

## **CHALE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on **MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019** at 7.00 pm at the WI Hall, Chale.

### **Present**

**Chairman:** Cllr. Ron Groves  
**Councillors:** Cllrs: McWilliam, Gosling and Harding  
**IW Councillor:** IW Cllr Stewart  
**Clerk:** Katie Riley  
**Public:** 14

### **1. WELCOME**

Cllr Ron Groves Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone present

### **2. CHALER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Cllr Ron Groves presented Mrs. Elaine Fisher with the 2019 Chaler of the Year Award

### **3. PRESENTATION**

The Leader of the Isle of Wight Council, Cllr Dave Stewart provided an insight into his experience as Leader of the IW Council and how he has taken the cabinet to different areas of the Island to meet with Town and Parish Councils, keen for Town and Parish Councils to feedback into the IWC. He gave examples of how a closer understanding of local issues such as the proposed 40 days of road closure in Sandown lead to solutions being found, in this case free car parking for affected residents. He has learnt that you can't please everyone all of the time and that you can't do everything. To this end he has a good support officer, deputy leader and a team of 10 he can turn to. He has found the IWC to be an interesting place and not always quick and easy to get things done, but when the situation demands, he has been impressed with a fantastic community spirit. He took questions from the floor which included a vote of thanks for his support for a family member's shared ownership scheme which led IW Cllr Stewart to report on further housing developments such as modular housing being invested in. He was asked about the IWC's response to the speed of global warming to which he shared his own personal view and the Island level focus of recycling and to reduce verge cutting. Concern remains however that our CO2 levels measured in 2017 are no better than those in Southampton and Portsmouth.

### **4. MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 were approved having been confirmed and signed at the meeting of the Parish Council on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### **5. ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF CHALE PARISH COUNCIL**

I started last year's report in a similar fashion as to be honest not a great deal has changed regarding financial constraints being placed upon us all. Not only on our Parish Council; but also, many others on the Island. The Isle of Wight Council still have many constraints from the Government and this has a knock-on effect on parishes such as ours. Therefore, we have again 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. I have deliberately held back on raising our precept as I feel that the parish is already going to have accept Rate Rises from the IWC and from the Hampshire Police Authority. We may well have to look at this next year in greater depth.

This year as many of you will realise, the Parish Council are bidding to purchase Chale Green Stores in order that the village has both the shop and Post Office facilities which as I reported in the Chale Mail back in the Autumn edition, we have to 'use it, or lose it.'

My fellow Councillors have backed this project, as well as a small group of resident business minded people who have freely given both their time and expertise to offer advice and help. For this I am extremely grateful.

In the past three months Katie and I have been dealing with a Government Office concerning our application for a loan for the proposed shop purchase, this entailed meetings, telephone calls to London and many emails, culminating in a Survey which the Shop, Chale Service Station and the Wight Mouse, readily agreed to participate in by asking customers to sign YES or NO on the form.

I am pleased with the response of the village and visitors. At the final count for Chale only, it was the AYES to the right 306 and the NO's to the left NIL. So, the AYES have it! Outside of the village 173 signed yes and 58 cyclists also wrote in collectively through the Wayfarers Cycling Club. Overall, a truly great response, for which I am really grateful. These figures have been sent to the Government Office as part of our application.

While writing this report we have confirmation from the Public Works Loan Board that we have been successful with the Loan application to go ahead with the purchase of the freehold of Chale Green Stores. We have had a meeting with the owner and he has given the PC permission to go ahead and re-open the café while the purchase proceeds through the legal channels. The current shop owners are also in agreement with this and we are actively seeking a lease holder to run it as a separate entity to the shop. This will give the shop a greater footfall from people visiting the café.

Last year I spoke of two areas where we would have to spend money on in the future, as these were 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 legacy's from the past, that are now our responsibility. We are still in talks with the National Trust regarding the Hoy Monument as it is situated on their land; however, they are currently going through a changeover of local management as the current one has retired recently.

The telephone box, has been rubbed down and externally painted; the door taken off and repaired and my thanks go to both Dave Badman and Peter Gosling for giving me both their time and expertise in assisting me with this task. As to the future of the box I have had several suggestions; one being turning it into a mini museum with the history of Chale as we do go back as far as the Domesday Book.

I, with Mrs Riley, our Parish Council Clerk and Pete Gosling, have attended meetings at the Isle of Wight Council, with other Town and Parish Councils on the Island regarding future planning and budgets for 2019/20. We have also had meetings with Niton & Whitwell, Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Councils, regarding the number six Bus Service. Which, as a group, we continue to subsidise to ensure a Sunday and Bank Holiday service. I have also attended a meeting of The IW Cabinet on the road, at Ventnor along with other PC's in our Ward. A meeting with Alec Dabell, CEO of Vectis Ventures, bringing down the Merlin's sign at Blackgang and a meeting with Alec and Dave Stewart, Leader of the IWC, regarding several aspects of rubbish dumping, illegal caravan at View Point car park and development of the property at Merlin's recently purchased by Blackgang Chine. Councillors Paragreen and O'Harrow have also individually, attended meetings regarding ongoing Health problems that we as Islanders face.

Our donated daffodils, by the Best Kept Village Awards Association, which I planted around our Village Chale signs, have shown themselves, and 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 still checked daily by volunteers to ensure that if required they are serviceable and we ran a refresher course for would be users at The Wight Mouse in early April; thanks to the hospitality of Andy and Cheryl Greenwood and Dr Jeremy Lockwood and his wife Patricia for providing the training.

We are still continuing the 'battle' with British Telecom over the Broadband issue at the Blackgang end of the village despite promises from BT we are still in the 'dark ages' of technology. This is continuing to have an adverse effect on businesses in that area in particular. There does seem to be some progress, having attended a meeting with the WI

which Jayne Tyler of the IWC gave a presentation updating us with future plans: but to those affected it is still painfully slow. I can assure you that we will continue the quest on your behalf and I am as frustrated as you are.

In November, Councillor Jayne O'Harrow and I attended the official opening of the Military Road after Island Roads had completed there-surfacing of the whole length of it from Freshwater Bay to Chale Church. It was pleasing to see over 70 vintage cars and a 1937 Southern Vectis Bus meet at The Pearl and then follow the route to the Wight Mouse car park. Jayne and I had the privilege of the bus ride following the cars.

Prior to our AGM, I have received, answered and actioned, where applicable, two thousand two hundred and eighty emails during the past year 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 has donated it to Chale, for Community use and it has been used mainly by SWAY for the youth of the village who continue to 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, which he explained admirably when he visited a PC meeting in December. A steering group was set up. 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. Problems 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 were completed. 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.

Last year, 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 sold them slowly over a period of time and purchased a further hundred. Then following another idea, my wife decided that she could make pinafores with some as an experiment and they are proving to be popular with the shop as people are buying them for gifts. I have heard from several purchasers that Chale tea towels and pinafores are in kitchens as far afield as Australia, The USA and Europe.

It has been pleasing to see at our Monthly Parish Council meetings, the number of members of the public who have attend have in fact increased during the past year; I thank them all for their attendance and interest and raising valid points for the benefit of Chale.

My final votes of thanks, go again to Brian and Cathy Harding who so generously purchased the village Christmas Tree and to Paul Cave, Kevin Joyce and crew who erected it for us in time for our Carols on the Green. To Jeremy Lockwood, Chale Together, for the purchase of the lights, To Jo and Chris from the Stores for allowing us to connect to the shop's electricity supply and opening the Café for mulled wine and refreshments. To Paul Ryan, for his expertise and assistance with the electrics. Andy Price and his musicians who played for us and Reverend Nigel Porter who led the event helped by Leslie Sprake our Church Warden The Tree this year, was probably the best that Chale has ever had in terms of a spectacle and we received numerous comments from many people both residents and visitors to the village. All due to people pulling together and long may this tradition continue.

This year we had three resignations from the PC, Carol Bernasconi, Jayne O'Harrow and Mark Paragreen and I thank them for their service. We have two replacement Councillors who we welcome, Brian Harding and Peter Gosling, and a remaining vacancy to be filled shortly. Yet another Council year draws to a close, we will undoubtedly face even more challenges in

the next year, but will face them as they arise and my fellow Councillors and myself will endeavour to do our very best for our village. Our biggest challenge and priority is that we purchase Chale Green Stores and ensure its' future for our village.

Chaler of the Year this year was a unanimous vote by my colleagues that Elaine Fisher, who has Edited and produced the Chale Mail so splendidly over the past five years. I wish her well in her retirement.

Final, I sincerely thank, Katie our Clerk and my fellow Councillors for their support throughout the past year.

## **6. TO RECEIVE THE 2018/19 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT**

All financial reports relating to 2018/19 were presented at the April Parish Council meeting. Receipts of £15,581 were received which included £10,000 precept, and a grant of £5,000 from Southern Housing for taking over the responsibility for the community hut. Our expenditure was £12,225 which included the Parish Council funding the Sunday bus service again, Grass cutting on Chale Green, and Grants to local organisations including SWAY. Balance b/f from last year was £16,259 which included money put aside for repairs to Hoy Monument. Total balance c/f at 2018/19 year-end is £19,615.

## **7. TO RECEIVE ANNUAL REPORTS FROM:**

### **7.1 CHALE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT FROM PRESIDENT, MRS LYNDA BURROUGHS**

On November 1st I became President of Chale W. I. As I had only been a member for just over a year, this was at once a challenging and exciting task, as it was now my role to head up a group of ladies, (with all their idiosyncrasies and talents), according to a W. I. framework, (which I'm still learning the ins and outs of!).

As you are no doubt aware, the W.I. are also responsible for the running of the Hall. This is an ongoing task requiring knowledge of Health & Safety and maintenance of the structure. The Committee are vigilant in this, and try to assess any issues that need to be dealt with. At present, we are conscious that the Hall is not being used enough, and we are hoping to promote future bookings. However, more recently we have been approached by the Council with a view to having the Hall set up as a community hub, to enable a vastly increased signal strength in this part of Chale. Your Chairman, myself, and the W.I. Secretary, Mary, have had a preliminary meeting with a representative from the Council, and we will keep in touch with this worthwhile development.

Moving back to our W.I. - Since November, apart from our monthly meetings, our activities have expanded to include outings such as pub lunches, afternoon teas, visits to places of interest (e.g.) Whippingham Church, and more recently a walking group, including stop offs at café's, of course! At the Hall we have had our Christmas Party, and a music evening with a live band.

This is a very special year for Chale W.I., as it's our 90<sup>th</sup> year. We are marking this special year with some extra events, the next one being our Chale Village Fete on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. We are looking to provide a Fete with a Vintage feel with traditional games, stalls, and because it's Chale W.I., lots of cakes and cream teas. In July, the Presidents tea will be at Pyle Dairy, where the members will be able to see a model steam railway in action. In September, the ladies will be travelling back in time on a mystery outing, whilst in October we will be having a service at Chale Church to celebrate our 90 years. More celebrations will be at the Hall in the form of a party afterwards. During our special events, many of our members will be wearing outfits from different eras of our W.I., so if you see any of us about, you haven't slipped through a time space continuum, it's just us having fun!

Looking ahead, we are encouraging as many ladies in Chale to give us a try. Our membership has stayed steady, and is beginning to grow, already we are attracting ladies from other areas. And we will be looking to hold some evening events for those ladies who can't make the afternoon meetings.

We look forward to nurturing, growing and developing our W.I. so it can go on for at least another 90 years.

## **7.2 CHALE TOGETHER FROM VICE CHAIRMAN, MR MACLOM DYER**

Chale Together has had a different year but has tried to keep going with its members. Previous criticism that it was too formal, too many reports and not enough time to talk has been listened to. There has been difficulty trying to get people to take things on such as the Chale Mail and it was questioned at the AGM if they can't put the Chale Mail together, can they carry on? Fortunately, since then there has been an offer from men in sheds to produce a shorter publicity leaflet and distribute it every month. The Vice Chairman is stepping down this year due to health problems but Mrs Mary Kershaw has agreed to take on the Chair and the hope is that with new people Chale Together will succeed.

## **7.3 CHALE HORTICULTURE SHOW**

Not attended

## **7.4 SUSTAINABLE CHALE LTD. REPORT FROM MRS JOANNA RICHARDS**

There has not been a lot of project work this year. Belief is that the cycle station is getting good use. They are looking currently at the reduction in the price of batteries and opportunities for future home battery technologies. Possibility of installing a solar hot water unit at their stores in Ryde and potential opportunities through EON. Solar PCV opportunities (power by means of photovoltaics) and funding is being explored. Awaiting a public health report on fuel poverty. Pleased to have been involved in the recent Green Smart conference and hopeful of a greener future.

## **7.5 CHALE RECREATION GROUND REPORT FROM MR JOHN HARDY**

Car boot sales continue to be the main fund raisers covering all insurance and grass cutting costs. They continue to grow in popularity, bringing a need for more volunteers to manage the traffic. Some are invariably cancelled due to wet weather and this incurs additional costs to the charity. Surplus funds have been generated for the proposed changing facilities building. Operating in line with the revised risk assessment aids both managing the increasing volumes of traffic and reducing the speed of vehicles on the site during car boot sales. Isle of Wight Challenge – this major 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. This event brings in income for the recreation ground as well as providing wider economic benefits to the village. 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. 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. Following some fairly wet weather during events, regular heavy rolling of the field has been undertaken when conditions permit. We are entirely dependent on the efforts of our volunteers and those who provide services to us at below market rates and we would like to formally record our thanks to all of them.

## **7.6 CHALE CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE**

Not in attendance. Written report provided by Mr. Derek Sprake

### **7.7 SWAY'S REPORT FROM DIRECTOR, MR RICHARD WEBB**

Mr. Webb explained SWAY's history which started 3 or 4 years ago when the IWC altered its funding for youthwork. They employed a full-time youth worker and have over 100 young people currently on their books from Niton, Chale and Brighstone and run activities across the whole area. They run a young leader's course and 10 young people have progressed through this. In addition to Andy Dorning their full-time youth worker, they employ a trainee youth worker, a family support worker and have 2 gap year students. He wished to thank the PC for their donation and looking ahead want to increase their work and budget. He highlighted the problems young people face and lack of self-esteem. They don't want to rely solely on grants and donations, and have been looking at a social enterprise model. They have had initial talks with the Chairman and current leaseholders of Chale Stores and hope to put together a short-term plan to run the café until the PC take over, to provide both an income and work placements for young people.

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

IW Cllr Stewart presented his report which included:

- Mental health issues among young people
- Homelessness – currently 37 rough sleepers and nearly 200 people in temporary accommodation
- Police and Crime Panel and work of the street pastors
- Speeding and purchase of 'avid speed cameras'
- Community meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June to update on Undercliff Drive

## **8. PUBLIC FORUM**

The Chairman opened the meeting for Parishioner's comments and questions.

- It was reported that CPCC has been successful in fundraising raising 4 times their target with thanks to all the volunteers who have helped. The plans have now gone out to tender for new toilet and catering facilities and people are encouraged to use these facilities
- IW Cllr Stewart was asked for an update on Broadband and whether the Niton 3 Cabinet was still being pursued as well as the reported transmitter at the WI Hall, to which he answered yes, but not until after the summer. The question was asked as to whether the church tower could be similarly used, which has been proposed previously.
- Newman Lane was raised again, double yellow lines still not done – IW Cllr Stewart to take back
- And significant concerns were raised by many in the meeting about the proposed fireworks at Blackgang Chine. A local Facebook page has been set up with over 60 residents objecting that there was no consultation with the community, the huge amount of rubbish left over each night, footpath closures, stress to dogs, horses and livestock, noise pollution, toxic pollution, and damage to wildlife. IW Cllr responded that he is due to meet Mr. Alec Dabell on 16<sup>th</sup> May with the Clerk and Chairman of Niton who are also affected to discuss the amount of concern this has caused and hopeful that they might find a solution. He has notified the Environment Officer and highlighted that the discretion for closing footpaths sits with the IWC. IW Cllr Stewart will update the Chairman following this meeting.
- Thanks were extended to Councillors for all the work that is involved in the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signed:.....Chairman

Dated 3rd June 2019