

NORTHCHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

**APPROVED Minutes of a Meeting held at Northchapel Village Hall,
On Monday 14th January 2013**

Present: Councillors Mr Willie Poste (Chairman), Mrs Jane Walter, Mrs Sharon Holden, Mrs Georgina Murphy, Mr Paul Markides and Mr Stephen Wordsworth

In attendance: Mrs Helen Cruikshank, Parish Clerk

Comments and Questions from the members of the public:

There were two members of the public present. There were no questions.

71. Apologies for absence: Councillor Simon Arnold
David Burden (SDNPA)

72. Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest.

73. Minutes: The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5th December 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed.

74. PCSO Ian Luxford/ PCSO Jenn Morley: There was no Police attendance.

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

District Councillor Nick Thomas said that there had been a re-setting of the allocations of the meetings and going forward District Councillor Phillipa Hardwick would primarily be attending Northchapel meetings. District Councillor Thomas spoke of the next NE Parishes Forum on March 14th at Plaistow and encouraged Councillors to attend. The parking at the Community Centre in Midhurst has been done as are the foundations for the new building. It is hoped the building works will be finished by November 2013 and then with training the centre will open fully in January 2014. The old building will only be knocked down afterwards. He assured the Parish Council that the centre will be a tremendous facility for the parishioners north of the Downs.

County Councillor Duncton said that WSCC Highways were under a huge amount of strain after the intense flooding recently. He had received thanks from the residents of Horton's Farm with regard to the way in which WSCC Highways had responded and dealt with the issue of the flooding highlighted at the last meeting. An additional £8m had since been put into the Highways pot to deal with the effect the flooding has had on the county roads. There had been some progress on the road safety issue @ Fisher Street with 1 or 2 ideas and he would press Fiona Baker at Highways for more information. He said the funding request from the Community Swimming Pool project will be decided at the next CLC meeting. He spoke of the sad news that Dudmans had gone into administration with the loss of 200 jobs and the lost service it provided especially locally. Pond Street in Petworth will be closed on 4th February. County Councils elections are due to be held in May. With regard to the ditches in Hillgrove, County Councillor Duncton had spoken to the agents of the

landowners to encourage and urge them to do their bit and be responsible for managing the drainage.

76. Working Party Reports

- **Allotments, Village Green and Play Area;** Councillor Poste said there was nothing much to report at this time of year at the Allotments. Everything was fairly okay on the Village Green. The two trees which need to be felled are coming down during half-term to avoid any disturbance to the school. Councillor Poste had put new bolts into the playhouse at the Play Area and the replacement fencing had been done.
- **Footpaths, Hedges and ROW's:** Councillor Walter reported that the overgrown hedge outside of Hills Cottage had finally been cut by WSCC Highways. Concern was highlighted over the overgrown hedge by the old Antiques shop. Clerk to chase again and write letter to resident. Councillor Walter raised concern regarding a nasty pothole surrounding a storm drain on the main road by Badgers Bend. Clerk to report using Love West Sussex app. Councillor Walter to email her photos to include with her report.
- **Planning:** Councillor Markides said all was very quiet.
- **Village Hall:** Councillor Holden said there was nothing much to report but there was need to look into the car park. Councillor Poste explained that the car park was built on a pond and water is coming up from below, and going forward it would need more than just patching up. As the Village Hall is leased off the Parish Council, they would need to work together for a solution.
- **Housing:** Councillor Holden reported that there had been a problem in Valentines Lea with large fires. The housing officer, Laura Dillon came and investigated and the person involved has been told that if there are any more fires, notice will be served. She will also be writing to all tenants in the same block to ensure they are aware of the effect that anti social and bad behaviour has on tenancy. Concern was raised with regard to some problem garden fencing which Councillor Holden has also reported to Laura Dillon.
- **Winter Plan:** Councillor Poste reported all four salt bins are still full.

77. Hillgrove Stud Farm - Update

Clerk sent off 3 copies of the PC's objection in December for the next appeal and safe receipt has been received. She waits to hear anything further. Councillor Bell said there was lots of earthwork going on at the site, assuming this was the foundations being laid for the second barn. Concern was raised with regard to the strong lights on the barn. Clerk to highlight both these issues to CDC planning.

78. Clearance of Village Ditches

Councillor Walter spoke of the continual problem with blocked ditches and flooding on the Hillgrove Road. There is a collapsed drain on the road by Mole End which is causing flooding and on the road all the way up to Hillgrove the ditches are blocked and water is everywhere. Clerk to report this to WSCC Highways and the landowners. Councillor Walter to send photos as evidence so Clerk can include with her reports and letters. Clerk also to organise a meeting with Councillor Poste and Fiona Baker from WSCC Highways to discuss all the

Parish Highways problems. Councillor Markides spoke of the damaged village sign, Clerk to report this once again.

79. ANPR camera

At the last Parish Council meeting in December, the proposal for the installation of an ANPR camera on the grass verge alongside the A283, coming into the village Southbound on the left-hand side before Valentines Lea was raised. Following on from this, it was agreed that although the equipment was obtrusive, it was appreciated that the camera would help out the Police with the problem of cross-county crime; the Clerk was asked to find out more information from the ANPR camera installers (Chroma Vision Ltd). The Clerk was told that Sussex Police had identified the location as a useful one and WSCC Highways have agreed the location in principle. They are now carrying out test and analysis is being done on whether there are waste mains or cables under the location which would make it an impossible site. It was emphasised that the cameras would merely be for car type and number plate recognition for use by the Police and not for car tax or anything else. It would also help with the speeding problem in the village as drivers often think they are speed cameras and automatically slow down when they see it. The residents around the location will be notified 30 days prior to installation for their views.

80. Precept and Budget 2013/14

The Parish Council agreed that the precept for 2013/14 would be set at £30,000. Clerk to inform CDC.

Clerk had been in contact with both the Rother Valley Together and the Community Mini Bus projects regarding donations for 2012/13. The Community Bus Association operates in Northchapel and their expenses are high and donations are welcome but they do appreciate funds are scarce and suggested that other projects which are less able to sustain themselves, should get priority this year. However it was later agreed the £100 should still be donated this year. Clerk waits to hear back from the Rother Valley Together project.

81. Financial Matters

- The Council's current financial position @ £26,263 was noted.
- The Bank reconciliation as at 2nd January 2013 at Appendix 2 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment at Appendix 3 was noted including Straight Line Fencing (Southern) Ltd @ £1044 (Play Area fencing), Southern Water @ £25 (Allotment water), Northchapel Village Hall @ £500 (Annual Donation 2012/13), Northchapel Primary School @ £800 (Annual Donation 2012/13 and Little Oaks pre-school playhouse), Petworth Over 60's Club @ £50 (Annual Donation 2012/13), Petworth Cottage Nursing Home @ £100 (Annual Donation 2012/13), Citizens Advice Waverley @ £35 (Annual Donation 2012/13), West Sussex Rural Mobile Youth Trust @ £500 (Annual Donation 2012/13).

82. Clerks Report

The Clerks report was duly received and noted.

83. Items to be included on the next agenda

Purple Bus/Northchapel Youth

84.Date of the next meeting – Monday 4th March 2013 at 8pm

Signed

Date