

NORTHCHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of a Meeting held at Northchapel Village Hall On Monday 5th January 2015

Present: Councillors Willie Poste (Chair), Simon Arnold, Lynda Bell, Sharon Holden, Gaye Jordan, Georgina Murphy and Jane Walter

In attendance: Mrs Helen Cruikshank, Parish Clerk
County Councillor Janet Duncton
District Councillor Nick Thomas
Home-Start Chichester & District Co-ordinator, Jan Barsby

SPEAKER: JAN BARSBY FROM HOME-START CHICHESTER & DISTRICT

Following a letter request for funding, it was decided at the last PC meeting in December to invite a representative along from Home-Start Chichester & District to explain what service they provide in the area.

Jan Barsby explained that Home-Start Chichester & District work with families facing difficulties, supporting mothers struggling with post natal depression or mental health issues, families needing emotional support, help with disabled children and those in rural isolation. The only stipulation being that the family must have a child under the age of 5. They work hand in hand with social services. Home-Start Chichester & District consist of a team of 55 volunteers working with 42 families, working on average 3-4 hours per week with each family. They currently visit two families in Northchapel. They cover a large area from Chichester to Selsey to Camesdale to Billingshurst. Jan said unfortunately the charity had lost its funding from the Big Lottery as the area had been deemed not an area with need. Home-Start gets referrals from midwives and health visitors for low level support, supporting those who fall below the state threshold for help therefore preventing a high level of need later on. There is no time limit for each family seen although it is on average for 9 months. Once the oldest child reaches 5 years old, Home-Start try to find help elsewhere for the family. The work with each family is tailor-made so the appropriate volunteers are picked to the individual family problems. It is a very rewarding and fulfilling job.

The Chairman thanked Jan for an interesting and informative talk. He proceeded to welcome everyone to the meeting and wished them a Happy New Year.

Comments and Questions from members of the Public

There were no members of the Public present.

1. Apologies for Absence: Councillor Paul Markides
Councillor Stephen Wordsworth
PCSO Richard Boston
District Councillor Philippa Hardwick

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st December 2014 were approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Police Report

In the absence of the Police, the Clerk read out a brief report. There is really very little happening in the Midhurst & Petworth area over the Christmas period. The most notable incident was the robbery that occurred at the Flower Bowl Garage at the start of the month. Sussex Police have been taking part in Operation Dragonfly which is a joint operation with Surrey Police, targeting drink/drug drivers over the festive period. The shed breaks, which we saw regularly happening in the past few months, have ceased after a number of arrests were made. If there is anything that anyone needs me to be aware of, then please do let me know. See you in March!

5. Reports from the elected representatives of WSCC and CDC

County Councillor Janet Duncton reported on the support and help available from WSCC to carers and those who look after the elderly. www.westsussexconnecttosupport.org The County is also looking for foster parents, email fostering.adoption@westsussex.gov.uk or phone 033 022 27775 for more information. She said the North Chichester CLC meeting is being held next Tuesday 13th January and there were two internal meetings coming up to discuss the potential extension to Gatwick airport. Previously WSCC had in principle offered their support to Gatwick but these new meetings were re-looking at the proposals. Any issues please contact me on janet.duncton@westsussex.gov.uk

District Councillor Nick Thomas spoke of the CDC local plan which was awaiting an inspector's report. He reported that there had been an interesting cabinet meeting with a well put together budget for 2015/16, which still ensured all current services were covered. He spoke of the new Waitrose development in Midhurst which is due to be built this year on the old Grange site which will provide 150 new jobs to the area and increase the parking facility to 325 spaces. He said it would be a huge boost to the town. He reminded all that the May 2015 was a busy time with a general election, District Council elections and Parish Council elections. He and Philippa Hardwick would be standing again for the Plaistow Ward as would Janet Duncton and Eileen Lintill in Petworth. The Crouchlands Biogas site, 2.5 miles this side of Plaistow is submitting retrospective plans to CDC in February, the major issue with this is the Highways problem. Any queries or problems, then please contact either Nick nthomas@chichester.gov.uk or Philippa phardwick@chichester.gov.uk

6. Working Party Reports

Allotments: Councillor Poste stated that all the Allotment plots were now taken.

Village Green and Play Area: Councillor Poste reported that the Village Green was in fairly good order for this time of the year. He added that everything was in a good state at the Play Area too. He commented on the good job the parishioners who had cleared around the village hall had done. There is a dead Horse Chestnut tree near to the village hall which needs attention and some clearing, he would organise for this to be done.

Footpaths, Hedges and Rights of Way: Councillor Walter had received thanks from the Spinks for the pavement clearing by CDC. She added that there were some loose kerbstones on Pipers Lane by the School which were a hazard. Clerk to report to WSCC Highways for urgent attention. Concern was also raised regarding the footpath leading from the main road across from the village shop to Luffs Meadow. It was very patchy and uneven in places which are unsafe for elderly residents using the path. Clerk to report to WSCC Highways. Councillor Walter said there had been a problem with the footpath leading across one of Alex Baker's field and he had been very quick to respond.

Village Hall: Councillor Holden reported that there would be film night showing The Book Thief on Friday 23rd January at 7pm. All welcome to come along. £5.50 per ticket

Housing: The Parish Council are due to have a meeting on Wednesday 21st January with Holly Nichols (CDC Rural Housing Officer) to discuss the current system and issues in the village. All Councillors welcome to attend.

Website: Councillor Arnold said all was going well with the website and he had a meeting with the village hall representatives to discuss their requirements. He said that anyone wanting to add anything onto the website, should email him on simonarnold59@gmail.com with the details and he would update as needed.

Northchapel Youth: Councillor Bell said she hoped that the Purple Bus would return to Northchapel in the summer term.

Planning: The Clerk informed the Planning Committee that Councillor Markides would be organising a planning meeting on Saturday 10th January to discuss the outstanding planning application (SDNP/14/06286/FUL) for the modifications to the flat above the shop. There was no objection by the Parish Council to the planning application SDNP/14/06448/TCA for the pollarding of nine lime trees in the Churchyard at St Michael's. Councillor Walter asked after the recent Hillgrove Spring Farm application for the change of use of existing building from spring water bottling plant to timber store (SDNP/14/05710/FUL). Councillor Bell confirmed there had been no objection to this at a recent planning meeting.

7. Defibrillator in Northchapel

Due to seasonal pressures, Malcolm Legg (SECAMB) is currently supporting operations. Clerk has completed the necessary forms to ensure the defibrillator in Northchapel is on the list of available machines in the area. If there are any 999 calls, then people will be made aware of it. Malcolm will be in touch with dates for a training session, as soon as he can. The defibrillator is in working order and has instructions for use if needed.

8. Central Path to Valentines Lea lighting

Councillor Walter had been approached by a parishioner to see if the Central Path to Valentines Lea could somehow be lit. Clerk to contact SSE who recently had been given the job by WSCC to replace all the Street Lighting in the County, to enquire whether an additional light could be added onto the current system.

9. Northchapel Current Community Issues List

Clerk had received an email from the Community Officer/Rural Team at WSCC who are in the process of reviewing the community's issues list to ensure they include all the parishes' most up to date concerns. She asked the Parish Council to place issues in order of importance. After some discussion, it was agreed that the School Safety Zone on Pipers Lane be the priority followed by the speed reduction at Cripplecrutch/Fishers Street then the pedestrian enhancements in Valentines Lea, the scheme in increase parking in Luffs Meadow and the traffic management and parking in Valentines Lea. Clerk to feedback these results to WSCC Highways.

10. Additional Donation requests 2014/15

It was agreed to donate £1500 to Home-Start Chichester & District and £1000 to West Sussex Rural Mobile Youth Trust (Purple Bus).

11. Approved Precept/Budget figures 2015/16

Clerk handed out the final figures for 2015/16. These were very much in line with the 2014/15 figures and agreed in line with the precept being set at the last meeting at £30,000 less the CDC grant of £2,625. Clerk to inform CDC.

12. Financial Matters

- The Council's current financial position @ £40,006 was noted.
- The Bank reconciliation as at at Appendix 4 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment at Appendix 5 was noted and cheques approved for CCP Groundcare @£336 (clearing ditches and leaf collecting), Mrs Helen Cruikshank @£192.47(General Exps Q3 14/15 plus reimbursement of two hampers), WSCC (Clerk's Dec 14 Salary & Admin Charges) @ £462.41, Southern Water (Allotment water) @ £24.85, Northchapel Village Hall (Annual Donation 14/15) @ £500, Northchapel Primary School (Annual Donation 14/15) @ £300, Petworth Cottage Nursing Home (Annual Donation 14/15) @ £100, Petworth Over 60's (Annual Donation 14/15) @ £50, St Michael's Church (donation towards tree surgery) @ £1000 and Northchapel Community Swimming Pool (donation towards new changing room facilities) @ £500.

13. Clerks report

Clerk reported there is a North Chichester CLC meeting on Tuesday 13th January 2015 at 7pm at Compton and Upmarden Primary School. Councillors Poste and Holden kindly offered to attend.

Councillor Poste had received a quote from A J Stemp for the tree works to be done in the village for £940. Clerk to contact the CDC tree officer, Henry Whitby regarding planning requirements before the work commences. The works includes the felling of a dead horse chestnut tree by the village hall, the re-pollarding of a horse chestnut tree outside of Barns Close and the intention to raise the crowns on the 6 no. Plane trees and 1 no Horse Chestnut tree on the Village Green.

14. Items to be included on the next agenda

Elections May 2015

15. Date of next meeting - Monday 2nd March 2015 at 8pm at Northchapel Village Hall.

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