

NORTHCHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of a Meeting held at Northchapel Village Hall, On Monday 4th January 2016

Present: Councillors Mr Willie Poste (Chairman), Mrs Lynda Bell, Mrs Jan Glover, Mrs Sharon Holden, Mrs Gaye Jordan, Mr Paul Markides, Mr Daphne Trussler and Mr Stephen Wordsworth.

In attendance: Mrs Helen Cruikshank, Parish Clerk
District Councillor Nick Thomas
County Councillor Janet Duncton

There were no members of the public in attendance.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

1. **Apologies for absence:** PCSO Heidi Hay as she was not on duty tonight.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Co-option of Councillor:** Mr Simon Arnold was co-opted as a Parish Councillor. The Chairman welcomed him back onto the Parish Council. The Clerk would liaise and send through all the necessary forms and information.
4. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th December 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed.
5. **Police report:** There was no Police report.

6. Reports from representatives of WSCC and CDC

County Councillor Janet Duncton reported that lots of time had been spent looking at the 2016/17 budget at WSCC. Many budgets are ring-fenced but with the grant from the government having been slashed again, there are lots of discussions going on. She spoke of an unsafe bridge in the parish on footpath which had been closed and the continuing BT works to the south of the village. She said she hoped to have more to report at the next meeting when the budget had been set and an agreement on whether to increase Council tax had been voted on.

Councillor Poste asked whether Janet Duncton could help assist with a solution to the problem of the sunken trench in the road on Pipers Lane. She said she would contact Steve Hodd at Highways. Any queries of a County issue then please don't hesitate to contact Janet Duncton on janet.duncton@westsussex.gov.uk

District Councillor Nick Thomas said CDC were discussing budgets too and spoke of a possible increase in Council tax as there had been no rise for many years. He said there was currently a six week long public consultation on the options for improving the A27. Finally he reported that all appeals for the Crouchlands site were due to be heard in May. CDC are on the side of the locals and they should be restricted to their original plans as a small biogas site. Any queries of a District nature, please do contact Nick Thomas nthomas@chichester.gov.uk or Denise Knightley dknightley@hichester.gov.uk

7. Working Party Reports

- **Allotments, Village Green and Play Area:** Councillor Poste said he was a bit concerned as by the end of March there will be 6 free plots at the allotments. On the Village Green, the grass is growing like mad but it is too wet to cut. He added that the play area had finally been revamped and the equipment repaired.
- **Footpaths, Hedges and Rights of Ways:** Councillor Trussler reported that the footpath which leads from the main road via the Creek to Diddlesfold has been officially closed by WSCC as there was a hole in the bridge and the footpath deemed dangerous for use. It currently has been temporarily closed for 21 days whilst they decide whether to patch it up or rebuild. This obviously will depend on their budget and if it is decided to rebuild then the footpath may be closed for longer.
- **Planning:** Councillor Markides said there was nothing to report. Councillor Bell enquired after a planning application on Hillgrove Road. Councillor Markides said this had been dealt with before Christmas and there was no objection.
- **Village Hall:** Councillor Holden said the Village Hall was doing alright with several regular bookings in place.
- **Housing:** Councillor Holden said there was nothing to report. Clerk said that the new Hyde housing officer for Northchapel was Mark Armitage but she had yet to hear from him.

- **Winter Plan:** Councillor Poste said he was very disappointed that the grit bins had not been topped up as they were $\frac{3}{4}$ full and it was deemed not necessary by WSCC Highways.
- **Northchapel Youth:** Councillor Bell said she had nothing to report.

8. Housing Need Survey

Clerk was waiting to hear back from Holly Nichols, the CDC rural housing enabler with the results from the parish Housing Needs survey.

9. Northchapel Street Lighting

Clerk had received a letter from SSE Lighting asking whether the parish council would be interested in their services for Northchapel with regard to its future street lighting projects. All agreed that the current lighting in the estates was sufficient and that any further lighting would go against the SDNP Dark Skies policy which Northchapel Parish Council fully supports.

10. WSCC Library Service

WSCC Community Mobile Library is changing the day it visits Northchapel from April 2016 to a Tuesday at the same time of 15:20 - 15:35. It will continue to visit fortnightly. Until then it will continue its 15 minute visit on a Wednesday on the Village Green (10th and 24th February, 9th and 23rd March). It is hoped this change will enable more local residents to access the service.

11. Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations

Councillor Trussler reported on the outline of the proposed event on 11th June; a tea/street party on the village green at 3pm using tables from the school for the children with a picnic and hog roast. It was hoped there would be live music with recorded music later on in the evening. Cream teas in the pavilion was a possibility. She with two social club members and Councillor Holden would form a committee with members from other parish organisations. It was suggested that a commemorative mug be given to all the parish children.

12. Approved Precept/Budget Figures 2017/18

The approved 2016/17 figures as at Appendix 2 were noted.

13. Financial Matters

- The Council's current financial position @ £43,861 was noted.
- The Bank reconciliation as at 29th December 2015 at Appendix 2 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment at Appendix 3 was noted and approved including Playsafe Playgrounds Ltd (repairs to play equipment) @ £1811, Northchapel Village Hall (Annual Donation 2015/16) @ £500, Northchapel Primary School (Annual Donation 2015/16 £300 and Little Oaks Pre-School yoga and music classes £500) @ £800, Petworth Over 60s Club (Annual Donation 2015/16) @ £50, Petworth Cottage Nursing Home (Annual Donation 2015/16) @ £100, Citizens Advice Bureau Waverley (Annual Donation 2015/16) @ £100, Rother Valley Together (Annual Donation 2015/16) @ £100, Mrs Pam Bruce (Northchapel Centenary Flower Festival donation) @ £500, Home-Start Chichester (Annual Donation 2015/16) @ £1500, West Sussex Rural Mobile Youth Trust (Purple Bus 2015/16 donation) @ £1000 and Southern Water (allotment water) @ £12

14. Clerks Report

Clerk spoke of the North Chichester CLC meeting on Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 7pm at Capron House and the NE Parishes meeting on 21st January at 7pm at Petworth Town Council office. Please let the Clerk know if any Councillors would like to attend either of these.

Councillor Poste reported that John Stemp would be carrying out tree work on the Village Green by the hall and on Pound Piece plus he would be replanting the tree on the green which had died.

15. Items to be included on the next agenda

Councillor Markides said his property was still experiencing problems with regular low voltage and dimmed lighting. Clerk to contact and chase SSE Petersfield.

Please inform the Clerk of any items to go on the agenda by Monday 29th February 2016

16. Date of next meeting

MONDAY 7th March at 8pm at the Village Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.27pm

Signed

Date