

Chale Parish Council

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Minutes of the **MEETING of CHALE PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Monday, 12th April 2021** via zoom due to the ongoing restrictions because of the corona virus pandemic, commencing at 7pm

Present

Councillors: Cllrs: Ron Groves, Liz Groves, Dian McWilliam, Brian Harding and Pete Gosling

IW Councillor: Cllr Dave Stewart

Clerk: Mrs Michala Bailey

Public: 2

At commencement of meeting, 1 minute silence was observed in remembrance of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

30/21

APOLOGIES

To receive and approve any apologies for absence

RESOLVED: Apologies received from Mary Kershaw.

31/21

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

To receive any declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests and written requests for dispensations on items forming the agenda

RESOLVED: Chairman Ron Groves declared a pecuniary interest in item 5.2 as he had an expense claim in relation to CRAB grant monies and not from Parish Council budget.

32/21

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2021 were received, approved and will be signed following the meeting.

33/21

PLANNING

RESOLVED:

A. There were no Planning Applications to consider.

B. Council acknowledged that the Planning application 21/00090/HOU was granted.

34/21

FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED:

1 That the Bank Reconciliation for the month of March was noted.

2 That the payments of the following cheques are approved.

271	Mr Ron Groves- CRAB	£132.49
272	Island Roads – Dog Bin Emptying	£208.08
273	Community Action - Payroll	£573.97
274	Michala Bailey – Clerk Expenses	£59.32
275	Maxine Warr – Internal Audit	£75.00
DD	SSE – Electricity for Hut	£38.31
Total		<u>£1087.17</u>

3 That the end of year accounts was noted and agreed.

4 That the VAT return for 2020-21 was noted.

5 That the Annual Governance Statement for 2020-21 was noted and agreed.

6 That the Parish Council met the exemption criteria and wished to be an exempt Authority.

7 That the internal audit finding was considered and agreed.

35/21

POLICIES/ASSESSMENTS

RESOLVED:

- 1 That the Annual Risk Assessment was up to date and valid.
- 2 That the Parish Privacy Notices were up to date and valid.
- 3 That the Accessibility Policy was up to date.
- 4 That the Community Emergency Plan required further thought from Councillors and Councillors asked to review and report back to Clerk for ratification at May meeting.

36/21

IWALC/NALC MEMBERSHIP

The benefits of membership were discussed and the reason for withdrawing previous Membership was reiterated. Budget restraints were discussed and the lack of funds for such memberships this financial year. Councillor Kershaw, due to her absence, asked the Chairman to pass on her agreement to vote with the majority.

RESOLVED: All Councillors agreed that there was no benefit in joining at this time.

37/21

VIRTUAL MEETING UPDATE

The Chairman asked councillors to think about the logistics and current situation with COVID That the country still finds itself in. With legislation of allowing meetings to take place about to come to an end, the Parish Council finds themselves in a difficult situation. The Chairman also pointed out that if meetings were to resume in person, then there is still an issue with members of the public not being allowed to attend. To continue with virtual meetings, allows all to remain safe. Councillors agreed that the virtual meetings have worked very well and the attendance of Councillors has remained high, and there is cost savings in not renting the WI Hall each month.

RESOLVED: All Councillors agreed to continue to hold virtual meetings until it is safe to resume meetings in person.

38/21

DOG BINS

Clerk updated Councillors that the cost of emptying the 2 dog bins has increased but as one bin has been stolen then there will be no significant increase in the dog bin budget. Graham Biss has been spoken to about keeping an eye on the dog mess situation at the Viewpoint Car Park, which is where the bin was stolen from as its is possible that the Parish will have to replace it. Current budget does not allow for this. Councillors were concerned about the lack of a bin at Viewpoint. Councillor Ward also mentioned the 'Welcome Back Fund' from the government that may assist with this. Other issues at the Viewpoint were discussed which may be addressed by signage and litter bins being emptied more frequently.

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Graham Biss, Gift to Nature asking if he would Consider replacing the dog bin. Councillor Ward to investigate the Welcome Back Fund and to speak to IWC regarding whether overnight parking is permitted.

39/21

NO 6 SUNDAY BUS SERVICE

The Clerk explained to Councillors that Niton & Whitwell PC have negotiated with Southern Vectis who has confirmed that they are now looking for a total contribution of £2457. The Clerk explained that there is no provision for a contribution to the Bus service for the forthcoming financial year and any contribution would have to come out of the reserve fund. The Chairman expressed concern that Ventnor and Newport Town Councils with larger budgets, who also use the service, do not contribute to it. Concerns were expressed regarding the number of Chale residents using the service, which are very low.

RESOLVED: Ward Councillor Stewart to make contact with Newport and Ventnor Town Council to ask them to put this issue onto their Agenda.

The Parish Council will delay this decision until further information received regarding Newport and Ventnor Town Councils decisions. An EGM can be called to discuss further if necessary.

40/21

DATES OF MEETING FOR THE NEXT MUNICIPAL YEAR

Initial dates for 2021-2022 were agreed, however, due to the legal restraints on setting and receiving Agenda's 7 days prior to the meeting, there are some issues surrounding months that have a Bank Holiday Monday within them. Councillors were agreed that any day Monday -Thursday would be acceptable and would leave the date setting up to the clerk.

Resolved: Clerk to revise dates and re-circulate to Councillors.

41/21

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM

1. Clerk.

Clerk report was circulated prior to the meeting for Councillors to read and ask any relevant questions. Clerk also read out a card of Thanks received from the daughter of a resident who celebrated her 100th birthday to which the Parish sent a bouquet of Flowers, chocolates and a card. The COVID fund was discussed. £2000 left in the budget to spend on provisions for the pop-up shop and other COVID related issues.

RESOLVED: None

2. Chairman.

A recent meeting with Bob Seely MP has highlighted that 58% of the population of the IOW will be vaccinated by the end of March.

Cowes have applied to hold the Americas Cup next year.

Bembridge are concerned over planning issues in ancient woodland.

NALC have advised that Councils are now able to meet but the Public cannot attend.

Business rates are currently frozen.

Concerns raised over the older generation not having access to a GP and being put off by having to go online for consultation.

The pop-up shop is still going strong but once again there was a theft last week.

The litter pick was carried out during Easter Bank Holiday weekend.

General concern raised regarding the behaviour of the public once lockdown is over.

There are already signs of people not adhering to the rules now that the shops are open.

RESOLVED: None.

3. Councillors.

Councillor Gosling reported that the indoor skate park at Corve Farm is due to open soon.

RESOLVED: None.

4. IWC Councillor – Dave Stewart.

Councillor Stewart reported that he now believes he has enough people to help clear Whale Chine. He will be making contact with owners of it this coming week to get permission. The Welcome Fund is amount of money given to IWC by the government to give to Town and Parish Councils with a view to help Welcome back visitors to the Island as the IWC are expecting a busy summer. Its to make the Island as clean and welcoming as possible. There will be more information coming out soon to the Parish Clerks.

Diamond Race is off for this year. The IOW Road race proposal is still a way off.

Councillors Hastings and Stewart's priorities are safety and there is one area of concern on the proposed route along with speeding issues after the event has finished.

The Town and Parish Council election count will be on Saturday afternoon. May 8th.

Elections will take place at all normal polling stations and they have completed COVID checks. No schools will be involved. Hand washing facilities will be available at each polling station. Masks must be worn and it is hoped that people will bring their own pen or pencil although there will be some available. The first full council meeting after election will be the 26th May. More candidates have been nominated this year. Due to the sad death of HRH Prince Philip, canvassing has been postponed and there will be no door knocking only leaflets through doors. All candidates have been asked to do lateral flow COVID tests. Any IOW resident can pick up a box of free tests from County Hall and hopefully from Niton Post Office from next week.

Chairman expressed his concerns over the polling station at the WI hall, Chale as the exit at the rear of the building will mean residents passing within 2 metres of those

queuing to get into the polling station at the front. I would be better to reverse it and have the entrance at the rear and exit at the front of the building. He asked that this be looked into. The matter of COVID testing was then raised as concerns over visitors to the Island not being tested when island residents are being encouraged to test themselves twice weekly. Ward Councillor agreed that visitors should be encouraged to pick up a box of tests and test themselves as they arrive on the island.

RESOLVED: Ward Councillor to make contact with Simon Wiggins regarding the layout of the polling station at the WI Hall.

42/21

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: No Questions received.

Mr Rodney Archer asked to address Council with an update on St Andrews church and the Post Office License. Dr Nigel has now retired. We have some cover for services until the end of the month but after that it is very hit and miss. At this time there is no solution to the issue. The Church building itself, it is felt, should be more open to community use and the question is, what would the community like to use it for? Bearing that in mind, on behalf of the Parish Council, they did register with the Post Office authorities to take on the licence for Chale Green, to which the application was declined. The main reason is that the church was looking at the full license for the post office, but is not possible as it requires being incorporated within a retail business. The option to become a satellite post office is not feasible as you need to have a main post office nearby to help service the satellite. The church cannot move forward with this proposal so Chale is still without a post office.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.26 pm

Chairman.....10th May 2021