

Chale Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Chale Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall, Chale on Monday 13 October 2008, commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs M Groves, Chairman, M Starke, Vice Chairman

Councillors: Mrs W Downes, Mrs L Groves, Mrs K Le Brecht, Mr D Overton

In attendance: Mrs B Herbert, Clerk and RFO
IW Cllr Mrs W Arnold, Ward Member for Chale, Niton and Whitwell
Mr B Cooke, the Isle of Wight Council's (IWC's) Head of Property Services

There were five members of the public present.

122/08-09 Apologies

There were no apologies tendered.

123/08-09 Declarations of Interest

Cllr M Groves declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No 126/08-09 as he was a member of the Chale Recreation Ground Association.

124/08-09 To receive the descriptive and illustrated panels from Mr Rupert Besley

Mr Rupert Besley presented to the Parish Council a draft design for the descriptive and illustrated panels, which had been commissioned as part of the Parish Award scheme. He apologised for the time taken, but he had been keen to ensure the angular layout would absorb all the buildings and the main characteristics of Chale, which had been requested.

Councillors expressed their delight with the design. However, it was noted that the boards themselves were landscape, whereas the design was portrait.

RESOLVED :

- i. THAT Mr Besley be requested to continue to complete the design the descriptive panels;
- ii. THAT the issue of the size of the boards be left to the Vice Chairman, Cllr Starke to resolve.

125/08-09 To welcome Mr Barry Cooke, the Isle of Wight Council's Head of Property Services

Mr Barry Cooke addressed the Parish Council, providing the background from the IWC's perspective and gave advice on the 'process', to assist in the finalisation of

the sale of the Recreation Ground. He advised that it was Chale Parish Council who the IWC were dealing with. He was, however, content with the proposal for the land to be sold to a Charitable Trust, to be held in perpetuity for the benefit of the village of Chale, unless a challenge to the proposal occurred. If any delay now occurred the process would have to start from the beginning due to the timescale involved.

Councillors agreed to bring forward Agenda item 18

126/08-09 To receive an update on the sale of the Chale Recreation Ground and to consider the recommendation of the Recreation Ground Association in respect of the issue of a licence

Councillors were referred to Paper G setting out the recommendations of the Chale Recreation Ground Association in respect of a proposed licence for a buffer strip, on land between the garden of Erewebe and the recreation ground.

Cllr M Groves having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, left the meeting chamber and took no part in the discussion or decision thereon.

The Vice Chairman, Cllr Starke took the chair.

The clerk circulated a response she had received by email, earlier in the day, from Mr & Mrs Dale, owners of Erewebe, together with a plan of the proposed buffer strip.

Councillors considered the recommendations of the Recreation Ground Association in some detail, together with the thoughts submitted by Mr & Mrs Dale. Councillors noted the dimensions of the buffer zone on the plan and presumed that a printing error had occurred, that the width should have read 70 feet, not inches as detailed. Mr Cooke, on request from the Parish Council, provided his advice on a number questions raised, particularly in respect of reasonableness and best practice. Mr John Hardy, was present and clarified as to the reason for redefining one corner of the buffer zone.

Councillors expressed their view that the cut off corner was necessary to facilitate the operations in connection with the show, while it still maintained a reasonable distance to protect the privacy of the residents of Erewebe. They also considered that the term of the lease proposed was too short and too costly. They considered a term of five years at a reduced rent, subject to an annual increase by RPI, more appropriate. The suggestion that the opportunity be given to pay the total rental in advance, thereby not incurring any increase was agreed to. The thoughts that the land should only be made available for two days either side of the show or for it not to be used for matters in connection with the show, were considered unreasonable. Councillors were minded that due to the workload involved additional time was necessary and that strict Health and Safety procedures would be enforced as a condition of the licence issued by the IWC.

RESOLVED :

THAT the following amendments to the proposals received from the Chale Recreation Ground Association be agreed:

- i. THAT it be confirmed that any licence for a buffer strip, adjoining Erewebe, should be issued as delineated on the plan submitted;
- ii. THAT the licence be issued for a period of five years, at an initial rent of £300 per annum, paid on an annual incremental basis, in advance, subject to an annual rental uplift linked to RPI, or alternatively;
- iii. THAT the entire five year rent be paid in advance, and not be subject to annual inflation;
- iv. THAT the licence be issued for a period of 12 months, subject to the land being made available for two weeks either side of the Chale Show for use in connection with the staging of the show;
- v. THAT Mr B Cooke be thanked for his attendance and advice in clarifying the position, in respect of the sale of the Recreation Ground.

Cllr M Groves returned to the meeting chamber and resumed the chair.

127/08-09 Minutes of the Meetings held on 8 and 30 September 2008

RESOLVED ;

THAT the Minutes of the Meetings held on 8 and 30 September 2008 be confirmed as true records and that the Chairman be authorized to sign the Minutes on behalf of the Council.

128/08-08 Matters Arising, not requiring a Resolution

- a. Minute 98/08-09 a Maricourt, Town Lane, Chale – The IWC’s Enforcement Officer was currently monitoring the situation, not pursuing any action at present as the owner was trying to address all the concerns raised. However, advice was being sought from the IWC’s Environmental Health department in anticipation of a revised application being submitted shortly
- b. Minute 73/08-09 Whale Chine – The consultant was completing the feasibility study survey at the moment. The Parish Council would be advised when it had been completed and the conclusions considered
- c. Minute 98/08-09 c. Property immediately to the north of Hoy Close – The IWC’s Area Enforcement Officer had advised that following a site visit, no breach had occurred.
- d. Minute 75/08-09 e. Sheep Lane Farm – The IWC confirmed that two field shelters had been bought on to the site, which unfortunately as they were of a temporary nature, were not subject to enforcement laws. A site visit was due to take place in respect of stables, which appeared to have been sited differently to a proposed invalid application.
- e. Minute 119/08-09 b.ii. Unauthorised silo on Pyle Farm, Atherfield Road – A site visit was to be undertaken and an extensive search of the history of the site

- f. Minute 77/08-09 Hoy Monument – Mr Terry Wren had visited and approved the repairs undertaken. The clerk was instructed to write to Mr Wren to thank him for his assistance.
- g. Minute 101/08-09 School Re-organisation – The minutes of the meeting between Mr K Simmonds and councillors had still not been received despite a number of email requests and a face to face conversation. Cllr M Groves reported briefly on a meeting he had attended at Chale CE Primary school along with Cllr Mrs Groves, where they received a copy of the school's response to the IWC's consultation on re-organisation.
- h. Minute 105/08-09 Boulders on the Green – Cllr Downes advised that she had been unable to locate the boulders referred to. Cllr M Groves advised that they had since been removed.
- i. Minute 118/08-09 Correspondence – Cllr Overton advised that he was not able to attend the launch of the HEAP or the presentation by the IW AONB.

128/08-09 Town and Country Planning

The following decision taken by the Local Planning Authority since the last meeting, was noted:

TCP/13386/C Corve Lodge, Corve, Chale Green, Ventnor, PO39 2LA – Conditional Planning Approval for the replacement of a flat roof element with pitched.

129/08-09 To identify a number of questions to pose to IW Cllr David Pugh at the next meeting of the Parish Council

A number of questions/issues were identified which the Parish Council would like IW Cllr D Pugh to respond to at the next meeting. It was also agreed for members of the public to be invited in order that they too could raise questions.

RESOLVED :

THAT the following questions/issues be advised to IW Cllr D Pugh in advance of his visit:

- i. Eco Island and the likelihood of Chale becoming a pilot parish council;
- ii. Clarification of the issues on the potential for federation in the Chale area;
- iii. Accuracy and relevance of the Rural Sustainability Matrix.

130/08-09 To consider what action to take, if any, in respect of parking on the village green

RESOLVED :

THAT this item be deferred to the next meeting.

131/08-09 To approve that Chale Parish Council take part in the Mega Meter proposal

Consideration was given to the proposal to take part in a pilot study to measure the

electricity consumption of three communities on the IW, hour by hour over two years. The meter would be placed in a highly visible position to raise awareness of the consumption used by the community as a whole. However, Councillors considered that the best use of resources would be to equip a number of householders with 'smart' meters, making the scheme more personal and individuals more accountable.

RESOLVED :

THAT participation of the Mega Meter proposal be declined.

132/08-09 To consider what response, if any, to make with regard to the following consultations

- a. The Front Office Location Plan, under IW Council Customer Access Strategy

RESOLVED :

THAT no comment be made.

- b. Medina High school regarding their proposal to change to foundation status and to become a trust school

RESOLVED :

THAT no comment be made.

- c. The Making and Enforcement of Byelaws

RESOLVED :

THAT no comment be made.

- d. Partial review of the South East Plan: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs

RESOLVED :

THAT no comment be made.

133/08-09 To consider the letter, dated 8 September, from Carisbrooke Castle Museum requesting a financial donation

Councillors agreed that in view of the limited resources any financial support should only be given to an organisation/charity within or would benefit the village community.

RESOLVED :

THAT the request for a financial donation be regrettably refused.

134/08-09 To consider the setting up a Working Party to raise awareness

with the Local Planning Authority of the difficulties encountered by rural businesses

Discussion took place on whether the role of the Parish Council should include the support of private businesses in preliminary planning discussions. Some councillors expressed their view that this should be on a case by case basis and highlighted that all planning applications were considered by the Parish Council, in accordance with current procedures.

RESOLVED :

THAT no action be taken.

135/08-09 Report of Cllr Mrs W Arnold, the IWC Ward Member for Chale, Niton and Whitwell

This item was brought forward on the agenda as IW Cllr Mrs W Arnold had to attend another appointment.

Cllr Mrs W Arnold made mention of the following matters:

- The recent by-election held for the Mount Joy ward had received a 31.61% turnout. The results were displayed on the IWC's website.
- In response to a question raised with the Director of Finance, no IWC monies or pension funds were held by Icelandic banking institutions.

Cllr M Starke declared a personal interest in the following item of business.

- Cllr Arnold had attended the open morning at Kerry Fields, Nettlestone, a new build development, on 9 October. She had been very impressed with the standard and build of the homes provided for local residents only. 50% were offered for part ownership, with the remaining 50% for affordable housing.
- Reference was made to on-going correspondence Cllr Arnold was having with a local resident in respect of the bus service provision to and from Chale and as to how the balance of services provided in rural areas and towns was determined. It was considered that a framework should be in place to discern the viability of all routes. Cllr Arnold agreed to keep the Parish Council informed of any developments.

136/08-09 To consider Issues 2, 7 and 8 identified in the Parish Plan for action

RESOLVED :

THAT this item be deferred to the next meeting.

137/08-09 To approve that the Chairman represents the Parish Council at the Remembrance Service, in the village on 9 November and to consider the purchase of a wreath

A memorial service was scheduled to take place on Sunday, 9 November in St Andrew's Church, Chale when a 2 minutes silence would take place at 11.00 am. The Chairman had been invited to attend as the representative of Chale Parish Council. All other councillors would also be welcome to attend.

RESOLVED :

THAT it be agreed for the Chairman, Cllr M Groves to attend the Remembrance Service as the Parish Council's representative and for a wreath to be ordered from the British Legion at an approximate cost of £20.00.

138/08-09 To approve that the Parish Council continues to place insertions in the Chale Mail

RESOLVED :

THAT it be agreed to continue the arrangement to pay £50, being the cost of placing six advertisement in the Chale Mail for the price of five.

139/08-09 To approve Mr Sven Tester as the Internal Auditor for the forthcoming financial year

RESOLVED :

THAT Mr Sven Tester be approved as the Internal Auditor for the Parish Council for 2009/10.

140/08-09 To receive a report from the Village Design Statement Steering Group and to approve for the Chairman to sign off the report to A4A

Councillors welcomed the information that the Village Design Statement (VDS) had now been completed and copies were to be circulated to all residents in Chale. Positive feedback had been received following the distribution of copies to the IWC's Development Control and Planning Policy departments and to the IW AONB. The VDS would be formally adopted as part of the Local Development Framework, when that was completed.

Cllr M Groves advised that the report to A4A had been duly returned already as it was past the deadline of the 8 October. A small budget under run of £22.20 would need to be returned.

RESOLVED :

THAT it be agreed to return the sum of £22.20 to A4A, being the under-spend for the Village Design Statement.

141/08-09 Report from the Affordable Housing for Chale Working Party

Cllr Starke reported on the meeting held in Sharon Packer, the IWC's Rural Housing Enabler. Ms Packer was continuing to work on Chales' behalf, making potential progress in respect of a possible land purchase. However, in the current economic climate matters could not be rushed.

143/08-09 Correspondence

Correspondence received was listed in the report circulated with the agenda and updated at the meeting.

It was agreed that the request for a donation from the IW Musical Competition Festival be regretfully refused.

144/08-09 Clerks Report

a. Finance

- i. The interim budget to the end of September 2008 and the bank reconciliation with Statements No 278 were received and noted.
- ii. The six monthly financial report and projected expenditure to Year End was noted.
- iii. Confirmation of payment of cheque No 000538 for £38.00, to the Isle of Wight Gateway Club in respect of a trip for the elderly under the Community Chest award scheme.

RESOLVED :

THAT payment of the cheque No 000538 for £38.00 be confirmed.

- iv. Authorisation of payment of the following cheques was requested:
000539, Isle of Wight Council, Clerks Salary for September
000540, Mrs B Herbert, Clerks Expenses, £97.44
000541, CoCo Design Co, £814.50 from the A4A – Village Design Statement funding
000542, Maplines, £93.17 from the A4A – Village Design Statement funding
000543, Holbrooks, £884.00 from the A4A – Village Design Statement funding
000544, Chale Village Partnership, £50.00 - for the cost of six insertions in the Chale Mail for the price of five
000545, Awards for All, £22.20 – in respect of unspent monies for the VDS
000546, Brighstone Landscaping Ltd, £339.88 – 4 Cuts and 2 strims from 1 July to 30 September
000547, Island Stone Conservation, £1022.25 – Repairs to Hoy Monument (to be taken from the Guaranteed Reserve Bank Account on its maturity in November)
000548, Isle of Wight Gateway Club, £38.00 - trip for the elderly under the Community Chest award scheme. This invoice had been received after the despatch of the agenda but required approval to enable the trip to take place.

RESOLVED :

THAT payment of the above cheques be approved:

b. Administration

- i. To agree arrangements to provide holiday cover of the clerk

The clerk advised of her forthcoming holiday arrangements. The IWC's Parish and Community Liaison team held a register of clerks who were willing to deputise in such situations. The costs involved would be £12.50 per hour plus any mileage. There would be a need to recruit cover for the December meeting.

RESOLVED :

THAT appropriate arrangements be made to cover the absence of the clerk, keeping the costs involved to a minimum.

- ii. To approve the new Model Publication Scheme

The model publication scheme had been prepared and approved by the Information Commissioner for adoption, without modification, by any public authority without any further approval. The Scheme would take effect from 1 January 2009.

Cllr Starke raised a question as to how the publication scheme sat in relation to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and with Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

RESOLVED :

- i. THAT the Model Publication Scheme be adopted;
- ii. THAT the clerk seek a response to the above question raised.
- iii. To approve the transfer of £2,000 from the Halifax Treasurers Account to the current account at Lloyds TSB Bank

RESOLVED :

THAT the transfer of £2,000 from the Halifax Treasurers Account to the Lloyds TSB Bank, be approved

145/08-09 Councillors' reports

Cllr Starke advised that he wished to tender his resignation as the Parish Council's representative on IWALC.

Cllr M Groves reported that overgrown brambles were blocking the coastal path, just outside the boundary to Blackgang Theme park. The clerk was requested to inform the IWC's Highways department.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 10.15 PM

Signed -----

Dated -----