

**UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE NORTHCHAPEL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2009
Held on Wednesday 6th May 2008
At Northchapel Village Hall at 7.30pm**

Present: 10 members of the public

A presentation from the Royal Surrey Foundation Trust was given explaining what the proposed Foundation Trust status meant and to encourage membership. www.royalsurrey.nhs.uk/join-us

1. Apologies for Absence: There were no apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting: The minutes of the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting were approved and signed as a correct record.

3. PCSO Ian Luxford: Unfortunately due to a call-out regarding an incident in Petworth the PCSO's were unable to stay in the meeting

4. Parish Council Chairman's report: In the past year the Parish Council has provided tangible support to the School, the Village Hall, the Sports Club and St Michaels Church. Northchapel has a thriving school, beautiful refurbished Village Hall, flourishing Sports Club, Church and Village Stores & Post Office. Thanks were given to the unstinting efforts of Willie Poste. Few people realise how much time and effort go into ensuring the village looks well cared for, and Willie has taken great pride in his work and deserves our heartfelt thanks. It would be appreciated if everyone played their part in keeping the village tidy by taking home their litter or using the bins provided, the village green would also be an even more pleasant place to be if pet owners could ensure that dog fouling is kept to a minimum. The Chairman also thanked the Clerk for her first year in office. The forthcoming year sees some familiar challenges with traffic through the village remaining high on the agenda. Now the Parish Council has dialogue going with WSCC Highways department, hopefully, it will bear some fruit in the coming year. Unfortunately there will always be a small percentage of selfish folk who drive thoughtlessly and without regard to others, but if we can reduce that number in and around Northchapel we shall be making progress. Good progress has been made with our Village Plan, which is an essential tool if we are to have any influence in determining future building projects in the Village. It is vital we are able to provide appropriate and affordable housing if future generations of our community are to remain in the area. Financially the Parish Council is in good shape, any local group in need of funding should contact the Clerk for a grant application form. Finally there is a vacancy for a councillor so please apply, the Parish Council needs a mix of skills and experience to make a difference.

5. Churchyard report: Reverend Susan Suddaby retired at the end of November, so sadly for the third time in 10 years this Parish is without a rector. The two Churchwardens and the entire Parochial Church council thanked the Parish council for its support and assistance of the cost of the maintenance of the churchyard. There is a considerable area to grass to mow and trees and hedges to attend to. Earlier this year the Horse Chestnut tree was in need of attention to reduce its weight and height, this was done thus making the Churchyard safe. Sadly Pauline White, our long serving gardener has retired, leaving a vacant job opportunity. One quote has been received and another is awaited. In the meantime, work is still being carried out to keep the grass down.

6. School report: 2008/09 saw the school celebrating becoming an all through primary 4-11 years. The summer holidays saw building works to the Scola Block giving a more modern and light feel. Special thanks went to parent governor Steve Corr for his support. Accessibility to the building and creation of a kitchen to serve hot dinners got under way in the new academic year with new fencing and modifications to the group room planned. The addition of a further year group has led to growth in the school and from September 2009 will move towards a 4 class school with new teachers appointed. The entire school team thanked the community for their support over the last year. See you at the Summer Fayre next month!

7. Village Hall report: After a lot of hard work, the redevelopment of the Village Hall was completed in December ahead of time and within budget and the Hall re-opened in January. The trustees thanked the Parish Council for all their help and financial support during this time. The new hall is much admired and is a credit to Northchapel. Forward bookings are strong with the Brownies returning, dog training, Pilates, kids Judo and a Mothers and Toddler Group. With this added income the trustees will not be asking for any precept from the Parish Council this financial year 2009/10.

8. County Councillors report: Councillor Chris Duncton stated that the County Council elections had been delayed by 1 month to coincide with the European Elections. He also added that the developer in Lurgashall was being helpful with regard to the state of Hillgrove Road and that the road would be assessed when finished to gauge costs.

9. District Councillors report: Councillor Andrews announced Chichester District Council had had a good year 2008/09 being given high marks by the Audit Commission for service delivery. He continued that the LDF (Local Development Framework) still astonishes him, having already spent £1m with regret it is failing. A bottom up decision should be made not a centralised one, quite simply decent housing for decent people at a decent cost. Delays to the long awaited by-pass on the A27 at Chichester means that there is no guarantee that the works will be carried out within the District Councils plan period. It is essential to create both housing and jobs around the area to avoid people going out of the area. The LDF is to proceed to full consultation for 2010/11 with the plans for the following 2 years of planning in the district. The consequences of extreme borrowing will lead to reduced services and Councillor Andrews impressed that it vital the Parish Council take care and keep updated with all service reviews and to use him to understand the changes as services cannot afforded to be lost.

10. Public questions: A member of the public disagreed with the Chairman's comment that only a small % of irresponsible drivers caused the speed/noise issue within the Parish and asked whether any feedback had been received from Highways since the last meeting. The Chairman responded that no feedback had yet been received but still early days and any updates would be fed back at the Parish Council meetings.

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