

NORTHCHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

Unadopted DRAFT minutes of a Meeting held at Northchapel Village Hall, On Wednesday 6th September 2010

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

In attendance: Mrs Helen Cruikshank, Parish Clerk

Comments and Questions from the members of the public:

There were three members of the public present.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

A Member of the Public disputed the ownership of the land outside of the Deepwell Inn. He said that he had maintained the land for 23 years at his personal expense and at no time or when previous planning applications had been submitted had the Parish Council said anything until now regarding his planning application for change of use from a public house to two individual dwellings. He had spent £12,000 repairing potholes and making good the land and at no point had the Parish Council questioned it. He would be contacting his lawyer and the Land Registry with his instructions for ownership with 10 years plus upkeep and 2 yrs squatter's rights. He went on to say that pubs were shutting everywhere, that they had tried to sell it as a going concern but after 3½ years on the market it was definitely going to close in April 2011. Councillor Poste said that the Parish did not want to lose the amenity and appreciated the upset but the Parish Council would wait and act on hearing from his solicitor.

Another Member of the Public, new to the parish, raised concern regarding the speed of traffic through Northchapel and specifically at the South-end as it leaves the village towards the Lurgashall turning. He asked whether the village speed limit could be extended outwards. Councillor Poste replied that there is a traffic management scheme in place which works with the Parish Council. PCSO Ian Luxford said that the Police do as many speed checks as they can outside of the village although it is difficult due to Health and Safety but appreciates that some cars are significantly exceeding the current 60mph limit. County Councillor Duncton commented that it is an unrestricted road so vehicles can go up to 60mph but anything over that is an offence. He added that it cannot be expected that all roads have 30 or 40mph limits placed on them.

29. Apologies for absence: There were no apologies for absence.

30. Declarations of Interest: Councillors Burden and Holden declared a personal interest as Village Hall Trustees

31. Minutes: The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th July 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed.

32. Co-option of Councillor: It was agreed this item be postponed until the next meeting. The Chairman suggested all new Councillors attend a SALC Councillor training course. Clerk said that there were no dates for this year but would let Councillors know the new training programme for 2011 as soon as it was issued.

33. PCSO Ian Luxford: PCSO Ian Luxford reported that there had been a couple of thefts and dodgy people hanging around in the surrounding area and emphasized that it was important that people report any suspicious people and vehicles to the Police. The Police had been involved in an activity outside the school helping aid realism to this term's project with UFO's landing! In response to a question regarding how often speed is tracked in the village, he confirmed that Northchapel had been tracked in the past few weeks by the Police and they come as much as they can. Safety Partnership also come and speed test. **Please use Operation Crackdown 01243 64 22 22 or www.OperationCrackdown.org for all anti-social driving (speeding, thoughtless and dangerous driving) and abandoned vehicles.**

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

District Councillor John Andrews stated there was not much to report due to the summer holidays. Collection of glass in the burgundy recycling bins is currently being negotiated in the hope that these may be recycled at the Ford plant and made into insulating blankets. It is an interesting time ahead with the budget cuts.

County Councillor Chris Duncton stated he was very concerned with the Winter Management Plan and the decision to only supply salt/grit as and when needed. Local Councils have essentially been asked to prepare their own Winter Plan with a strategy for WSCC to deliver bulk bags of grit/salt to key locations identified by local councils. Councillor Poste said he had organised with Horton's Farm to store the bulk bags which will be delivered in October. Horton's Farm would then distribute for use on the Public Highway during times of adverse weather conditions. Councillor Duncton said he thought October was when the salt/grit was being delivered to WSCC.

Councillor Duncton finished by speaking of the upcoming CLC Meeting on September 28th at Capron House where the Fire Service would be presenting and the CDC North-East Parishes Forum Meeting on September 16th at Northchapel Village Hall. There were no issues locally although some road closures within County.

The Chairman thanked both the County and District Councillors for their reports.

35. Working Party Reports

Allotments, Village Green and Play Area - Councillor Poste reported that the hedge by A283 wants cutting back badly as it is over 10 years since it was last done. He had had a quote submitted by James C Smith for £400 which was agreed to be accepted and approved by the Parish Council.

The Village Green as reported at the last meeting is in a bad way, if it is left then come February it will need to be closed and totally re-seeded at a cost of £1000 plus. C Moss & Sons have suggested immediate fertilising and seeding of the area at a cost of £97 which will hopefully prevent closure at a later date. This action was agreed and the quote approved for acceptance.

Councillor Walter reported on 1 or 2 areas of concern (original steel slide and playhouse) resulting from the ROSPA annual inspection report, NO high risk issues but all low/medium. The Parish Council is still waiting for the picnic table to be delivered 2 months after ordering. Clerk to chase. The Parish Council consented to do all immediate repairs deemed necessary.

Planning - Councillor Brown reported that with the LDF put on hold, there was nothing much to report. Councillor Burden stated that the SDNP is in its shadow year and next April 2011 is when the South Downs National Park takes on its statutory planning responsibilities and becomes fully operational.

Footpaths- Councillor Walter stated the Parish Council is still waiting for repairs to the two broken bridges previously reported. The Frith Bridge now being urgent, she will chase.

Village Hall - Councillor Holden said that with a quiet Summer Village Hall bookings were back to normal now with clubs and societies back up and running with the new term.

Housing - A meeting has been arranged for 6th October with Yvonne Thompson at CDC to discuss how they deal with HOME and how to push actions through. Councillors Dempsey and Holden are to attend this meeting and will report back at the next PC meeting. Councillor Murphy reported that HOME had recently supplied new French doors to the properties in St Michaels Close.

36. Parish Land Ownership

The Clerk stated that she had the gift of deeds for the land discussed in Public Questions and had since been in contact with the Land Registry department to find out whom the piece of land in question had been registered to. Land Registry are going to send through a map so all Parish Land may be highlighted, returned and then they will try and identify and investigate into whether this land has all been registered by Northchapel Parish Council Clerk to liaise with Councillor Poste and report back.

The Member of Public from Public Question time reiterated his complaint that if the piece of land outside the Deepwell Inn was Parish Council land then why hadn't they maintained it. He asked whether he would be reimbursed for the £12,000 he had spent on repairs.

Councillor Burden added that the SDNP are keen that villages within its boundaries keep their amenities as they work towards a fully operational status as a National Park. The SDNP authority is presently considering 6 options for a permanent headquarters which will be discussed on 28/09 at the next authority meeting.

37. North-East Parishes Forum

Councillor Walter stated the North-East Parishes Forum is to be held at Northchapel Village Hall on Thursday 16th September at 6.30pm. Councillor Burden agreed to chair the meeting and Councillors Walter, Bell, Holden and Murphy to organise the refreshments for 20 persons.

38. Parish Wheelchair

Councillor Walter suggested a new parish wheelchair be purchased for no more than £150 by the Parish Council to be kept in the Church for use of all parishioners. This was agreed. Clerk has a brochure and will liaise with Councillor Walter.

39. Gateway to National Park Sign

Councillor Walter had been approached by a member of the public on the subject of how Northchapel should be flagged up as a Gateway to the National Park. This would perhaps be in the form of a sign or equivalent. Highways have been contacted regarding the possibility and the Parish Council noted the request.

40. Purple Bus

Councillor Bell told the good news that the Purple bus is returning to Northchapel Village Hall Car Park on Thursdays at 7pm with a new Youth Leader, Dan Snell. This term sessions start on Thursday 16th September 2010.

41. Overhanging trees

It was concluded the state of the overhanging trees in Luffs Meadow were the responsibility of Hyde Martlet not the Parish Council. Councillor Dempsey to report back to those concerned parishioners.

42. Future of the WSCC Day services and activities

Councillor Walter had attended two proposed day care services meetings and stated that the one held at the MRC last week was a complete re-run of the mid-July meeting. The panel had said they had wanted to listen to users of the current Grange day care facility and locals but it appeared nothing had been listened to. She said it was very upsetting for those highly dependent on the centre including their carers' respite. District Councillor John Andrews commented that complaints may finally be sinking through and pressure must be applied. County Councillor Dunton said not to give up and that the CLC committee was very committed that it will stay as a facility as there is no other. It was agreed that the Clerk write a letter supporting the current facility, detailing its necessity in isolated parts of the County like Northchapel and its importance to so many vulnerable and elderly parishioners.

43. Financial Matters

- The Council's current financial position @ £18,310 was noted
- The Bank reconciliation at Appendix 2 was noted
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment at Appendix 3 was noted and approved including payments to Mazars £335 (External Audit Fee 2009/10), WSCC £408 (Clerks July 2010 Salary), Playsafety Ltd £233 (Annual Inspection) and Aon Ltd £111 (mid-term adjustment to include new play equipment).
- The Budget Monitoring Sheet at Appendix 4 was noted. Clerk to send a new copy.

44. Clerks report

The Clerks report was duly received and noted. It was suggested that a training event be organised at the Village Hall one weekday evening for new Councillors as lifestyle and time constraints meant the SALC Three Counties ones were too far afield and at week-ends. Clerk to investigate.

45. Date of next meeting - Monday 1st November 2010 at 8pm Northchapel Village Hall. The Chairman requested that the AGM meeting date be changed to Wednesday 25th May 2011. This was agreed.

46. Items to be included on the next agenda

Ebernoe Common Speaker
National Park working party

Signed

Date