

Hampstead Norreys Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 26th May 2022. Held in the Memorial Room, Hampstead Norreys Village Hall. Commencing at 7:32 pm

- Members Present: Councillor David Barlow, Chairman
Councillor Colin Layton
Councillor Ros Maskell
Councillor Harriet McCalmont
- Members Absent: Councillor Caroline Herman, Vice-Chairman
Councillor Fiona Bennett
Councillor Gwenan Paul
- Officers Present: Sarah Marshman, Clerk
- In Attendance: Carolyne Culver, District Councillor
Julian May, Greenham Trust
3 members of the public

Minutes

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fiona Bennett, Caroline Herman and Gwenan Paul.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th April 2021

Those present agreed the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

3. To receive a presentation from Greenham Trust

Julian May gave a presentation on Greenham Trust. The Trust's website – The Good Exchange – is used to distribute funding from Greenham Trust and other local partners to charities and community organisations.

4. To receive a report from District Councillor Carolyne Culver

Carolyne has submitted the council's application for funding to the Member's Bid funding at West Berkshire Council for funding towards the purchase of a speed indicator device jointly with Yattendon Parish Council.

5. To receive the Annual Report from the Chairman

Meetings - Continue to meet virtually as well as in person

SID Software Purchase

- Sharing the purchase with Yattendon Village
- Sites need to be risk assessed & approved
- License Agreement Signed
- Funding to be sourced for the purchase (June 2022).
- Anticipated arrival (August 2022)

Football Goals Purchase - FA Grant funded & discounted via a village members FA Referee discount. The PC made up the difference.

Village Notice Board Replacement - Will be dedicated to Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee & will replace the old sign on the verge next to the well & well garden.

PVFF - The forum continues to apply pressure for action on issues of flooding relating to EA, TW & WBC. The forum is very dynamic & proactive group.

Thames Water

- Mapping Sewer Lines on Private Property
- Replacing Water Supply pipes – Water Street – ongoing.
- Sewage Discharge (due to ingress of sewers)
- Re-lining sections of sewers now need rain events or High Ground Water to identify areas. It is a waiting game

River Pang - Chalk Stream Restoration Project

Planning - PC has commented on 10 applications in the last 12 months

6. To receive the Annual Finance Report from the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer

The Annual Finance Report is given in Appendix 1.

7. To receive reports from Village Groups and Organisations

Hampstead Norreys Community Shop

The shop experienced a boom over lockdown; however, this year has been tougher with costs increased, particularly with payroll as the shop has lost some volunteers. The shop sales have gradually declined; however, the café sales are increasing. It is the café that helps sustain the shop. The shop tries to stock a range of both standard and luxury goods, and supports local businesses. The shop supports the community by providing markets and making donations. Donations have recently been given to the primary school, the village hall, the jubilee events, Riding for the Disabled Association, Greenfest and humanitarian aid for Ukraine.

Cricket Club

A verbal report was given on the Cricket Club.

Parish Partnership – a report from the Parish Partnership is given in Appendix 2.

Tennis Court – a report from those trying to establish a tennis club is given in Appendix 3.

8. To receive questions from members of the public

A query regarding road safety was received. The council explained the process of purchasing the SID device and the need for West Berkshire District Council to risk assess all potential sites before the device could be used in a location.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:40 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 1: Finance Report 2021/22

The finance report for Hampstead Norreys Parish Council for the financial year 2021/22 is presented. Please note that all figures are subject to audit.

Income

The total income received from all sources of funding was £28,952.

Significant figures included in this total are:

- Precept £18,826
- Grants £8,220
- VAT refund £1,730.

Expenditure

The total expenditure for the year was £30,190.

Some of the significant figures included in this total are:

- New surfacing in the play area £9,140
- Grounds maintenance £2,632
- Staff employment costs £4,012
- Insurance £659
- Refuse disposal £1,411
- Electricity for streetlights £430
- Street light maintenance £512
- VAT £3,336.
- Goal posts £1,203

The following organisations benefited from donations:

- St Mary's Church (for grass cutting) £1,200
- West Berkshire Countryside Society £100
- Pang Valley Flood Forum £100

- Hampstead Norreys Village Hall (for CCTV) £1,620
- Compton Scout Hut (roof replacement) £300

Looking Forward to 2022/23

The Council has increased the precept to £25,908. A Band D household will pay a total of £72.32 in the year, or just £1.39 per week.

Having successfully installed new safety surfacing under some of the playground equipment during 2021/22, the biggest driver in increasing the precept for this year is to obtain additional funds to carry out the installation of more new safety surfacing. This is intended to be a two-year project, with safety surfacing intended for the gym equipment during this year, and for the remaining play equipment in 2023/24. The Council has sought grant funding for this project and is hopeful that this will result in them being able to reduce the precept in 2023/24 if enough funding is received towards this project. The Council is very pleased that Greenham Trust will be match funding donations up to a value of £5,000 so if you would like to contribute to this project and assist the council in receiving this match funding, please visit thegoodexchange.com and search for project number 19330.

The council also aims to replace the public noticeboard, situated by the Well House.

It is expected that large items of expenditure will continue to include grounds maintenance, refuse disposal and employment costs.

Appendix 2: Parish Partnership

The only thing the Parish Partnership has to report is that it is supporting the Village's Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration event planned for early June and has applied through the Good Exchange for funding to pay for the numerous activities that are planned in order to ensure that everyone in the village can participate on a free of charge basis.

Appendix 3: Tennis Court Update

Since our last update to the Parish Council the tennis group has continued to receive expressions of interest and enquiries from local families and individuals in the village concerning tennis facilities. The Community Tennis Facebook page receives regular visits. Unfortunately, we have had limited information recently to share with those interested parties.

We have been in discussion with HNAT for over eighteen months to explore suitable locations, preferably for two courts, with the initial idea to locate these on the boundary of the Dean Meadow where the cricket nets currently are and down the side of the Dean adjacent to the Eling Way path. The preference of the tennis group has always been to have more than one court to make this a viable social community club, attractive to more members and for potential use for coaching and matches. In September 2021 we heard that an alternative location being put to the Eling Trustees (to the north of Eling Way) for either two tennis courts or a youth football pitch would not be acceptable. This brought our options back to the use of Dean Meadow for either one or two courts.

The group of course recognises the need not to compromise use of the Dean Meadow for other recreational activity; however, we are keen to explore all possible locations and ways of accommodating multiple sports use on the Dean.

In October 2021 HNAT proposed undertaking a survey of Dean Meadow to consider whether landscaping the end of the meadow would be feasible in order to provide more space, potentially accommodating two courts alongside other potential sports use. We understand that this survey has taken place, but to date have not received any update.

We remain open to different options for the location of the courts or to consider the viability of a single court. Should it be possible only to locate one court, we would review our business plan which is based on subscription to a community club. As far as we are aware, however, we have not yet exhausted all options with respect to flexible use of the Dean.

We are grateful for support for the principle of a tennis club from HNAT and from the Community Shop for a contribution (as yet unspent) to start-up/survey costs. We remain keen to move forward with the project after this extended period.