



CHALE PARISH NEWS

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Chairman's Report

Welcome to the latest edition of Chale Parish News.

For those of you who haven't been to any of our meetings I think a brief explanation of what the Parish Council does and what our responsibilities are wouldn't go amiss.

The Parish Council is the first tier of local government. We are of equal standing, and not as some might think, in any way subordinate to the Unitary Authority, or County Council, we are best placed to deal with local issues and parishoners' concerns.

Our meetings are open to the public and there

is always time set aside at the start of the meeting to hear questions from the public although rules do not allow for public participation in the business of the Council. If you would like to know what is happening in your parish come to the meeting, we are, after all, serving you.

In Chale we are lucky that Councillors do not serve any 'political master' and what we try and do is what we think is best for the parish. We cannot please all the people all of the time but if there is a particular issue that you feel needs to be brought to the Council's attention let us know and we will look into it, the contact details for all Councillors and our Parish Council Clerk are listed on page two of this newsletter

Chale W.I. Hall

The Parish Council has used the Chale Women's Institute Hall for monthly council meetings for many years, recently the Institute faced problems regarding compliance

with the provisions of the "access for the disabled" regulations which apply from 1st October 2004 to all premises used for public entry. The costs of modifying existing access and toilet facilities were immense for a small rural WI such as Chale. The Parish Council being aware that it also had an obligation to hold its meetings in disabled access friendly premises resolved at an early date to assist the WI in its quest for funding and donations to meet the costs of building work and new equipment.

The happy outcome of this whole process is that Chale (unlike some Island locations) now has the benefit of a hall that complies with the new regulations and is available for public hire.

Chale Parish Council

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English Nature

In the Summer of 2003 Chale Parish Council in response to local concern held a public meeting to **challenge** proposals by English Nature to extend its area of SSSI jurisdiction to include land right up to the boundary of the Military Road.

The council with assistance from Island based experts mounted a strong opposition which eventually led to a **landmark** decision by the Council of English Nature in Peterborough to amend and reduce its proposals. This u- turn was widely reported nationally and in a press release to the IW County Press the Chairman of the Parish Council Peter Atkinson said, "*This is an amazing victory for a small parish council such as Chale and is positive proof of the continued value and role of parish and town councils in supporting the needs of the local electorate*".

Chale Green

Chale Green was registered as common land in 1972 and as there was no apparent owner at that time The Commons Commissioners ordered that it be subject to the protection of the Local Authority which at that time was the Isle of Wight Rural District Council who correctly made and published byelaws for the protection of Chale Green.

When the Isle of Wight Unitary Council was formed all the former duties and powers of the IW Rural District Council passed to the Isle of Wight Unitary Council as its successor. The Parish Council has for many years sought to protect and maintain Chale Green as an amenity for the residents of Chale Parish, regular grass cutting is carried out by parish council contractors, this work is often hampered by residents parking cars on the grass in contravention of byelaw 5.

The Parish Council is currently discussing this problem with the Isle of Wight Council and although it is hoped that commonsense will prevail it is possible that legal action may be necessary to remove offending vehicles.

Changes on the Council

Sadly in the Autumn of last year due to the death of Cllr Peter Taylor the council lost a well liked and respected member. After the usual electoral process necessary with sudden vacancies the council co-opted Cllr David Overton who has provided excellent service to the parish working on a number of projects and issues.

Future Events

In future we would like to publicise local events as a service to the Parish. If you are planning an event let us know and we will include it in this column.

Events

25/26 June 2005 - Chale Kite Festival (prov)

6/7 August 2005 - Chale Show

1 October 2005 - Chale Autumn Show

How to contact your council:

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