

Hampstead Norreys Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 23rd January 2025, in the Memorial Room, Hampstead Norreys Village Hall. Commencing at 7:36 pm.

Members Present:	Councillor Ros Maskell, Chair Councillor Fiona Bennett Councillor Mike Corish Councillor Stephen Davis Councillor Stephen Miller
Members Absent:	Councillor Toby Harris, Deputy Chair Councillor Harriet McCalmont
Officers Present:	Sarah Marshman, Clerk
In Attendance:	Carolyn Culver, District Councillor 0 Members of the Public

Minutes

- 24/082 To receive, and consider for acceptance, apologies for absence from Members of the Council**
Resolved: To accept apologies from Councillors Toby Harris and Harriet McCalmont for the reasons provided to the council.
- 24/083 To receive any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Registerable Interests, or Non-Registerable Interests and to consider any Requests for Dispensation**
There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.
- 24/084 To receive questions or comments from members of the public or representations from any member who has declared an Other Registerable or Non-Registerable Interest**
There were no questions, comments, or representations.
- 24/085 To approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 28th November 2024**
Resolved: The members agreed to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record, after which the Chair signed them.
- 24/086 To receive an update on items included in the minutes**
A formal request to install the water fountain outside the Village Hall has been sent to the Amenities Trust.
- 24/087 To receive a report from the District Councillor**
The District Council's budget consultation is complete and will be discussed by the executive committee in February.

Thames Water recently highlighted the challenges in sealing pipes and manhole covers at the recent Pang Valley Flood Forum meeting.

Following the release of the English Devolution White Paper, it is likely that West Berkshire Council will have to amalgamate with neighbouring councils.

24/088 Planning Applications

a) To consider the following planning applications:

There were no new planning applications.

b) To receive a report on planning application responses and decisions

No planning responses have been made using delegated powers since the previous meeting.

West Berkshire Council has reported the following planning decisions since the last meeting of Hampstead Norreys Parish Council:

- 24/01300/FUL Eling Farm Buildings and Land, Eling Hermitage, Thatcham - General-purpose agricultural building. Approved.

24/089 Finance:

a) To consider approving payments made/due as listed on the Finance Report

Resolved: The payments outlined in the Finance Report (Appendix 1) were approved.

b) To receive the most recent bank reconciliation

The bank reconciliation figures to 31st December 2024, as provided in the Finance Report (Appendix 1) were noted.

c) To receive any reports from the Internal Controller

The Internal Controller has reviewed the accounts until the end of December 2024.

d) To receive the most recent Quarterly Budget Summary

The quarterly budget summary to 31st December 2024 was reviewed.

24/090 To review land ownership and consider any actions required

Resolved: Following the review of past Parish Council Minutes and the land registry, and contact with the Diocese, the council believes this confirms ownership of all the land at the churchyard, including the footpath and the small area abutting Church Street to belong to the church. The Clerk will therefore write to St Mary's Parochial Church Council to confirm these findings and confirm that the council is open to a request for funding to help with any work needed.

24/091 To consider quotes to replace street lighting with LED

Resolved: If the members' bid funding request for £1,305.23 is successful, the Council will accept the quote of £2,175.38 from Volker and the Clerk should proceed in arranging the installation. Should the members' bid funding request be unsuccessful, this will be considered at a future council meeting.

24/092 To consider the options with regards to the parking problems in Water Street

There are daily issues for large vehicles using this road. The council has tried delivering letters to each household and putting messages on social media and in The Broadsheet.

The District Councillor will discuss with Highways what the rules are for how narrow a road should be before a white line can be used.

24/093 To consider installing a table tennis table in the Recreation Ground, to include agreement on applying for funding and to approach the Amenities Trust for permission

Resolved: To install a table tennis table from HeBlad at £2,900+VAT. The Clerk will obtain quotes for surfacing and contact the Amenities Trust for permission to install the table.

24/094 To consider the budget and set the precept for 2025/26

Resolved: To remove the £100 donation to GreenFest from the draft budget as the event no longer takes place in the village, to adopt the budget, and to keep the precept the same at £26,821.

24/095 To consider a response to the Government consultation on ‘Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England’

Resolved: Delegate to the Clerk to respond on behalf of the council.

24/096 To receive an update from the Traffic and Speeding Working Group.

There is no update on the request for a 20mph speed limit in the village.

The council discussed requesting white lines be painted to form ‘visual chicanes’ at the entrances to the village. The working group will contact the District Councillor to discuss this further.

24/097 Matters for future consideration or information

The need for a party to carry out some works on the Eling Way was discussed. The obligations to meet insurance requirements, such as a risk assessment, were discussed.

The Clerk was requested to send information on social media and in the village newsletters for Hampstead Norreys and Hermitage residents requesting walkers do not use the dog waste bins for coffee cups.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9:05 pm.

Date and time of next scheduled meeting:

Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 27th March 2025 at 7:30 pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 1: Finance Report

Status at last bank reconciliation 31st December 2024	
Unity Trust Current Account	£11,348.30
Unity Trust Savings Account	£30,355.81
Lloyds Commercial Multipay (Card)	£0.00
Total	£41,704.11

Income received 20th November 2024 -14th January 2025	
Members' Bid Funding - LED Lighting	£1,523.31
Interest	£201.95
Allotments rent	£10.00
Total	£1,735.26

Payments to be approved				
Date	Method	Payee	Payment Detail	Amount
30-Nov	FEE	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	£6.00
02-Dec	DD	SSE Energy Solutions	Electricity Oct	£80.86
03-Dec	DD	ICO	Registration	£35.00
09-Dec	BACS	SLCC Enterprises Ltd	Training - Practitioners' Conference	£104.42
09-Dec	BACS	Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd	Grounds maintenance Nov	£276.91
09-Dec	BACS	CJM Services	Repairs to play equipment	£1,809.78
09-Dec	BACS	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd	Refuse disposal Nov	£98.83
16-Dec	CC	Lloyds Bank	Card monthly fee	£3.00
20-Dec	BACS	Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership 25/26	£61.95
20-Dec	BACS	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd	Refuse disposal Dec	£191.10
20-Dec	BACS	Staff Costs	Includes salary, PAYE, pension Dec	£624.28
30-Dec	DD	SSE Energy Solutions	Electricity Nov	£78.28
31-Dec	FEE	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	£6.00
15-Jan	BACS	Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd	Grounds maintenance Dec	£276.91
20-Jan	DD	Castle Water	Allotments water	£37.00
23-Jan	BACS	Skips Electrical	Repairs to step lights	£189.70
23-Jan	BACS	Staff Costs	Includes salary, PAYE, pension Jan	£612.80
Total				£4,492.82

Transfers to be approved			
Date	From Account	To Account	Amount
16-Dec	Unity Trust Current	Lloyds Commercial Card	£3.00
Total			£3.00