



Minutes of the **MEETING of CHALE PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Monday 11th Nov 2024**, commencing at 7.00pm. The Meeting was recorded for the purposes of accuracy.

Present

Councillors: Cllrs: Dave Stewart, Pete Gosling, Chris Parker, Rodney Archer & Lynda Burroughs
IW Councillor: Claire Critchison
Clerk: Mrs Michala Bailey
Public: 2

At the start of the meeting, Chairman Stewart welcomed Rev Rob from St Andrews Church who shared his vision for the benefice. Wishing to evenly distribute his time between Chale, Niton, Whitwell, St Lawrence. He expressed a wish to encourage outreach work particularly with SWAY. A new Café Church is being explored whereby every 4th Sunday of each month residents can attend the church, refreshments are served and over a hot drink discussions take place about relevant subjects. More of discussion than preaching. It is well attended and it is hoped more residents will attend and not feel so intimidated by the church. It is hoped that residents will feel the church is a community asset (explanation of Café Church appx to these minutes)

127/24 APOLOGIES

To receive and approve any apologies for absence.

RESOLVED: Dr Jeremy Lockwood sent apologies.

128/24 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: None

129/24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 14th Oct 2024. Carols on the green date has been moved to 11th Dec at 6.30 and Rev Rob will provide musical accompaniment.

RESOLVED: Minutes agreed.

130/24 PLANNING

To review any planning applications and note any IWC decisions:

A NONE

RESOLVED: No applications to consider.

B: NONE

RESOLVED: None to consider.

131/24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

5.1 To note the bank reconciliation Oct 2024

RESOLVED: Bank reconciliation noted.

5.2 To ratify receipts and authorise payments for Nov 2024

RESOLVED: The following payments were noted and authorised:

Chq	1485	X3 Connect – phone box deposit	£250.00
	1486	Grounds Maint 24/25	£1004.40
	1487	chale WI – Hall Hire Nov	£15.00
	1488	Chale WI – hall hire food pantry Oct	£45.00
	1489	Community Action-Payroll (Nov)	£960.24
	1490	Sight For Wight – S137 grant	£100.00
	1491	M. Bailey – Clerk Expenses	£50.40

Total **£2425.04**

5.3 To note the pay award for Clerk.

The Clerk advised Council that the pay rise for 2024/25 had been ratified and that it had been backdated to April, hence the increase in payroll this month. The Clerk also advised that due to the recent budget the Parish Council will now have to pay Employers NI contributions for the Clerk from April 2025 due to the Parish not being exempt. This will have to be reflected in the precept budget when set in January.

RESOLVED: Pay award noted.

5.4 Finance Committee Update

Council Member Parker advised Council that it has been agreed that the Scottish Widows account is to be closed and the funds to be put into a higher interest rate account where there is no risk to the initial investment. He also advised that a discussion took place regarding the S137 grants and that the Parish is following government guidelines But where possible only those charities directly assisting Chale Parish residents would be considered.

RESOLVED: NONE

132/24 PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

Mr Andrew Burroughs (mop) advised the PC that it appeared very straight forward for the PC to set up and run an information only Facebook page. All or limited council Members can post on it.

RESOLVED: Clerk to arrange a meeting with Mr Burroughs to set up the page.

133/24 COMMON LAND

Chairman asked that PG leave the meeting at this time as it was believed he may submit a quote for ground clearance. Council discussed and agreed that to safeguard PG and the Council no quote would be accepted from PG, however if the PC rented equipment and PG offered his service to cut back for free then may be considered.

The Clerk advised that 3 companies had been contacted for quotes to cut back the overgrowth on the green and only 1 written quote (£942.00) has been received. Attempts to contact the IWC to discuss the Grounds Maintenance contract have been made but again no replies received! The Clerk feels that the contract with the IWC is falling short as it appears that only grass cutting is being done. Clerk advised that the recent invoice from the IWC states Grounds Maintenance and NOT grass cutting.

RESOLVED. Clerk to write (again) to IWC asking for clarification and explanation for grass cutting and no ground maintenance. Payment of invoice to be suspended until the issue has been resolved.

134/24 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All events noted. The Caribbean evening on the 16th looks to be well attended. The WI will purchase and decorate the hall appropriately. The mobile food pantry is will attended but more residents should be encouraged to use it. It is NOT a food bank but a community facility for all to use. £5 purchase will provide up to £15 in goods.

RESOLVED: Clerk to circulate the Coastal TEAMS meeting login. Clerk to arrange a poster for the Carols on the Green event.

135/24 S137 FUNDING REQUESTS
RESOLVED: None Received.

136/24 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

The Clerk. The Clerk advised that the insurance company for the Phone Box have agreed to pay costs upfront less the excess and VAT. This can be reclaimed in March. The motorvan parked in front of the old shop has now gone; however, it appears someone in the village gave the owner permission to park there. The abandoned van in the layby has also been reported to Island Roads. An email received from RG, Chale helpline has been received. The funds have now been used with only 1 £25 Asda voucher left. RG is taking residents to the food pantry when he can and the need for the helpline is greatly reduced. However, there may be ongoing issues with emergencies. It was agreed that all those in need of food must be signposted to the food pantry. An emergency fund of £250 from a C4C grant will be set aside for helpline emergencies only.

RESOLVED: Council Member Gosling to speak to RG regarding the £250 emergency fund.

Parish Councillors:

Council Member Archer formally resigned at the meeting. He was thanked by all for his work and contribution to the Council for many years both as a member of the public and a Council Member. Council Member Burroughs confirmed that the WI will be supplying puddings for the Caribbean evening. She also advised that the current state of Pyle Shute/Atherfield Road with mud and water on the road from farm vehicles is a danger and she had cause to report it to Island Roads directly, who have responded and are monitoring/dealing with the situation.

RESOLVED:

Chairman – Dave Stewart.

Chairman attended the Remembrance Sunday service at St Andrews church and again the small remembrance on Armistice Day, laying a wreath on behalf of the the Parish Council. He also mentioned the complaints received regarding fireworks in the village and the problem for animal/livestock owners and those living in or near thatched properties.

RESOLVED: None.

Ward Councillor – Claire Critchison

Ward Councillor Critchison circulated her report prior to the meeting.

Cllr community catch up/surgery sessions.

Niton: Wednesday 13th November 10.30 - 11.30 am, Niton Exchange

Chale: Friday 15th & Friday 29th November 1-2pm Chale Village Hall

Energy Wise Home Assessments

Please take advantage of this government funded programme for a home energy assessment, find out if your heating is efficient and ways you can save money.

I have met the IW team, and they can be trusted to give you reliable advice.

Join their energy advice platform and they will contact you to book a home assessment. An expert will visit your home, you will then receive a plan on how to make your home warmer and cheaper to heat. Once you receive your plan, they will discuss the available options to help you achieve it. This may include support with grant applications or advice on implementing the improvements in the most cost-effective way.

Email: info@greeniow.org.uk or call 01983 668900

Scams

The Isle of Wight Council is urging residents to be vigilant of fraudulent SMS messages being circulated. There are various messages being sent circulated claiming to be from official bodies, including.

*Stating you are eligible for £900 from Household Support Fund

*Cost of Living Payments from the Department of Work and Pensions

* Winter heating subsidies for the UK Home Office - Parking fines

These messages ask you to click on a link. This is a SCAM. Please DO NOT click any links or

provide any personal information and bank details. Remember to be cautious of unsolicited messages offering money.

When in doubt, contact us directly through Trading Standards trading.standards@iow.gov.uk

Remembrance Service

I attended the Chale Church Service on Sunday 10th November at St Andrews.

SWAY update

Sewer diversion application is in progress but taking a little longer than anticipated. Other works on track and progress should be seen in the next few weeks. There will be a residents meeting at the end of the month.

RESOLVED: None

137/24 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Questions were allowed during the meeting and addressed accordingly.

RESOLVED: None

The meeting concluded at 8.55pm