

## Chale Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Chale Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall, Chale on Monday, 14 January 2008 commencing at 7.00 pm.

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

Councillors : Mr P Atkinson, Mrs W Downes, Mrs L Groves, Mr D T Overton

In attendance: Mrs B Herbert (Clerk and RFO)

There were six members of the public present.

### **133/07-08 Apologies**

Apologies were received from the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) ward member for Chale & Niton, Cllr Mrs W Arnold.

### **134/07-08 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

### **135/07-08 Minutes of the Meetings held on 10 December 2007**

#### **RESOLVED :**

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2007 be confirmed as a true record and that the Chairman be authorized to sign the Minutes on behalf of the Council.

### **135/07-08 Isle of Wight Council's (IWC) Cabinet Secretary for Town and Parish Councils**

As ward member for Wroxall and Godshill on the Isle of Wight Council (IWC), Cllr Jilly Wood CC had been appointed as the Cabinet Secretary for Town and Parish Councils. Cllr Wood gave a presentation on details of parish and town council empowerment under the Local Government's White Paper on Strong and Prosperous Communities. A pilot scheme was being undertaken with two quality parish councils on the Island to establish a framework for any future devolution of services. Cllr Wood took questions raised and agreed to provide a response, where appropriate.

Cllr Wood also expressed her views on the regular attendance of ward councillors at parish and town council meetings. She considered that this provided a vital link in partnership working between the IWC and the parishes. It was her view that if a member was unable to attend it was important that they should provide a written report outlining any significant activities by the IWC, which could have an effect on the local community. This view was endorsed by the parish council.

Mention was made of the difficulties encountered by councillors and the clerk in receiving a response from some departments of the Council. Cllr Wood advised of

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the service provided the Silver Line and that they should direct any on-going problems to the appropriate Director.

## **136/07-08 Possible Redevelopment of Atherfield Bay Campsite for Holiday Purposes**

A presentation was received from Mr Glen Hepburn, the planning consultant for the developers of the Atherfield Bay Campsite. A series of boards depicting the impact of the possible redevelopment from various vantage points in the area, together with plans of the accommodation and sports facilities were used to explain the proposals. It was noted that the intention was to provide high quality holiday units for all year round occupation, but not for use as a second home. It was anticipated that the proposal could create a small number of job opportunities. The sports facilities would be run as a membership club enabling the site to be accessed by local residents. The boards would now be displayed in the public library at Brighstone.

## **137/07-08 Matters Arising, not requiring a Resolution**

- a. Min 120/07-08 a, The Gateway Signs - Cllr M Starke advised that the IWC had agreed that the sign in Town Lane had been sited incorrectly. This would be rectified shortly, subject to the contractor's availability.  
Cllr Starke had also received notification from Mr R Besley that the draft artwork design for the descriptive panels would soon be available.
- b. Min 120/07-08 b, No Parking signs – Cllr Atkinson reported the purchase of robust clips to re-secure the No Parking signs.
- c. Min 120/07-08d, Viewpoint Car Park, Blackgang Chine – Cllr M Groves confirmed that the hedge had now been cut back. The clerk was requested to write to Mr Simon Dabell, of Blackgang Chine and to Mr John Brownscombe, of the IW AONB thanking them for their help in the matter.
- d. Min 130/07-08a, Gladdices Barn, Chale – The e-mail received from the Cllr Mrs W Arnold CC was read out. The clerk was requested to respond on behalf of the Council making reference to the minutes of the meeting, held in April 2007, when Cllr Arnold agreed to monitor the development to ensure enforcement of those conditions imposed by the IWC, when the application was approved.
- e. Min 129/07, Chale Recreation Ground Association – Cllr Atkinson confirmed that all issues had now been addressed and the matter was in the hands of the solicitors. A meeting of the Recreation Ground Association was due to be held shortly to clarify details of the registration of the Trust with the Charity Commission.
- f. Min129/07-08, One Million Blooms – The clerk read the response received from Mr M Chatfield, of the IWC regarding the provenance of the species of plants used in the scheme.
- g. Min 103/07-08, Provision of Allotments – The response from the Chale Parochial Church Council was noted which explained the reasons behind the decision to 'tidy up' the area adjacent to Chale Churchyard.

## **138/07-08 Revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**

The Working Party presented their proposals for the revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations based on the model provided by the National Association of

Local Councils.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be approved.

**139/07-08 Complaints Procedure**

A Complaints Procedure based on the model provided by the Society of Local Council Clerks, which complied with Standing Order 71, was received.

**RESOLVED :**

- i. THAT the Complaints Procedure be adopted;
- ii. THAT the Complaints Procedure, the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be displayed on the Parish Council's website.

**140/07-08 Community Chest Parish Award Scheme**

Consideration was given to the proposal submitted by Mrs Isabel Thorp, the Older Persons Champion for Chale, for the grant application in respect of the Parish Community Chest award scheme for Older People. The project would provide for a monthly mini bus outing, for approximately 14 elderly persons, to a large supermarket on the Island or an outing of their choice.

An email had been received from the Chale Village Partnership advising of their possible intent to submit one comprehensive application, or as separate projects, to cover the costs of the Chale Day event, production of the Chale Mail, and the costs of administering the Chale Village Partnership. The Parish Council were minded that they would be content to give consideration to an application(s) for the Chale Day event and the Chale Mail.

Discussion ensued on the feasibility of the purchase of a mini bus for community use. The Parish Council were advised of the large amount of work previously carried out by a local parishioner into the viability of this suggestion. It was also reported that funding might be available from the West Wight Methodist Circuit. The Chairman agreed to investigate and report back to a future meeting.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT it be agreed for the proposal to submit a grant application in respect of the Parish Community Chest award scheme for Older People, be progressed.

**141/07-08 Projects identified in the Parish Plan**

Consideration was given to the list of projects that still remained to be achieved, which had been identified in the Parish Plan in 2005, and had been subsequently highlighted again in the consultation exercise undertaken in the preparation of the Village Design Statement. It was noted that Issues 3, 5 and 6 of the report were underway and details were provided of their progress. Issues 2, 7 and 8 would be considered further at the meeting of the Parish Council in April.

## **RESOLVED :**

- i. THAT in respect of Issue 1, a Chale School Committee be established comprising of Cllrs P Atkinson, Mrs W Downes and M Starke to respond to the IWC's consultation on education reform, specifically the implications for Chale School, and to take such other action as the Committee considers necessary to support the retention of the village school in accordance with the Chale Parish Plan. The terms of reference to specifically exclude the committee in making any financial commitment from the Parish Council to the school;
- ii. THAT in respect of Issue 4, a Road Safety working party comprising of Cllrs P Atkinson and D Overton be established to liaise with the IWC, as the highways authority, regarding proposals for the appropriate management and control of speeding vehicles within the parish and make recommendations to the Parish Council on the strategy it should adopt and the changes which it should seek.

### **142/07-08 Village Design Statement Steering Group**

The Chairman, Cllr M Groves provided an update on the work undertaken by the Steering Group. An open day had been scheduled to take place on Saturday, 19 January in the WI hall, between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm. This would enable public comment on the first drafts of the completed character descriptions and guidance.

### **143/07-08 Affordable Housing for Chale Working Party**

A progress update had been provided earlier in the meeting as part of the item on projects identified in the Parish Plan.

### **144/07-08 Chale Village Partnership**

The minutes of the meeting of the Chale Village Partnership held on Tuesday, 11 December were referred to. Particular mention was made of the meeting of the 'Older Voices Circle' recently attended by Isabel Thorp, the Older Person's Champion for Chale, the proposal to establish a cohesive plan for the youth of Chale and the engagement of a new editor for the Chale Mail.

### **145/07-08 Correspondence**

Correspondence received was listed in the updated report tabled at the meeting.

### **146/07-08 Town and Country Planning**

- a. The following application approved by the IWC since the last meeting of the Parish Council was noted:  
TCP/16823/E Upper Bramstone Farm, Chale Street, Ventnor – Construction of detached building to provide timber store and staff w.c's, retention of car parking area.

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- b. A report had been received of light spillage at the Wight Mouse Inn in contravention of the reasons for refusal of the planning application TCP/22092/E, P/01648/06. The clerk had passed on the information to the Enforcement officer at the IWC before Christmas, but had not yet received any acknowledgment.

## **147/07-08 Arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the Parish**

Councillors considered it appropriate for the Energy Advice Centre to be invited to make a presentation to the annual meeting of the Parish, to be held on Monday, 28 April 2008 in the WI Hall, Chale commencing at 7.30 pm.

## **148/07-08 Clerks Report**

### a. Finance

- i The Interim Budget to 31 December 2007 and the Bank Reconciliation of Statement 269 were received and noted.
- ii Consideration was given to the draft budget for 2007/08 and the estimated budget for 2008/09. Councillors, mindful that the subsidy received from the IWC for grasscutting was not guaranteed for future years, agreed to raise the Precept by 4.3% in line with the retail prices index.

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT the Precept for 2008/09 be increased to £7,000.00.

- iii. Authorisation of the following cheques was requested:

Cheque No 000495, £8.64, Isle of Wight Council in respect of the cost of the advertisement re the Model Code of Conduct  
Cheque No 000496, £70.00, SLCC\_CILCA Management in respect of the cost of the clerk to undertake the CILCA course  
Cheque No 000497, Isle of Wight Council in respect of Clerks salary  
Cheque No 000498, £174.66 in respect of the clerks mileage and photocopying and the use of the clerks home as an office, up to 10 January, as agreed at the last meeting  
Cheque No 000499, £2,000, Chale Parish Council to maximize the accrual of interest by transferring monies to the Council's Halifax Building Society Treasurers Account.

### **RESOLVED :**

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

### b. Administration

The clerk advised that she had now passed the Working With Your Council

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course. Councillors expressed their congratulations.

The Halifax Building Society Guaranteed Reserve Account had been established in 2001 without the Parish Council being registered as exempt from paying tax on any interest paid. The HM Customs and Revenue had been informed and were to forward the relevant forms to the clerk to enable this money to be reclaimed. The amount in question was approximately £387.00.

## **149/07-08 Councillors Reports**

Cllr W Downes reported details of a perceived breach of planning regulations taking place at Sheep Lane Cottage, Sheep Lane, Blythe Shute, Chale. A number of photographs were circulated that appeared to support the claim. The clerk was requested to inform the Local Planning Authority's enforcement section.

Cllr P Atkinson advised of his intention to revamp the Parish Council's website.

Cllr M Starke informed that the meeting of the Chale School Committee would take place on Friday, 25 January commencing at 6.30 pm.

Cllr M Groves reported the collapse of a drain in Atherfield Road, Chale outside of Pyle Manor. The clerk to report the matter to the IWC's highways section.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE COUNCIL ROSE AT 10.15 PM FOLLOWING PUBLIC QUESTIONS.**

Signed .....

Dated .....