

Chale Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Chale Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall, Chale on Monday, 10 December 2007 commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr M Groves, Chairman, Cllr M Starke, Vice-Chairman

Councillors : Mrs L Groves, Mr D T Overton

In attendance: Mrs B Herbert (Clerk and RFO)

There were three members of the public present.

117/07-08 Apologies

The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllr Mrs W Downes due to medical reasons and from Cllr P Atkinson for personal reasons. The Isle of Wight Council (IWC) ward member for Chale & Niton, Cllr Mrs W Arnold had also sent an email, which was read out by the clerk, explaining her reasons for non-attendance.

RESOLVED :

THAT the reasons for the non attendance of Cllr Mrs W Downes and Cllr P Atkinson be authorised as approved reasons for absence.

118/07-08 Declarations of Interest

Cllr D Overton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No 130/07-08 b. as he lived in the neighbouring property

119/07-08 Minutes of the Meetings held on 12 November 2007

RESOLVED :

THAT subject to the amendment of Minute No 113/07-08 to read that Cllr P Atkinson would attend the Voluntary Sector Forum, the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2007 be confirmed as a true record and that the Chairman be authorized to initial the amendment and then sign the Minutes on behalf of the Council.

120/07-08 Matters Arising, not requiring a Resolution

- a. Min 103/07-08 b, The Gateway Signs - Cllr M Starke advised that the work had not yet been undertaken. It was noted that this would form part of the next assignment to be carried out in the vicinity and as yet no specific date had been given. Cllr Starke agreed to contact the IWC Highways department to try and seek an approximate timescale.
- b. Min 103/07-08 a, No Parking signs – Cllr Overton advised that the ties for the new No Parking signs were not proving to be very robust. He circulated a photograph of similar signage displayed in Yarmouth, which appeared to be very secure. The Chairman agreed to speak to Cllr Atkinson to see if similar

- fastenings could be obtained.
- c. 104/07-08 Standing Orders – Cllr M Groves advised that a meeting of the Standing Orders Working Party had taken place and made good progress. A revised set of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations would be presented to the next meeting for consideration. These had been based on those used by Gatcombe Parish Council, which were similar to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) model, subject to changes to reflect the circumstances of Chale Parish Council.
 - d. 109/07-08 Viewpoint Car Park, Blackgang Chine – Cllr M Groves had received advice from Mr A Irving, the Operations Manager at Blackgang Chine that the cutting of the hedge would take place within the next two months.
 - e. 116/07-08 Local Lettings scheme – The Local Lettings Plan had now been finalized and all documentation completed. Articles highlighting the scheme had appeared in the County Press, the Beacon and the Chale Mail.

121/07-08 Community Chest Parish Award Scheme

Mrs Isabel Thorp, the Older Persons Champion for Chale, had been invited to the meeting to discuss proposals that would fulfill the specific criteria for the grant to directly benefit older people in the community. Unfortunately, due to a prior engagement, she was unable to attend but had agreed to prepare a paper outlining her ideas for the next meeting in January. The Chale Village Partnership would be raising this issue at their meeting on 11 December in an attempt to engender suitable ideas.

In respect of the funding available for community projects that contribute to the Isle of Wight Council's Agenda to improve the quality of life for the young, Cllr M Starke referred to a scheme involving a twinning arrangement, run on a similar basis to a school exchange. This would facilitate foreign language development and could provide enlightenment on foreign matters for young people. Cllr Starke agreed to investigate the scheme further and report back to a future meeting.

122/07-08 Principle of the Development of Low Cost Houses on Single Sites

Councillors had before them a letter, dated 6 November 2007, from Mr J Mortimer together with extracts from the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) relating to Policies H9 and H15. The clerk provided advice on the definition of affordable housing and the designations for Chale, as detailed in the UDP. Within the Island Plan, which was currently being produced by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), there would be a facility enabling sites to be considered alongside specific criteria for affordable housing. The clerk had arranged for a proforma to be sent to Mr Mortimer, which upon completion and return to the LPA would then be considered alongside his planning application.

RESOLVED :

THAT each planning application be considered on its own merit and that any affordable housing scheme must be tied, in perpetuity, for the benefit of the village as a whole.

123/07-08 Christmas Tree in the Village

RESOLVED :

THAT the Parish Council agree to underwrite the costs of erecting a Christmas tree in the village up to a total cost of £100.00 and that Mr Tyerman be thanked for the supply of electricity to provide the lighting.

124/07-08 Way Forward for Affordable Housing in Chale

Cllr M Groves reported on a meeting that he had attended along with Cllr M Starke and the Rural Housing Enabler, Sharon Packer, to consider the provision of affordable housing in Chale, in line with the Housing Needs Survey results. Discussion had focused on the need for a small cluster of properties, which could provide the opportunity for shared ownership.

RESOLVED :

THAT a Working Party be established comprising of the Chairman, Cllr M Groves and the Vice Chairman, Cllr M Starke and officers of the Rural Community Council (RCC) to explore ways forward for the potential development of a small parcel (maximum of four) houses for shared ownership in Chale, specifically for Chale villagers, under the terms of the RCC initiative – village homes for village people and to report back to the council on their progress.

125/07-08 Feedback on the Public Meeting regarding the No 6 Bus route

Unfortunately, at the last minute, no councillor had been available to attend the meeting, held on 24 November, in respect of the No 6 bus route. The IWC Mrs W Arnold advised, in her e-mail, that the planned establishment of a working party to progress the matter had not taken place. Cllr M Groves referred to his conversation with Mr Marc Morgan Huws, of Southern Vectis seeking the costs of the provision of an evening service to and from Chale to Newport. Due to ongoing financial negotiations with the IWC these figures were not available at present. Mr Morgan Huws had confirmed that an additional service in the morning was not possible as all buses were being utilized elsewhere on the island.

126/07-08 Questions to put to the IWC Cllr Mrs J Wood at the next meeting of the Parish Council

It was suggested that the IWC Cllr Mrs J Wood be requested to provide information on the pilot schemes being undertaken by two Parish Councils on the island. In particular what powers had been devolved to them, budgets, commitments and responsibilities. Councillors were keen to learn of any proposals for Chale Parish Council together with their possible impact. It was also agreed to seek Cllr Wood's views on the attendance of ward councillors at parish and town council meetings.

It was noted that the meeting in January would commence at 7.00 pm.

127/07-08 Village Design Statement

The report of the Chairman, Cllr M Groves was received which set out the background and the progress to date on the work for a Village Design Statement for Chale. The Activity Plan and Timeline presented to the meeting of the Council in June had been adhered to. However the LPA had indicated that they would require an additional two months in order to complete their approval and adoption procedures. Children from the local school had completed a project outlining their thoughts, which would form part of the presentation of draft materials at the village feedback day in the New Year.

In order to formalize the situation in respect of the work being undertaken councillors thereby

RESOLVED :

- i. THAT the formation of a working party, the Chale Village Design Statement Steering Group, to manage the development, approval and production of a Village Design Statement for Chale in accordance with the plan and timeline (as amended by the Isle of Wight Council) and appended to the report of the Chairman, be approved;
- ii. THAT the membership of the Steering Group, under the chairmanship of Cllr M Groves, as set out in the report of the Chairman be approved and that its membership be extended if necessary, by secondment of additional ad hoc members recruited for their particular skills and experience, be agreed;
- iii. THAT it be confirmed that the budget for the project was £2005, as detailed in the grant application to Awards for All;
- iv. THAT the expenditure incurred to date be approved and the payment of the outstanding monies totaling £115.94, comprising of £66.00 for the hire of the WI hall and £49.94 for the copying of large scale maps be agreed;
- v. THAT it be agreed for the village feedback day to be held on 19 January, between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm in the Woman's Institute (WI) village hall;
- vi. THAT the Steering Group to report monthly to the council during the lifetime of the project.

128/07-08 Chale Village Partnership

The next ordinary meeting was due to take place on Tuesday, 11 December in the WI village hall at 7.00 pm. A special meeting had also been convened to take place on 15 January 2008 at 7.00 pm, to consider the results of the Arts Council questionnaire circulated to the majority of residents in the village.

129/07-08 Correspondence

Correspondence received was listed in the updated report tabled at the meeting. It was agreed for the Chale Horticultural Society to be invited to provide an

expression of interest in providing support should the parish council be minded to apply for the funding available under the One Million Blooms scheme. The clerk was also requested to write to Mr Matthew Chatfield, of the IWC to express the council's concern that community groups on the island were being encouraged to plant non-native blooms.

A copy of the letter from the Highways Operational Support regarding the drain near to St Andrews Church to be sent to the Recreation Ground Association for their information.

Cllr D Overton agreed to draw the attention of the Chale Village Partnership to the letter received from the Wessex Restorative Justice Service.

The clerk to forward the email received from John Brownscombe, of the Isle of Wight AONB Partnership to Cllr D Overton for action.

Cllr Mrs L Groves, the Council's representative on the Chale Recreation Ground Association, was requested to draw the letter received from Roach Pittis solicitors to their attention, should no progress be forthcoming within the next 10 days.

130/07-08 Town and Country Planning

- a. The report of the IWC Mrs W Arnold in respect of Gladdices Barn, Chale was noted. However, a question was raised as to whether the councillor had approached the LPA to clarify if any questions or discussions had taken place that gave an indication of any future development being proposed.

Cllr D Overton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item of business as he lived in a neighbouring property. Cllr Overton left the meeting room and took no part in the discussion or decision thereon.

- b. Consideration was given to the following application

TCP 5077/N Chale Green Stores, Chale Green – Part demolition of existing buildings, removal of storage container and construction of new single storey Store extension with increased parking.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Parish Council are fully supportive of the proposals outlined in the application. The shop forms a focus for the village and its continued success was extremely important. The design was a great improvement, it was very positive taking into account all visual aspects of the building and was sympathetic to the neighbouring environment.

Cllr Overton returned to the meeting chamber.

- c. The following application approved by the IWC since the last meeting of the Council was noted:

TCP/29478/A Blackgang Chine Theme Park, Blackgang, Ventnor – Removal

of pirate fort feature, construction of cinema building – Conditional approval

131/07-08 Clerks Report

a. Finance

- i The Interim Budget to 31 November 2007 was received.
- ii The draft budget for 2007/08 and the estimated budget for 2008/09 were noted. Further discussion on the precept for 2008/09 would take place at the meeting in January.
- iii The report of the clerk concerning varies terms and conditions as set out in her contract was received.

RESOLVED :

THAT payment of £20 per month to cover the provision/depreciation of office equipment and to cover the expenses in the use of her home as an office be approved.

- iv. Authorisation of the following cheques was requested:

Cheque No 000488, £94.33, Brighstone Landscaping in respect of the one cut and strim on 15 October 2007

Cheque No 000489, in respect of previous clerks back payment of salary, 1 April to 10 August 2007

Cheque No 000490, in respect of Clerks salary

Cheque No 000491, £74.09 in respect of clerks mileage and photocopying

Cheque No 000492, in respect of the Clerks additional hours incurred for training

Cheque No 000493, £49.94, D Whitehurst for reimbursement of the cost of copies of maps, from the Village Design Statement budget

Cheque No 000494, £66.00, Women's Institute, for the hire of the hall, from the Village Design Statement budget

RESOLVED :

THAT the cheques, as listed above, be approved for payment.

b. Administration

The clerk advised that the Halifax Guaranteed Reserve Account had now been opened. With regard to the Treasurers Account, this had not be activated as the branch required receipt of the old passbook. The clerk would deal with this matter.

The mandate for the current account held with the Lloyds TSB in Newport, indicated that the current signatories were all ex councillors. A new mandate was required to be completed.

RESOLVED :

THAT Cllrs M Groves, M Starke, D Overton and P Atkinson be approved as signatories for the account in the name of Chale Parish Council, held at the Lloyds TSB, in Newport and that any two of the four signatories be required to sign.

132/07-08 Councillors Reports

Cllr M Starke referred to the copy of the IW AONB Partnership newsletter, Issue 16 which included a picture of the Chale Whale.

Cllr M Groves read out the report provided by Cllr P Atkinson regarding the Voluntary Sector Cabinet AGM he attended on 27 November 2007.

Cllr M Groves circulated proposals he had obtained from the RCC website for restructuring the governance structure of the Voluntary Sector Cabinet to include only those representatives who had been democratically elected by voluntary and community organisation members of a number of identified partnerships/network groups. This would not include representatives from Parish and Town Councils. Councillors were minded not to take any action in respect of the proposals.

Cllr M Groves reported on the meeting entitled Partnership and the 3rd Sector Perspective, he had attended at the Riverside Centre on 7 December, which provided information on the Government's plan to overhaul home assistance for the elderly frail and vulnerable.

Cllr M Groves suggested that a list of proposed projects, which had been identified in the Parish Plan and the Village Design Statement be drawn up and presented to a future meeting for consideration and prioritisation.

Cllr M Groves agreed to contact Mr Brian Cooper of the IWC Highways department to ascertain the results of the recent speed survey undertaken in the village.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE COUNCIL ROSE AT 9.15 PM FOLLOWING PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

Signed

Dated