

NORTHBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Thursday 12th September 2024 at 7pm
Northbourne Parish Hall

1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Cllrs Mark Pays, Jacquie Brett and Steve Morgan, Heidi Kemp (after start)
2 members of the public
PC Bowler – Kent Police

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Edelman and Cllr Rowbotham. Cllr Hubble tendered long term apologies due to family illness, this was accepted and noted.

DDC and KCC Cllr Manion also sent apologies.

Due to the absence of Cllr Edelman, Cllr Pays chaired this meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of any councillor's interest in agenda items other than those registered at previous meetings. b) Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests and Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests (other than those previously disclosed), and a reminder to think of any changes to the DPI Register held at DDC, such as a change of job or home. c) Voluntary Declaration of other non-significant interests.

There were none,

3. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION TIME – limited to items on the agenda, maximum of 15 minutes in total.

PC Jon Bowler introduced himself to the meeting, having served 25 years in the police, now a member of the local neighbourhood team. PC Bowler has been involved in several local issues recently, speed checks, traffic issues. If there are any concerns locally, he asks that these are reported to the Police.

Natalie Christie spoke about plans for a parish VE Day celebration in May 2025. Residents have created a draft plan of events at Almonry Meadow which will involve the whole parish. There is also a plan to light the beacon on 8th May in line with many others in the country. It is hoped that the parish council could contribute financially to the project. At the next PC meeting a working group will be formed which would enable the PC to provide funding, a figure of £1000 to be set aside for events in the budget for 2025/6. Draft terms of reference will be prepared by the clerk and circulated to interested parties.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the 11th of July were agreed to be a true and accurate record, proposed Cllr Pays, seconded Cllr Brett. **ALL AGEED**

5. PLANNING

24/00846: 3 Circular Road, Betteshanger: Two-storey side, single storey rear extension and front porch. This application was sent to members on 12th August.

RESOLVED: No objection.

6. REPORTS

a. Chair - Dan Edelman

- Met with Redrow.
 - They will pay for moving the fish to the right pond. The need to drain and expand the pond they are in. They agreed we could discuss use of this pond once they know how it will progress.
 - I have sourced a fish mover.
 - They intend to reinstate both the skate park and play area and will maintain them.
 - They have asked permission from KCC to landscape the road from the roundabout to stop joy riders.
 - Have regular meetings with us starting when the marketing for the houses start (this month maybe)
 - Gift, subject to terms and legal advice, to the parish council some of the grass areas (only if we can afford it)
 - Discussed helping the Betteshanger Club and gifting them the adjacent land.
- Suggested to Lord Northbourne that the estate start laying hedges. I am waiting for his tree people to get in touch.
- We've had requests for the Hare & Hounds to be added to the DDC Community Asset register. If we get have enough people to agree we can do it
- Also, we have been asked to put the Rec and Meadow in the DDC Village Green scheme. I am against this as they are protected, and I would not want DDC to be able to tell us what to do with our land.
- We are looking in to finding a consultant to pull the Neighbourhood Plan together as nobody has progressed it at all.

b. DDC and KCC Councillors - Cllr Steve Manion

Kent residents qualifying for free flu and COVID-19 vaccinations this Autumn are urged to accept the offer when they get their invite from the NHS in the coming weeks. Eligible groups are most at risk of developing severe illness from these respiratory illnesses.

7. FINANCE and ADMINISTRATION

- a. To receive payment schedule, approve payments and note the bank balance.
Approved – proposed by Cllr Brett, seconded Cllr Kemp, **ALL AGEED**
- b. Standing Orders: To Approve the revised Standing Orders.
Cllr Brett proposed that these are not changed, seconded Cllr Morgan: **AGREED**
- c. To consider financial projections to year end 31st March 2025: **NOTED**

8. COMMUNITY

a. Defibrillators – Update on Phone box refurbishment and community guardians.

It was agreed that the Clerk will be guardian on all PC defibrillators and continue to send monthly reports to The Circuit, a local volunteer also checks the defibrillator at The Crown in Finglesham.

b. To consider a request from a parishioner to apply for an ACV for the Hare & Hounds, The parish council cannot see any merit in the proposal due to the value of the property. As an alternative, a community group (minimum of 20 residents) could take this forward.

c. To consider a request from a parishioner to designate Almonry Meadow and Betteshanger Recreation Ground as village greens.

This has been investigated and it is felt that as both spaces are already protected by DDC planning policies this would be too restrictive.

d. Play equipment report- to discuss repairs required and receive a report from Cllr Kemp. Cllr Kemp was unable to download the full set of reports from Rospa, the clerk will forward copies.

9. DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING (2025/26 BUDGET) – 10th October 2024

10. CLOSED at 1950

