

# NORTHCHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

## APPROVED Minutes of a Meeting held at Northchapel Village Hall, On Monday 7th July 2014

**Present:** Councillors Mr Willie Poste (Chairman), Mrs Jane Walter, Mrs Sharon Holden, Mrs Georgina Murphy and Mrs Gaye Jordan

**In attendance:** Mrs Helen Cruikshank, Parish Clerk

**Comments and Questions from the members of the public:** There were no members of the Public present.

**18. Apologies for absence:** Parish Councillor Lynda Bell  
Parish Councillor Stephen Wordsworth  
Parish Councillor Simon Arnold  
Parish Councillor Paul Markides  
County Councillor Janet Duncton  
District Councillor Philippa Hardwick

**19. Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.

**20. Minutes:** The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed.

**21. PCSO Richard Boston:** There was no Police report however Councillor Holden reported on a Community Meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July following on from the problems in the village. PCSO Boston and PC Cobby had organised the meeting. Concerns had been raised with regard Anti Social Behaviour and drug dealing. The Police have been visiting the village more regularly both in plain clothes and uniformed. Any suspicious activity MUST be reported to the Police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

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

There were no reports from the CDC or WSCC.

**23. Working Party Reports**

- **Allotments, Village Green and Play Area:** Councillor Poste said the Village Green was now being cut once a week to keep the levels down. The Sports Club had written and spoken to the Parish Council with their concerns that the grass is not short enough and when Stool ball is played that the ball is not rolling. Previously it was agreed that this was the case but since the weekly cuts, the grass is as short as it has ever been. This is at an additional cost to the Parish Council too. It was suggested that once the football season is over that the grass should be rolled when wet to ensure these problems do not re-occur next year. Furthermore it was noted that the area in question is a Village Green and not just a Sports Ground and therefore maintained to a standard to benefit all. Clerk to write to the Sports Club. Councillor Poste reported that he was a bit concerned that there were now several vacant plots at the Allotments, and he fears there will be more towards the end of the year. The wall by the allotment entrance had fallen down but he reported that this is due to be repaired. The Parish Council were still waiting to receive the ROSPA report (Annual Inspection report for the Play Area which had been done in June), Clerk said she would chase. Councillor Poste asked the Clerk to contact the Fisher Street Community Group for an update on the old BT kiosk.
- **Footpaths, Hedges and ROW's:** Councillor Walter thanked Councillor Poste for organising the repair of the Creek fencing and the removal of the tree. She raised concern about the black post outside of the shop and wondered whether it could be painted to make it more obvious or have reflectors put on it. Clerk to contact Fiona Baker at WSCC Highways to ask permission to do this.
- **Planning:** Councillor Walter said there had been a planning meeting on Saturday; she asked whether there was an update on CDC's visit to Willow Spring Farm. Clerk to enquire. The Parish Council were still waiting for the next stage of the Hillgrove Stud Farm to come through the planning process.
- **Village Hall:** Councillor Holden said she had nothing to report. It was a quiet time of year.

- **Housing:** Councillor Holden said a one bedroom flat had been filled but a 3 bedroom house was still empty in the village. There is concern over a flat in Valentines Lea which is currently empty. Rent is being paid but no-one is living there. Councillor Holden reported that Hyde Martlet can now do something about this and if information is fed to the housing officer, he is the one who goes to court to give evidence not the residents so there are no reprisals.
- **Website:** All was going well with the website.
- **Winter Plan:** Councillor Poste reported he had filled in the Salt Bin and Bulk Bag Audit for the Parish which the Clerk would feed back to WSCC.
- **Northchapel Youth:** The evaluation report from the Spring Term had been received and read as follows: This was a successful Purple Bus project with a good number of young people accessing the provision, participating in a variety of informal education activities. The agreed location for parking the Bus in the Village Hall car park continues to work well providing a little outside space for the young people to use and plenty of room for the vehicle to manoeuvre. We have had lower numbers this last term with around 10 young people attending the sessions regularly. They are mostly male between the ages of 12 and 18. 4 of these young people live in Hyde housing. The group have shown great progress through out the many years that we have been coming to Northchapel, but are clearly still benefitting from having the Purple Bus there as there are no other youth provision within easy travelling distance. This term we have been focusing on a completely new topic with the group and have agreed to continue our support to the end of the summer term. The programme contained a balance of games, sport and activities as well as making a start in their D of E bronze course and the building of an electric racing car to compete in the Greenpower Educational Trust competitions at Goodwood. [www.greenpower.co.uk/](http://www.greenpower.co.uk/) This will continue into the Summer term when another exit report will be written. The Greenpower racing project is in partnership working with Hyde Housing. The historical main issues around behaviour and respect have been worked with. There has been huge developments and the group are becoming very mature young adults, a credit to the village.. It is clear that the young people in Northchapel continue to want and need good youth provision and a long term solution may need to be considered if the appropriate resources are available. The Sylvia Beaufoy Youth Centre in Petworth is open Monday night from 7pm to 9pm, Wednesday night from 7pm to 9pm Thursdays from 3pm to 6pm.

The report of the race itself from Dan Sneller, the Youth Worker read as follows:

The race went much better than expected. We only had about 12 hours to build the car and the expected time is about 30 hours, so we did very well with that and the young people worked very hard on this. On the race day we arrived at Goodwood with the car needing one or 2 bits still to be done on it to get it finished. With 2 minutes left before the MOT slot closed we get the car finished and passed it MOT. We then had a 90 minute practice session, 2 laps into this the car broke down and the young people had to work very hard for the rest of the session to fix it. Then mean that we had to go into the first race with no practice or running time on the car at all. The first race, everyone was very nervous because the car had not been driven before, but we finished the 90 minute race coming in 36<sup>th</sup> out of 62 cars. A massive achievement. The second race, again 90 minutes long and once again we came 36<sup>th</sup> out of 62 cars. This ended with our team getting a trophy for the best new comer and highest every finishing new coming. The young people did very well and it is looking like we are through to the final! Watch this space

#### 24. Condition of Village Green

This was discussed under Allotments, Play Area and Village Green in the Working Party reports.

#### 25. The Creek Fencing

Councillor Holden raised concern which had been highlighted by Straight Line Fencing with regard to the chestnut palling on the fencing by The Creek (right hand side as you go down the footpath from the main road). There are lots of palings missing and its safety is of some concern. Clerk to report to WSCC and find out who is responsible.

#### 26. Defibrillator in Northchapel

Following on from the last meeting, Councillor Poste had looked at the possibility of positioning the defibrillator in the centre of the village at the top of the Village Green. Councillor Bell had received confirmation from SECAMB that the defibrillator measurements are 31x33x20cm. All agreed that the positioning and placing of the defibrillator alongside the notice board, ideal. The Parish Council would need to purchase a box/casing to house the defibrillator (which itself will be provided by SECAMB) and the casing would then need to be fixed to the base of the notice board. Councillor Poste to seek a quote for a price for this. All in favour.

#### 27. New Homes Bonus

It was agreed that the Clerk apply for funding for the box to put the defibrillator in as part of the New Homes Bonus. Deadline 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

**28. Financial Matters**

- The Council's current financial position @ £37,057 was noted.
- The Bank reconciliation as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at Appendix 2 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment at Appendix 3 was noted and approved including Straight Line Fencing @ £510 (Creek fencing), CCP Groundcare @ £1044 (Grass Cutting), Southern Water @£15.53 (Allotment Water), Mrs Helen Cruikshank @£84.34 (Q1 14/15 General Exps) and WSCC @ £419.21 (Clerk's June Salary).

**29. Clerks Report**

The Clerks reported that Councillors had attended several meetings over the past few weeks. Councillor Walter had attended the recent North-East Parishes Forum held in Petworth. These were now being reduced to twice yearly from quarterly. Councillor Jordan had attended the visit of Nick Boles the MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State of Planning.

Councillors Poste had attended the North Chichester CLC meeting in Lurgashall where there had been much discussion over the current consultation over the reduction to the Fire and Rescue Service which affects all the local stations. Clerk read out a letter she had received from a retired firefighter asking the Parish Council to support local stations and reject the proposal to reduce cover in rural areas. The letter raised concerns and highlighted risks with regard to WSCC cuts to the Fire & Rescue Service including the removal of one of the two Fire Appliances based in Petworth, Storrington and Midhurst. The Parish Council agreed to support the fire fighters, Clerk to respond to the consultation rejecting the proposals.

Councillor Jordan had been approached to suggest a representative from Northchapel to be part of the Chiddingfold/Dunsfold Patient Participation Group (PPG). The representative would act as a channel of communication between patients and the surgery to enhance quality of service and give people a voice. Suggestions welcomed.

Councillor Poste said the two green polyboard memorial benches had been ordered and due for delivery within 4-6 weeks. Plaques would then be ordered separately.

Clerk to report to WSCC Highways that the flashing lights for the School Crossing are not working. She would also contact the Primary School and suggest they report it too.

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

Refreshing the Parish Plan

**31. Date of next meeting**

MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 at 8PM at the Village Hall.

Signed .....

Date .....