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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, 12 October 2009, commencing at 7.30 pm

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

In attendance:  
Mrs Barbara Herbert, Clerk and RFO

There were no members of the public present.

### **77/09-10 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from IW Cllr W Wyatt-Millington, Ward member for Chale, Niton and Whitwell and Mr Harry Dea, Environment and Neighbourhood Officer

### **78/09-10 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr M Groves declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 90/09-10 as he was the Parish Council's representative on the Chale Recreation Ground committee.

### **79/09-10 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 September 2009**

#### **RESOLVED ;**

THAT the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 September 2009 be confirmed as a true record and that the Chairman be authorized to sign the Minutes on behalf of the Council.

### **80/09-10 Matters Arising, not requiring a Resolution**

- a. Minute 55/09-10 a, Whale Chine - Alex Russell, the Isle of Wight Council's (IWC's) Rights of Way Manager had advised that she would notify the clerk when discussions had taken place regarding the engineer's report. However, she was unable to advise of any timescale. The clerk to chase.
- b. Minute 55/09-10 b, Gore Pit Down – The IWC's Enforcement Officer had been due to visit the site on 8 October, with the Enforcement team manager. Unfortunately as this had not taken place it would need to be re-arranged for another time. The site visit would enable a list of those items to be removed from the site or those that would form future correspondence/enforcement notices. The landowner had agreed to tidy the site up of all non-agricultural items.
- c. Minute 55/09-10 c, Wight Mouse Inn – The IWC's Enforcement Section had reported that they were unable to enforce the complete removal of the concrete bases and electricity supply, as these were immune from any action. Should the lights be re-installed then the necessary procedures would be taken. Councillors to keep this under review.
- d. Minute 55/09-10 d, Speed Limits along Blythe Shute – Although the Speed Limit Review Policy had been agreed by the Cabinet on 1 October, the IWC's Highways Section had confirmed that Blythe Shute would not be included in

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the first round of the review of speed limits. Those roads, which had incurred the highest accident rates during years 2006/7/8 would take priority.

- e. Minute 56/09-10 a Gotten Lane – The IWC’s Enforcement Officer and a Planning Officer had visited the site and could now confirm that the materials used were deemed to be appropriate for its siting and were of good quality. The barn was being used for storage of hay, which was in line with permitted use. However, it was far larger than that approved. The Planning Officer was in discussions with the agent and landowner and had set a deadline of the 6 November for either works to be carried out to ensure the barn met the approved plans; for an application to be resubmitted for retention as built; or for the most eastern bay to be removed to reduce it to the size already approved. The latter option would also require a further application as the remaining bays had not been built in the approved location. The chalk hardstanding was subject to an ongoing application that awaited further revised plans. Once received the application would re-advertised for comment. The clerk was requested to include this matter on the agenda for the December meeting, if a revised planning application had not been received in the meantime.
- f. Minute 76/09-10 b ii Training sessions - The clerk referred to the email previously circulated, which indicated that since the decision taken last year to cease support to parishes, the IW Council were only obliged to provide training on the Code of Conduct. Charges were not incurred by all parish and town councils, only those that were not members of IWALC.
- g. Minute 77/09-10 Tree on the Green – The IW Council had apologised on behalf of their contractor for the removal of the ‘Select Standard Sorbus Aucuparia’ and its stake. They had agreed for a replacement, but considered it prudent if this was delayed until the weather and ground conditions were better. They were to contact Groundsells, the suppliers of the original tree.
- h. Minute 77/09-10 Solar Stud Lighting – The clerk had written and emailed Clearview Traffic Group Ltd regarding this matter, but was still awaiting a response. She would continue to press for a response.
- i. Minute 66/09-10 Footbridge – It was reported that although the footbridge had been installed some minor works remained unfinished. Cllr Bryant agreed to complete the tasks and to clear away a number of dumped items during the Big Tidy Up event.
- j. 75/09-10 Meeting of IWALC – Cllr Bryant would attend this meeting.

### **81/09-10 To receive the quarterly report of Harry Dea, the Environment and Neighbourhood officer (ENO) for Chale**

In the absence of Harry Dea, the ENO for Chale, the clerk confirmed that he would be in attendance at the Bone Shaker event on 24 October between 9.00 – 10.30 am and at the Big Tidy Up on 30 October from 11.00 am.

### **82/09-10 To consider the implications arising from decisions taken by the IW Council in respect of the future of Chale CE Primary School**

Councillors were reminded that while the IWC had approved the statutory notice to close Chale CE Primary School, a lifeline had been given in that any proposal, ‘in principle’, for federation put forward by the Governing Body within the next two months, would be duly considered.

A task group was to be formed comprising of representatives of the Chale Village

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Partnership, the Chale School and Village Association, the church and the Governing Body. The Parish Council had also been invited to appoint a councillor to that body, which would hold its first meeting on 14 October at Chale CE Primary School, commencing at 6.30pm.

The Chairman of Governors, in talks with the Chairman, had outlined the purpose to this meeting, but a number of issues still remained unclear. Cllr M Groves had also been made aware that a vacancy had arisen for a community governor. The name of a possible candidate had been passed to the Chairman of Governors.

The full Governing Body was scheduled to meet on 22 October, which was later than planned, primarily due to the resignation of the Clerk to the Governors. Therefore little progress had been made to date.

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT Cllrs Mrs W Downes and M Starke be appointed to the task group established to seek a way forward for Chale CE Primary School;

### **83/09-10 To receive an update on the ongoing discussions regarding the provision of Postal Services in Chale**

Reference was made to the Paper B, the letter from Mr T Nickolls, Network Development Manager of Post Office Ltd to Mr Vern Tyerman, the owner of Chale Stores. This suggested that, as far as the Post Office were concerned, the appropriate level of service should be reduced to 17 hours per week. This had been based on a review of the volume of business previously conducted. However, it was open for Mr Tyerman to come to some arrangement with any future operator to provide additional hours of service, if he so wished. An email had been received from Mr Tyerman advising that as the shop was open for 96 hours per week, this reduction was not really acceptable and he was continuing in his campaign for the hours to be increased to a minimum of 24 hours, the same as the previous contract. Councillors were minded to agree with Mr Tyerman and agreed to exert pressure for the same level of service to continue.

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT a letter be sent to Mr Nickolls, of the Post Office Ltd urging that the same level of postal services for Chale of 24 hours per week, be retained.

### **84/09-10 The complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman**

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT no further action be taken in this matter.

### **85/09-10 Update on the Eon proposal for the installation of a HeatPlant in the village**

Reference was made to the Island Insulation Scheme, a new partnership initiative jointly established by the IW Council and Eon, which was to be launched in October. Further details should have been made available on the IW Council's website from 9 October, however these were not yet online. The scheme aimed to offer home

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insulation, for free to those over 70 years of age or on certain benefits, and at a discounted price to owner-occupiers and private tenants. Presentations were being rolled out to all Parish and Town Councils, commencing with those who implemented No Cold Calling Zones.

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT this matter be placed on the agenda for the November meeting.

### **86/09-10 Report setting out details involved in the production of the descriptive map**

Mr Rupert Besley, the Descriptive Map creator had apologised for the continued delay and that he was very aware of the need to complete the project as soon as possible. It was anticipated that the costs of the project would still be contained within the existing budget.

### **87/09-10 Decision of the IWC to give two months notice of their intention to withdraw from the tri-partate agreement with IWALC and Parish and Town Councils**

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT, in the light of all the correspondence received, no response be made by the Parish Council.

### **88/09-10 To appoint two representatives to attend the briefing meeting on the IWC's Highways PFI programme to be held on Thursday, 19 November at 5.30 pm, in the Council Chamber**

### **RESOLVED:**

THAT Cllr Cumming and the clerk, Mrs B Herbert, be appointed as representatives to attend the briefing meeting on the IWC's Highways PFI programme.

### **89/09-10 Matters relating to Pyle Hall Farm**

Cllr M Groves advised that he was aware that a complaint had been lodged with the Local Government Ombudsman regarding the handling of the unauthorised Silo on Pyle Hall Farm. The complainant currently awaited the outcome. It appeared that further unauthorised building was also taking place on this site of a single storey construction, similar in size to a garage or a pool room.

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT the clerk advise the IWC's Enforcement Section of the further unauthorised building works taking place at Pyle Hall Farm.

### **90/09-10 Update of the sale of the Chale Recreation Ground**

Cllr M Groves, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item, provided an update on the events, which had taken place, then left the meeting room, without taking part in the discussion or decision thereon.

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Cllr M Groves referred to the background paper, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. This contained the draft notes of a meeting between Cllrs M Groves, and M Starke (Parish Council), Mr & Mrs Dale (owners of the neighbouring property), Mr Irving and Mr Hardy (representatives of the Recreation Ground committee) and Mr Hargeaves (IWC). Assurances had now been received that all parties that had been present agreed with the proposals as set out. An email had also been received from Mr Hargreaves advising of the anticipated IWC's legal costs and the valuation fee. A verbal assurance had been received that these would be borne by the Chale Horticultural Society. The sale of the recreation ground could not continue until a new valuation of the site had been obtained.

Councillors expressed their gratitude to Cllr M Groves for all his hard work in this matter.

## **RESOLVED :**

- i. THAT the Parish Council agrees to exercise its option under the lease to purchase the recreation ground from the IWC in favour of the Chale Recreation Ground Trust;
- ii. THAT the Parish Council agrees to waive its rights to complete in the specific timescale of 3 months, as contained in the lease, in order to avoid any difficulties with the timing of the IWC's decision process and any subsequent legal requirements;
- iii. THAT the Parish Council seek an agreement from Mr Tony Holmes that Roach Pittis would be content to act for the Parish Council in this matter as well as for Mr & Mrs Dale

Cllr M Groves returned to the meeting room.

## **91/09-10 To consider what response, if any to make to the Youth Connexions Service Consultation**

## **RESOLVED :**

THAT the Parish Council does not make any representation.

## **92/09-10 Report from the Affordable Housing for Chale Working Party** No progress to report.

## **93/09-10 Update from the Quality Status Working Party**

A meeting of the Working Party had taken place, together with Mr Peter Atkinson who had agreed to update the Parish Council's website. There were still some details to work through. However, as this was in hand, it was anticipated that submission of the necessary criteria should take place by the end of November.

## **9409-10 Update from the Parking and Signage Working Party**

Cllr Bryant provided a progress report. A further meeting was to be arranged shortly, when a number of recommendations would be finalised for presentation to the next

meeting of the Parish Council.

## **95/09-10 Update report from the Green Towns Project Working Party**

A meeting of the Working Party had not yet taken place as representatives of the key stakeholders in the community still needed to be appointed. The Parish Council were informed that the remaining two pilot parishes had also not been finalised.

Councillors on the Working Party raised a number of issues in conjunction with the Green Towns project:

- Organising a speaker to talk on the Climate Change conference being held in Denmark, in December – It was suggested this would be more appropriate to be organised for the Working Party, with any recommendations then being presented to the Parish Council;
- A number of residents had expressed their interest in cultivating an allotment - The clerk to write to Mrs I Thorpe, of the PCC to investigate if there was any intention to re-instate the allotments near to the church;
- Dog Bin in Spanners Close being moved to the Green – The clerk to approach Island Waste Services to ascertain ownership of this dog bin. To be discussed at the November meeting of the Parish Council.

## **96/09-10 To receive the report of Cllr W Wyatt-Millington, the IWC Ward Member for Chale, Niton and Whitwell**

In the absence of IW Cllr W Wyatt-Millington, Cllr M Groves read out his report, which advised of the work he had been undertaking in respect of Chale CE Primary School. Councillors expressed their gratitude for his sterling efforts, particularly at the meeting of IWC's Full Council on 30 September.

## **97/09-10 Correspondence**

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

Item e. re the IW Cemetery Warden scheme – this to be sent to Mr Derek Sprake

Item s. re advertising in the Chale Mail – to be on the agenda for the November meeting

Item t. re Open Space Survey – Cllr M Groves to attend one of the workshops at the Riverside Centre

## **98/09-10 Clerks Report**

a. Finance

- i. The interim budget to the end of September 2009 and the bank reconciliation with Statement No 290 were received and noted.
- ii. The half yearly financial statement was received and noted.
- iii. Consideration was given to the retrospective approval for the following cheque as payment was due prior to this meeting:  
000608, £44.50, John's Club, Community Chest Funding

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT retrospective approval be given to cheque No 000608, £44.50, John's Club from the Community Chest Funding.

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- iv. To authorise payment of the following cheques  
000609, Post Office, Clerks Salary for September  
000610, £47.08, Clerks Expenses  
000611, £34.10, John's Club, the balance of the Community Chest Funding

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the above cheques be approved for payment.

- b. Administration.
  - i. The draft Statement of Intent regarding Training

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the Statement of Intent regarding training be approved.

- ii. It was noted that the External auditor had completed their audit and that the information contained in the annual return was in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements, with no matters giving cause for concern.
- iii. The letter from the IWC in respect of the Grass Cutting and Graveyard Amenity Costs was noted.
- iv. Consideration of ordering a wreath for Remembrance Sunday

**RESOLVED**

THAT it be approved for a standard wreath to be obtained for the Remembrance Day service on 8 November 2009.

**99/09-10 Councillors' reports**

Cllr Mrs W Downes reported on the planned Big Tidy Up event organised to take place on 30 October commencing at 11.00am. She would liaise with Harry Dea, the ENO to obtain posters, bibs, bags, litter pickers and hoops.

Cllr M Groves advised of a new access that has been carved out at the southern end of Southdown Lane, near to a dangerous bend. The clerk to advise IWC's Highways department as councillors were unaware of any planning permission having been obtained.

Cllr M Groves provided a brief report on the training session, both he and the clerk had attended on Community Asset Transfers

Cllr M Groves mentioned that decedents of Count Karoliy, the 1<sup>st</sup> President of Hungary, were planning to visit the churchyard, on 2 November, to dedicate the seat that marks the site of the former graves of Count Karoli and his son .

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.40PM**

Signed -----

Dated -----