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## Chale Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Chale Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall, Chale on Monday, 14 September 2009, commencing at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Cllrs Malcolm Groves (Chairman), Mike Starke (Vice Chairman), Tony Bryant, Liam Cummings, Mrs Wendy Downes

In attendance:

Mrs Barbara Herbert, Clerk and RFO  
IW Cllr W Wyatt-Millington, Ward member for Chale, Niton and Whitwell  
Mr Harry Dea, Environment and Neighbourhood Officer

There was one member of the public present.

### **52/09-10 Apologies**

Apologies were tendered from Cllr Mrs L Groves due to medical reasons.

### **53/09-10 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made at this stage.

### **54/09-10 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 and 27 July 2009**

#### **RESOLVED ;**

THAT the Minutes of the Meetings held on 13 and 27 July 2009 be confirmed as a true record and that the Chairman be authorized to sign the Minutes on behalf of the Council.

### **55/09-10 Matters Arising, not requiring a Resolution**

- a. Minute 11/09-10 b, Whale Chine - Alex Russell, the IWC's Rights of Way Manager had advised that the engineer's report still needed to be discussed by several officers, including Peter Hayward, Head of Highways & Transport, prior to the conclusions being notified to the Parish Council. Unfortunately, this would not be possible until sometime during the next month
- b. Minute 31/09-10 a, Gore Pit Down – No further report had been received from the IWC's Enforcement Section. The clerk was requested to chase this up.
- c. Minute 31/09-10 e, Wight Mouse Inn – The IWC's Enforcement Section had reported that as the unauthorised lighting columns had been removed from the driveway of the Wight Mouse, the case was now closed. Councillors, however, were concerned that as the concrete bases and wiring still remained this could lead to a possible breach in the future. The clerk was instructed to request the IWC's Enforcement Section to take action for the complete removal of all fixtures and fittings.
- d. Minute 31/09-10 f, Speed Limits along Blythe Shute – The Speed Limit Review Policy was due to go before a meeting of the Cabinet on 1 October. The IWC's Highways Section were unable to confirm which A class roads had been prioritised for the first round in the review of speed limits, due to computer technical difficulties. The clerk agreed to follow up to ensure a response.

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- e. Minute 35, Community Advice Network (CAN) event – The dates for the CAN events had been agreed for 11, 18 and 25 January 2010, between 10.00am and 12 noon in Chale Green Stores. Three organisations would attend at each session, including the community chef.

### **56/09-10 Town And Country Planning**

- a. TCP/27328/B/C To consider any action in respect of the reported unauthorised development at Gotten Lane

A copy of an email, sent by a local resident to the IWC's Planning Services, had been received, which raised a number of points in respect of Gotten Lane, Chale. The response of the Planning officer to each of the queries had also been received and circulated by email to councillors. It was noted that the officer intended to visit the site in the near future to look, in person, at the materials being used on the barn in order to determine their acceptability and to identify the exact nature of what was being stored in the premises.

Concern was expressed over the apparent lack of the IWC's ability to reinforce the conditions stipulated in the decision notice issued in September 2008. The Parish Council's objections to the planning application still remained pertinent. Councillors were robust in their opinion that enforcement action should be taken to resolve the outstanding breaches.

- b. Long Thatch, Springfield and Land Opposite Laurel Cottage and Holly Cottage, Town Lane, Chale, Isle Of Wight Tree Preservation Order 2002

### **RESOLVED :**

- i. THAT the refusal and reasons for that refusal by the IW Council of the application to tip back to good growth tips of T1 Corsican Pine extending over Laurel Cottage and to tip back secondary boughs extending towards BT wires to good growth points be noted;
- ii. THAT the conditional approval of lesser works as outlined in the letter dated 17 August 2009 be noted.

### **57/09-10 Matters Relating to the Statutory Notice issued in respect of Chale CE Primary School**

The submissions of the Governing Body of Chale CE Primary School, Chale Village Partnership and the Chale School and Village Community Association (VCA), in response to the Statutory Notice issued in respect of Chale CE Primary school were noted, with particular mention being made of the high standard of the comprehensive response provided by the VCA.

IW Cllr W Wyatt-Millington gave a brief update on his efforts to prevent closure of the primary school, the first step being to seek support for the Statutory Notice to be withdrawn. If successful the whole community would then need to work together to determine a way forward, with federation still a feasible option. Councillors were reminded of the timetable for the decisions on education reform on the island.

### **58/09-10 The complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman**

The Local Government Ombudsman had advised that they were unable to investigate any complaint submitted by a Parish Council, as this was outside of their jurisdiction. Only an individual councillor or a member of the public who had been

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directly affected by the IWC's actions or decisions, had the right to submit a complaint. It was agreed to consider this matter again at the next meeting.

### **59/09-10 The temporary closure of Chale Post Office**

In addition to the correspondence attached to the agenda, reference was also made to a letter, dated 14 September, from Mr Vern Tyerman, the owner of Chale Stores, to Mr Tim Nickolls of Post Office Ltd. The letter responded to a number of issues that had been raised and confirmed Mr Tyerman's position in finding a mutually satisfactory solution that would enable the postal services needs of the Chale community to be met. Councillors expressed their full support for the previous arrangements to continue unchanged.

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT a letter be sent to Mr A Nickolls, of Post Office Ltd stressing the importance of retaining a postal service facility in the village, in line with the practice previously provided.

### **60/09-10 Changes to the No 6 Bus Service**

It was noted that changes to the No6 bus service had come into effect from 30 August. In order to ascertain the impact the reduction of the service had on villagers it was agreed that this be considered further under the Green Town project.

### **61/09-10 Participation in the pilot phase of the Green Towns project and to agree the terms of reference for a Working Party to deliver the project locally in partnership with Island 2000**

Discussion ensued on the report, circulated by email, which set out the background to the Green Towns project, a strand of Eco Island the Sustainable Community Strategy for the Isle of Wight. Chale had been selected as one of the four pilot communities to work with Island 2000, the facilitator, to develop the mechanics of the scheme, which would then be rolled out to other communities.

The Executive Director of SW Housing had expressed support for the project, agreeing to appoint suitable individuals to sit on the Working Party, as appropriate topics arose. An inaugural meeting now needed to be organised. Several councillors expressed their willingness to provide backup assistance if and when required.

### **RESOLVED :**

- i. THAT it be formally agreed for the Parish Council to participate in the pilot phase of the Green Towns project;
- ii. THAT a Working Party be established consisting of representatives of the key stakeholders in the community, the membership of which to not exceed ten in number and to include a minimum of two members of the Parish Council;
- iii. The following terms of reference be approved:  
To make recommendations to the Parish Council on the following matters specifically and other issues falling within the terms of the Green Towns Project as they arise:
  - Proposed local indicators to measure project outcomes desirable for the Chale community consistent with the overall Green Towns Project aims;

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- Recommended projects and potential sources of funding to achieve progress on each measure.
- iv. THAT Cllrs L Cummings and Mrs W Downes be appointed as the Parish Council representatives on the Working Party.

### **62/09-10 Eon proposal for the installation of a HeatPlant in the village**

The Chairman informed of the conversation held with Dr Edmund Hunt, of Eon, when views on the suggested detailed questionnaire, which had been circulated by email, were discussed. Dr Hunt had advised that a major insulation project was due to commence shortly on the Island. A survey, forming part of the project, would include a few questions in respect of micro generation. A further update would be provided at the next meeting.

### **63/09-10 To consider submitting an application to the IW RCC under their small revenue grant scheme**

The conditions of the small revenue grant were very prohibitive, as completion of all schemes and proof of spend had to be achieved by 24 September. It had been considered therefore that the completion of any project by the due deadline to be improbable.

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT the Village Partnership be advised to contact the Parish Council with details of any suitable scheme in order to access funds available in Year 2 of the grant scheme.

### **64/09-10 The Silo on Pyle Farm**

The Parish Council were advised that a neighbouring resident had submitted a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman in respect of the unauthorised silo on Pyle Farm.

IW Cllr W Wyatt-Millington updated the Parish Council on his meeting with Jean Penny, Head of Enforcement at the IW Council, who had re-iterated to him the reasons, previously reported, as to why it had been considered inexpedient to pursue enforcement action. Councillors confirmed their view that all development works should necessitate the submission of a planning application, particularly so those situated within an AONB. This would enable all interested and affected parties to submit their comments for consideration. IW Cllr W Wyatt-Millington agreed to make further representations on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **65/09-10 Arrangements for the next Big Tidy Up event**

Arrangements would be made for a further Big Tidy Up event to take place during the half term school holiday. The clerk had registered this event on the keep Britain Tidy website and would be receiving a supply of bibs and bags in due course. Mr Harry Dea, the ENO for Chale, agreed to provide his assistance.

### **66/09-10 Letter from the IWC Rights of Way Officer regarding Public Footpath C1, Chale Green, installation of footbridge**

The letter dated 26 August 2009 advising of the planned installation of a bridge to restore the original crossing point from the northern end of the Green on to Footpath C1 was noted.

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**67/09-10 Report setting out details in the production of the descriptive map**  
It was agreed that this matter be an agenda item at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**68/09-10 Request received from St John Ambulance, in their “Wheels for Life” appeal**

### **RESOLVED**

THAT in view of the Parish Council’s limited resources the request for a donation towards the St John Ambulance “Wheels for Life” appeal be declined.

**69/09-10 Update on the sale of the Chale Recreation Ground**

A meeting of the Recreation Ground Committee was due to take place shortly. It was hopeful that the Chairman of that committee would be in a position to report that a breakthrough had been made, facilitating progress on the matter.

**70/09-10 Report from the Affordable Housing for Chale Working Party**

No progress to report.

**71/09-10 Update from the Quality Status Working Party**

No progress to report.

**72/09-10 Update from the Parking and Signage Working Party**

Cllr Bryant provided a progress report following the first meeting of the Working Party. It had been agreed to address the 6 bullet points listed in the Terms of reference, in order, so to determine the main objectives using a consistent methodology.

The clerk was instructed to circulate the notes of the meeting held on 17 August 2009.

**73/09-10 To receive the quarterly report of Harry Dea, the Environment and Neighbourhood officer (ENO) for Chale**

Harry Dea, the ENO for Chale reported on the following issues:

- i. Big Tidy Up campaign;
- ii. Wroxall allotment scheme involving school children;
- iii. Clearance of refuse at Atherfield Beach
- iv. Bone Shaker Day organised for Saturday, 24 October on Chale Green between 9 – 10.30 am.
- v. Clearance of fly-tipping in Spanners Close
- vi. Beat surgeries take place on 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, 10.30 – 11.30 am, with the local PCSO to enable residents to report any relevant issues.

**74/09-10 To receive the report of Cllr W Wyatt-Millington, the IWC Ward Member for Chale, Niton and Whitwell**

IW Cllr W Wyatt-Millington advised that his main priority during the past few months had been for the campaign to retain Chale CE Primary school.

**75/09-10 Correspondence**

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

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Item u. Invitation to attend IWALC – Cllr M Groves to identify a representative Small Grants Launch Workshop organised to take place on Thursday, 8 October at the Carnival learning Centre to be attended by Cllr T Bryant.

## 76/09-10 Clerks Report

- a. Finance
  - i. The interim budget to the end of August 2009 and the bank reconciliation with Statement No 289 were received and noted.
  - ii. Retrospective approval was given for cheque No 000598, £380.00, Post Office, Clerks Salary for July as payment was due prior to today's meeting
  - iii. To authorise payment of the following cheques:  
000599, Post Office, Clerks Salary for August  
000600, £83.60, Clerks Expenses for July and August

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT the above cheques be approved for payment.

- b. Administration.
  - i. To re-approve Section 1 of the Annual Audit for 2009, following amendments to Box 4 and Box 6 in line with the letter from the Audit Commission.

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT Section 1, the Statement of Accounts of the Annual Audit for 2009 be re-approved and the Chairman and the Clerk be authorised to sign on behalf of the Parish Council.

- ii. To approve councillor requests to undertake training, as set out in the new CPD Calendar, July 2009 – June 2010 or the IW CTP Training Calendar

### **RESOLVED :**

- i. THAT it be approved for Cllr Bryant to attend the Code of Conduct training session on 15 February 2010 and the Town and County Planning session on 2 October at a cost of £25.00;
- ii. THAT a letter be sent to the Chief Executive expressing surprise that the Local Authority had discontinued the practice of its own staff in providing the valuable training sessions to parish and town councillors on planning matters and would welcome an explanation in response.
- iii. The email advising of drop in sessions at County Hall to enable all IW Council Members and Parish and Town councillors to discuss specific code of conduct issues, was noted.

## 77/09-10 Councillors' reports

Cllr Bryant reported on the consultation session he had attended on in respect of the

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proposed restructure of the IW Fire Service

Cllr M Groves advised that the Chale Churchyard Committee had organised a 'Lunar' quiz, scheduled to take place on 7 October, commencing at 7.30 pm, at a cost of £10 per team. The Parish Council would submit a team comprising of Cllrs M Groves, Mrs L Groves, Mrs W Downes and T Bryant.

Cllr M Groves advised that one of the trees planted on the Green had been snapped. The Hon Tree Warden had planned to trim the tree back to try and stimulate re-growth. Unfortunately before he was able to do so, the IWC's grass-cutting contractors had removed the tree, including the stake it was tied to. The clerk to write requesting a replacement 'Select Standard Sorbus Aucuparia'

Cllr M Groves highlighted that the solar stud lighting at the entrance to the car park appeared to be malfunctioning. The clerk to write to the manufacturers.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.35 PM**

Signed -----

Dated -----