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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 9 March 2009, commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Malcolm Groves (Chairman), Mike Starke (Vice Chairman), Mrs Wendy Downes, Mrs Liz Groves, Mrs Karen Le Brecht, David Overton

In attendance:

Mrs Barbara Herbert, Clerk and RFO
IW Cllr Mrs Wendy Arnold, Ward Member for Chale, Niton and Whitwell
Mr Harry Dea – Environment Neighbourhood Officer
Mr Mike Bulpitt – Chief Executive Rural Community Council
Ms Philippa Daley – Rural Services Officer

There was one member of the public present.

213/08-09 Apologies

There were no apologies tendered.

214/08-09 Declarations of Interest

Cllr M Groves declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No 218/08-09 a. i., as he was a member of the Management Committee for Island Cottages, the adjoining land-owners and a personal interest in Minute No 219/08-09 a. ii, as he knew the wife of the applicant.

Cllr Mrs W Downes declared a personal interest in Minute No 219/08-09 a. ii, as she knew the wife of the applicant.

Cllr Mrs L Groves declared a personal interest in Minute No 219/08-09 a. ii, as she knew the wife of the applicant.

215/08-09 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 February 2009

RESOLVED ;

THAT the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 February 2009 be confirmed as a true record, subject to the insertion of the word 'store' after Village in the third line of Minute No 199/08-09 c, and that the Chairman be authorized to sign the Minutes on behalf of the Council.

216/08-09 Matters Arising, not requiring a Resolution

- a. Minute /08-09 Complaint to the Isle of Wight Council – The clerk advised that the deadline for a response to the official complaint was 26 March 2009.
- b. Minute 199/08-09 a. Whale Chine - Alex Russell, the IWC's Rights of Way Manager had advised that the consultant's report had not yet been received.
- c. Minute 199/08-09 b. Silo on Pyle Farm – Notification of a planning application had not yet been received. The clerk was requested to seek a progress report on the situation.

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- d. Minute 199/08-09 c Parking on the Village Green – The Chairman had tried to contact Mr V Tyerman, the Store-owner to apprise him of the situation, but it appeared he was still away on holiday. It was thought that he would be back shortly.
- e. Minute 199/08-09 d Annual Meeting of the Parish –The clerk advised that Mr R Harrington-Vail had declined the invitation to attend this meeting. An approach had also been made to Mr J Fawcett, who had attended last year, for him to provide an update on the low carbon scheme, which was part of the Eco Island proposals. Unfortunately, Mr Fawcett was unsure if any further progress would be made by the date of the Annual Meeting. It was therefore suggested that PCSO Urry be approached, or his deputy, to invite him to make a presentation on Chale issues.

217/08-09 Presentation from Mr Mike Bulpitt, Chief Executive and Ms Philippa Daley, Rural Services Officer of the IW Rural Community Council

The Chairman, in welcoming Mr Mike Bulpitt, Chief Executive and Ms Philippa Daley, Rural Services Officer of the IW Rural Community Council (RCC) to the meeting, explained the rationale behind the invitation for them to attend. In agreement with comments that had been received from some fellow councillors, Cllr M Groves considered that the support provided by the RCC to rural areas on the Isle of Wight, appeared minimal and he was interested in Mr Bulpitt's comments on that.

Mr Bulpitt provided details of a number of projects, which had taken place in Chale over the past 5 years that had involved the RCC. It was explained that the RCC were a charity, reliant on sourcing external finance to enable the recruitment of officers, the provision of grant funding, training events and advice to parish councils, other organisations and voluntary bodies. When Mr Bulpitt first took up his appointment, 18 months ago, a number of financial initiatives were coming to the end of their natural life. However, the RCC were committed in seeking pots of monies to benefit the island and several areas of success were outlined. Particular mention was made of the Rural Access to Services (RASP), a government funded scheme, secured in July 2008, which enabled the recruitment of Ms Daley. Reference was also made to the Volunteer Car Scheme, which supported the older person in accessing services. The RCC were eager to expand their pool of drivers, by recruiting volunteers from Chale.

Ms Daley explained in more detail the criteria of the two projects within the RASP scheme, circulating a map that identified those areas classed as rural on the island. Ms Daley also advised of her interest in extending those individual services, which could be best provided by Parish Councils and of her involvement in delivering a community advice network project.

Councillors questioned the remit of the RCC and to the level of assistance that they could give in respect of the challenges faced by Chale village. Councillors pressed Mr Bulpitt as to whether the RCC would actively support the campaign to retain Chale Primary school. Concerns were highlighted that closure of the school would have such a huge detrimental effect on the village. The campaign, subject of a big launch on Thursday, was backed by the local MP and desperately needed an extra voice to speak out on its behalf. Mr Bulpitt tabled copies of two letters that the RCC had sent to the IW Council as part of the consultation exercise on school re-

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organisation.

Cllr M Groves, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Mr Bulpitt and Ms Daley for attending the meeting.

218/08-09 Report of Harry Dea, Environment and Neighbourhood Officer (ENO) for Chale

Mr Harry Dea the Environment and Neighbourhood Officer (ENO) explained that, in addition to the duties listed in the Action Plan included with the agenda, he had been tasked to undertake an audit of local businesses in Rookley and Wroxall. He was also involved in the national Big Tidy Up campaign on the island and would provide a quarterly report to the Parish Council, in April, on those issues he had dealt with relating to Chale. Mr Dea made specific reference to the expression of support by the Parish Council for a dog bin along the Terrace. This had been submitted following acknowledgment by the IWC's Waste Management section of an identified need, although the Parish Council had not agreed to provide the funding for the emptying of the bin. Other matters included the fly tipping in Spanners Close, the recent spate of pot-holes caused by the earlier extreme weather conditions and the graffiti in the concrete bus shelter on the Green.

Cllr M Groves highlighted several blocked ditches in the vicinity of the Green, which had been reported to the IWC, but not yet cleared. Mr Dea agreed to follow this up and to chase the repair of those potholes still remaining.

219/08-09 Town and Country Planning

- a. Consideration was given to the following applications received and comments made in accordance with the guidance for material planning considerations listed at

<http://www.iwight.com/council/departments/planning/appsdip/MakingCommentsInfo.aspx>

Cllr M Groves having declared a personal and prejudicial interest left the meeting prior to any discussion or decision thereon. Cllr Starke took the chair.

- i. TCP/02941/C Westward House, Chale Street, Chale – Construction of field shelter/hay store

RESOLVED :

THAT no material planning objections be raised.

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

- ii. TCP/16823/F Upper Bramstone Farm, Chale Street, Chale – Outline for construction of joinery workshop with mezzanine floor

The applicant was present and provided clarification to questions raised by the Parish Council.

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RESOLVED :

THAT no material planning objections be raised and that this Parish Council fully supports the application, as it will enable this developing business to be retained in Chale, providing much needed jobs within the community.

- iii. TCP/11950/D South Side Farm, Appleford Road, Chale Green – Conversion of barn into three self-contained units of holiday accommodation to include bedroom accommodation within the roof space and rebuilding of the lean-to.

RESOLVED :

THAT this Parish Council, while supporting the application in principle, expresses concern on three matters in accordance with pages 6, 9, 16 and 20 of the approved Village Design Statement:

- i. Possible contravention of the dark skies policy in Chale, due to the proposed new roof lights;
 - ii. The use of closeboard fencing to form the boundary line, which to be in keeping with a rural environment should be a rural hedgerow;
 - iii. The proposed roof shape, which it is considered is not a common sight in buildings of this type. A catslide roofline would be more appropriate.
- b. The following decisions taken by the Local Planning Authority since the last meeting were noted:
- i. TCP/21907/F Chale Bay Farm, Military Road, Chale - To grant conditional Planning Permission for the alteration and conversion of 8 bed and breakfast units into 4 units of holiday accommodation to include 3 single storey extensions to form sun rooms (revised plans)
 - ii. TCP/26102/H land to the rear of 1 Sheep Lane Farm Cottage, Blythe Shute, Chale – To grant conditional Planning Permission for a proposed conversion of a derelict pig sty into an office and retention of use of converted pig sty as an office
 - iii. TCP/23532/H Maricourt, Town Lane, Chale Green – To grant conditional Planning Permission for a single storey extension to form sun room with balcony over; retention of and alterations and extension to stable block to include the relocation of hay store and provision of garage; removal of fence and enlargement of area of hard standing to provide turning area.

RESOLVED :

THAT the clerk writes to the IWC's Planning Department in respect of TCP/23532/H Maricourt, advising of the concerns of the Parish Council in respect of condition No 3, relating to the

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provision of a parking area and turning circle.

iv. Unauthorised caravans on Gore Down

The clerk was requested to obtain an update on progress from the Enforcement Section.

220/08-09 Grass cutting for 2009/10

a. Letter dated 18 February 2009 from Cllr D Pugh, Leader of the IW Council

RESOLVED :

THAT the letter from Cllr D Pugh, Leader of the IW Council be noted.

b. The award of the Grass Cutting contract for 2009/10

The clerk circulated copies of extracts from emails she had received from the Mr C Mathews, the IWC's Democratic Services Manager. These were in response to the notification to the IWC of the Parish Council's possession of a copy of the Regulations of Commons – Chale Green, made in accordance with the Commons Act 1899, dated 15 August 1961, which stated that the management thereof, of the Green, was vested in the then IW Rural District Council. Mr Mathews acknowledged that the Parish Council had cut some areas of the Green in the past, which were actually the responsibility of the IWC. However, he was not able to specify exactly those areas, which were not the responsibility of the IWC.

Following careful consideration it was

RESOLVED :

- i. THAT the Isle of Wight Council be informed that, in view of the email received from Mr Chris Mathews, the IWC's Democratic Services Manager, Chale Parish Council are to terminate the cutting of the Green forthwith;
- ii. THAT no action be taken to seek recompense of the costs incurred following the admission of the IW Council that the Parish Council had, in previous years, paid for the grass cutting of areas that the IWC were held responsible for.
- iii. THAT a claim would be submitted in the normal manner for any payment towards Graveyard Amenity costs incurred by the Parish Council.

c. The request for a donation towards grass cutting costs for 2009/10 received from the Chale Churchyard Committee

RESOLVED :

THAT the request received from the Chale Churchyard Committee for a donation towards grass cutting costs be considered at a later date

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and for the Chairman to advise the Churchyard Committee of the decision taken.

221/08-09 To consider what action to take, if any, in respect of the Big Tidy Up being launched by the Keep Britain Tidy and ongoing issues of litter

The Parish Council had registered their interest in taking part in the national campaign launched by the Keep Britain Tidy. Discussion ensued on a suggested venue and date for the Big Tidy Up in Chale. Cllr W Downes agreed to co-ordinate the event and Mr H Dea confirmed his willingness to assist the Parish Council. It was suggested that the Big Tidy Up take place around the Spanners Close area, in particular, during the week following the Easter weekend, although this date was subject to confirmation.

RESOLVED :

THAT Cllr W Downes liaise with Mr H Dea to co-ordinate the Big Tidy Up event in Chale.

222/08-09 Million Blooms project

- a. Minutes of the Million Blooms Sub Committee

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the Million Blooms Sub Committee held on 16 February 2009 be approved and the Chairman be authorized to sign the Minutes on behalf of the Council.

- b. Progress Update Report

Cllr M Groves advised that the supply of trees should be available shortly enabling planting to take place during the weekend of 28/29 March, in accordance with the planned timetable.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

223/08-09 To consider what response, if any, to make with regard to the following consultations:

- a. Community Asset Transfer Draft Policy

RESOLVED :

THAT the Community Asset Transfer Draft Policy be noted.

- b. Consultation in respect of Local Bus Services

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The contracts for all contracted local bus services were due to terminate on the 29 August 2009. A letter had been received from Mr M Mullins, the IWC's Public Transport Officer inviting views on the bus network currently provided in Chale.

RESOLVED :

- i. THAT it be suggested for the Performance Management Framework to include an additional score when a service finished by 18.00 hrs and also for an extra score if there was a long time to wait between each bus. This being because there was no differential between a passenger having a 10 minute wait or those who had a 2 hour wait between buses.
 - ii. The Parish Council considered that priority should be given to those services which enabled parishioners to get to their place of work, in Newport and to be able to return home again at the end of the day. This to be operational for 7 days a week.
- c. Letter regarding the restructure of the Parish and Community Development Team

RESOLVED :

THAT the letter be noted.

- d. Letter regarding the Ethical Standards Committee and Feedback to Parish and Town Councils

RESOLVED :

THAT the attendance of an Independent member of the Ethical Standards Committee at meetings of the Parish Council, was considered to be unnecessary. The Parish Council's meetings were currently serviced by a competent and qualified clerk, who ensured that they were managed properly.

224/08-09 To appoint a representative to the Brighstone and District Newsletter Committee

Cllr M Groves advised of his attendance at a meeting earlier that day, when the Terms and Conditions of the Committee had been adopted.

RESOLVED :

THAT Cllr M Groves be appointed as the Parish Councils' representative on the Brighstone and District Newsletter Committee

225/08-09 Update on the sale of the Chale Recreation Ground

Cllr M Groves reported that Mr B Cooke, the IWC's Property Services Manager had advised he was still awaiting the response to questions on various issues. Until

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these had been received no further progress could be made.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

226/08-09 To receive the report from the Affordable Housing for Chale Working Party

There was no further action to report.

227/08-09 To receive the report of Cllr Mrs W Arnold, the IWC Ward Member for Chale, Niton and Whitwell

Cllr Mrs W Arnold made particular mention of the following matters:

- The Budget set by the IWC for 2009/10
- Wight 2 B Heard conference
- Trading Standards email to taxi drivers highlighting a scam

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

228/08-09 Correspondence

Correspondence received was listed in the report circulated with the agenda and updated at the meeting. The clerk was requested to forward details of the Calor Village of the Year 2009 competition to the chairman of the Village Partnership.

229/08-09 Clerks Report

i Finance

- a. The interim budget to the end of February 2009 and the bank reconciliation with Statement No 283 were received.
- b. Cheque No 000563 for £38.00 issued to IW Gateway Club in respect of a trip organised under the Community Chest grant scheme.

RESOLVED :

THAT retrospective approval be granted in respect of cheque No 000563 for £38.00 to IW Gateway Club from the Community Chest grant funding as payment was required prior to the meeting.

- c. To authorise payment of the following cheques:
000564, Isle of Wight Council, Clerks Salary for January
000565, Mrs B Herbert, £53.60 Clerks Expenses for January
000566, Brighstone Landscaping, £192.58, grass cutting
000567, National Association of Local Councils, £5.98, Portfolio Return

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RESOLVED :

THAT payment of the above cheques be approved.

ii Administration

Consideration was given to the renewal of the affiliation to the IW Sports and Recreation Council at a fee of £5.00 per annum.

The clerk advised that discussions had now concluded with the agreement of an overall pay increase of 2.4% for Local Government employees. Staff had already received 2.05% of this increase since October 2008.

RESOLVED :

THAT payment of cheque No 000568 regarding the membership of the IW Sports and Recreational Council be approved, at a cost of £5 per annum.

230/08-09 Councillors' reports

Cllr M Starke reported on the meeting of IWALC on 19 February, which both he and the Cllr M Groves had attended when a presentation was made on the Highways PFI.

Cllr M Groves advised of a resident in Spanners Close who appeared to be running a car repair business in the roadway, outside of his house causing a danger on the highway. The clerk was requested to contact the police and SW Housing Association.

Cllr Mrs W Downes reminded those present of the meeting on Thursday, 12 March at the Chale Primary school, commencing at 7.00 pm.

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

Signed -----

Dated -----