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Chale Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chale Parish Council held in the WI Hall, Church Place, Chale on Monday, 12 December 2011, commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Wendy Downes (Vice Chairman), Tony Bryant, Liam Cumming, Alan Lock

In attendance:

Mrs Barbara Herbert, Clerk and RFO
IW Cllr for Chale, Niton and Whitwell, Cllr David Stewart
David Ballard, West Wight Marketing Group

There were no members of the public present.

167/11-12 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs M and Mrs L Groves.

168/11-12 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made at this stage.

169/11-12 Presentation from Mr David Ballard, the Chairman of the newly formed West Wight Marketing Group

Mr Ballard advised that businesses in the West Wight were working together to raise the profile of the area, covering the Needles to Newtown, Shorwell and Chale and had formed the West Wight Marketing Group. Many of their members were small businesses who simply could not afford to join organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce. The intention was to develop a promotional leaflet and website to attract more visitors to the western corner of the Island, between the two areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs) defined as the Hamstead and Tennyson heritage coasts. The aim was to promote the West Wight as a holiday destination, providing a clear emphasis on the activities and attractions available, not just visitor accommodation. The current priority was to bring new members on board and to gain support from across the community. By attending meetings of local parish and town councils, charities and small businesses to raise awareness of the Group it was hoped that potential sources of funding could be identified and a commitment be given by these groups to support their aim. Mr Ballard suggested that the initiative sat well with the government's argument about volunteering and working in partnership within local communities. The Group essentially were attempting to create local non-agricultural jobs, and keep the rural communities alive. It was stressed that it was a tough challenge, but one that their members were determined to take on.

An application had now been submitted to Leader + for matched funding to enable production of the leaflet. Ring fenced funding had already been received to develop the web site, expectantly by March 2012. Councillors were very supportive of the scheme and suggested that the feasibility of adding a link to the Group's website, when established, from the Parish Council's website, be investigated.

170/11-12 Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2011

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 14 November 2011 be

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confirmed and the Chairman authorised to sign them as being a true record.

171/11-12 To consider any matters arising, not requiring a resolution

- a. Minute 149/11-12a Sheep Lane Farm – The planning application had been submitted but was currently invalid as it was fee deficient. However, it had been suggested this was to be submitted imminently.
- b. Minute 149/11-12b Hawthorne Manor Farm – The IW Council's Area Compliance Officer (Central) advised that the operator had stated both verbally and through answers provided within a Planning Contravention Notice (PCN) the only caravans and/or mobiles being used for residential purposes were those which were deemed to be lawful, a number of years ago. She was to discuss the matter with her line manager in order to determine the next appropriate course of action. Councillors were extremely surprised by the comments of the operator and were very concerned that this matter remained unresolved. An unsubstantiated report had been received that at least two of the caravans in the stables were occupied by vulnerable persons, suffering from mental health problems due to alcohol or drug related problems. It had also been alleged that due to the high usage of electricity from these caravans the electric power had been known to trip out on occasions. Councillors requested that as this situation could potentially be very dangerous, they would like information as to what the Fire Safety and Housing team had undertaken in response to the evidence passed to them by the IW Council's Area Compliance officer.
- c. Minute 149/11-12c Gladdices Barn – The IW Council's Enforcement Team Leader, Mr R Chick reported that Mr O'Keefe had been drawing up the required landscaping scheme as required by the planning conditions. Unfortunately, the Council's file for the site, which contained the conditions and previously submitted landscaping schemes had gone missing. The file should be returned the following week and Mr O'Keefe would then be contacted to discuss what steps he had taken to comply with the conditions as set out in the Decision Notice..
- d. Minute 149/11-12f Encroachments on the Village Green – Mr S Newnham, of the IW Council's Property Management team had spoken to the grass cutting contractors regarding the area outside of Rylston House, Withers Road. The operatives were requested to ensure this area was cut with the rest of the Green during the regular routine grass cutting programme, to ensure the house owner was aware that this land was part of the Chale Village Green.
- e. Minute 157/11-12 Former Chale School - The IW Council's Senior Surveyor had confirmed that contracts were very close to being exchanged.

172/11-12 To receive a report from the IW Councillor for Chale, Niton and Whitwell, Cllr D Stewart

Cllr D Stewart made particular mention of the following:

- Initiative by the IW Council to provide funding to Parish and Town Councils towards schemes to support the economic wellbeing of the local area, subject to the total amount being sought receiving matched-funding. Cllr Stewart offered his assistance, if required.
- Thanks were expressed to Cllr M Groves for the information provided in respect of the proposed Community Asset Preservation Plan (CAPP) and for all his work regarding the Community Bus scheme.

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- As he had been appointed as a Local Authority Governor of Niton Primary school, it was Cllr Stewart's intention to hold drop-in sessions for the parents of pupils living in the Chale area. The contact details were provided for the Green Hut at Spanners Close.

Cllr D Stewart then left the meeting.

173/11-12 To receive a report on any local safety neighbourhood issues

Councillors were referred to the report setting out data taken from the Community Policing and Neighbourhood Crime Statistics on 5 December, covering the previous 30 days. Three incidents, which had been reported during this period were indicated on the map of Chale/Chale Green.

Cllr Bryant advised that speeding on the Military Road formed one of the main priorities identified at the meeting of LAGs. The next meeting was scheduled for the following week, which he planned to attend. Councillors were requested to forward to him details of any specific issues that necessitated attention by this group.

174/11-12 Town and Country Planning

The following decision taken by the Local Planning Authority since the last meeting of the Parish Council was noted.

TCP/21284/A Hillcrest Farm, Military Road, Chale – Refusal of Planning Permission for the conversion of former dairy to form unit of holiday accommodation

175/11-12 To consider the lighting of a Beacon on St Catherine's Down as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations

Councillors discussed the feasibility of lighting a beacon on St Catherine's Down, raising questions over the intention of other town and parish councils to also light a beacon and whether this would form a chain of lights across the island.

RESOLVED :

THAT the clerk contact other parish and town councils on the Island to determine the popularity of lighting a beacon as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations

176/11-12 To approve the Emergency Plan for Chale

Councillors thanked Cllr Bryant for an excellent piece of work. The Plan was considered to be a living document, providing a logical appreciation to facilitate community self-help and resilience when faced with an emergency situation. The period of severe weather last winter had underlined the importance for such a document and accentuated what advice provided by the media would be more beneficial to the local community. Cllr Bryant advised that he was to attend an Emergency Planning seminar the following day and would report the comments made.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Emergency Plan for Chale be approved and reviewed on an annual basis commencing September 2012.

177/11-12 To consider the email received from Bridget Welling, the Programme Manager of Natural Enterprises

The suite of computers and other equipment purchased for the school and for the local

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community to use from the Leader+ funding and monies raised by the Friends of Chale School were being kept by Natural Enterprise. Bridget Welling, of Natural Enterprise advised that they now wished to return the equipment for use in the community so that the original intended use was maintained. Councillors gave consideration as to which community group the use of the equipment could be most beneficial. However, until the exact number of computers and screens were known it would be difficult to make any suggestion.

RESOLVED :

- i. THAT the clerk clarifies the exact details of all the equipment being held by Natural Enterprise and report back to the next meeting;
- ii. THAT enquiries be made of the Women's Institute and of the Chale Community Project to determine a suitable project able to use the equipment.

178/11-12 To consider the letter dated 5 December from Cllr D Pugh, Leader of the IW Council regarding the proposed Economic Improvement Fund

The letter from Cllr D Pugh invited an application for matched funding of up to £1,275 for a project(s), which would directly or indirectly contribute to the economic well-being of Chale.

RESOLVED :

THAT this item be discussed further at the next meeting enabling councillors the opportunity to identify any possible initiatives, which would fulfil the criteria stipulated.

179/11-12 To make any comments on the Island Plan Core Strategy Focussed Consultation on Schedule of Suggested Changes and accompanying the Environmental Assessment - Resp 2

RESOLVED :

THAT no response be made to the Island Plan Core Strategy Focussed Consultation on Schedule of Suggested Changes

180/11-12 To note that The Localism Act (the Act) received Royal Assent on 15 November 2011 and confirmed the key measures and the new powers for local (parish and town) councils, which were set out in previous Briefings

RESOLVED :

THAT it be noted that the Localism Act received Royal Assent on 15 November and the regulations, setting out the specific details be eagerly awaited.

181/11-12 To receive an update on progress for a Community Bus – Service 6

The report of Cllr M Groves, which included details of passenger numbers and net revenue to the end of October, had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was suggested that if the revenue continued at the same level it would not only cover the

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cost of the volunteer co-ordinator, but could also be sufficient to consider providing additional services.

182/11-12 To receive a progress report on the Chale Heritage Community Centre

Cllr Lock advised that the organisation had now folded, as the sale of the former school was imminent. Companies House had been advised and all the money donated in the form of pledges had been returned back to those who had submitted them. This had been in the region of £7,000. In discussion it was raised that the clawback element in the proposed sale had been deleted from the reports presented to the IW Council's Cabinet and the clerk was instructed to clarify with officers whether this was accurate.

183/11-12 To receive a report from the Affordable Housing for Chale Working Party

Cllr Mrs W Downes reported that a response from Mr P Hann, Chief Executive of Vectis Housing Association Ltd was still awaited.

184/11-12 To receive an update from the Parking and Signage Working Party

Cllr L Cumming advised that the little bridge over the creek, situated along the pathway next to Hawthorne Manor Farm was very slippery and required a wire mesh covering to prevent any accident occurring. The clerk was requested to advise the IW Council's Right of Way team.

Mention was also made of the large amount of rubbish, which was put out on a regular basis at the junction of Appleford Road/Chale Green, the day before the bin men undertook their collection round. The clerk was requested to notify the IW Council.

185/11-12 To receive a report from the Hoy Monument Working Party

There were no matters to report. The monies from Chale Green Stores for the sale of their previous stock had still not yet been collected

186/11-12 To receive an update on the Chale Community Project

The Green Towns outturn and plan had been circulated by Cllr M Groves. It was reported that the data protection issue mentioned at the previous meeting, had now been resolved.

187/11-12 To receive a report on recent meetings of IWALC

There was no report made on the recent meetings of IWALC. However, a copy of the power point presentations made at the meeting on 17 November had been previously circulated.

188/11-12 Correspondence

Councillors noted the list of correspondence received and updated further at the meeting. Specific mention was made of item ii, the news and Information received from the IW RCC that had been circulated on 12 December. This included details referring to a free tree pack. The clerk was requested to contact the Tree Warden for Chale, to seek his advice on the matter.

189/11-12 Clerks Report

- a. Finance
 - i. The interim budget to the end of November 2011 and the bank

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reconciliation with Statement No 28 were received and noted.

- ii. To authorise payment of the following cheques
000720, Post Office, Clerks Salary for November
000721, £43.85, Mrs B Herbert, Clerks Expenses
000722, £72.00, Urbaser Ltd, Emptying of dog bins for the period
5 September – 2 April 2012

RESOLVED :

THAT payment of the above cheques be approved

- iii. To consider and make suggestions in respect of the Draft Precept for 2012/13

RESOLVED :

THAT no comment be made and for the Precept for 2012/13 to be considered further at the January meeting.

b. Administration

- i. To consider representatives to attend the Community Resilience event on Tuesday 13th December.

RESOLVED :

THAT Cllr T Bryant attend the Community Resilience event on 13 December.

- ii. To approve for Mr B Blezzard to cover the March meeting of the Parish Council, in the absence of the clerk, at a cost of £12.50 per hour plus mileage

RESOLVED :

THAT it be approved for Mr B Blezzard to deputise for the clerk at the March meeting of the Parish Council, at a cost of £12.50 per hour plus mileage

- iii. To consider if it is beneficial to purchase Parish Online, an online software that lets you use Ordnance Survey mapping, aerial photography and addresses easily at an annual cost of £10 plus a one off set up fee of £20.00

RESOLVED :

THAT THE Parish Council purchase Parish Online at an annual cost of £10, plus a one off set up fee of £20.00.

- iv. To note that the meeting scheduled for 9 April clashes with Easter Monday and to set a new date for this meeting

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RESOLVED :

THAT arrangements be made for the April meeting to be scheduled to take place on Monday, 16 April

190/11-12 Councillors' reports.

Cllr L Cumming reported on the IW Council's Budget Consultation meeting he had attended.

Cllr L Cumming also reported his appointment as a Local Authority Governor for Brighstone Primary school. The next meeting would take place in January.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.20 PM

Signed -----

Dated -----