

CHALE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on **MONDAY 14th May 2018** at 7.00 pm at the WI Hall, Chale.

Present

Chairman: Cllr. Ron Groves
Councillors: Cllrs: Liz Groves, Paragreen, Bernasconi, and McWilliam
Clerk: Katie Riley
Public: 13

1. WELCOME

Cllr Ron Groves Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone present

2. CHALER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Cllr Ron Groves presented Mrs. Joanna Richards with the 2018 Chaler of the Year Award

3. PRESENTATION

Gift to Nature's Graham Biss, Chief Executive of Island 2000 Trust provided an insight into the charity originally set up in 1999 to both support the local economy and the natural environment. In 2016 they took over the running of 26 IWC's countryside services sites including Blackgang Viewpoint. Their priority is to keep these sites open and safe and are enhancing and improving them through a balance of amenity and conservation. The charity is reliant on grants and donations from the public.

4. MINUTES OF THE 2017 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2017 were approved having been confirmed and signed at the meeting of the Parish Council on 12th June 2017

5. ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF CHALE PARISH COUNCIL

Another year, where financial constraints have placed a heavy burden on, not only our Parish Council, but also many others on the Island. The Isle of Wight County Council also have these constraints from the Government and this has a knock-on effect on parishes such as ours. Therefore, we have had to be prudent regarding our spending and look hard where our money is spent and what local events and charities that we can afford to support. This causes disappointments through the parish, but we as the elected Council have a duty to be prudent and always have an eye to the future regarding where will have to spend on essentials. Knowing that the IWCC and the Hampshire Constabulary would be raising charges on Town and Parish Councils in the forthcoming financial year we agreed to keep our precept at the same level, to try and keep the Annual Council Tax charge to a minimum.

We have two areas where we will have to spend money on in the future, and these are the telephone box outside St. Andrews Church, which is a listed building bought by the Parish Council many years ago, and the Hoy Monument, both legacies from the past, that are now our responsibility. We are currently investigating them both regarding what repairs are required, especially from a public safety aspect. We are also in talks with the National Trust regarding the Hoy Monument as it is situated on their land.

I with Mrs. Riley, our Parish Council Clerk, have attended meetings at the Isle of Wight Council, with other Town and Parish Councils on the Island regarding future planning and budgets for 2018/19. We have also had a meeting with The National Trust, Wight Stonemasons and meetings with Southern Vectis, Niton & Whitwell, Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Councils, regarding the number six Bus Service.

My fellow councillors have attended meetings with Southern Housing Group regarding the future of the Community Hut on the Green and these are ongoing as we seek to secure it for the use of SWAY and other interested parties.

Councillors Paragreen, McWilliam and O'Harrow have also individually, attended meetings regarding ongoing Health problems that we as Islanders face.

Isle of Wight Day, last September again allowed us to erect two miles of Bunting with Isle of Wight Day flags and I thank all of the villagers who played their part in erecting them on their properties. This year was an even greater success as we won the Isle of Wight Day Best Dressed Village Award Trophy which is on display permanently in The Wight Mouse. This was awarded at a ceremony in the Quay Arts Centre, Newport, which I attended on behalf of Chale.

We were also donated by the Best Kept Village Awards a sack of daffodil bulbs in celebration of their 50th year, which I have planted around our Village Chale signs, with my thanks to villager Sally Kenny, who assisted me in some areas and also on her own. We are now seeing the fruits of our labours as they have been flowering for several weeks despite the snow and ice! Our flower boxes continue to thrive at both ends of the village and again my thanks go to those who help maintain them.

Thankfully our two Defibrillators have not been used, but they are checked daily by volunteers to ensure that if required they are serviceable.

We continue to 'battle' with British Telecom over the Broadband issue at the Blackgang end of the village; this is having an adverse effect on businesses in that area in particular. There does seem to be some progress but to those affected it is painfully slow. I can assure you that we will continue the quest on your behalf and I am as frustrated as you are.

As I write this report, a week prior to our AGM, I have received, answered and actioned one thousand seven hundred and fifty emails during the past twelve months all relating to Parish Council business and I am indebted to Katie, our Clerk, for her forbearance and patience in dealing with often, a time-consuming part of Parish Council business which at times requires instant action dealing with third parties.

The Community Hut, on the Green, at the entrance to Spanners Close, continues to be a challenge. During the past year, Southern Housing Group proposed to donate it to Chale, for Community use and it has been used mainly by SWAY for the youth of the village who meet on a Wednesday evening. My thanks go to Andy Dorning who runs the group, not only on a Wednesday but with outside and off Island activities to the benefit of the young people of the village.

A steering group was set up and negotiations with SHG have been ongoing. The main problem is that there is no running water or toilet facilities and the steering group have been seeking to obtain grants for this. Two months ago, a problem arose with a serious roof leak and SHG were informed that before we formally take on the responsibility of the building this and other repairs are required. In fairness to SHG they have agreed to carry out the repairs and a sum of money to assist with future problems providing that the Parish Council agree as a responsible body to formally accept the building when repairs are completed, this has now happened and the Parish Council have agreed to take on the project and my thanks go to Steve Clarke, of Chale Bay Farm who has kindly offered toilet and kitchenware items to save any expense.

It was pleasing to attend the Chale Dinosaur Festival in September and see some wonderful creations by adults and children. The weather was kind to us and it was great to see 'village folk' enjoying themselves. With the leader of the Isle of Wight Council, Dave Stewart, also giving up his time to attend and present prizes. Thank you to Carol and Jayne, two of our Councillors, for organising a successful event, and to Jayne for finding a great musician to entertain us. It would be remiss of me not to thank Doctor Jeremy Lockwood, for his help and for giving such an enjoyable talk in the W.I. Hall on How Dinosaurs Had Sex. Pleasing to note also that Andy and Cheryl, Wight Mouse Landlords, enter into the fun day by adding a Dino burgers and trimmings to their menu on the day.

Another village achievement, thanks to Malcom Groves and Chale Green Stores, is the installation outside the shop, of a Deluxe Cycle Repair Station; which I have seen being well used as the shop café is popular with cyclists.

We, as the PC decided to use our village map, after obtaining permission from the

artist, to have Tea Towels made for general sale. Our initial purchase of one hundred, was snapped up very quickly by the shop and the Women's Institute, making a small profit for Parish Council funds, the shop and the W.I. We then purchased a further one hundred and so far, have sold a further fifty-five.

It has been pleasing to see at our Monthly Parish Council meetings, the number of members of the public who have attended; I thank them all for their attendance and interest.

My final votes of thanks, go to Brian and Cathy Harding who so generously purchased the village Christmas Tree and to Paul Cave and Kevin Joyce who erected it for us in time for our Carols on the Green. To Andy Price and his musicians who played for us and Reverend Nigel Porter who led the event helped by Leslie Sprake our Church Warden.

So, another Council year draws to a close, we will undoubtedly face challenges in the next year but will face them as they arise and my fellow Councillors and myself will endeavor to do our very best for our village.

6. TO RECEIVE THE 2017/18 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT

All financial reports relating to 2017/18 are available on the website and on request from the clerk

7. TO RECEIVE ANNUAL REPORTS FROM:

7.1 SWAY'S REPORT FROM MRS JOANNA RICHARDS

SWAY does the following across the south Wight, including in Chale:-

- provides a mobile youth service
- is able to give early support and guidance for young people and families
- runs a 'young leaders' programme and opportunities to volunteer locally
- offers work experience - qualification and references
- wants to develop a sustainable funding stream to support ongoing project

SWAY does this because it believes: -

- there is a need for safe spaces in a rural area
- community participation and fostering community spirit will benefit all
- we want to overcome isolation and loneliness, create social opportunities, establish role models and offer guidance
- there is need for raised aspirations - skills in area are mostly agricultural and reducing with technology, or low paid seasonal work.
- it can build on links to relevant organisation addressing mental health issues, increase local knowledge and overcome fear of engagement

So far SWAY has: -

- been involved more than 150 Young People and 8 families
- some have been referred on, some have 1 to 1 and others actively involved in SWAY
- local Parish Council support and funding
- local churches support and funding, dioceses support and funding
- been involved with community 'open days' and consultations.
- been involved with local committees/projects
- attended local shows with volunteering Young People

7.2 CHALE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT FROM PRESIDENT, MRS JEAN HARRIS

Whilst presenting this to you I am pleased to be able to report that the institute is in a

stable financial position and currently boasts a healthy membership of 25.

There are two fund raising events currently planned for this summer but the greatest income is received from the hiring out of the hall. This has largely been achieved by self-promotion with the added incentive of low rental rates.

Our weekly activities of Yoga, Pilates, arts and crafts and sewing are well attended and are not exclusive to members of the institute. We openly encourage participation from persons who are not associated with the WI.

In November this year I will not be standing for re-election. I have been extremely privileged to have been the president for the past 5 years. It is therefore my intention to leave the post with the hall in excellent repair, a tidy garden and importantly, a healthy bank balance.

May I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Chale parish council for the support I have received during my tenure.

7.3 CHALE VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN MR STUART KITCHING

(Mr. Kitching sent his apologies but provided the clerk with the following report ahead of the meeting)

MEETINGS

- Chale Village Partnership adopted new working name 13 December 2017 -Chale Together
- Meetings have continued every two months
- Focal point for village groups
- Still 11 groups in membership
- Some of those attending have to represent more than one group
- Few villagers come in their own right
- Useful exchange of information about village matters
- Informative reports from Ward Councillor

Chale Together continues to provide a unique forum for discussion, planning events, and networking

ACTIVITIES

Chale Day

- No organizer was available, so did not happen in 2017 (ditto for 2018)
- Parish Council survey indicated that villagers did not consider it very important to keep Chale Day

This event might, sadly, have run its course

Coffee morning (11 June 2017, community hut)

- Wide range of ideas from Chalers re use of community hut, new activities, and fund raising
- Book club has since been formed

Useful discussions with villagers who do not normally attend meetings

Chale Trail walk (23 July 2017)

- New event in village calendar
- Enjoyed by participants
- Raised funds for Chale Together

May lead to other group walks around the village

Dinosaur Day (23 September 2017)

- New event in village calendar
- Activities enjoyed by participants
- Raised funds for Chale Together

Hopefully, this will become an annual fixture, possibly including elements of Chale Day Carols on the Green (21 December 2017)

- Traditional format
 - Well attended by villagers of all ages
- A pleasant pre-Christmas village custom*
Buffet evening (7 March 2018, *Wight Mouse Inn*)

- An enjoyable social occasion
 - Many suggestions made concerning social events, projects, and *The Chale Mail*
 - £600 donation by Andrew Davidson
- A very productive event*

COMMUNICATIONS

The Chale Mail (published six times a year)

- Interesting and varied content (12 pages) – thanks to contributors and Editor
- Parish Council survey revealed that it is greatly valued
- Delivered throughout the village – thanks to volunteers
- Thanks to advertisers – but advertisement revenue does not cover costs
- Now has a website: www.chalemail.online

A valuable means of communication and village cohesion

Chale Village Facebook page (launched August 2016)

- Currently has over 260 members, and counting
- Allows social networking and exchange of information
- Complements *The Chale Mail*

A useful means of communication for many villagers

Notice board on the Green (constructed 2006)

- Provided by Chale Village Partnership, and maintained by Chale Together
- Used by local organizations to display notices
- Not well used by villagers as a source of information

A service to the community

Chale Together still has a useful role to play in the village, but it relies on volunteers and continual fund raising. Many thanks to everyone who supports Chale Together and its activities.

7.4 CHALE HORTICULTURE SHOW

Not attended

7.5 SUSTAINABLE CHALE LTD. REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN MR. MALCOM GROVES

- We continue to supply free advice and guidance on energy saving and renewable technologies to households and businesses in Chale.
- The installation of the bike station at Chale Green Stores was completed and a launch event held. The equipment, particularly the pump, is in regular use.
- We have also been successful in obtaining and installing an electric car charging point at the Isle of Wight College.
- We are currently working on putting a solar photo voltaic deal together for those who don't have it and are interested.
- We have also been looking at home battery technologies but these only work financially at the moment for fairly specific lifestyles and not for everyone despite what those selling them might say. There is a developing market in used car batteries that can be adapted to support a home energy system and we will be keeping a close eye on this technology as it develops.
- We are entirely dependent on the efforts of our volunteers to whom we would like to formally record our thanks

7.6 CHALE RECREATION GROUND REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN MR. MALCOM GROVES

- A year of mixed weather, particularly just ahead of Chale Show when it was very wet and windy leading to some heavy rolling required to tidy up the field afterwards.
- Car boot sales are the main fund raisers covering all insurance and grass cutting costs. They continue to be popular bringing a need for more volunteers to manage the traffic. Some were cancelled due to wet weather and this incurs additional costs to the charity. Surplus funds have been generated for the proposed changing facilities building.
- Due to their increasing popularity, a new risk assessment was carried out at the start of the season and a number of changes were made aimed at reducing the speed of vehicles on the site during car boot sales.
- Isle of Wight Challenge – walking event now starts and finishes at Chale. It takes place on the May Day holiday weekend ahead of the car boot sale on the Monday.
- A new event, an Open Classic Car & Bike Show was held in July and will be repeated again, this year.
- A successful Chale Show took place on the field in August.
- The council officials declined the planning application for changing facilities.
- Racing Pigeon releases take place from the field during the season – 4 or 5 a year. Donations are received from regular users of the field including model plane flyers and dog walkers.
- We are entirely dependent on the efforts of our volunteers to whom we would like to formally record our thanks.

7.7 CHALE CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE REPORT FROM MR. DEREK SPRAKE (Read by Mrs. Lynnette Atkinson in Mr. Sprake's absence)

The year started with the churchyard resplendent in a wonderful display of daffodils with the aid of our new mowers, it gained many compliments for the general appearance. Our thanks here go to Dave Holmes, our Grounds man, who continues to keep the area look so well. I know it is appreciated by our many visitors, some from all over the world, who visit graves of their ancestors, or just viewing the 900 years of history our church encompasses. His task is made even more onerous as it includes the removal and disposal of dead flowers, often wrapped in cellophane, left on graves.

The total loss of financial support from a major donor after over 40 years was difficult to accept, but it is a reflection on the ever-changing attitude to the tradition of village community life. An increase in public donations was welcome. Our fundraising through the ever-popular Quiz, and the coffee morning at Niton remained steady, and with substantial reductions in the maintenance costs of mowers with new equipment, etc. meant that we maintained our cash balances at the year end.

Our thanks to everyone who supported our fundraising events during the year, in particular to Chale Women's Institute, and including the use of their hall. With one substantial donation from 2017 still awaited, the future looks promising, but we will still need the support of villagers from the whole of Chale in the coming year to ensure our churchyard continues to be appreciated by the many visitors to Chale.

7.8 CLLR DAVID STEWART, IWC WARD MEMBER FOR CHALE, NITON AND WHITWELL

(Read by the Chairman in Cllr. Stewart's absence)

Introduction

This is my first annual report following my re-election in May 2017 as ward councillor for Chale, Niton and Whitwell. It is also my first annual report as Leader of the Isle of Wight Council.

Local Matters

At a local level I have maintained my engagement with both Parish Councils in my ward - attending meetings and addressing local planning matters, pursuing work towards re instating Undercliff Drive and supporting other initiatives such as road resurfacing (Whitwell will shortly see the High Street resurfaced) and developing safety plans through the CARS road safety organisation. I have also actively participated in Chale Show which helps with funding support for many voluntary organisations from across the Island.

Other challenges during the year have included very difficult matters relating to maintaining footpaths and bridleways which are so important to the local community. I have also been endeavouring to help ensure full broadband facilities are provided for Chale and I am pleased to confirm this will now be provided following written confirmation of 'wayleave approval' being achieved this week.

Looking ahead to 2019, amongst the many local activities I will continue to be involved with will be a fundraising project to provide new football club facilities at Niton – a project being led by the daughter of the late Charlie Peach (himself a keen footballer and football supporter) – a most worthy cause.

I am also involved with an initiative led by the Central Wight Councillor to address issues of speeding along the Military Road and will be engaging with Brighthstone and Shorwell Parish Councils in this matter.

Isle of Wight Council

At Isle of Wight Council level, I have led the administration in preparing and implementing its Corporate Plan. I have also actively participated in a recent Corporate Peer Review the result of which overall is very positive and is shortly to be presented and discussed at our Cabinet meeting in May 2018.

We are now focused on ensuring financial sustainability for the future as well as improving housing provision, particularly affordable housing and extra care for our elderly residents. We have a funding gap of £5.5 million each year for the next three years to meet but with a range of initiatives including a Business Rate 'pilot' and careful monitoring of council expenditure we are hopeful we can meet the financial challenge.

We have also made our case to Government which reflects a funding gap for the Island of some £6.5 million per year and again are hoping this will be recognised and addressed in the local funding formula which will be announced next year.

The cabinet team are very active on Regeneration in places such as Newport Harbour and Sandown Bay. I am also working with colleagues to improve schools and education across the Island. I am particularly

The year has not been without challenges such as the Floating Bridge and the Fire Service Review. As leader I have been determined to address these difficult matters and achieve a positive outcome for the community.

One area of success I am pleased to have been involved with is our drive towards the digital economy. I helped organise our digital conference and am progressing the outcomes of this initiative.

Finally, I am leading on our aim of having integrated public services through our One Public Service project and have already achieved support across our strategic partnerships.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

The meeting was open for Parishioner's comments and questions.

The IWC's Regeneration plans for the island were raised and queried as they do not include Chale and the surrounding Brighstone to Ventnor area. Similarly, this same area has been left out of the Digital Island plan which is thought to be unacceptable by residents present at the meeting. The chairman asked that both these issues are taken up with Cllr Dave Stewart. The Clerk will email to make this request.

The lack of playground facilities at the Chale end of the village was also raised and that without parking permission at Spanners Close now the nearest recreational facilities are at Niton. The Chairman asked that we agenda this issue for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.15

Signed:.....Chairman

Dated 11th June 2018

DRAFT