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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CHALE CIVIC PARISH HELD AT THE CHALE WI, CHALE STREET, CHALE, ISLE OF WIGHT ON MONDAY, 23 MAY 2011, COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

Present: Cllr Malcolm Groves – Chairman, Chale Parish Council
Mrs Barbara Herbert – Clerk
13 Members of the public

For the presentation:
Katie Steiness, of the Ellen Macarthur Foundation

1. Welcome by Councillor Malcolm Groves, Chairman of the Chale Parish Council
The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting and gave apologies for IW Cllr David Stewart, Mr Derek Sprake, Mr David Whitehouse and PC Neil Payne of the Safer Neighbourhoods Team.
2. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26 April 2010
The Chairman, Cllr M Groves advised that the minutes had been confirmed at the meeting of the Parish Council on 10 May 2010, without comment. The minutes were then approved by those present and signed by Cllr M Groves as being a true record.
3. The Annual Report of the Parish Council
Cllr M Groves read the Annual Report of the Parish Council, which set out the normal areas of business undertaken throughout the year and listed the many additional activities, which the Parish Council had been involved in. A copy of the report is appended to and forms part of the original minutes.
4. The Financial Report of the Parish Council
The clerk reported that the external auditor had approved the Annual Audit for 2009/10 on 16 August 2010, stating their opinion that all the information provided had been in accordance with the Audit Commissions requirements and gave them no cause for concern.
The balances held in bank accounts as at the beginning of the financial year, commencing 1 April 2010, totalled £15,277.25. The Clerk advised that this carry over balance to 2010/11 included commitments totalling £2,300. This provided a contingency of £250 to cover the cost of any forthcoming parish council election, as this charge would now fall to the Parish Council to meet and the £2,050 Parish Award Grant.
The Precept had been maintained at £8,600 for the current financial year. Councillors had been mindful of the current economic climate and were determined not to increase the financial burden of residents.
5. The Report of Cllr David Stewart, the Isle of Wight Council's (IWC's) Ward Member for Chale, Niton and Whitwell
In the absence of Cllr Stewart, Cllr M Groves read his report, highlighting the main areas of interest pertinent to Chale residents. A copy of the report is appended to and forms part of the original minutes. It was noted that Cllr Stewart's Annual report covering his first six months as the local ward member would be available shortly on the IW Council's website.

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6. The Chairman's Report 2010-11 by Mr Vern Tyerman, Chairman of the Chale Village Partnership

Mr Vern Tyerman, Chairman of the Chale Village Partnership read his annual report, which set out the objectives of the Village Partnership and provided a review and assessment of the past year. It also identified challenges for the coming year. A copy of the report is appended to and forms part of the original minutes.

It was noted that the partnership had been established for eight years now. It continued to be well represented, with an average attendance of between 11 – 17 people. However, it was a concern that there was no 'voice' for the younger people in the village. Any individual resident was also very welcome to attend meetings.

There had been no formally elected Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer throughout the year and thanks was expressed to those residents who had provided support when necessary. At the 2011 Annual General Meeting, Mr Vern Tyerman and Ms Jenny Kerry had agreed to stand as Chairman and Secretary, respectively. The dates of the bi-monthly meetings were also to be changed, to now be on a Wednesday.

It was highlighted that on occasions there was insufficient subject matter to fill the issues of the Chale Mail. Anyone willing to provide a regular contribution was requested to contact the Chairman.
7. The Annual Report of the Safer Neighbourhoods Team for the South Wight

In the absence of PC Neil Payne from the Safer Neighbourhoods Team for the South Wight, Cllr M Groves read their annual report. A copy of the report is appended to and forms part of the original minutes.
8. The Annual Report for 2010/11 of the Brighstone and District Newsletter Committee

Cllr M Groves read the annual report. A copy of the report is appended to and forms part of the original minutes. It was advised that copies were distributed free across the parishes of Brighstone, Brook, Mottistone, Shorwell and Chale and were available not only in the church, but at other venues in the area.
9. The Annual Report 2010/11 of the Chale Churchyard Committee

In the absence of Mr Derek Sprake, Cllr Mrs Liz Groves read the annual report. A copy of the report is appended to and forms part of the original minutes. Particular mention was made of the use of the former allotments area during the past year for a wedding reception, when a marquee was erected, and also used as a temporary car park for a funeral and the Chale Autumn show.
10. The Annual Report from the Chale Arts and Crafts Club

Mrs Wendy Downes read the annual report. A copy of the report is appended to and forms part of the original minutes.
11. The Annual Report of the Chale Tree Warden

In the absence of Mr David Whitehouse, the Tree Warden for Chale, Cllr M Groves read his report. A copy of the report is appended to and forms part of the original minutes. Particular mention was made of the importance of Tree Preservation Orders and the need for consideration to further tree planting within the existing hedgerow structure. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting of the Parish Council.

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12. The Annual Report by the President of Chale Women's Institute
In the absence of Mrs Christine Dixon, the President of Chale Women's Institute, Mrs Isobel Thorp read their annual report. A copy of which is appended to and forms part of the original minutes. The report reminded of the running costs and necessary maintenance in order to keep the WI hall in a suitable condition for the benefit of its membership. The whole roof currently required replacement at an anticipated cost of £7,000. It was hopeful that grant funding would be obtained to cover this cost.

13. The Report of Mr Tony Bryant, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Town Lane and Emmett Hill
Mr Bryant read his first report provided as the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Town Lane and Emmett Hill. Mr Bryant advised that he held a small supply of lighting timers should any resident require one. He would try to obtain additional stock from PC Urry. In response to a question a brief explanation was provided of the Cold Calling scheme, which had been established in the village during the previous year. The scheme could not prevent all no cold calling incidents, but did provide good practical advice, particularly to elderly residents.

14. The Results of the 'Chaler of the Year' award for 2011
Cllr Malcolm Groves was announced as the winner of the 'Chaler of the Year' award for 2011.
Cllr Liam Cumming presented Cllr M Groves with his award of a print taken from an original painting of St Andrew's church. Cllr M Groves had worked tirelessly throughout the past year, over and above the call of duty, so it was only fitting that he be recognized for his efforts.
Cllr M Groves made an appropriate response when accepting the award.

15. Presentation from Katie Steiness, from the Ellen Macarthur Foundation
The Chairman welcomed Katie Steiness to the meeting. Katie reminded, by way of a power point presentation, the aims of the Community project, to eliminate fuel poverty in Chale by reducing fuel costs for as many residents as possible. Katie provided a recap of Phase 1, referring to the work undertaken over the past year and the results now being experienced.
Phase 2 would include, among the several activities outlined, the monitoring of performance of the air source heat pumps, using a comprehensive and innovative system designed by IBM. A limited company had also been established to manage funding from the Feed-In Tariff income from 5 solar panels bought by the Ellen Macarthur Foundation, in order to provide a legacy of future sustainable initiatives locally.
It was hoped that the Chale Community Project would continue to be a "showcase" demonstrating the positive impact of renewable technologies on fuel poverty. A lot of technical advice had been sought throughout the project, which would enable the successful outcomes to pave the way for a national roll-out of proven actions. Southern Housing Group had already expressed their intention to expand the installation of energy saving measures to the whole of their housing stock, nationwide. Other housing associations on the Isle of Wight were also actively looking to implement positive improvements.
A grant application had been submitted to secure funding to continue the project for a further 2-3 years.

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The Chairman thanked Katie Steiness for her attendance and the very interesting and informative presentation.

16. Local Transport Consultation

Cllr M Groves outlined the work being undertaken by the Parish Council. Talks had taken place with Gatcombe and Niton and Whitwell Parish Councils in order to consider the feasibility of supplementing the Service 6. It was hoped to provide an hourly bus to Chale with a possibility, at some future point, of extending the service into the evening. Southern Vectis were very supportive of the scheme and of others being established across the island. Discussions had taken place with Mr Marc Morgan-Huws, the Managing Director of Southern Vectis, who had agreed to supply the buses, between the times of the normal school runs and to conduct the medicals and training of volunteer drivers to a full PCV standard. Importantly, the next step was to actually recruit volunteers, who could meet the basic standards required.

Members of the public present expressed their support for the scheme. A notice would be included in the next edition of Chale Mail calling for any persons wishing to register their interest in volunteering, to contact Cllr M Groves.

17. Public Forum

Cllr A Lock provided an update on the Chale Heritage project, explaining the difficulties in making progress with the IW Council. Cllr D Stewart had been requested to try and progress the matter and obtain answers to a number of questions. Those businesses/groups who had originally expressed an interest in the scheme were still willing to take part.

Following a question by a member of the public regarding the Recreation Ground, Cllr M Groves advised that the purchase of the ground from the IW Council had finally been completed. A new company, Chale Recreation Ground Ltd had been formed who were now the new legal owners of the ground. It was their intention to seek charitable status, subject to all Directors agreement

It was advised that Mr R Dabell, was to retire shortly and it was questioned whether the Parish Council would send him their good wishes. This would be considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council in June.

A member of the public gave a Vote of Thanks to the Parish Council for all its work during the year.

There being no further items of business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed : Dated