



Minutes of the **MEETING of CHALE PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 14th July 2025, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillors: Cllrs: Andrew Burroughs, Chris Parker, Lynda Burroughs, Pete Gosling and Dr Jeremy Lockwood.
IW Councillor: Claire Critchison.
Clerk: Mrs Michala Bailey
Public: 3

After apologies given the meeting was given a short presentation by Mr Trevor Cook, Go Internet, a local based company able to provide internet in rural communities across the island utilising current BT Openreach provision (pole or underground). Mr Cook identified that throughout the parish of Chale 400 properties would be eligible for internet connection with a contribution by BD UK (by way of vouchers direct to provider). Letters have recently been delivered to Chale with approx. 30 interested customers. Letters to Chale Green should be delivered this week. To make the scheme viable there would have to be least 125 interested customers to enable Go Internet to put forward the project to BD UK and receive funding. Should there be interest, then long term Go Internet will provide between 100-900mb. Customers would pay £35 per month for up to 100mb over 24-month contract with no set up fee. Customers at this stage would be asked to pre-order with a no commitment guarantee. Go Internet are an Ofcom regulated provider.

81/25 APOLOGIES

To receive and approve any apologies for absence.

RESOLVED: Chairman Dave Stewart sent apologies.

82/25 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

To receive any declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests and written requests for dispensations on items forming the agenda.

RESOLVED: It was determined that Vice Chairman Andrew Burroughs, Cllr Lynda Burroughs and Cllr Pete Gosling have an interest in item 11.2 on agenda.

83/25 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting on the 9th June 2025.

RESOLVED: Minutes approved

84/25 PLANNING

A. Application No: 25/00317/FUL. Location: The Green Barn, Upper House Lane, Chale.

Proposal: Proposed alterations and conversion of workshop/storage to form residential dwelling, with new access and parking (revised plans) (readvertised application)

B. None

RESOLVED: No objections made to planning A – revised plan.

85/25 FINANCIAL MATTERS

5.1 To note the bank reconciliation for June 2025

RESOLVED: Bank reconciliation noted.

5.2 To ratify receipts and authorise payments for July & August (no meeting) 2025

RESOLVED: There were no receipts in the period

RESOLVED: The following payments were noted and authorised:

PAY	Lloyds bank charges	£4.75
BACS	C. Critchison – Food pantry supply purchase	£265.20
BACS	WI Chale – Hall Hire July	£15.00
BACS	WI Chale – Hall Hire for food pantry June & July	£30.00
BACS	Community Action - Payroll July	£793.62
BACS	Community Action – Payroll Aug	£793.62
Chq 1527	M. Bailey – clerk expenses	£86.40
Total		£1988.59

RESOLVED: Noted and agreed.

86/25 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Clerk raised the issue of the Annual Parish Meeting falling to the responsibility of the Parish Council when in fact there is no governance/legal requirement that states it the responsibility of the PC to hold it each year but that of the Parish, i.e. any 6 local electors may arrange the meeting. There is also an issue of ratifying minutes should persons present at the meeting one year are not present the following year. In addition, from those invited, only a member from the WI and SWAY attended this year and previous years and reports submitted by other community groups are read out by the Chairperson. Clerk asked Councillors to consider whether this should no longer fall upon the PC to arrange when there is clearly a lack of interest.

RESOLVED: Defer to later in 2025 when all councillors are present and can discuss further Clerk to speak to IWALC about this issue.

87/25 PHONE BOX – St Andrews and Chale Green

Working party is yet to meet but Andrew Burroughs, Dr Lockwood will ask for members of the community to take a look at placing some plywood at the rear of the box to aid erection of shelving to hold village leaflets. Ward Councillor advised that there may be funding available as Niton received some to upgrade their phone box. Member of public advised that Visit Isle of Wight may help with this.

The phone box at Chale Green is in need of repair or removal. It as discussed that the removal may not be seen as the best solution by residents. It has been suggested to place books or jigsaw puzzles in it for the use of residents. It will take lots of hours and possible money to make it viable.

RESOLVED: New phone box to be looked at for shelving. Clerk to contact visit IOW.

Chale Green phone box – Clerk to investigate cost of new door. WC Critchison will put out on IOW community facebook that Chale are looking for a replacement door.

88/25 FOOD PANTRY

The first pantry was held on in June and was attended by 17 residents although it was asked whether residents from nearby villages could attend. If those become regular visitors then a contribution from their own parish Council may be asked for. WC Critchison had visited Ventnor Food pantry and had been advised that Morrisons will bulk deliver and invoice the Parish Council direct. This will be used for the next 2 pantries. A Sept pantry may be held if there is enough interest and if SWAY become interested in proceeding with it. Councillors asked that it be minuted that the funding for this is NOT from precept money but donations and the remaining grant money from C4C which was awarded 2 years ago.

RESOLVED: Provisional date of 19th Sept agreed for a final food pantry. This is will fall inline with the next round of grant funding.

89/25 .GOV.UK EMAIL ADDRESSES

Clerk advised that it appears this will now become legislation in March 2026 which in turn will mean that the PC will fail its internal audit. Councillors discussed the merits of solely paying for new email addresses at this time or to combine with a compliant website to which the Clerk will have access.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to proceed with a joint email and website purchase from Parish Online Support services

90/25 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All events noted with the addition of Chale Show on the 2nd and 3rd August.

RESOLVED: None.

91/25 S137 FUNDING REQUESTS

11.1 There has been no formal request for funding from Chale Churchyard so far this year,

RESOLVED: No funding awarded.

11.2 Councillor Lynda Burroughs presented a request for funding towards the rebuild the wall at the village hall at a cost of no more than £450. Councillors Andrew Burroughs and Pete Gosling expressed an interest in this project and were exempt from discussion and voting along with Councillor Lynda Burroughs. Clerk advised as there was not a quorum to vote then this could not go forward. Councillors Chris Parker and Dr Lockwood stated they would be happy for no more than £450 or to match fund the final bill but this would have to be finalised by the Chairman Dave Stewart.

RESOLVED: Clerk to make contact with Chairman and relay final decision to all Councillors by email.

92/25 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

The Clerk. Clerk report was circulated prior to the meeting and noted. In addition, the Clerk mentioned a film maker had been in touch wishing to discuss what the PC did during lockdown to support residents. He was directed to the previous chairman for this. Also, a copy of the Common Land Act legislation for the Green has been forwarded to Joanna of SWAY so that any future issues relating to activities on The Green can be resolved. In relation to the email for joint working party into Blackgang and any future land slippage, Vice Chairman Andrew Burroughs volunteered to be the PC rep on this.

RESOLVED: Clerk to send AB name forward for working party with Niton.

Parish Councillors.

Councillor Peter Gosling advised that the IWC are unable to fund a tree warden BUT a volunteer has come forward from Yarmouth/Freshwater. However, the admin/co-ordination for this is yet to be sorted out. 8 Parish Councils have volunteers to look at their area alone. Recent guidance has been received that Ash trees with ash die-back no longer require felling. Only the dead parts of the tree need be removed. It appears the trees are showing signs of immunity.

Councillor Lynda Burroughs asked for help to decorate the hall for the Moroccan evening on the 19th. The hall will be open Thursday pm to start the process. 41-42 ticket now sold for the evening. The IWALC new councillor training held in June was very poor and feedback has been given.

RESOLVED: None

Chairman – Dave Stewart. Not Present.

RESOLVED: None

Ward Councillor Claire Critchison – Councillor Critchison forwarded her report prior to the meeting and reads as follows:

“Cllr community catch up/surgery sessions.

Niton: Wednesday 9th July & 13th August 10.30 – 11.30am, Exchange

Chale Pantry: Friday 1st July & Friday 22nd August 12.30-1.30pm, Village Hall

Highways, speed review letter

Please do pass on our apologies for not responding before now, especially if we cannot provide a full response in time for the meeting on Monday. What you can advise is that we have picked this up as a priority and we shall provide a full response once we have gathered the necessary technical details.

One recommendation I would also suggest that might help for future correspondence for highways or transport is to copy in pfi@iow.gov.uk, as the mailbox is managed full time, correspondence is formally logged and response timescales allocated.

Blackgang, potential for slippage - The chair of Niton and Whitwell Parish Council has written to the chair of Chale Parish Council about monitoring at Blackgang where the Merlins/Coach House used to be. I have forwarded to council officer and asked: Has this area been checked by anyone for movement/receding cliff edge recently?

If monitoring equipment was to be requested, how would that be done?

Local Government Reform survey - This survey provides Isle of Wight residents with the opportunity to share their views on local community identity and the future of local government in the region. It has been developed collaboratively by councils across Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton, and the Isle of Wight.

You can access the survey here: <https://ourplaceourfuture.commonplace.is/> and deadline for comments is 27 July 2025.

The proposals being explored would see the mainland councils move away from the current two-tier system, with the potential creation of four new unitary authorities. The Isle of Wight would remain a unitary authority under these proposals, continuing to deliver all local services directly.

Food Pantry – Thank you to the Parish Council for agreeing to fund the pantry for three months. It has been very well received.

It was agreed that Shorwell, Atherfield and Yafford residents are able to access the pantry.

RESOLVED: None

94/25 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions were asked from the attending MOP's, however, information was passed on that concerns over land slippage at Blackgang are not valid at this time but Castlehaven and Whitwell Road (between Rugby Club and Gillscliff Road) should be.

There will be an open meeting at Niton Church at 7pm on the 16th July? This is to hear the views from the benefice about the future of all churches within the benefice as they are all at potential risk of clousure or absorption.

RESOLVED:

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9.48 PM