

NORTHCHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of a Meeting held at Northchapel Village Hall, On Monday 2nd November 2015

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

SPEAKER: Holly Hooper and Andy Griffiths from Scottish and Southern Energy (SSEPD)

Andy Griffiths spoke of the Priority Services Register which SSEPD has set up to give residents extra support during power cuts. SSEPD is learning lessons from the extended power cut after the storms and its lack of communication. They appreciate for some a power cut can be particularly distressing and difficult so are offering extra help and priority treatment to those that need it. All priority services are free.

Key benefits: Dedicated 24hr priority services phone number
Priority updates during a power cut
Nominate someone for SSEPD to contact on your behalf
Provide information in the format you need
Security password to keep you safe

To join the Priority Services Register call 0800 294 3259 or fill in the form online

www.ssepd.co.uk/PriorityServicesRegistrationForm. Leaflets will be sent out with December's parish news and available at the Village lunches and in the Village shop

Andy Griffiths said much work had been done to the local network to ensure that power lines should not come down in storms with a lot of tree cutting taking place but if they do then there is now a manual back feed available in Northchapel. He said he would investigate the low voltage concerns which were raised by Councillors within the parish.

Comments and Questions from the members of the public:

There were two members of the public in attendance. These parishioners raised concern regarding the sale of the Dickhurst Estate land in Northchapel and the works going on at Copygrove Copse. The Parish Council confirmed that CDC enforcement had stopped all work at Copygrove and since then a planning application has been submitted for the works. Northchapel Parish Council has objected to this on the basis that the works are totally out of proportion and the land is in fact Ancient Woodland. It was felt that any felling work should only be allowed for maintenance purposes and not for commercial reasons. Any new tracks which have been laid should be removed. The Parish Council will be keeping a close eye on the situation. Parishioners are also able to comment individually on planning applications online by searching at <http://planningpublicaccess.southdowns.gov.uk/online-applications/> or in writing to SDNPA, South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9DH or emailing planning@southdowns.gov.uk.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** County Councillor Janet Duncton
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 3. Co-option of Councillor:** There were no applicants for the vacancy.
- 4. Minutes:** The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th September 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed.
- 5. Police report:** There was no Police report.
- 6. Reports from representatives of CDC**
District Councillor Nick Thomas said the All Parishes Meeting was well attended with lots of reports and presentations. The next North-East Parishes meeting is January 21st January at either Petworth or Tillington. Crouchlands Farm is appealing all refused decisions made by CDC for its Biogas site in Plaistow so these will be going to the Inspectorate in May 2016. Nick commended Plaistow for their commitment and determination in raising the money to fight this. They have the full backing of CDC.

Any queries please do contact Nick Thomas nthomas@chichester.gov.uk or Denise Knightley dknightley@chichester.gov.uk

7. Working Party Reports

- **Allotments, Village Green and Play Area:** Councillor Poste said there are several vacant plots at the allotments. It was agreed that the Village Green needed a clean-up of leaves, clearing of the ditches and making good the potholes on the track, Councillor Poste would get a quote from the parish contractors, CCP Groundcare for this work. Clerk was unable to get any other quotes for the playground repairs so Playsafety Playgrounds had been instructed to carry out the work as per their quote. Clerk is awaiting confirmation of a date for when this to be done.
- **Footpaths, Hedges and Rights of Ways:** Councillor Trussler said there was an overgrown hedge alongside the pavement which leads from the pub to the shop which needed attention. Also a complaint had been received about the state of an overgrown hedge on Valentines Hill. Councillor Poste kindly said he would go and take a look at these and speak with the owners of the properties if needed.
- **Planning:** Councillor Markides said there was one outstanding application which needs to be looked at after the meeting for Hanalei in Valentines Lea.
- **Village Hall:** Councillor Holden said the Village Hall bookings were picking up which was good.
- **Housing:** Councillors Bell, Holden and Jordan together with the Clerk had had a meeting with Holly Nichols (CDC Rural Housing Enabler) to discuss a Housing Needs Survey for the parish. Holly had sent through a draft copy of the survey and an information sheet explaining the housing procedure which would be distributed alongside the survey. These would be printed out by CDC, delivered to every household in the parish and collected by the Parish Council and sent directly to CDC for analysis. All replies are anonymous and the surveys once completed will not be seen by the Parish Council. Collecting boxes will be located in the Village Shop, Pub and Working Men's Club.
- **Winter Plan:** Clerk to chase WSCC as grit/salt bins had no yet been topped up.
- **Northchapel Youth:** Councillor Bell said she had not yet received an update but would let Councillors know as soon as she heard back from Dan Sneller at the Purple Bus.

8. Allotment Rules update

Councillor Poste said he and the Clerk would be updating the Allotment rules for the 2016 season. A copy of this will go out with each of the 2016/17 invoices in March. The Clerk reported she had received a complaint about a bonfire at the allotments which had caused much distress to parishioners. The parishioner was very concerned about bonfires and suggested that restrictions be put in the allotment rules and also be applied to all parish residents. Clerk said that the Parish Council has no power to set laws over bonfires. Allotment holders are currently only allowed to have bonfires after 3pm. Clerk had put up a polite notice on the notice board and an article in the parish magazine with guidelines for everyone when having a bonfire.

9. Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations

Councillor Trussler said that the social committee at the working men's club would like to apply for a licence for Pipers Lane to be closed to have a street party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Concerns were raised with regard to emergency vehicle access if the road was closed. However the Parish Council wholly supports the idea of a celebration and it was suggested that all the clubs in the village could organise an all-inclusive event on the village green. The Parish Council would happily contribute financially to such an event if requested.

10. Parish & Town Clustering

Clerk had received an email from Petworth Town Council (PTC) who said that it had become apparent in this recent time of austerity, coupled with both County and District Councils being forced to make drastic cuts to their services, that Town and Parish Councils, should try to take a more cohesive stance to tackle the inevitable issues which will arise. WSCC have already had to make 'savings' with our local fire service, culminating in the loss of appliances at Petworth, Midhurst and Storrington which despite assurances given by County, the knock on effect to the safety of our communities could, potentially, be catastrophic. PTC are therefore touching base with all of you in the hope that we can look to working collaboratively together and share resources, as and when these problems arise.

The Parish Council agreed that any clustering would be more beneficial to Northchapel if done so with villages of a similar size and location i.e. Lurgashall, Lodsworth and Tillington not Petworth. Clerk to write back to PTC.

11. Donations 2015/16 and Precept 2017/18

These will be discussed at the next meeting on Monday 7th December. Please encourage all parish groups and clubs to apply for grants - application forms available from Clerk. There is a healthy surplus so all budgeted donations and grants for this year will be able to be made with monies left over for local organisations who wish to apply.

12. Financial Matters

- The Council's current financial position @ £47,639 was noted. Clerk added this included the second/final instalment of the precept and the part-repayment of £500 for the Community Swimming Pool loan.
- The Bank reconciliation as at 26th October 2015 at Appendix 2 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment at Appendix 3 was noted and approved including WSCC (Clerk's Oct 2015 Salary & Payroll fees) @ £471.13 and Southern Water (Allotment water 20/6-24/10) @ £26.15
- PKF Littlejohn LLP, the External Auditors had approved the Annual Return 2014/15 and the notice of conclusion had been put onto the notice board in September.
- Clerk will be carrying out the annual VAT return shortly.
- All agreed that the Moss brothers be given hampers as a thank you for their help in the parish. Clerk to organise.

13. Reports back from meetings attended by Councillors

Councillors Poste and Holden had attended the North Chichester CLC meeting which had focused on the speeding problem in Rogate. Councillor Poste said that Northchapel was fortunate to have the support of the Police here in the village with the regular attendance of the mobile speed cameras.

Councillor Trussler attended the All Parishes Meeting which had some very good presentations including the Chief Inspector speaking about the new traveller site, changes to the Police and how Sussex has the lowest county crime rate in the country. Councillor Trussler reported that Ray Cooper and David Ribbens had been voted as Parish Council members on the Standards Committee.

Councillors Markides and Jordan had attended the SSALC Planning training in Pulborough but unfortunately had found it uninteresting and did not learnt anything they didn't already know.

14. Clerks Report

Clerk spoke of the North Chichester CLC meeting on Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 7pm at Capron House, the WSALC AGM on Thursday 19th November at 2pm at The Chichester Park Hotel and the NE Parishes Forum on Thursday 21st January 2016 at either Petworth or Tillington. Please let the Clerk know if any Councillors would like to attend this.

15. Items to be included on the next agenda

Please inform the Clerk of any items to go on the agenda by Monday 28th December 2015

16. Date of next meeting

MONDAY 7th December 2015 at 8PM at the Village Hall: PRECEPT ONLY MEETING.

Next Full Parish Council meeting is on Monday 4th January 2015 at 8pm at the Village Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm

Signed

Date