

NORTHBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 14th September 2023 at 7.00 pm

Northbourne Parish Hall

1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present: Daniel Edelman, Bob Brewin, Jacquie Brett, Mark Pays

Apologies: Eileen Rowbotham, Cathy Skinner (clerk)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

All councillors declared an interest in the Chocks Go-Away lobbying group

3. CO-OPTION

A fourth member of the public applied to be a councillor, Heidi Kemp. She spoke eloquently of her passion for serving her community and her involvement in the Northbourne pantomime, Crufts-level dog showing, her commitment to her family and community and her willingness to learn. The Council left the room to vote on the candidates. The others are Michaela Hubble, Steve Morgan and Peter Cutler.

It was resolved that Michaela and Heidi are the two new Councillors.

New Councillors will sign their Declarations of Acceptance after the meeting and complete DPI Forms for DDC which will be sent by email.

4. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION TIME (NB This became more of a question and answer session)

The public consultation was lively, with parishioners contributing thanks to the Council for maintaining the playgrounds and for contributing this article to keep everyone informed.

There were queries as to the use of Almonry Meadow. The Chair pointed out that there was no agreement between the Parish Hall Committee and the NPC so there will be no parking on the meadow. A member of NPC will be joining the hall committee to encourage collaboration and to negotiate a fee-sharing arrangement so that everyone benefits from both assets.

The issue Betteshanger recreation ground as raised. The Chair said that there was no truth in any of the speculation on social media. Northbourne PC owns and maintains the land for the benefit of the whole parish.

It was reported that articulated lorries have been trying to get through Circular Road to the Concrete Road. Could the Council put up a road sign? It was agreed that the PC will speak to the developers for an agreed route for lorries.

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There were lots of questions about Redrow, Councillor Mark Pays reported on the recent meeting with them. The company representatives made the right noises but have not done much. The pergola and skate park are now their responsibility and they need to check them from a safety perspective. Issues raised with them include access to green space as per the planning consent: green areas are currently fenced off and unkempt. As is the fishing pond. The Chair responded that Datum are the contractors for the groundworks and are currently running the site, not Redrow. Redrow asked for notes from the meeting, which have been sent and we are waiting for their response. The Council has an open line of communication to Redrow and will maintain the pressure on them.

Quinn Estates has kept Almond House, the patch opposite and the self-build area. The number of houses Redrow are building has reduced from 210 to 152. New power cables are coming off the switch and being run down to the building site underground.

The Chair reported that Dickie Bourne and Bob Dunay have restarted work on the Northbourne Neighbourhood Development Plan: When finished it will be a legal document defining what our parish wants to happen for the next twenty years. And developers will have to abide by it.

The Chair added that the Parish Council budget is tight, we will be looking at both costs and ways to increase our income, preferably the latter.

5. DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

No DDC or KCC councillors attended

6. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 10 AUGUST 2023

Proposed by JB, Seconded by MP unanimously approved

7. PLANNING

None to consider

8. RECREATION & COMMUNITY

ROSPA REPORTS on ALMONRY MEADOW and BETTESHANGER RECREATION GROUND.

Cllr Bob Brewin told the meeting about the Parish's safety report. It is almost an exact duplicate of last year's. The Rec's junior goals have hooks to hold the nets that have been deemed dangerous so Bob has volunteered to trim them off. The smallest goals no longer have counterweights so Bob will ask a local metal works for a donation of new weights for them. The basketball board and ring need replacing. In order to keep costs down a kind parishioner volunteered to fit them if we find a replacement fibreboard. There are nails sticking out of the fence around the playground on Almonry Meadow which did not feature in the safety report but Bob will add it to his to do list.

THE PAVILION – ALMONRY MEADOW

Almonry Meadow's pavilion has now been opened (the keys had been mislaid and had to be replaced). It is in a complete state internally so we need a party of willing volunteers and a skip to clear out the debris. The good news is that it is now weather-proof but the wiring is basic at

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best, with no light in the loo or kitchen. We will be choosing a date, ordering a skip and publicising our tidy up weekend. And if anyone is a roller blind expert please contact us!

DEFIBRILLATORS

Cllr Jacque Brett reported on the CPR training event on 21 September from 6.30pm. Thanks to Pat and Maddie for distributing the flyers and to the new guardians Mel Latteur and Maddie. She is hoping for a good turnout, with certificates from the British Heart Foundation for everyone who attends. There are three defibrillators, one in Northbourne, another in Finglesham and one in Betteshanger.

Both phone boxes in Northbourne and Finglesham need attention. We would like to move the Northbourne box to outside the Hare and Hounds (it's currently in a private front garden and behind a hedge) so if anyone knows how to do that please contact any councillor.

9. FINANCE

The Parish budget is tight. The NPC will be looking at both costs and ways to increase our income, preferably the latter.

The finance report and payments were approved.

10. CORRESPONDANCE

None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 12th October 2023

12. CLOSE