) towards a community consultation. This is on the condition that there is no further call on the HCSF to support the implementation of the strategy.</p> <p>However, NMPC recognise additional funds will be required should the extension building works begin. The Parish Council were therefore not prepared to sign the Agreement with the above wording and have asked the HCSF Board to reconsider the offer.</p> <p>In response the HCSF board have stated the "support of the Hatfield Community Sports Fund towards the cost of the Parish Council formulating a Facilities Strategy, was a one-off and that there would be no further funding from the Trust to support any recommendations within that strategy. Further to recent decisions of the board, there is now only c. £45k remaining for allocation of small grants to local sports clubs etc and as such, there is no significant funding available towards any capital projects. If the Parish Council are unwilling to abide by the conditions of the Board, the funding offer will be withdrawn, and the funds reallocated."</p> <p>NMPC will be writing to request a breakdown of where the remainder of the Section 106 monies that were not allocated to the Hatfield sports ground have been allocated considering that towards the end of last year NMPC were advised that there was approximately £200,000 left in the Fund.</p> <p>NMPC to accept the grant towards a community consultation. Action: Clerk</p>
2023/FC/158	<p>To consider and agree contractor for tree surgery work at Gobions</p> <p>Two quotations and one estimate had been received for the felling of three trees affected by Ash Die Back disease.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to request a more detailed quotation from one of the contractors who had submitted an estimate. Action: Clerk</p>
2023/FC/159	<p>To note response from Cala Homes in response to NMPC queries relating to development in Little Heath and s106 Obligations</p> <p>The response from Neil Farnsworth (Head of Planning for Chiltern and North Home Counties, Cala Homes) was noted.</p> <p>Details of the s106 obligations had been provided by Mr Farnsworth. A summary of the contributions to both Herts County Council and Welwyn Hatfield Council and the identified projects were discussed.</p>

2023/FC/160	<p>To consider request from Cala Homes for gate/access to NMPC property</p> <p>Cala Homes are proposing a footpath from the new housing development at Little Heath into the playing field next door.</p> <p>It was agreed to contact Cala Homes for a proposal which would include a gate between the playing field and the houses and a dog poo bin in the housing development both of which Cala Homes would be responsible for maintaining. Action: Clerk.</p>
2023/FC/161	<p>To agree contracts for electricity supply for NMPC properties</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to have a three-year fixed rate with Scottish Power for electricity supply to the Office and Burns Pavilion. Action: Clerk/Book-keeper</p>
2023/FC/162	<p>To consider details of L02-23 Power to fund works to property relating to affairs of the church or held for an ecclesiastical charity (England only)</p> <p>On 26 October 2023, the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (the 2023 Act) received Royal Assent. Section 82 of the 2023 Act amends the Local Government Act 1894 (the 1894 Act) by inserting a new section 19A into the 1894 Act. Section 19A comes into force on 26 December 2023.</p> <p>The government's view is that its amendment in the form of section 19A clarifies that the 1894 Act does not affect the discretionary powers of parish councils in England to fund church repairs or improvements or property held for an ecclesiastical charity. National Association of Local Councils (NALC) recommends that its members adopt the government's view when they receive requests for funding. This means that councils can use their discretionary powers to fund such property, including that of other Christian denominations and non-Christian faiths.</p> <p>Councils need to consider requests in respect of church property or property held for an ecclesiastical charity as they would any other funding request. Funding powers further to section 19A of the 1894 Act coming into force are discretionary. Parish councils are not under any additional duties as a result of the 2023 Act and the insertion of section 19A to the 1894 Act.</p> <p>North Mymms Parish Council will review this new legislation should any of the churches within the parish contact the Clerk.</p>
2023/FC/163	<p>To note 50th Anniversary of the "New" Hertfordshire County Council</p> <p>The first meeting of the "new" Hertfordshire County Council (replacing the old Council of the County of Hertford, following the Redcliffe-Maud reorganisation of local government) took place on 21st May 1974. To mark the council's 50th anniversary an Open Afternoon is planned in May 2024. HCC would like to invite as many former county councillors and are seeking the names of former councillors. Action: Clerk to reply to HCC that, unfortunately, previous serving county councillors have passed away.</p>
2023/FC/164	<p>To note date of annual bowls match</p>

	<p>The annual bowls match between North Mymms Bowls Club and North Mymms Parish Council members will take place on Monday 17 June 2024 at 17.00 hours. The Clerk will liaise with the Bowls Club to arrange teams. Action: Clerk</p>
2023/FC/165	<p>To consider financial arrangements for Parish Council monies</p> <p>The list of accounts held by North Mymms Parish Council was discussed. Monies are spread across three Banks (Unity, Cambridge Building Society and NatWest). A fourth account, with Lloyds Bank, is in the process of being opened.</p> <p>If a bank should fail, the Financial Savings Compensations Scheme (FSCS) automatically compensates up to £85,000 per eligible person, per bank, building society or credit union.</p> <p>Once the Lloyds account is open and £85,000 is paid into this account, any remaining monies should be split across the NatWest and Unity savings accounts. Action: Book-keeper.</p>
2023/FC/166	<p>To note Section 137 Expenditure Limit 2024-25</p> <p>The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities have notified that the appropriate sum for Local Government Act 1972 Section 137(4)(a) for Parish, Town and Community Councils for 2024-25 is £10.81. This was noted.</p>
2023/FC/167	<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"> • On-line petitions have been set up to 1) install a lift at Brookmans Park station and 2) to install CCTV in the village. • A meeting between local residents had taken place to discuss the recent spate of burglaries in the area. • It was suggested the Parish Council should approach the owners of the station car lark to request spaces for local business owners. Action: Clerk <p><u>Little Heath</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 110 Hawkshead Road – Hoarding in place around the property. There is an outstanding enforcement case at this property over this issue and WHBC Enforcement Officer has sent correspondence to the contravener with a view to resolving this issue. <p><u>Welham Green</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast-track on Great North Road – this business is still causing nuisance issues to neighbouring properties. Residents have contacted the WHBC Enforcement team. • The lease for North Mymms Youth and Community Centre has been extended to May 2024. • 115 Dixons Hills Road – change of use has not been submitted • The owner of the ex-bail hostel on Dellsome Lane will be changing tenants. • The North Mimms Recreation and Charitable Trust will meet in early June. Applications for grants should be made to Mr Chris Measures.

2023/FC/168	<p>To suggest agenda items for the next meeting of the Parish Council</p> <p>Agenda items should be submitted to the Clerk at least seven days before the next meeting on Wednesday 27 March 2024.</p>
2023/FC/169	<p>To consider that under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press should be excluded from items 2023/FC/170 and 2023/FC/171 of the agenda of this meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that, as items 2023/FC/170 and 2023/FC/171 dealt with confidential business relating to NMPC property, the public and press be excluded from the discussions under the Section 1 of the public bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended by the Local Government Act 1972 s100.</p>
2023/FC/170	<p>To discuss contractors working at NMPC property</p> <p>The Letting Agent to contact tenants in line with instructions.</p>
2023/FC/171	<p>To discuss issues relating to NMPC property</p> <p>Clerk to carry out work as discussed. Action: Clerk</p>

The meeting closed at 20.50 hours.

Signed _____

Date _____