

North Chichester County Local Committee

19 March 2014 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm at Fernhurst Primary School.

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

Welcome and Introductions

84. The Chairman welcomed the public to the meeting, and introduced the Committee members.

Declarations of Interest

85. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

86. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 January 2014 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

87. The Chairman explained that a Community Initiative Funding application from Trotton and Chithurst Parish Council had been received after the deadline for inclusion on the agenda for this meeting. The Chairman indicated he had exercised his discretion and agreed that the late application could be considered alongside the other applications under agenda item number 6 (copy attached to the signed minutes).

Progress Statement

88. 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.

- **A286 South of Midhurst** – There were currently no plans for improvements to this stretch of the A286, with accident statistics indicating that it was ranked 194th out of 201 routes monitored. Vegetation would be cut back to improve site lines and the site would be added to the Community Issues list. A local resident indicated that it was estimated a near miss occurred at this location approximately once a fortnight.
- **Property Flooding at West Lavington** – it was confirmed that a response had been provided to the resident by the Fire and Rescue Service.
- **Speed Gun usage, Cocking Parish Council** – The Police Community Support Officer had been in touch with the Parish Council to progress setting up a community Speedwatch group.

89. Resolved – that the progress statement be noted.

North Chichester Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

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

91. The local member (Bourne) indicated that, should there be unallocated CIF funds, her preference was for this money to be donated to a local food bank. Other Committee members did not concur and indicated that they would like to see unallocated CIF funds transferred to the Operation Watershed budget.

92. Resolved -

1) That the following applications and amounts be approved: -

185/NC, Midhurst Town Council, £1,000, towards the purchase of new play equipment.

301/NC Rogate Village Hall, £2,000 towards the purchase of a generator.

325/NC Trotton with Chithurst Parish Council, £500 towards the costs of purchasing a laptop, software and printer

2) That the following applications be declined:

202/NC, Fittleworth Parish Council, £3,000, towards a new bus shelter. It was suggested that the applicants re-direct their request for funding to the bus shelter grant scheme managed by the Transport Division of the County Council

231/NC, The Tall Dog, £950, towards development of an extended website as the application did not meet the criteria of the Community Initiative Fund scheme.

Appointment of Authority School Governors

93. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities Commissioning which set out proposed nominations to school governing bodies and the criteria for their appointment (copy appended to the signed minutes).

94. Resolved – That the re-appointment of Mrs R Salt to Camelsdale Primary School for a 4 year term be approved.

Talk With Us

95. The Chairman invited questions from members of the public. Questions were asked to which responses were given, including those set out below: -

- A representative of West Lavington Parish Council highlighted that there was no longer a rubble collection point at the Bepton Road waste site in Midhurst. Since this service had ceased instances of fly-tipped rubble had increased. The PCO agreed to obtain clarification from the waste services section of the County Council regarding the stopping of this collection.

Agenda Item Number 4

- A representative of Rogate Parish Council requested clarification about the bus shelter grants scheme and whether applications could be made for funding repair/maintenance work or if it was restricted to installation of new shelters only. The Principal Democratic Services Officer indicated that the grant scheme would commence again in the new financial year and he would ask an officer from the Communities and Infrastructure Department to contact Rogate Parish Council to discuss criteria for the scheme.
- A representative of Cocking Parish Council queried whether the County Council were making a fund available that communities could apply to for covering costs associated with World War 1 Commemoration events. The Chairman confirmed that a specific fund would not be set up but that, as long as they met the CIF criteria, applications for this type of event could be made to the CIF scheme.
- A representative of Lurgashall Parish Council asked whether the County Local Committee would consider holding one of their meetings in a venue situated within the eastern part of the Committee's area as recent meetings had mainly been in the western section. The Chairman advised that, where possible, to reduce costs meetings were held in County Council premises, such as schools. The Democratic Services officer explained that as a venue had not yet been booked for the autumn meeting of the Committee, options for using a venue in the eastern part of the Committee's area would be explored.
- A member of West Lavington Parish Council highlighted that issues such as inadequate ditch maintenance and particular farming practices including deep ploughing had led to greater run-off from private land which had exacerbated the recent flooding situation in local brooks and the River Rother. It was felt more should be done to raise awareness amongst private landowners of their responsibilities. The PCO explained that there had been a water fair event held in Steyning in early March, supported by Operation Watershed, which had proved successful in bringing together organisations involved with water management and providing information to the public. The fair was well attended and the PCO would speak to those involved about the possibility of holding a similar event in the North Chichester area.
- A resident raised concern about recent reports in the media detailing investments by the West Sussex County Council Pension Fund related to Cuadrilla, a company involved with the process of fracking. The Chairman explained that these were very small, indirect investments, made via the pension fund manager. He added that the pension fund invested across a diverse range of organisations.
- A representative of Cocking Parish Council requested clarification regarding how unclassified roads would be identified for improvement under the recently announced scheme. The Chairman explained that the roads would be examined by the highways officers to assess which required remedial works. However Parish Councils and members of the public were also encouraged to highlight any roads of particular concern to the highways department. A representative of Rogate Parish Council asked if Byways Open

to All Traffic (BOAT) would be inspected as part of this scheme. The PCO indicated that they would not be, but she was aware of the condition of the BOAT in Rogate and was exploring the option of using Community Payback and monies from the Rights of Way budget to make improvements.

Dates of Future Meetings

96. It was confirmed that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee would take place on 1 July 2014, Rogate Village Hall, North Street, Rogate, GU31 5BH.

The meeting closed at 7.43 pm.

CHAIRMAN