

# **NORTHCHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Approved minutes of a Meeting held at Northchapel Village Hall, On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**Present:** Councillors Mr Willie Poste, Mrs Jane Walter, Mrs Lynda Bell, Mr Alex Brown, Mr David Burden, Mr Andrew Dempsey, Mrs Georgina Murphy and Mrs Angelique Burns

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

**Comments and Questions from the members of the public:**

There were no members of the public present.

**65. Apologies for absence:** Councillor Mrs Sharon Holden due to illness.

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

**67. Matters arising from the last minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting:** There were no matters arising.

**68. Minutes:** The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed.

**69. PCSO Clair Gamlin:** There was no report.

**Please use Operation Crackdown 01243 64 22 22 or [www.OperationCrackdown.org](http://www.OperationCrackdown.org) for all anti-social driving (speeding, thoughtless and dangerous driving) and abandoned vehicles.**

**70. Report from the Elected Representatives of West Sussex County Council and Chichester District Council if available.**

The Chairman welcomed the new District Councillor, Linda Westmore to the meeting. She began with the health issue of the recent bad news that the Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust had reported a high mortality rate in 2010. She spoke of the program to stop cars being sold in lay-bys and the Walk Alone and Street Dance programs currently being run by the District Council. Football in the Community sessions are again being held during half-term. District Councillor Westmore finished by speaking of the budget cuts being imposed onto the District Council which may give more power to Parish Councils. She would report more when she heard the final decisions.

There was no report from the County Councillor.

**71. Working Party Reports**

**Allotments, Village Green and Play Area** - Councillor Poste said there was nothing to report regarding the Allotments. A young local lad had been asked to fill in some of the potholes on the Village Green track. Councillor Walter reported that Timberline had come back to look at the issues identified in the ROSPA report and they would be replacing the slide with one with a rubber seal and would sink the scabble net into the ground. The broken see-saw will be removed and repaired by Playsafe Playgrounds of Elsted, Midhurst. Clerk to chase when this would be done.

**Planning** - Councillor Brown reported that only a few planning applications had come through in the last few months. There had been some concern regarding a caravan in a field by some stables at Tanards Common and a fence which had been erected but DC planning enforcement is aware of the problem and are investigating. He drew attention to the fact that if the new National Park status has an impact on PC powers with regard to planning then new training would be required for Councillors.

**Footpaths**- Councillor Walter stated that the WSCC Rangers who had been delayed from November 2010 due to the weather would be inspecting the Public Rights of Ways in Northchapel Parish in the very near future. They are aware of the bridges in the Frith and on the footpath behind Oaklea which need attention. Concern was raised regarding inconsiderate parking on the green in Valentines Lea and who was responsible for policing the problem. District Councillor Westmore said she would investigate and report back. Councillor Walter reported that the markings in the lay-by opposite the shop were much worn and the poor state of the road markings throughout the village. She also highlighted the

broken corner stones which were displaced at the corner of the Deepwell and A283. Clerk to report both of these issues to WSCC Highways.

**Village Hall** – In Councillor Holden’s absence, Councillor Burden reported there had been a Village Hall Committee finance review last week. Lunches were proving very successful and there had been some good fundraising events. However hall bookings were not so good and a £2k deficit reported year on year. The village hall committee welcomes all to use the hall and are assured bookings will pick up.

**Housing** – Councillor Dempsey said that on January 26<sup>th</sup> Chichester District Council would be coming to inspect 4 houses in St Michaels Close at 10am. They will be inspecting the properties with their residents to identify whether there is a real lack of maintenance issue or just general wear and tear. CDC will then write a report which hopefully can subsequently be used to put pressure onto HOME.

**National Park** – Councillor Burden said the South Downs National Park continues to progress with meetings being held amongst the three counties. All are looking forward to 1<sup>st</sup> April when it starts operating for real. Councillor Burden had given Liz Ballard from the SDNPA an impromptu tour of the parish.

## **72. Parish Land Ownership**

Councillor Poste said that registering all the parish land would be an expensive task given the Parish Council knows which pieces of land it owns. However he suggested that maps be put onto the notice boards and website identifying and highlighting these pieces of land. Much of the land had been legally transferred from the Leconfield Estate. He specified the Allotments, Pound Piece, Manorial land, Village Hall land, Councillor Poste would liaise with the Clerk to organize and clarify this matter. Councillor Bell added she thought it important to have to hand proof of ownership of the land in question.

## **73. Councillor Training**

Councillor Training will take place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm at Northchapel Village Hall.

## **74. Grass Cutting Contract 2011/12**

Councillor Poste said that Mandeb/Goodyear have frozen their prices for grass cutting for the forthcoming year and recommended that they continue as they do such a good job. The Parish Council all agreed.

## **75. Financial Matters**

- The approved final budget figures for 2011/12 at Appendix 2 were noted. Clerk confirmed that at year-end the Parish Council would have an estimated £15,000 in the bank for general reserves, village maintenance, play area mtce, tree surgery, admin and election reserves.
- The Council’s current financial position @ £28,516 was noted
- The Bank reconciliation at Appendix 3 was noted
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment at Appendix 4 was noted and approved including payments to WSCC @ £815 (Clerks Nov & Dec 2010 Salary), Mrs Helen Cruikshank @ £70 (General Exps Q3) and grants/donations to Northchapel Village Hall @ £733, Northchapel Primary School @ £635, Northchapel Sports Club @ £500, Northchapel Community Swimming Pool project @ £5000, The Grange Centre, Midhurst @ £50, Petworth Cottage Nursing Home @ £50, Petworth Over 60’s Club @ £30, Neighbourhood Watch @ £100, Citizens Advice Bureau @ £35 and the West Sussex Rural Youth Trust @ £500 (Purple Bus).
- The Budget Monitoring Sheet at Appendix 5 was noted.

## **76. Clerks report**

The Clerks report at Appendix 6 was duly received and noted. It was suggested a celebration might be organised for the ensuing Royal Wedding. It was agreed that an article be put into the Parish mag asking for ideas such as a street party or tea at the village hall with a fancy dress theme. Councillor Poste asked that a submission be put in also requesting artwork and ideas for a coat of arms for the village.

## **77. Items to be included on the next agenda**

- Coat of Arms
- Fruit tree planting

Signed .....

Date .....