

Minutes of Nettleden with Potten End Parish Council Council Meeting

Held at **7.45pm** on **Thursday, 18th March 2021**

Online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88429006356?pwd=L0wyUVRDYIFMYUgrdi9IMG54ZURQUT09>

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

In attendance: Mr T Douris (Ward Councillor), Mr A Farrow (Parish Clerk), and Mr K Furness (Parish Warden) and twenty members of the public.

Agenda reference	Agenda item
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21/031	Apologies for absence
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None

21/032	Interests
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- a. **To receive** declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.

Cllr Burfot declared an interest in agenda item 21/047.

- b. No written requests for dispensations for declarable interests had been received.
c. No grants for dispensation were requested.

21/033	Minutes
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Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Council on the 18th February 2021 as circulated to members be signed as a correct record. Agreed unanimously.

21/034	Berkhamsted Golf Club
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Received a presentation from Mr Howard Craft, Club Manager, about the Club's plans for land management highlighting the natural state of the land on which the golf course was located as heathland and the club's plans to achieve a balance between increasing the amount of heathland and maintaining a healthy tree stock.

21/035	Public Issues
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- a. **Noted** that East Herts have introduced a grant for Village Halls to install electric vehicle charging points in their car parks. Cllr Douris is investigating whether a similar scheme exists in Dacorum.
- b. **Noted** that Thames Water appeared to be committed to resolving the specific problems of sewerage leakage in Browns Springs but that in general the sewerage system in Potten End had been designed for significantly fewer houses, the pipework was old and prone to break, and there appeared to be significant surface water entering the sewers increasing the demands on the system.

21/036	Matters arising
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None



Agenda reference	Agenda item
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21/037 Correspondence received

- a. **Noted** that a complaint had been received about builders lorries parking outside 59 & 61 Hempstead Lane where there are two unrelated developments underway. Unfortunately it is not illegal to park on the pavement and there are no parking restrictions on the road. If the problem persists the Clerk will speak to the residents but it can only be to ask for more consideration.
- b. **Noted** that following an approach by the Parish Council that Sir Mike Penning had written to the Secretary of State regarding the imminent expiry of the ability to hold virtual meetings.
- c. **Noted** that Greens Funfair had requested that a fair be held on The Green for the weekend of 21st – 23rd May. **Agreed** that although this would be permissible under Government guidelines, the Council considered that it was too early and that the Clerk should seek an alternative date.

21/038 Coronavirus update

None

21/039 Parish Warden Report

Litter picking continued and fallen branches had been removed from various locations after the recent high winds. Dog poop bags had been distributed.

21/040 National Trust Report

None

21/041 Report and update from the Planning Working Party

- a. **Noted** the following responses to planning applications submitted to Dacorum BC since the last Council Meeting under the Clerk's delegated powers.

21/00615/FHA	Fern Cottage, Hollybush Close, Potten End, HP4 2SN	No objection (01/03/21)
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Loft conversion and single storey rear extension

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

21/00654/FHA	24 Hedgeside, Potten End, HP4 2RE	No objection
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Single storey front, side and rear extensions. Removal of conservatory and car port. Loft conversion /creation of extended roof.

21/00650/FHA	9 Hedgeside, Potten End, HP4 2RE	Objection
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First floor rear extension above existing ground floor rear extension

21/00678/FUL	Browns Spring Farm, Plough Lane, Potten End, HP4 2DG	No objection
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Conversion of the existing barn and removal of existing ancillary structures, plant, machinery and vehicles and creation of dwelling house including soft landscaping

21/00995/FUL	Gutteridge Farm, The Common, Potten End HP4 2QF	No objection
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Conversion of building to form 5 dwellings.

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- c. **Agreed** the following action with regard to planning applications received after the agenda was published.

21/01001/FHA	Raja Tuan, Nettleden Rd, Frithsden, HP1 3DQ	Defer
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First floor single storey rear extension with dormer and roof lights

21/01033/FHA	Heather Cottage, the Common, Potten End, HP4 2QF	Defer
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Extension to existing annex

21/01062/FHA	7 Hempstead Lane, Potten End, HP4 2QJ	Defer
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Construction of a three bay oak framed detached garage

d. **Local Plan**

- i. **Noted** that three parishioners had copied the Council on their responses to Dacorum, all had been in line with the Council's views. Sir Mike Penning MP had copied the council's concerns regarding the use of green belt land to the Secretary of State.
- ii. **Noted** that about 30% of the Clerk's time had been spent on Local Plan matters from December to February which had had a knock on impact on other work that was now being addressed.

21/042 Report and Update from the Traffic and Highways Working Party (see the report of all outstanding issues for a full list of activities).

a. **Hempstead Lane**

Agreed to reseed the erosion of the Conservation Green at the junction with The Common rather than install a double height kerb (at an estimate cost of £6,000 of which Cllr Douris would contribute 50%) or pudding stones and to monitor whether any further damage was caused.

b. **Items on verges**

Noted that a response is awaited from Hertfordshire CC legal department.

c. **Nettleden Rd**

Noted that the blocked drains have been cleared.

d. **The Common**

- i. **Noted** that the vegetation obstructing the pavement has been cut back.
- ii. **Noted** that five animal warning signs had been purchased and installed on The Common and Nettleden Rd.
- iii. Cllr Douris agreed to speak to Dacorum to have the gutters along The Common swept.

e. **20'sPlenty**

Noted a presentation given by the 20'sPlenty Campaign which had links with concerns regarding speeding in the village and the possible impact of the Local Plan on increased

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traffic through the village. Cllr Douris noted that the campaign’s objectives were being considered by Hertfordshire Highways.

Agreed that the views of the community would be sought in a future Parish Plan questionnaire.

21/043 Report and Update from the Open Spaces and Leisure Working Party

a. Pubs use of Parish Council land

Resolved that the agreement whereby the three pubs could place tables and chairs on Parish Council land be reinstated for six months with effect from 12th April 2021 (or the first date thereafter on which Government restrictions allow pubs to re-open). Agreed unanimously.

b. Sports Field

Noted recent disturbances which had resulted in the pedestrian access to the sports field being locked overnight. There had been some confusion as to who was responsible for unlocking the gate during the day but that had now been resolved.

21/044 Parish Plan

Noted that 70 responses had now been received to the first questionnaire on parish events and that a paper version of the questionnaire was to be distributed with the Parish Magazine. Danny Richman was thanked for his help in publishing the online version of the questionnaire.

21/045 Report and Update from the Finance and Administration Working Party

a. Noted the report of the quarterly F&W WP meeting as circulated to members

b. 2020/21 Financial Report

Noted the financial report as at 18th March 2021 as circulated to members.

c. To approve accounts to be paid:

K Furness	Parish Warden fee	£448.00
A Farrow	Clerk’s expenses (of which £431.04 relates to the purchase of the animal warning signs – see 21/042.d.ii)	£485.40
DCVS	February salary	£864.92
DCVS	Monthly fee for February payroll	£31.20
E Spanswick	Dog poop bags	£14.66
Blue A Ltd	Asbestos removal from allotments	£180.00

d. To note payments received:

Interest	February	£0.33
Ward Memorials	Fee for Papworth headstone	£125.00

e. Appointment of Internal Auditor



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Resolved to appoint Mr Ernest Newhouse to undertake the Parish Council's internal audit for 2020/21 at a cost of £350. Agreed unanimously.

f. Earmarked reserves

Resolved that earmarked reserves be agreed as circulated to members subject to the goalmouth replacement reserve being reduced by £2,000 to £20,000. Agreed unanimously.

21/046 Resolved that under section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press should be excluded from items 21/047 of the agenda of this meeting as disclosure of the commercial interests of the council. Agreed unanimously
Cllr Burfot left the meeting.

21/047 Noted that three quotations had been obtained and that the recommendation was to accept the cheapest having obtained satisfactory references because of the cost saving to parishioners.

Resolved that the motion presented to the council be adopted. Agreed unanimously

21/048 Date and time of next meeting
7.30pm, Thursday 15th April 2021.

The meeting closed at 22.08

Signed 

Dated 26/5/21