

Chale Annual Parish Meeting

Chairman's Report

Well the year certainly started with a bang. My first meeting as Chairman of Chale Parish Council was the public meeting with English Nature regarding the proposed extension of the SSSI from Compton to Steephill Cove, which proved to be quite a lively affair with EN left in no doubt as to the strength of local feeling. The meeting did, however, prove beneficial to the Parish as after a wait of 6 months we received notification that English Nature had had a re-think and re-designated the area. Apparently this decision was unprecedented as normally the National Council of EN do not normally re-think any decision made by a regional office. A true victory for people power, as well as common sense.

In June we were informed of the resignation from the council of Margaret Morris. We have been very fortunate to co-opt David Overton to the council who brings with him a wealth of knowledge which can only be helpful to the council.

It was with much sadness that we learnt of the death of former Councillor Peter Taylor during the summer break after a battle with illness. The regard that Peter was held in was reflected in the number of villagers who attended his funeral. A very sad loss.

We as a council are fortunate to be represented on the committee of the Parish Plan Steering Group and for the hard work of David Overton and Sue Starke and the other members of the group in preparing the questionnaire that was delivered to every home in Chale and for the subsequent collection and collation of the information. The first step in preparing a parish plan for the future development of facilities within the village.

The Recreation Ground Association also continues to gain in strength. At present the Council is exploring ways in which the field can be purchased from the IOW Council. This has been brought about by the generosity of the Horticultural Society who has set aside a sum of money for this to be possible.

Obviously there are various legal matters that have to be covered before this can go ahead but these are in hand and hopefully won't take too long.

Through out the year we have had the usual round of Council business, planning applications, road works etc, really exciting stuff. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their hard work and support during the last year and I would also like to especially thank Dr Paul Hooper for acting as our External Auditor and also John Whitney our Clerk who whilst employed by the Council works far in excess of the hours that he is paid for.