

Northchapel Parish Council

**Unadopted Minutes of a Meeting held at Northchapel Village Hall
On Wednesday 10th March 2010**

Present: Councillors Willie Poste, Jane Walter, Sharon Holden, Alex Brown, David Burden, Andrew Dempsey and Georgina Murphy

In attendance: Mrs Helen Cruikshank, Parish Clerk

Comments and Questions from members of the Public

There were no members of the public present.

101. Apologies for Absence: Councillors John Morgan and Lynda Bell

102. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Burden as Trustee for the Village Hall and Member of the Parochial Church

Councillor Holden as Trustee for the Village Hall

Councillor Walter as School Governor

103. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 13th January 2009 were approved and signed as a correct record.

104. PCSO Clair Gamlin – There was no report.

105. Report from elected representative of WSCC Councillor Duncton and District Councillor John Andrews

County Councillor Duncton said that The Grange Centre in Midhurst was high on the list of priorities. WSCC will do its best if the Grange day-care facility closes (18 months to go) to make sure it is replaced. It is appreciated that it is the activity centre for the elderly. The next CLC meeting is on 30th March 2010 at Capron house, Midhurst where Rural Car parking charges will be debated. He confirmed that the grant submitted to CLC funding pot by NPC would be discussed at this meeting too. The lorry route in Petworth had been bought up at the recent Petworth Town Council meeting as being a waste of £140k although the County Councillor thought the traffic had improved. He stated there had been a small 2.5% increase in Council Tax by County Council which was the smallest increase since Council Tax was introduced. PCSO Ian Luxford was hoping to be at the meeting to talk about the big speed project the Police had done in Northchapel where 90 tickets were issued to drivers driving between 38-56mph.

District Councillor Andrews confirmed the appointment of the new District Councillor, Phillipa Hardwick who will share his ward. Councillor Andrews will be responsible for Northchapel and Loxwood whilst Councillor Hardwick for Plaistow and Lurgashall. He reported on the recent success of the street dancing at Northchapel School and the forthcoming Football in the Community course run by Brighton and Hove on 16th April at Loxwood.

The NE Parishes Forum had Superintendent Steve Parry and Tony Sneller speaking on the speeding traffic and health issues from traffic noise. Councillor Andrews stated that a large proportion of people must be interested and enthusiastic to enable Police to put more resource into an area. People must report anti-social driving through Operation Crackdown with even vague descriptions encouraged. He impressed the importance of Police involvement with the community and vice versa. He spoke of Loxwood where the number of speeding drivers had

dropped by 30% with increased Police resource and the help of local people (200 letters sent to West Sussex Police complaining about the speed of traffic through the village). Duncton was next on the list and then maybe Northchapel should be suggested. Councillor Andrews said the traffic problem must be solved and he is here to help make the community safer and healthier. Full report available on request.

106. Working Party reports

- **Allotments, Village Green and Play Area**– Councillor Poste said that there were three new allotment holders for the forthcoming season. He stated that DC planning had given the go ahead to sort out the trees at the top of the Village green so the tree surgery would be commencing shortly. Councillor Poste also mentioned the ruined edging on the Village Green track leading to Vine Cottages. The refuse collection lorry had destroyed the edging which had only been put down last year by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to CDC to stop the refuse lorries using the track and to inform the residents of 1 and 2 Vine Cottages of the new arrangement. Councillor Poste advised that the mole catcher had been called, 3 moles had been caught but unfortunately two traps had been stolen in the process.
- **Planning:** Councillor Brown said there was nothing to report although he did advise that the next stage of the LDF consultation was coming up shortly. This framework outlines the planning in the district principally identifying areas where development will be. The LDF website concentrates mainly on the Southern Plain but the Northern parts which would affect Northchapel would be Petworth/Midhurst /Fernhurst and the effect these in turn would have on public services. It is imperative that strong views must be notified. Councillor Andrews added that if expert advice was required on this subject to please ask.
- **Footpaths, Hedges and Rights of Way:** Councillor Walter said there was nothing to report
- **Village Hall:** Councillor Holden said there was nothing to report
- **Housing:** Councillor Dempsey said that 100 copies of the questionnaire had been distributed and responses were coming back slowly. Councillor Murphy said that answers will need filtering very carefully. There were a range of housing problems, with issues effecting everyday lives, poor maintenance and problems with communicating with bodies. Councillor Dempsey said this is where the Parish Council can get involved and hopefully offer advice. It was noted that this is a working party only. Councillor Poste said that Northchapel had some unemployment which would only get worse with no services available. Councillor Dempsey added that small villages become dumping grounds with people living there who do not contribute to the community, don't talk to anyone as they don't want to be there. Councillor Burden said it was an Internal Exile for some. It was important that information was collated and used in an effective manner.

107. Parish Plan Database: Councillor Walter said that all Parish Plans were able to be put onto the AirS website where action plans can then be updated when completed. This is a rolling programme. Clerk to investigate access requirements.

108. Playground new equipment: The Clerk had submitted the application to CDC for the Rural Play grant with one quotation. Three quotations were required for the application to be considered. Councillor Walter had organised one further company to quote which was done earlier today and the Clerk would endeavour to get another from Wicksteed before the deadline.

109. Village Hall Litter bin: The Clerk had been in contact with Councillor Gill from Chichester District Council who had told her the available options with regard to a new litter bin by the recycling section at the Village hall. It was agreed the bin by the seat be removed as the bin top

is constantly having to be retrieved from the ditch or replaced and the bin by the Police House be kept. A newer type bin would then be supplied for the recycling centre at a reduced cost of £100 plus VAT with a yearly emptying cost of £53.04.

110. School Lighting: Councillor Holden stated that the school would like to erect outside lighting for evening and winter afternoon school events. The school requested permission from the Parish Council for one side light and one front sensor. The Full Council agreed to this request.

111. Standing Orders: The Clerk informed the Parish Council that there were a new set of published standing orders. This did not impact on the current standing orders but would mean revisions next year.

112. Grass Cutting Contract: Three quotes had been sought for the grass cutting for 2010/11. It was agreed that MANDEB be kept on and continue the grass cutting for the forthcoming year. This was decided based on their previous good work and matched price breakdown. The Clerk added that she had received a request from Showtime Amusements (fair) to come back to Northchapel this summer. It was decided to not allow the fair to come back as there had been several complaints of excess noise from the residents in and around the Village Green on previous years.

113. Succession Planning: Councillor Walter said it was important to think about who would replace Councillor Morgan for the forthcoming year as the Chairman would be standing down from the Parish Council at the next meeting. Councillor Walter and Councillor Poste to liaise to discuss further. Clerk to put a vacancy notice into the Parish Magazine for May.

114. Financial Matters

- The Councils current financial position at £21,029 was noted.
- The Bank Reconciliation as at 4th March 2010 at Appendix 2 was noted
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment at Appendix 3 was noted and approved including Clear All Pest Control (Moles) @ £100 plus previously agreed annual donations (The Grange @ £50, Petworth Cottage Nursing Home @ £50, Petworth Over 60's @ £30, Neighbourhood Watch @ £50, Northchapel Primary School @ £300, Citizens Advice Bureau @ £35 and Northchapel Village Hall @ £500)
- The budget monitoring sheet at Appendix 4 was noted.

115. Clerks Report

The Clerks report was duly received and noted. Councillors Holden, Murphy and Burden confirmed they would like to attend the West Sussex Rural Forum on 23rd March 2010 where affordable housing was due to be discussed. Clerk to reserve places.

116. Date of next meeting – The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 5th May 2010 at 8pm. This meeting follows on from the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm.

Signed..... Dated.....