

NORTHCHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of a Meeting held at Northchapel Village Hall On Monday 4th March 2014

Present: Councillors Willie Poste, Jane Walter, Sharon Holden, Paul Markides, Georgina Murphy, Stephen Wordsworth and Gaye Jordan

In attendance: Mrs Helen Cruikshank, Parish Clerk

Comments and Questions from members of the Public

There were no members of the Public present.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Lynda Bell
Councillor Simon Arnold
Delayed arrival of: District Councillor Hardwick/County Councillor Janet Duncton

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th January 2014 were approved, subject to an amendment under the working party reports; Housing. The empty flat in Valentines Lea was amended to read Luffs Meadow. The minutes were then signed.

4. Police Report

There was no Police report. There is a Neighbourhood Panel meeting in Petworth next week which Councillors Poste and Holden will attend.

5. Reports from representatives from Chichester District Council, West Sussex County Council and South Downs National Park Association if available

In her absence, the Clerk read out the District Councillor's report.

The new community and leisure centre in Midhurst, The Grange will officially open to the public on Monday 3rd March. It will incorporate a number of services under one roof:

- A multipurpose four-court sports hall
- A fitness room with state of the art Techno gym equipment
- Two squash courts and squash viewing area
- A dance studio
- A health suite including steam room, sauna and spa pool
- A multipurpose community hall and community rooms
- Bar and Cafe with Wi-Fi access
- Community facilities including library, registration office where you can register births and deaths

A good head start has been made on the huge programme of engineering for the development of faster broadband in West Sussex by WSCC. New website to keep all informed www.westsussex-betterconnected.org.uk or speak to Guy Blackmore on -1243 534846

NatWest and RBS have launched a £250m UK Storm Business Fund to provide short term interest free finance to speed recovery for businesses affected by the recent floods and gales. Helpline number 0800 529 8544

6. Working Party Reports

- **Allotments, Village Green and Play Area:** Councillor Poste said there were currently two vacant plots at the Allotments. Concern had been raised with regard to a greenhouse which had been erected. Councillor Poste confirmed it was being taken down. The Village Green ditches had been cleared, the mowing will start again soon and the track alongside the Green was being made good. Councillor Poste had received a request from the circus to return again this year, 12th-19th May. After the success of last year including the workshops the circus had done with the school, it was agreed that the request be accepted.

The Clerk said Councillor Arnold had enquired about a lot of litter left by the ditch adjacent to the play area. Councillor Poste said he would take a look and action if necessary.

- **Footpaths, Hedges and ROW's:** Councillor Walter said the footpaths were all very waterlogged throughout the parish. She highlighted concern about the state of the wall leading from Luffs Meadow to the main road as this still had not been repaired. Clerk to chase with Hyde Martlet.
- **Planning:** Councillor Markides said there had been a planning application through recently for The Square House which did not contain sufficient information to present a response to CDC/SDNP. Clerk had not heard anything further on this, so she would chase. The Parish Council were still waiting for the next planning application from Hillgrove Stud Farm to come through the system. Concern was raised with regard to Willow Spring Farm and people possibly living on site. Clerk to highlight the matter to CDC Enforcement.
- **Village Hall:** Councillor Holden said the hall had been refurbished and the floor been replaced. All commented on how fantastic it looked. The Village Hall Committee was now looking at getting prices for the works to be done to the car park.
- **Housing:** Councillor Holden said that there are as many empty properties now as there ever has been in the village. It appears people are just not bidding on these properties; there is some concern that they are just not being listed correctly. She and Councillor Murphy would continue to keep an eye on the situation.
- **Winter Plan:** Councillor Poste said that the Parish Council should have bought a pump not a snow plough attachment this Winter!
- **Northchapel Youth:** The Purple Bus is here tonight and continuing all of the Spring term - Mondays 7-9pm at the Village Hall until 31st March for 13-19 year olds.

7. Defibrillator

The Clerk now has the BHF funding form which she will give to Councillor Bell who has kindly agreed to take on the project.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors Bell and Jordan have kindly offered to attend a workshop being held next week on the SDNPA local plan and CIL. It is hoped this will prove useful for finding out more information on the Neighbourhood Plans which would feed into the SDNPA local plan.

9. Local Community Assets

The Clerk is in the process of filling in the forms for this.

10. Memorial benches

Councillor Poste suggested that two composite benches or picnic tables be erected on the Village Green in memory of two recently deceased parishioners who did a great deal for the village. He suggested one be placed towards the Village Hall end of the Green and Councillor Walter suggested there may be a possibility to have one from the Churchyard. Clerk to investigate products and prices.

11. Funfair on the Village Green

The Clerk had received a request from Showtime Amusements to return to Northchapel this Summer. It was agreed that given the number of complaints about the constant noise when they were here a couple of years ago that the request be denied.

5. County Councillor report continued

County Councillor Dunton raised her concern regarding finding out whether trees have TPOs on them. There appears to be very little information available on this and so she is going to look into this as a number of her parishes have asked her about it. She spoke of the good news that faster broadband is on its way in the County as it is essential that businesses have good broadband available to them. She added that the new Grange Centre is open and the WSCC Library and registration office are both located there. The County Council budget 2014/15 remains the same, District's is announced tomorrow. County Councillor Dunton said that given the success of Operation Watershed in 2013/14, an additional £1.5m has been made available by WSCC for this forthcoming financial year for parishes, to help them with potholes and flooding issues.

12. Annual Parish Meeting

This is to be held on Monday 19th May 2014 at 7.30pm. All welcome. Andrew Triggs, the SDNPA planning policy officer will be speaking about Neighbourhood Planning. Please encourage as many people to attend as possible,

13. Additional Grant request 2013/14

Following on from the last meeting where a grant request from Northchapel Primary School had been discussed for help with funding for replacement matting for the outside play area. The head teacher had confirmed that the school is in the process of applying to Awards for All Funding which is part of the Lottery funding project. The Parish Council's support is therefore dependant on the success of this application. Clerk to inform the school that the Parish Council is fully supportive of the project for outside play and await further clarification on how much money is required.

The Clerk had also received a request from the Village Hall Committee requesting some funding (£2,500) for help towards the cost of the refurbishment of the Village Hall and the cost of draining and repairing the car park. The Parish Council is keen to support the projects but would like further information. Clerk to ask the Village Hall Committee for clarification on the total amount of money both these projects will cost before they commit to assistance with funding.

14. Financial Matters

- The Council's current financial position @ £30,334 was noted.
- The Bank reconciliation as at at Appendix 2 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment at Appendix 3 was noted and cheques approved for WSCC (Clerk's Jan 14 Salary) @£419 and J K Engineering (sign repair) @ £312

15. Clerks report

The Clerk notified the Parish Council of the NE Parishes Forum which was being held on Thursday 13th March at 7pm at Kirdford Village Hall and the North Chichester CLC meeting on 19th March at Fernhurst Primary School. If any Councillors wish to attend, please inform the Clerk and she will RSVP. Councillor Poste had received an enquiry from Lurgsahall Parish Council asking what Northchapel were doing to celebrate the beginning of the First World War later on in the year.

Councillor Walter said that St Michael's would be having a church service to commemorate this day.

Clerk informed the Parish Council that there would be a new tranche of funding for the New Homes Bonus available in 2014/15 so please give thoughts to projects which may need funding this coming year.

16. Items to be included on the next agenda

- Defibrillator
- Local Community Assets
- Neighbourhood Plan

17. Date of next meeting - Monday 5th May 2014 at 8pm at Northchapel Village Hall.

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