

North Chichester County Local Committee

6th January 2009 - At a meeting of the Committee held at 7 pm at Midhurst Rother College, Midhurst.

Present: Miss Nola Hendon (Chairman), Lt Col Tex Pemberton OBE and Mr Chris Duncton.

In attendance: Richard Perry(Community Services), Graham Glenn (Property Services), Steve Johnson (Highways & Transport), Rick West and Shelagh Clark (Democratic Services).

Chairman's Welcome

100. The Chairman welcomed all present and invited Dr Vitagliano to speak. Dr Vitagliano introduced himself as the new Principal at Midhurst Rother College and informed that he was a former pupil of Midhurst Grammar School. He stated that the College would want to be involved in what was happening in the local community. Dr Vitagliano then remained for the rest of the meeting

Declaration of Interests

101. None

Urgent Matters

102. None

Minutes

103. Reference Minute 92 and an application from Lurgashall Village Hall for Community Initiative Funding, Col Pemberton reiterated that the Hall should apply again during the next financial year.

104. Reference Minute 95 and a request from a resident in Ifold that a pathway be constructed beside the Plaistow Road through Ifold, Steve Johnson and Mr Duncton both confirmed that this had been investigated.

105. Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2008 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Local Authority School Governors

106. Resolved - that the following be appointed as Local Authority Governors

Miss Nola Hendon at Rake C of E First School for a term of four years.

Mrs Sarah Beenie at Petworth C of E Primary School for a term of four years.

Mrs Sarah (known as Sally) Greenwell at Petworth C of E Primary School.

Ofsted Reports

107. The Chairman advised that a number of local schools had received Ofsted reports since the last CLC meeting and informed that Midhurst Primary School had received an overall satisfactory grade of 3, that Fernhurst Primary School had received an overall good grade of 2, that Rake First School had received an overall satisfactory grade of 3 and that St Mary & St Paul First School in Harting had received an overall good grade of 2. The Chairman stated that the Committee would like to congratulate those four schools on their achievements.

Community Initiative Funding

108. The Chairman informed that the Committee had received four applications, two listed in the agenda papers and two late applications. The late applications had been from Milland Valley Memorial Hall to help upgrade facilities in the gents toilets and from the New Midhurst Centre project to pay for Phase 1 electrical works.

109. Resolved -

That the following applications be rejected

811/NC Heyshott Lunch Club

822/NC Orchard House, Cuckfield.

That the following applications be accepted

866/NC Milland Valley War Memorial Hall for £500

869/NC New Proposed Midhurst Centre for £1,063.75

110. Regarding the two that were rejected, the Chairman explained that although Orchard House provided an excellent service across the county, the Committee had decided to limit its funding to its CLC locality. The Chairman also informed that it had been decided not to support Heyshott Lunch Club's application because this was to assist running costs and the funding available was not really to be used for any type of ongoing revenue costs. Miss Hendon told the meeting that Rick West had been in contact with Social Services to see if the application would fit any of their funding arrangements. Social Services had said how well thought of Heyshott Lunch Club was and that it would be contacting the Club to see if it required more support financially from them.

The proposed new Grange Centre, Midhurst

111. Richard Perry, Director of Operations for Community Services, provided an update on West Sussex County Council's partnership working with, on the proposed Grange Centre.

112. Within this he informed that Chichester District Council (CDC) had contacted West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) at an early stage and WSSCC had indicated that it wished to be involved at the outset with this innovative centre. WSSCC took advantage of the contact to mention that elsewhere in Midhurst the library was not accessible and WSSCC was happy to talk about moving the library.

113. Richard Perry explained that it was important to set out any parameters that might exist and make it clear what the County Council could not go beyond in an economic settlement. He explained that there was no additional financial commitment beyond the County Council's existing assets and that WSCC wanted to agree with CDC how it was practical to share the facility with an optimum use of space. He spoke of a legal arrangement for the part of the proposed Centre that WSCC would want to use for the library and other County Council services. Richard concluded by informing that he had talked to the Town Council and the Grange trustees.

114. The ensuing discussion included the following:

- Col Pemberton stressed that there must be a holistic view, that there needs to be no replication in the designs for Midhurst Rother College, the Midhurst Town Plan and the proposals for the Grange Centre and also that the plans must not overlook all activities going on in Midhurst.
- Miss Hendon spoke of the work being done by the Midhurst Steering Group, Town Council, CDC, WSCC and the Midhurst Centre.
- Support from Mr Cherry, the Deputy Leader of CDC for Col Pemberton's comments and the comment that there is a need to know as soon as possible what facilities will be going into the Midhurst Resource Centre.
- Col Pemberton requested that all the appropriate organisations 'get round the table' and move fast collectively.
- Representatives from the Midhurst Area Community Arts, Midhurst Players and also the Garden Club asked to be involved in the discussions, requested that the Centre should include the right sort of multi purpose facilities and raised concerns that plans were being slimmed down to the detriment of the non sports organisations.
- The Chairman of the Grange Centre Trust requested that the Centre move forward and not be distracted by proposals elsewhere in Midhurst.
- Mr Cherry informed that CDC was getting architects in place and interested groups would then have the opportunity to comment to CDC. A newsletter would be going out from 7th January from CDC. Mrs Caird of CDC informed that the newsletter, in addition to being delivered around Midhurst, would go to all the parish councils as well. Mrs Caird noted a request for it to also go into all the libraries.

Update on the Merger of the Royal West Sussex NHS Trust and the Worthing & Southlands NHS Trust

115. The Chairman told the meeting that on 15th December 2008 the Trust Boards of Royal West Sussex and Worthing & Southlands Hospitals NHS Trusts agreed to a merger. She said that the County Council welcomed the news but had made it clear that it supported the merger but on condition of the retention of A&E, consultant-led maternity and other central services at both.

116. The Chairman gave the timetable - the Strategic Health Authority gave formal approval on 6th January 2009, the Department for Health's transaction panel were to give approval on 12th January and then it was intended that the integration programme would be the subject of a Gateway Review at an appropriate point in February / March 2009 to assess the readiness for service of the proposed new organisation. The new merged Trust was due to become operational on 1st April 2009.

117. In response to a question on whether the new trust would start with a clean financial state, it was agreed that Shelagh Clark would find out and contact the enquirer. Clarification was also sought and agreed that those in the north of the CLC area would still have the option of using Royal Surrey Hospital.

'talk with us' (Community Voices)

118. Steve Johnson from Highways & Transport began this agenda item by providing a recap of the principal highways issues brought to the CLC over the last three years. He stated that there had been 17 significant issues and then highlighted those that had raised interest and caused debate and where there had been improvements. These were speeding measures along Duncton Straight, the Petworth traffic management scheme, speed management across the CLC area, polo lorry associated problems in Ambersham & Heyshott and finally problems associated with tractors - in particular those from the Langmead operations and those using A285.

119. The following issues were then raised.

Order of works in Petworth. In response to a question on the logical order of works being carried out in Petworth, Steve informed that the order would be gas trenching works, signing for the traffic management scheme and then carriageway resurfacing.

Potholes. In response to a question on the County Council's obligation regarding potholes, there was considerable discussion between the Committee, Steve Johnson and those present. Technical information was provided on the temporary and permanent fixes and Col Pemberton said that there was a strong possibility that in the next four years the Council would be putting considerably more money into the roads. Col Pemberton encouraged the parishes and public to report bad roads. In response to a question on claims made against the County Council, the meeting was informed that if the Council meets its required inspection regime for all classes of maintained highways and if a programme of works was in place, then there was defence in law. The meeting was also informed that claims on the carriageway had decreased whereas those on the footway had increased. Consequently the Council was changing the programme of work emphasis from carriageway to footway.

The Midhurst to Chichester road. The comment was received that the road was very mucky and so the white lines and the 'cats eyes' were not visible and the question was asked who was responsible for keeping it clean. In response, Steve Johnson informed that there was a dedicated team out each day checking that white lines and 'cats eyes' met the criteria. He explained that by salting roads it caused them to turn white and one of the undesirable effects of spreading salt was that white lines degraded. A white line re-marking programme would resume in April and run to June. The 'cats eyes' were checked at night time and they would start to be replaced from April onwards. Mr Duncton said that mud due to farm traffic was the responsibility of the farmer. The public were asked to report muddy stretches to the Council. Col Pemberton said that the Council was aware of the issue of minerals being moved from Chichester to the A3 tunnel and that this would end when the tunnel was finished. In response to a question on the content of temporary pothole filling material, Steve Johnson confirmed that the ingredients used in the material had changed and that this was a response to trying to increase green credentials.

Kirdford Community Shop. There was an enquiry on behalf of the shop about when the Village Shops Programme funding would be received. Rick West answered that the cheque had been raised and would be with the shop shortly. Col. Pemberton reminded that if the aspirations for a shop did not come to fruition, then such shops which had received funding would be asked for the funding back.

Behaviour & misbehaviour in Midhurst. The Committee was asked if it could put any pressure on the law enforcement agency to deal with the behaviour and misbehaviour of young people in Midhurst. The ensuing discussion included the following comments and query

- resources available
- had no legal powers
- why Chichester District Council cameras were not being used more as a preventative measure
- going by the articles in the paper, it would seem to be becoming a habitual problem
- low response to people attending the Neighbourhood Police Panels
- need to find something responsible for young people to do and as a consequence needing volunteers

120. Col Pemberton informed that what had been said on behaviour and misbehaviour in Midhurst would be recorded and a note sent to Lionel Barnard, Chairman of the Sussex Police Authority and to the local authority. He also suggested that a representative of Sussex Police, at the appropriate level, be invited to attend the next North Chichester CLC meeting that is held in Midhurst.

Dates of future meetings

121. The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Tuesday 10th March 2009 at Rogate School.

122. The proposed dates for future meetings in 2009 are

23rd June
22nd September
15th December

Chairman