

NORTHCHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of a Meeting held at Northchapel Village Hall, On Monday 1st September 2014

Present: Councillors Mr Willie Poste (Chairman), Mrs Lynda Bell, Mrs Sharon Holden, Mr Stephen Wordsworth, Mr Simon Arnold and Mrs Gaye Jordan

In attendance: Mrs Helen Cruikshank, Parish Clerk
County Councillor Janet Duncton
District Councillor Nick Thomas

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

- 32. Apologies for absence:** Parish Councillor Jane Walter
Parish Councillor Georgina Murphy
Parish Councillor Paul Markides
District Councillor Philippa Hardwick
PCSO Richard Boston
- 33. Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 34. Minutes:** The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th July 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed.
- 35. PCSO Richard Boston:** In his absence, the Clerk read out the written report PCSO Boston had kindly sent.

Local crime trends

We are currently at the same crime levels as we were at this point a year ago. After a very quiet 6 months where there was a considerable reduction in crime, we have recently been getting hit with breaks to outhouses sheds and garages. I would emphasise how important it is to keep these types of premises secure. Sometimes we can become relaxed when living in areas of low crime and the necessary crime prevention measures are overlooked. Always remember to keep sheds locked when equipment isn't being used. A cheap shed alarm can be purchased from most home stores. These typically cost between £10-£15 and work much in the same way as a car alarm. Scaring of any would be thieves.

I can't stress how important it is to contact us if any suspicious activity or suspicious vehicles are seen in the area. If you feel something is out of place record the vehicles number plate or description of the people responsible and contact us on 101. It is these types of reports that give us an idea of individuals who may be targeting or who intend to target your area. Allowing us to visit them and get them to account for why they are in a particular area.

Antisocial behaviour has been reported in Valentines Lea. We have conducted both high visibility and plain clothes patrols of the area and people who have been identified as being responsible have been visited by ourselves. We continue to carry out these patrols and deal with any offences identified.

Overview of operations

Operation Limestone- Operation Limestone is an operation run by the Midhurst and Petworth neighbourhood policing team targeting rural criminals. This consists of working into the early hours of the morning with numerous single and double crewed police units. We mainly look to target commercial vehicles and vans that are typically used in thefts and burglaries. Drivers are spoken to and if grounds permit vehicles are searched. Not only is this an excellent visual deterrent to criminals using the roads in and around the area but it allows us to build up vital intelligence.

Operation Mini- In the summer months of recent years we have seen vehicles targeted in beauty spot car parks. Items such as sat navs wallets and purses amongst other things have been typically stolen. Throughout the year we have been conducting both marked and plain patrols to deter and catch thieves committing this type of crime.

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

County Councillor Janet Dunton said there was not an awful lot to report to Northchapel. The County keeps the Parish Council up to date with Highways road closures and footpath repairs/works. Councillor Bell enquired whether Northchapel would be getting fibre optic installed in the parish. County Councillor Dunton said she would investigate and feedback information to the Clerk. Councillor Wordsworth enquired after the progress with the Fisher Street traffic calming project and what the £15K allocation was due to be spent on for the improving the visibility at the junction and when this was due to be done. County Councillor Dunton said she would find out an update as agreed the traffic on that stretch of the road is too fast and safety and traffic calming measures are required. Councillor Wordsworth suggested that the overtaking lines are taken away, but as with all changes this is not as simple as it sounds. It was agreed that it seemed ridiculous that there is no correlation between Counties as the speed limits vary between Surrey and West Sussex.

UPDATE on High Speed Broadband in the parish from CC Dunton: The parish of Northchapel is served by four cabinets which are connected to the Northchapel Exchange. Three of the four cabinets are within the current plan and surveys are due to take place early next year. The cabinets are planned to be built (subject to outcome of surveys) in two phases, and residents will be able to purchase faster broadband by end of 2015. The fourth cabinet serves only a handful of residents and is not currently in the initial plans. They will not have access to this faster broadband given their distance from the cabinet and BT do not currently have the technology to resolve this problem in the short term. These premises will remain eligible for funding for a superfast service as part of the additional funding WSCC has secured as part of the Government's Superfast Extension Scheme.

District Councillor Nick Thomas said the Oil Exploration proposals at Fernhurst are going to the SDNPA Planning Committee on 11th September. The proposals in Wisborough Green were turned down in July due to Highways reasons.

Clerk to email round District Councillor Hardwick's report. Dates which may be of interest to Northchapel residents : Dementia Awareness event - Monday 15th September at Chichester Library and Tour of Britain passing through Petworth on Saturday 13th September at 11.20am. Maps available at www.chichester.gov.uk/tourofbritain

David Burden from SDNPA spoke of the forthcoming SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) report which is due out over the next few months.

37. Working Party Reports

- **Allotments, Village Green and Play Area:** Councillor Poste said two plots had been recently taken at the Allotments so there was only one plot vacant for the next year. Councillor Poste confirmed that the hedges belonging to the house on the corner of the Village Green track were going to be cut shortly. He said that the trees on the Village Green will need pollarding this year, some of the bottom branches will need lifting up. With regard to the recent Play Area Inspection report, there was nothing serious which was highlighted with just a few boards needing replacing. The memorial bench in the play area is in a bad way so will need to be repaired.
- **Footpaths, Hedges and ROW's:** The Clerk reported that Councillor Walter had reported the broken handrail on the bridge behind Oaklea. Nick Scott, the WSCC Access Ranger is due to visit Northchapel shortly to arrange routine maintenance work. Any issues with the PROWs then please let the Clerk know so she can pass on the information. Following a complaint which Councillor Walter received from a parishioner regarding the state of the pavement and the overgrown hedges on Valentines Hill, the Clerk reported these to WSCC/CDC. Councillor Poste to speak to another householder regarding some overgrown hedges on the main road.
- **Planning:** There is currently one outstanding application so Councillor Markides will organise a planning meeting on Saturday to discuss this.
- **Village Hall:** Councillor Holden said she had nothing to report.
- **Housing:** Councillor Holden said that both the Police and Hyde had recently been out to Valentines Lea following reports of Anti-social behaviour. Some of the housing in Valentines Lea is in quite a state with guttering and fascias needing urgent attention.
- **Website:** Councillor Arnold said he had nothing to report. The website had had 5,000 hits so someone is looking at it!
- **Winter Plan:** Councillor Poste reported the Salt Bin and Bulk Bag Audit 2014/15 for the Parish had been submitted to WSCC Highways There was no need for any more grit/salt at this time.

- **Northchapel Youth:** Councillor Bell said that the Purple Bus was not in Northchapel for the Autumn Term but it is hoped it will want to come back in 2015.

38. Defibrillator in Northchapel

Councillor Poste reported that the frame is currently been made to join onto the end of the notice board to fit the case for the defibrillator to be housed. The case itself has been ordered. Councillor Bell added that once this is all done then the SECAMB (South East Coast Ambulance) will come and fit the defibrillator and offer a training session for villagers. She confirmed that SECAMB had advised that the defibrillator will be unlocked so it is quicker and easier to use in case of emergencies.

39. BT Kiosk - Fisher Street

Councillor Poste said that he had noticed that the house by the BT Kiosk at Fisher Street was on the market. There was concern as the BT kiosk was owned by the Fisher Street Community Group and the parishioner who had kindly maintained the kiosk lives at this house. Councillor Poste said he would visit the parishioner and ascertain the situation.

40. Refreshing the Parish Plan

There was no update with this.

41. New Homes Bonus

The Clerk confirmed she had submitted the application for the New Homes Bonus 2014/15 to CDC for funding towards the defibrillator casing. This will be considered on 15th September.

42. Community Right to Bid

Clerk had re-submitted the two applications for the Village Shop and the Half Moon Pub.

43. Financial Matters

- The Council's current financial position @ £32,269 was noted.
- The Bank reconciliation as at 15th August 2014 at Appendix 2 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment at Appendix 3 was noted and approved including WSCC (Clerk's August Salary) @ £419 and Mr John Carter (Memorial bench installation) @ £60. Clerk added that the PWLB loan repayment of £1372 is due on 23rd September and the second instalment of the precept £15,000 is due this month too.
- The Budget Monitoring Sheet for Q1 2014/15 was noted. The Clerk said she would organise a Finance review meeting prior to the next meeting.

44. Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that there were several meetings over the next couple of months. WSALC AGM on Wednesday 3rd September (Councillor Poste is attending this), the North Chi CLC meeting on Tuesday 7th October at 7pm at Duncton Village Hall, All Parishes Meeting on Tuesday 21st October at 6pm at East Pallant House and the NE Parishes Forum on Wednesday 12th November at 7pm at Fittleworth Village Hall. Please let the Clerk know if any Councillors would like to attend any of these. There is also the bi-annual SDNP meeting in the next couple of months - date yet to be confirmed.

45. Items to be included on the next agenda

Suggestions to Clerk by Monday 27th October.

46. Date of next meeting

MONDAY 3rd November 2014 at 8PM at the Village Hall.

Signed

Date