

Unconfirmed minutes of North Chichester CLC for approval/amendment at the next meeting

North Chichester County Local Committee

3 March 2015 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm at Lodsworth Village Hall, Gills Lane, Lodsworth, Petworth

Present: Mr Michael Brown (Chairman), Mrs Janet Duncton, Ms Sandra James and Mr Gordon McAra.

In attendance: Fiona Baker (Principal Community Officer) and Helena Cox (Democratic Services Officer).

Welcome and Introductions

54. The Chairman welcomed the public to the meeting and introduced the members of the Committee and officers present. The Chairman thanked those who had attended the Fire and Rescue Service event held prior to the meeting and stated that he hoped that it had been useful.

Declarations of Interest

55. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

56. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 January 2015 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

57. There were no urgent matters.

Progress Statement

58. The Committee considered a report which provided updates on matters arising from previous meetings of the Committee (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Principal Community Officer (PCO) introduced the report.

- **Raising awareness of flood management measures** – The PCO updated that Midhurst Town Council proposed to hold the Midhurst Water Fair in September 2015 at the old library in partnership with the Rivers Trust.

North Chichester Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

59. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy, which sought decisions on applications received under the CIF scheme (copy appended to the signed minutes).

60. The Chairman summarised the nine CIF applications for consideration at the meeting and stated that as this was the last of the financial year the CLC could chose to use any underspend to donate to the local food bank, Water Aid, back to

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central funds or a combination of both. The Chairman confirmed that the CLC had been allocated £20,100 to grant in the next financial year and asked those present to encourage any local organisations to apply for funding.

61. Resolved –

a) The following awards were made:

538/NC – Lodsworth Croquet Club, £2,000.00 to build a small pavillion.

540/NC – 4SIGHT, £500.00 to purchase low vision equipment for the Midhurst Centre.

585/NC – Fittleworth Sports Clubs Association, £1,500.00, to install playground fencing.

590/NC – Northchapel Swimming Pool, £743.00, towards the cost of the Glass Fibre liner, new Solar Cover and changing room curtains.

591/NC – North Hall Loxwood, £2,000.00, towards the cost of the new heating system.

632/NC – Petworth Community Garden, £1,043.47, to purchase various equipment items for 'Growing our Community Garden' project.

b) The following applications were declined:

534/NC – Seaford College, £400.00, towards the costs for Walking the three National Parks Event as the committee did not consider funding a fundraising event an appropriate use of Community Initiative Funding.

535/NC – Seaford College, £300.00, for Ferry costs to the Isle of Wight to participate in a sponsored cycle race as the committee did not consider funding a fundraising event an appropriate use of Community Initiative Funding.

552/NC – Coastal West Sussex, £1,880.00, to purchase 4 laptops as the committee considered the cost of the laptops to be high and the organisation had other opportunities for funding.

c) That the Committee agreed to donate £1,404.99 to support Midhurst Food Bank; £500 to support Petworth Food Bank and £2,000 to Water Aid of unallocated Community Initiative Funding.

Appointment of Authority School Governors

62. The Chairman informed the committee that there were currently no appointments, reappointments or nominations to governing bodies for the Committee to approve and asked the committee to note the list of Authority Governor Vacancies for the North Chichester area (copy appended to the signed minutes).

Talk With Us

63. The Chairman invited questions from members of the public on issues which the County Council had jurisdiction.

- A representative from West Lavington Parish Council asked for an update, following the recent fatality, regarding the implementation of safety measures on the A286 south of Midhurst. *The Chairman informed the meeting that as this was subject to a coroner's inquest the CLC would not be able to comment.* In response, minute 88 from a meeting of the CLC on 19 March 2014 was referred to and it was asked when vegetation which had been promised to cut back would be done and if this stretch of road now, following the third death within 100 metres in the last 20 years, ranked higher than the 194th out of 201 quoted at the meeting on 19 March 2014. It was commented that a pre planning application had been submitted to the South Downs National Park Authority to build five houses close to Southlands Park would create more traffic within 50 metres of where the accident happened. *In response, the Chairman asked the Principal Community Officer to find out when the vegetation was due to be cut back and assured that if the coroners verdict stated that the highway conditions were a factor then corrective actions would be taken.* Regarding the removal of vegetation, Ms James asked if there was an audit trail regarding this agreement, why it had not been done and whether the parish council had been involved in pressuring the County Council to get the work done. The Chairman suggested Ms James take this forward. Mrs James stated that she would like to see an audit trail as if it was agreed why it wasn't done.
- A resident from Easebourne referred to a letter which had been sent to the County Council regarding the supply of high speed broadband to Hurst Park and Scotland Lane which was understood to be supplied when a new development of houses was constructed nearby. The current cabinet was too far away which effected speeds and it was asked if the County Council had any influence over BT to have the cabinet moved closer to Hurst Park. *The Chairman responded that he had seen copies of the correspondence however; the County Council had little influence over BT. The County Council had a contract with BT worth approximately £25m to provide superfast broadband and as part of the contractual agreement they have operational control over the programme. It made economic sense for BT to combine the roll out with normal work operations to achieve the contractual deadline of 2016 to ensure 95% of households in West Sussex have access to superfast broadband.* Further to this, a representative from Rogate Parish Council stated that the cabinet which serviced the area was located in East Hants and the parish council had contacted Liss Parish Council about it and asked if the County Council could contact East Hants regarding provision along the borders. *The Chairman commented that BT did not recognise council boundaries and would upgrade parts of the network which were economically feasible however he would ask Kevin Carter, the lead officer for broadband at the County Council, to provide the Chairman of Rogate Parish Council with the latest information.* A representative from West Lavington commented on BT's promotion of BT infinity, commenting that BT maintained that his postcode had high speed fibre optic cables and conversations he had recently with a BT engineer. A representative from Woolbeeding with Redford Parish

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Council enquired which areas would be the 5% who would not receive high speed broadband and if there was anything the Parish Council could do to campaign to ensure that at least broadband was supplied to the parish. *The Chairman responded that the 5% would not be known until the end of the programme in 2016.* Mrs James stated that she was aware of who the 5% might be through enquires for her electoral division of Bourne. Ms James referred the meeting to the last County Council meeting where she raised this issue, her question and the reply was available on the County Council's website. It was agreed that there would be an item on broadband at the next meeting of the CLC which BT would be asked to attend.

- It was asked if Operation Watershed was likely to continue. *The Chairman responded that it would not continue in the next financial year and that there were other sources of funding to sort out local flooding and drainage.* Ms James raised concerns that parish councils were not aware that applications to Operation Watershed finished on 31st March. *The PCO confirmed that Parish Councils had been made aware of the deadline.*
- Andrew Shaxson, a District and Parish councillor referred to the North West Forum which consisted of representatives from 17 parishes in the area, and asked for it to be confirmed to them, by way of a list, what the County Council wished to work in partnership with parishes on so that it could be considered. Mr Shaxson commented that a representative from the County Council had been asked to attend the North West Forum but an officer was not willing to attend. *The Chairman responded that a list would be published and shared with the parishes (appended to the signed minutes).*
- A representative from Kirdford Parish Council enquired about the discontinued RVS contract and asked if a new procurement process at been initiated. *The Chairman responded that a procurement process had been initiated and the County Council would have influence over the contract requirements ensuring that there was engagement with the people receiving the service.*
- A representative from Cocking Parish Council thanked County Council Highways and in particular the PCO for work in the parish, there was a Speed Indication Device (SID) in operation at the moment, a new flashing sign had been installed as had government issued 30mph signs. In addition, it was commented that a report of signage which required cleaning near Cowdray Golf Club was actioned within 48 hours and vegetation had been cut back following a request. A representative from Lodsworth Parish Council also thanked the PCO for all her help.
- Mrs Duncton highlighted that a request to remove litter following hedge cutting on Selham Road had been submitted to Chichester District Council as it was their responsibility to clear.
- A local resident highlighted that a pedestrian crossing for Wheelbarrow Castle had been added to the Community Issues List however, she had noticed the committee had written asking for tractor drivers to use roads considerately and asked if the committee would write to the Polo Club to ask their lorries also to use the road considerately. Wheelbarrow Castle was used by traffic

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travelling to the Polo Club as they were signposted to do so from Haslemere.
The Chairman undertook to do so.

Date of the Next Meeting

64. It was confirmed that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday 23 June 2015 at Lurgashall Village Hall, Mill Lane, Lurgashall, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 9ES.

The meeting closed at 7.51pm.

CHAIRMAN