

# **NORTHCHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **APPROVED Minutes of a Meeting held at Northchapel Village Hall, On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012**

**Present:** Councillors Mr Willie Poste (Chairman), Mrs Jane Walter, Mrs Lynda Bell, Mrs Sharon Holden, Mrs Georgina Murphy, Mrs Jane Squire 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.**

A member of the public spoke of an incident which occurred on 17/18 June where a vehicle in the village was attacked and its tyres slashed. Unfortunately it took 5 days for the Police to appear after reporting it. He feels that if they had come on the day itself that they could have comprehended the culprits but now there is not a chance. Police need to be more aware, the same night a taxi driver was subjected to malicious and very threatening behaviour when taking people from Haslemere to Northchapel. The County Councillor noted this. The same member of public spoke about the overgrown hedge on the pathway leading from Luffs Meadow to the shop. He asked whether a letter could be written to the householders. Councillor Holden suggested contacting Hyde Martlet.

Another member of the public thanked the Parish Council for laying the new path to the playground. She also spoke of the many overgrown hedges in the parish, those by and opposite the shop which she felt were in need of attention. She suggested that the village have their own facebook page with links to the village hall, parish council, school, church and fete to keep parishioners informed with reminders/dates/issues within the parish. Councillor Squire inquired who would run it and be responsible for maintaining it. The member of the public said she would be happy to if she was given the information as she believed it was a good way to get the younger generation involved and interested in village life. She said maybe the parish council would consider it. The Parish Council were unsure of the facebook idea but did agreed that the current website did need to be kept updated and that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **20. Apologies for absence:** Councillor Markides due to work commitments

The Chairman reported that sadly Angelique Burns has resigned as Parish Councillor due to work and family commitments.

#### **21. Declarations of Interest:** Councillor Holden declared an interest in item 8 as a member of the Community Swimming Pool Committee

#### **22. Minutes:** The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed.

#### **23. PCSO Ian Luxford/ PCSO Jenn Morley:** There was no Police report. Clerk to ask Police to provide a written report if they are unable to attend the meetings. Clerk also to enquire about the Neighbourhood Panel meetings and where and when they are held.

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

County Councillor Duncton spoke of the vehicle vandalism in Luffs Meadow and his disappointment by the Police response time delay. He is assured that the Police have it in hand and will progress it. Councillor Wordsworth enquired after the progress of the Fisher Street Safety programme. County Councillor Duncton said the Fisher Street crossroads and the speed reduction project is being worked on as a priority. WSCC Fostering has a demand requirement although be prepared for a 6-12 month waiting time. Information [peter.evans@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:peter.evans@westsussex.gov.uk)

He apologised for the unsuccessful well funding although was pleased that the SDNPA had

been helpful. He finished speaking of the Olympic torch relay which is coming to Petworth

between 10 - 11am on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July, he encouraged people to come along as there will be

a fun carnival atmosphere.

District Councillor Nick Thomas spoke of the marvellous new family friendly museum in Chichester. Novium the new District museum has over 350 artefacts and Roman baths. It is a highly recommended visit. He emailed through some useful information to the Clerk regarding the neighbourhood plans. Toolkits and seminars are due September time.

Ben Pohill is once again running Football and Rugby training during the Summer holidays. 10-4pm £5 per day at various sites in the district. He also spoke of the ongoing Hillgrove Stud Farm inquiry and the appeal change date to September. Please be assured that David Few and CDC are on the case for Northchapel. The applicant is very determined and he feels this will be a very long, drawn out process.

David Burden from SDNPA said the work of the SDNP continues. Their 20 year plan will be published in the next few weeks or so.

## **25. Working Party Reports**

- **Allotments, Village Green and Play Area;** Councillor Poste reported there were two vacant plots at the Allotments. He said that the Village Green was gradually getting mowed after all the recent bad weather. He said all was good at the Play Area with the new path now in and the annual inspection now due.
- **Footpaths, Hedges and ROW's:** Councillor Walter had been out with the volunteering ranger on his inspection round and identified a list of tasks needing to be addressed on the parish footpaths and Rights of Way. The Clerk has reported the overhanging hedge on Valentines Hill and WSCC Highways have sent out an Officer to investigate. They are arranging for the vegetation to be cut back and clear the footway of debris with the owner's advice and observation. The Clerk has also asked Highways to take a look at the difficult hedge outside of the shop.
- **Planning:** There were two outstanding planning applications to be discussed after the meeting.

- **Village Hall:** Councillor Holden had nothing to report.
- **Housing:** Councillor Holden had met with Laura Dillon the new Hyde Martlet officer for Northchapel. She will be spending 2 days a month dedicated to looking at the issues in Valentines Lea and Luffs Meadow. She was made aware of the problem with the hedge heights in Valentines Lea.
- **Media and Communication:** Thanks were given to Angelique Burns for all her work with organising the Parish Council articles and submissions into the Parish Magazine. There is now a vacancy for a Councillor on the Parish Council. Clerk to submit vacancy advert to the Parish News. It was also suggested that a notice be put in the shop window for anyone new to the village requiring a newcomer's pack.
- **Winter Plan:** Nothing to report at present. Although attention was brought to the drain and gully cleaning in the village as well as the red lines on the road outside of the shop. One ditch/drain has been missed by the cleaning lorry and the red lines need enhancing. County Councillor Chris Duncton to ask for these to be done.

#### **26. Land adjacent to A283 – Deed of Easement request**

Clerk had received a letter from Hedley Solicitors with regard to a Deed of Easement request sent to them by the solicitors for the owners of the Deepwell Inn. The request relates to an easement across the forecourt area. It was requested that a deed be agreed for a right of way at all times and for purposes on foot, a right to park on the area, a right to repair and maintain the surface, a right to take such services as currently exist through over or under the land in question and a right of overhang in respect of the sign relating to "The Deepwell Inn" as now found. The Parish Council agreed that no formal easement was necessary and thus no granting of formal parking rights. Clerk to respond accordingly to Hedley's.

#### **27. Community Swimming Pool Project**

Following on from the last meeting, the Swimming Pool Chair had sent through the information as requested by the Parish Council in relation to funding and its proposed use. The letter said that as they are not a registered charity it does limit the number of grants which can be applied for. Due to time constraints the Sussex Downs and Low Weald Leader programme grant was not achievable and the Big Lottery Fund was unsuccessful. They are in the process of applying for the WSCC Community Initiatives Grant which if successful will fund to a maximum of £2,500. The majority of the money raised to date had come from the school, parish council and events organised by the committee. It is the intention of the committee that the pool will be open from March until the end of October for use during and after school and during the school holidays. It is also intended that other user groups may use the pool but lots of documentation must be put in place for this to happen.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would support financially the shortfall with the project whether that be as a guarantor for a loan or as way of a donation. This will be discussed once it is known what the shortfall amount is.

#### **28. Parish Well – update**

Unfortunately there was no funding available from North Chichester CLC for the parish well repairs but it was suggested to try SDNPA by Chris Duncton and

David Burden. This request was successful and £500 grant was pledged for the repairs to the well top. (Total project cost £800) Huge thanks were given to Bruce Middleton for his support and commitment to the project.

**29. Traffic – update**

The effect of the new warning signs are hoping to be seen and there seems to be regular speed checks occurring within the village itself especially significantly over the Festival of Speed week-end.

**30. Financial Matters**

- The Council's current financial position @ £30,132 was noted.
- The Bank reconciliation as at 15<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at Appendix 3 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment at Appendix 4 was noted and approved including WSCC (Clerk's June 12 Salary) @ £408 and Mrs Angelique Burns (Reimbursement for Jubilee band) @ £240.
- Internal Auditor's report 2011/12 – The Chairman congratulated the Clerk on finalising the year-end accounts and Annual Return. It was agreed by the Parish Council for the Clerk to add in insurance cover for Official's Indemnity and Libel and Slander as per advice from the Internal Auditor.

**31. Clerks Report**

The Clerks report was duly received and noted.

**32. Items to be included on the next agenda**

Parish Council Website

**33. Date of the next meeting – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

Signed .....

Date .....