

Annual Report of Chale Parish Council 2009/10

Business as usual

1. New council elected in May 2009, a further two candidates, Tony Bryant and Liam Cumming, responded to advertising for co-option on to the council and were appointed in July.
2. The council was also pleased to welcome the new IW Councillor for Chale, Niton and Whitwell, Mr Bill Wyatt Millington, who attended most of its meetings.
3. Precept – due to careful husbanding of resources, the council was able to make a small reduction in the parish precept for this year.
4. Policies and procedures are reviewed and kept fully up to date with best practice and Cllrs undertook a range of appropriate training during the year.
5. The parish council continues to be consulted on a wide range of issues e.g. bus timetables, fire service reorganisation, Island Plan.
6. Representation on other bodies
 - a. IWALC – a member of the council attended a special meeting of this island wide body for town and parish councils. The council remains unconvinced that joining would provide value for the community.
 - b. Cllrs are members of:-
Recreation Ground Association; Churchyard Committee; Chale Village Partnership; Island Waste Services Community Advisory Group; Brighstone & District Newsletter Committee; Chale School and Village Community Association, Chale Community Project Steering Group
7. Planning
 - a. Applications – IW Council do take comments into account and now publish the officers' reports on line so we are able to understand how our comments are considered. The Chale Village Design Statement continues to provide a strong foundation for our comments.
 - b. Enforcement – parishioners have raised a number of issues with the council during the year and these have usually been taken forward and pursued with the Isle of Wight Council following discussion. Generally, response and action from planning enforcement has been slow and intermittent with a less than robust approach being adopted on a number of long outstanding matters.

Additional Activities

1. Grass cutting - As the IW Council has now accepted that it is its responsibility to maintain the grass on the Green, the parish council was able to continue make a contribution to the maintenance of the churchyard.
2. Communication – ensuring villagers are aware
 - a. The council would like more people to come and listen to our meetings
 - i. Our new Standing Orders continue to work well with people taking the opportunity to address the council (mainly on planning matters).
 - ii. Agendas and Minutes are put up (meetings are in public and on the 2nd Monday except August at 1930, here in the WI Hall)
 - b. Reports of council meetings are written and regularly published in – Chale Mail, South Wight Beacon, Village Talk in IWCP

3. School - Another year of hard work by the council alongside the school and village community association and the school governors. The chief executive of the Isle of Wight Council along with representatives from the Diocese attended a packed meeting of the parish council in July and finally answered some of the questions that had been ignored in preceding months. An additional meeting was held in late July to agree the parish council's response to the statutory notice issued by the IW Council in respect of the school. All the efforts to date have been to no avail with the Isle of Wight Council determined to close the school despite the wishes of the community.
4. Post Office – the parish council continues to treat the retention of a village post office as a priority and has supported the shop owner in his efforts to retain the service. The Island MP's support was also enlisted in attempting to move matters forward with Post Office Ltd. It is expected that it will reopen in June.
5. Green Towns Project – the parish council enrolled Chale within this scheme. It is now being taken forward within the context of the Chale Community Project.
6. Speeding – last year, a strong case was made to the Isle of Wight Council for a 50 mph limit in Blythe Shute and the Military Road past the Recreation Ground. Following the introduction of a new strategy by the Isle of Wight Council, a speed limit of 40 mph is now planned.
7. The council has agreed to work with the IWC Council's Senior Fair Trading Officer, Community Safety Services in order to set up a 'No Cold Calling Zone' for Chale.
8. Christmas – the Honorary Parish Tree Warden kindly co-ordinated the usual tree on the Green and a successful carol singing evening under the tree was also arranged in conjunction with the Rev. Dru Dennis.
9. Whale Chine – after continually pressing for many months, the council finally received a copy of the consulting engineer's report on the possibilities for reinstating the path down Whale Chine. The IW Council had stated that the estimated cost of £100 K would be prohibitive in enabling the reinstatement works to be undertaken, particularly in the current financial climate.
10. The redundant phone box at the church – the council agreed to accept the invitation from BT Payphones to adopt the telephone kiosk for £1.00 and is currently consulting on ideas for its future use.
11. Big Tidy Up – a successful tidy up day on the Green and the area around the reinstated footbridge was undertaken during the Autumn half-term holiday with the support of our Environment and Neighbourhood Officer, Harry Dea.
12. Emergency Planning – following attendance at various workshops by councillors, the parish council is now drafting an emergency plan for use by the village. The draft will be published for comments and discussed with the village partnership before it is completed and adopted.

MHGroves
April 2010

FINANCIAL REPORT
OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL OFFICER

The External Auditor approved the Annual Audit for the year 2008/09 on 13 September 2009, stating that in their opinion all the information contained within the Annual return was in accordance with the Audit Commissions requirements and no matters had given them cause for any concern and abided with current legislation requirements.

The balances held in bank accounts as at the end of the financial year, ending 31 March 2010, were as follows:

Lloyds TSB Bank Account	- £1,122.96
Halifax Treasurers Account	- £6,279.07
Halifax Guaranteed Reserve (Ring Fenced for the Hoy Monument)	- £7876.13

The Clerk advised that the carry over balances to 2010/11 included commitments totalling £2,300, which built in a contingency of £250 to cover the cost of any forthcoming parish council election, as this charge would fall to the parish council in future years.

The Precept has been decreased to £8,600 for the current year 2010/11. This is as a direct consequence following investigations by the Parish Council, which revealed that the IW Council were the responsible body for Chale Green and as such are accountable for all the grass cutting costs.

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