



NORTHCHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of a FINANCE PRECEPT ONLY Meeting

held at the Village Hall on Thursday 7th December 2023 at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mr Alex Baker, Mr Melvin Greet, Mrs Sharon Holden (Chairman) and Mr John Sochovsky,

In attendance: Mrs Helen Cruikshank, Parish Clerk
There were no members of the public in attendance.

88/23 Apologies for absence: Apologies had been received and were accepted from Councillors Daphne Trussler, Laura Green and Ed Warren.

89/23 Declarations of Interest: Councillor Sharon Holden declared an interest as a member of the Northchapel Village Hall Management Committee and member of the PCC. Councillor Melvin Greet declared an interest as a volunteer for the Community Swimming Pool. Councillor John Sochovsky declared an interest as a volunteer/helper at the Northchapel Youth Club.

90/23 Minutes: The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd November 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed.

91/23 Grants and Donations 2023/24

The figures for the current budget 2023/24 were examined at Appendix 2. All budgeted annual grants and donations previously agreed were approved as follows:

Northchapel Primary School £300
Northchapel Village Hall £500
Petworth Over 60's Club £50
Petworth Cottage Nursing Home £100
Citizens Advice Bureau Waverley £200
Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance £300 (increase from £250 in 2022/23)
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal £50

It was determined there was some money available for the additional grant requests received. After discussion, the following donations were agreed:

- Northchapel Primary School (Subscription to WSCC school library service and Maths subscription) @ £1,232
- 4Sight (Chichester based charity dealing with people with sight loss) @ £110

Northchapel Primary School requested help with a contribution to the annual upkeep of the community swimming pool. It was agreed that instead of a donation, that the repayment of the loan (£500) for the year 2023/24 would be waived.

It was agreed to pay the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) for the hall rental when the Youth Club sessions are held as this is what was done previously when the Purple Bus and the SCYP ran the youth provision in the village.

All donations and grants will be paid at January's meeting.

92/23 Budget and Precept 2024/25

The draft figures for 2024/25 were considered. Despite high expenditure forecast for 2024/25 with potential funding for new playground equipment, the village traffic and speed project, further tree-work and possible works to the Manorial Waste, it was agreed the precept should remain at £30,000.

93/23 To consider urgent items at the Chairman's discretion

Following the discussion at the last meeting regarding Emergency Planning, a member of the public had emailed and suggested the Working Men's Club be considered as an emergency hub as it already has a generator. Whilst all agreed this was a good idea, the size and kitchen capability of the Club is not ideal so it was decided to look into simply putting in the correct electric outputs at the Village Hall to enable a generator to be used as and when required. Councillor Baker very kindly offered to supply a generator large enough when it is needed.

The PCSO had sent an update in relation to the recent burglary at the Northchapel Stores & Post Office. This is the type of crime that is being seen more and more in rural areas. There have been a few burglaries whereby suspects are targeting rural stores and stealing cigarettes. There is currently an ongoing operation to try and tackle this along with directed patrols in the areas during night shifts. I don't believe there is any link between the suspect male involved.

94/23 Date of next meeting

Thursday 4th January 2024 at 8pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Signed

Date