

**Minutes of the Council Meeting of
Nettleden with Potten End Parish Council Meeting**

held on

Thursday, 15th July 2021

in the **Church Room, Potten End, HP4 2QY at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs D Burfot, E Brennan, D Grimsdale, S Nelson, H Smith, E Spanswick, D Westenholz-Smith & R Wright

In attendance: Mr A Farrow (Parish Clerk), County Cllr T Douris and seven members of the public.

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21/092	Apologies for absence - none
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21/093	Interests
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- a. Cllrs Spanswick and Wright declared an interest in 21/104.b.
- b. No written requests for grants of dispensations for declarable interests had been received
- c. There were no requests for grants for dispensation for declarable interests

Cllr Douris noted that he would be unable to comment definitively about planning applications as he now sat on the Development Management Committee of Dacorum BC.

21/094	Minutes
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Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Council on the 24th June 2021 as circulated to members be signed as a correct record. Agreed unanimously.

21/095	Public Issues
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- a. Were traffic humps outside the school a possible means of restricting speed along Water End Rd as at Slip End? This would be considered as part of the response to the Traffic survey.
- b. What progress had been made with replacing bridleway signs on the Old Green? This was outstanding with Dacorum.
- c. A large branch from an ash had fallen across the bridleway at the end of the Old Green. Other branches from the same tree were overhanging the bridleway and a neighbouring property. **Agreed** that in view of the potential risks that the Clerk be authorised to arrange for the ash to be pruned.
- d. The County Council's contractual arrangement with Ringway was queried after workmen left a site because of the dangers posed by caterpillars. Noted that Ringway were on a fixed price contract.
- e. What progress had been made with replacing the noticeboard outside the village shop? The Clerk would present proposals to the September council meeting.

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21/096 Matters arising – all covered elsewhere

21/097 Correspondence received

- a. **Noted** the letter from Hemel Hempstead Rotary Club re trip for Military Veterans
- b. **Noted** letters regarding the Queens Green Canopy received from the Sustainable Hertfordshire team and Sir Mike Penning MP. There is no financial support within the scheme which is simply to encourage the planting of trees to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Anniversary in 2022. Agreed that it might be possible to plant trees on Frithsden Green, the conservation area of the Old Green, and the Burial Ground. The Open Spaces WP to take forward.
- c. **Noted** an email received regarding the registration of The Plough as an asset of community value and the Clerk's response.
- d. **Noted** that a resident who had queried how to get the damage left by a car accident and a fallen tree which appeared to be growing on Highways land removed from their land had been advised to report the issues using the Highways online tool.

21/098 Parish Warden report

Burial ground hedges had been trimmed and grass cutting undertaken where necessary. General litter picking and monitoring of typical fly tipping sites (none to report this month). Pine needles removed from Church Lane and Water End Rd where they were causing a slip hazard. Playground equipment monitored weekly – no new issues to report.

21/099 Report of Traffic and Highways Working Party

- a. **Church Lane: raising of kerb** – Highways had agreed to raise the kerb outside the shop and the property to the left by a small amount to enable the pavement to be repaired whilst retaining a slope away from the properties to prevent flooding. The improvements were being funded from Cllr Douris' locality budget.
- b. **Pre-school issues** – Tom Gough, chair of the Trustees of the Potten end pre-school had raised a number of issues regarding the safety around the pre-school entrance which the WP was looking into.

Agreed that Cllr Grimsdale would discuss the possible use of the Village Hall car park with the other Hall Trustees.

- c. **The Common, junction with the Green and Church Road** – noted that after a meeting with Highways and Cllr Douris, it had been determined that it was not possible to install a roundabout and that although it might just be possible to justify stop signs on the approach along The Green it was unlikely that these would have any affect.

Cllr Douris is to raise with police the statistics for accidents at the junction which seemed too low.

Cllr Westenholz-Smith is to investigate whether any action can be taken to highlight the issue with satnav providers.

- d. **Parish Plan** – over 150 responses had been received to the survey which would remain open until the end of July. The Highways WP would then collate the free-form text

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comments and discuss with Cllr Douris and Highways before recommending a way forward.

21/100 Report and update from the Planning Working Party

a. No planning applications had been submitted to Dacorum BC since the last Council Meeting under the Clerk's delegated powers.

b. **Agreed** responses to the following planning applications:

21/02368/FHA	9 Hedgeside, Potten End, HP4 2RE	Objection
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Proposed side & rear first floor extension. Loft classed as permitted development as per calculation (amended scheme). Previously considered under 21/086.b on 24th June 2021.

The council agreed the wording of the objection as submitted to members.

21/02575/FHA	Heatherbank 10A Vicarage Rd, Potten End, HP4 2QZ	No objection
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New front oak framed porch

21/02716/FHA	5 Vicarage Gardens, Potten End, HP4 2RL	No objection
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Single Storey front extension

c. No planning applications had been received after the agenda was published.

d. **Brown Springs sewerage problems** – noted that Sir Mike Penning MP had written to the Chief Executive of Thames Water and that Sir Mike and Cllr Douris would continue maintain pressure to obtain a resolution.

e. **Dacorum Local Plan** – Dacorum BC is considering the way forward after the consultation exercise earlier in the year. The council's approach on challenging nationally set housing targets was unclear. Further work would be undertaken in particular on infrastructure and brownfield sites. DBC was concerned to avoid a situation where developers could take advantage of the absence of a plan to the detriment of residents. Future consultation on the plan would be determined by the extent of the changes emerging from the review.

Cllr Douris also noted that DBC had passed a motion objecting to the Planning Bill.

f. **The Plough** – noted that Dacorum BC had refused the application for a change of use to a domestic dwelling.

21/101 Parish Plan – no further action will be taken for the time being whilst the results of the Highways survey are being considered.

21/102 Potten End Festival – noted that this will take place over the weekend of the 2nd – 5th June with the focus on the middle Saturday when events would be staged on Spencer Holland and The Green. Working parties were in place. Various additional ideas for activities were suggested.

21/103 Report and Update from the Open Spaces and Leisure Working Party

a. **Spencer Holland Development Strategy** – noted that a certificate of lawful development had been applied for with regard to the artificial grass football pitch. After a site visit a revised quotation had been received for the maintenance of the play equipment to be retained, noting that it might not be possible to retain the swings as originally anticipated

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because of the maintenance work highlight by RoSPA in their recent review. Quotes for the supply of equipment were being obtained. The council had been successful in its application for a £10,000 grant from Dacorum BC.

- b. Sports Ground** – updates had been received from both the cricket club and the council’s insurers after the recent incident where a cricket ball had cleared the stop netting and broken a car window.

Agreed that the Clerk should ask the Cricket Club for a risk assessment supported by an independent assessment of the actions taken from a regional or national cricket board.

Agreed that the Clerk should enter into discussions with the Cricket Club to formalise the terms of their use of the sports field, noting that no rental would be paid so long as the club continued to maintain the cricket square and to support other community activities.

- c. The Green** – noted that the anticipated visit by Greens Funfair from 19th to 23rd July had been cancelled and would hopefully be re-arranged later in August.
- d. Resolved** – to commission an ecology report on the Village Green pond and The Old Green from the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust to form the basis for future maintenance work at £968 + VAT.

21/104 Report and Update from the Finance and Administration Working Party

- a. Financial report as at 15th July 2021**

Noted the financial result as presented to members.

- b. Approved payment of the following accounts:**

K Furness	Parish Warden duties	£448.00
DCVS	Clerk’s salary	£864.23
DCVS	Payroll administration	£31.20
Nest	Clerk’s pension	£23.84
A Farrow	Expenses (inc £143.50 to obtain a certificate of lawful development for the artificial football pitch on Spencer Holland)	£183.83
E Spanswick	Expenses - dog poop bags	£15.99
R Wright	Expenses - mileage for site visit to Pirton for playground research	£20.70
Barnes-Lewis Consultants	SSL certificate for council website	£79.19
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge	£18.00

- c. Noted payments received**

NatWest	Compensation for failure to process account closing instructions	£250.00
Memorials of Distinction	Memorial for D A Elkins	£125.00
Interest	June	£0.24

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- d. **Insurance renewal** – noted that the insurance policy was due for renewal on 15th August and that quotes had been obtained from the council’s brokers, Came & Co. The Clerk advised that BHIB Insurance Brokers had proved successful in obtaining a lower quote for Great Gaddesden PC and paid the annual subscription to Parish Online.

Agreed to delegate the power to determine the council’s insurer to the Clerk in collaboration with the Finance and Admin WP.

- e. **Bank account** – noted that the Council’s accounts with NatWest had been closed and transferred to Unity Trust, and that payments would in future be made online whenever possible.

- f. **Overtime payment** – approved an overtime payment to the Clerk of £993 for the first six months of 2021.

Agreed that the Staffing Committee would meet with the Clerk to discuss workload.

21/105 Date and time of next meetings

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on 16th September 2021 at the Church Room, Potten End.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed

Dated