

## Chale Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Chale Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall, Chale on Monday, 18 January 2010, 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

For the Presentation:

Julie Woodhouse and Sue Hughes of the IW Council's Community Safety Services

There were two members of the public present.

### **153/09-10 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Mr Harry Dea, the Environment and Neighbourhood Officer for Chale and IW Cllr William Wyatt-Millington.

### **154/09-10 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made at this stage.

### **155/09-10 Presentation from Julie Woodhouse, IW Council's Senior Fair Trading Officer, Community Safety Services on the setting up of a No Cold Calling Zone for Chale**

The Chairman introduced and welcomed to the meeting Julie Woodhouse and Sue Hughes, from the IW Council's Community Safety Service. Ms Woodhouse provided a brief presentation on the benefits of establishing a No Cold Calling Zone in Chale. The scheme was a useful tool to assist both the police and the Trading Standards department in the prevention of doorstep crime. It was however, important for residents to note that it could not prevent sellers from calling, but that it did form a first statement that they were not prepared to buy any goods at the door. The Community Safety Services section would assist the Parish Council in providing relevant materials, at cost, for distribution to each household and were prepared to visit any vulnerable persons to explain, in person, details of the scheme and to raise awareness and provide advice on how their personal safety could be improved within the home.

Councillors expressed their support for the scheme and thanked the officers for their attendance. It was agreed for this to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

### **156/09-10 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 December 2009**

#### **RESOLVED ;**

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

## 157/09-10 Matters Arising, not requiring a Resolution

- a. Minute 103a Gore Pit Down – The IW Council's Area Compliance Officer had reminded that last year she had been in contact with the owner of the site, when it was agreed that steps would be taken to tidy the pit of non-agricultural items. A compliance check would be undertaken in due course. However no timescale had been advised.
- b. Minute 132/09-10 a Island Insulation Scheme – The clerk referred to the email, which she had circulated on 4 January, that confirmed the Mark Group were now registered on the IW Council's Buy with Confidence scheme. A date had yet to be set for those parishes not part of the Cold Calling scheme.
- c. Minute 132/09-10 c Post Office Services in Chale – Mr Vern Tyerman, the owner of Chale Green Stores had advised that a candidate had eventually been appointed by the Post Office Ltd. However due to personal reasons she had not in the end been able to take up the position. A further suitable candidate had also been referred to Post Office Ltd and was currently going through the recruitment process. Mr Tyerman also informed he had been advised that the Post Office Ltd would not transfer any branches until early February to 30 April, resulting in at least another 4 months with no Post office service in the village. However, a response had now been received from the MP Andrew Turner, enclosing a reply from Mel Fry at Post Office Ltd. Ms Fry confirmed that the recruitment process was progressing, with the intention of appointing a candidate, if they proved suitable, on 23 hours per week, in February. The clerk to forward this correspondence to Mr Tyerman.
- d. Minute 132/09-10 d Allotments – A letter had been received from Mrs K Burgess, Secretary of the Parochial Church Council stating that the PCC had decided not to re-open the allotments, mainly due to the ground be prone to becoming waterlogged and also being over run by rabbits. Councillors expressed disappointment at this news, commenting as to whether the issue had actually been raised at one of the PCC's meetings. It was suggested that Mr Derek Sprake be contacted to try and ascertain the terms under which this parcel of land was gifted to the church.
- e. Minute 132/09-10 e Unmonitored Southern Water overflows – Southern Water had confirmed that they had two overflows, in Blackgang Chine and in Chale Street. The overflows were used in emergencies and heavy storms. The Environment Agency were aware of their use. The County Sewerage Engineer had assured that they were monitored by telemetry, which informed when the overflow operated. Councillors requested that further inquiries be made to confirm the volume of water and how regularly the overflows were utilised.
- f. Minute 136 Pyle Hall Farm – The IW Council's Area Compliance Officer had confirmed that contact with the owner had now been established and discussions taken place. The Compliance Officer suspected that the works being undertaken related to application P/1013/07 – field shelters, which had been granted conditional planning approval. However a site visit was still to take place to confirm the nature of the works being carried out. Councillors refuted that the building under construction was related to the field shelter application, as suggested and instructed the clerk to confirm this with the Compliance Officer. In accordance with councillors request, a letter had been sent to the IW AONB in December, in respect of the unauthorised works at this site. A response had now been received and the clerk read out sections from the letter.

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- g. Minute 141/09-10 Registration of area of land by Southdowne Lane/Pyle Shute – The clerk advised that to determine ownership of this small area of land would require a search by the Land Registry. The cost of this was £5.00. This to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **157/09-10 To receive the report of Harry Dea, the Environment and Neighbourhood officer (ENO) for Chale**

In the absence of Mr Harry Dea, the Environment and Neighbourhood officer for Chale, the Chairman reported on changes to rules in that Mr Dea would no longer be able to convey in his van any rubbish collected as part of the Big Tidy Up campaign, to the local land fill site, on behalf of the Parish Council. The IW Council's Waste management team would in future make the collection. This would be mentioned in Mr Dea's quarterly report enabling councillors to make a formal comment. It was noted that Mr Dea would be attending the Beat Surgery at Chale Stores, on 25 January, together with the Rural Community Council who had organised a CAN event on that date.

### **158/09-10 Town and Country Planning**

- a. To consider the application received and make comments in accordance with the guidance for material planning considerations listed at <http://www.iwight.com/council/departments/planning/appsdp/MakingCommentsInfo.aspx>
- i. TCP/27328/D Part OS parcel 9792 Gotten Lane, Chale, Ventnor, Isle of Wight - Retention and completion of 5 bay open fronted barn for the storage of hay, straw and agricultural machinery

A copy of a draft letter from Mrs C Gurney-Champion and Prof Dennis Russell on behalf of the Campaign to Protect Rural England had been circulated to all councillors by email, prior to the meeting.

Following councillors' discussion on the matter, Mrs Gurney-Champion who was present, addressed the Parish Council with her concerns.

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT Chale Parish Council raise objections to application TCP/27328/D as submitted, as it was considered for the application to be unnecessary.

- i. Councillors determined that no argument setting out the need for such a large building had been put forward;
- ii. Councillors expressed their concerns that Application TCP/273281/C – Cattle Feeding chalked area had still not been resolved. The Parish Council's representations raised in respect of that application still remained pertinent, particularly to the drainage and the risk of flooding to neighbouring properties. Councillors failed to understand as to why the application was still outstanding and had not been determined within the approved timescales;

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- iii. Councillors request that both the Planning Applications in respect of Gotten Lane be considered in tandem.

The Chairman advised that he had also received a letter from Mr & Mrs Richardson-Smith, of Gotten Manor Farmhouse setting out a number of objections and urging the Parish Council to make representations against the application.

- ii. TCP/29956 Part OS parcel 4543 Emmett Hill Farm, Emmett Hill, Chale Green – Proposed siting of two open bay agricultural barns and temporary siting of agricultural workers mobile home with access track

A copy of a letter, dated 11 January, from Dr M Howell to the Local Planning Authority setting out a number of observations in respect of the application was tabled.

Following councillors' discussion on the matter, Dr Howell, who was present, addressed the Parish Council highlighting his concerns.

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT Chale Parish Council make the following representations in respect of the above application:

- If the application is approved a condition to be imposed to improve the ingress and egress to the site. Due to the speed of traffic along this road the visibility splays should be increased and replacement hedging to enable improved safety particularly when exiting the site;
  - The comments made in the application regarding third party amenity are noted. However any building erected would be overlooked from footpath C31;
  - As a mobile home has already been sited at Emmett Hill Farm for some time, the application should be for retrospective planning approval
  - Councillors have some difficulty in appreciating the necessity for a mobile home for agricultural workers due to the close proximity of other suitable accommodation and question the actual need for this building.
- b. The following decision taken by the Local Planning Authority since the last meeting of the Planning Committee was noted.

TCP/15817/A Fulford, Chale Street, Chale, Ventnor – Conditional Planning Permission for the demolition of extension; single storey extension to provide additional living accommodation to include French doors and balustrading on rear elevation and dormer window on side elevation

### **159/09-10 To note the decision of the IW Council in respect of Chale CE Primary School and to consider any further action required**

The Chairman referred to the exchange of emails with Mr Alan Locke, the Chairman

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of the Governing Body of Chale CE Primary School. The IW Council were due, imminently, to take a Delegated Decision on the future of the school, which had been recommended by officers in the report, for closure. Mr Locke had urged that the Parish Council send a further letter of representation against the planned decision. Councillors highlighted that throughout the process to reform education provision on the Isle of Wight, the IW Council had failed to give any indication on their plans for the alternative use of the building, including the future of the Nursery school. It was also considered that the IW Council's argument for declining the 'in principle' proposal of federation with the new school planned in Godshell, was flawed.

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT an urgent letter be sent to the IW Council, making further representations to the recommendation set out in the Delegated Decision report.

### **160/09-10 To consider ideas for the use of the Telephone Kiosk K6, Military Road, Chale**

Discussion ensued on the most appropriate use for the Telephone Kiosk, along the Military Road. It was suggested that it could form an information shed, to assist visitors, walkers etc to the village. To be considered further at the next meeting.

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT the Chale Churchyard Committee and the Village Partnership be invited to express their interest in providing a supply of information for display in the telephone kiosk.

### **161/09-10 To consider establishing a Flood Plan in Chale**

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT Cllrs M Groves and T Bryant report to the next meeting on suggestions for a Flood Plan for Chale.

### **162/09-10 To consider any progress in the installation of the green solar powered studs**

Cllr Bryant had taken an initial look as to the condition and the ease of removal of the existing studs. It was feared that the task would prove more difficult than that first thought. However, Cllr Bryant agreed to investigate the matter further.

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT the efforts being taken to facilitate the installation of the studs be noted.

### **163/09-10 Update of the sale of the Chale Recreation Ground**

Cllr M Groves reported that following pressure on the IW Council to progress the obtaining of an updated valuation, an indicative figure in excess of £50K had eventually been put forward as the revised figure for the sale of the recreation ground. This was a massive increase on the original estimate. A small informal

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meeting between Mr M Hardy, Mr A Irving and Cllrs M Starke and M Groves was to take place shortly to establish a clear sense of how matters should now proceed.

### **164/09-10 Report from the Affordable Housing for Chale Working Party**

There was no further progress to report.

### **165/09-10 Update from the Parking and Signage Working Party**

There was no further progress to report. Any issues relating to footpaths/bridleways to be forwarded to Cllr Bryant. Cllr M Groves to advise Cllr Downes of the contact details for the Ramblers Association.

### **166/09-10 The Green Towns Project Working Party**

Cllr M Groves declared a personal interest in the following item of business, as the Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Chale Green Low Carbon Community Challenge (Chale Green LCCC).

Councillors were reminded of the recent award of £500K to the Ellen Macarthur Foundation to improve homes in the Spanners Close area and to install a number of carbon-cutting technologies including solar power. The composition of the Steering Committee was noted, which was a working party established to undertake the project. A meeting had been organised to take place on 23 January, in Chale Primary school commencing at 10.30am.

In discussion it was suggested that due to the cross aims and personnel, it would be sensible for the Parish Council to disband the Green Towns Working Party, allowing the Chale Green LCCC to take its place. A further benefit of the project would enable Chale residents to travel by bus to and from Newport for only £1, subject to pre-registration.

### **RESOLVED :**

- i. THAT the notes of the meeting held on 10 November were received;
- ii. THAT the Green Towns Project Working Party be disbanded.

### **167/09-10 Report from the Hoy Monument Working Party**

Reference was made to the notes of the meeting of the Working Party, held on 8 January and circulated by email prior to the meeting.

### **RESOLVED :**

THAT it be agreed for the Hoy Monument Working Party to explore further the potential for sponsorship and donations in cash and kind, including any promotional activities, towards the costs of any required refurbishment of the Hoy Monument, in the future.

### **168/09-10 To receive the report of Cllr W Wyatt-Millington, the IWC Ward Member for Chale, Niton and Whitwell**

In the absence of Cllr Wyatt-Millington the clerk read out his report sent to her by email.

### **169/09-10 Correspondence**

Correspondence received was listed in the report circulated with the agenda and

updated at the meeting.

## 170/09-10 Clerks Report

### a. Finance

- i. To consider the draft Precept for 2010/11  
The clerk confirmed that the Parish Council were to receive the sum of £750, in re-imbusement of grass cutting costs for 2009/10. It was feared that due to the current financial climate this could be the last year that this grant would be paid. Councillors also considered if it would be of benefit to re-join IWALC.

#### **RESOLVED :**

THAT subject to the addition of the sum of £200 to enable the Cold Calling Zone scheme to proceed, if approved, the Precept for 2010/11 be set at £8,600

- ii. The interim budget to the end of December 2009 and the bank reconciliation with Statement No 5 were received and noted.
- iii. Re-investment of funds from the matured Halifax Guaranteed Reserve Account

The clerk reminded councillors of the problems when the funds in the Halifax Guaranteed Reserve Account were reinvested in 2008. Due to an error by the Halifax the sum of £422.97 was to be repaid to the Parish Council when the account matured at the end of 2009. However, due to the lateness in notification of the balance on maturity, only the sum of £244.38 being the interest accrued had been repaid, leaving the sum of £178.59, including interest to be earned, still outstanding. The clerk would ensure this matter would be resolved in December.

#### **RESOLVED :**

THAT the report be noted.

- iv. To authorise payment of the following cheques  
000621, £71.20, Clerks Expenses  
000622, £69.00, The Island Copier Co Ltd, Copier contract  
000623, £30.00, Mr D Whitehouse, Donation towards the cost of the Christmas Tree on the Green  
000624, Isle of Wight Council, Clerks Salary for December

#### **RESOLVED :**

THAT the above cheques be approved for payment and for a letter to be sent to Mr Whitehouse thanking him and all who supported him for the excellent tree displayed on the Green over Christmas time.

- b. Administration
  - i. To consider setting a date for the Annual Meeting of the Parish and to suggest a key note speaker

**RESOLVED :**

- i. THAT arrangements be made for the Annual Meeting of the Parish to take place on Monday, 26 April commencing at 7.30 pm, in a venue to be confirmed;
  - ii THAT the Chairman approach Ellen Macarthur, in the first instance, to be the key note speaker, with Mr Harrington Vail or Mr Malcolm Smith and Cllr M Starke as an alternative.
- ii. To confirm the judges for the Chaler of the Year award for 2009 to be the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, the Chair of Chale Woman's Institute and the Chair of the Village Partnership.
  - iii. To confirm that Mr S Tester be appointed as the internal auditor for the 2009/10 accounts.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT Mr Sven Tester be appointed as the internal auditor for the 2009/10 accounts.

**171/09-10 Councillors' reports**

Cllr M Starke referred to an article on the Military Road, which had appeared in a recent issue of the County Press.

Cllr M Groves mentioned, with regret, the letter received from Jenny Kerry and Vern Tyerman, the owners of the Chale Green Stores, which advised of their intention to place the property up for sale. Councillors acknowledged the work they had undertaken to the improvement and benefit of the village.

It was suggested that a letter be sent expressing the Parish Council's thanks, and also appreciation of the mince pies and mulled wine freely supplied after the carol service on the Green.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 10.05PM**

Signed -----

Dated -----