

Chale Parish Council

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Minutes of the **MEETING of CHALE PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Monday, 14 December 2020** via zoom due to the ongoing restrictions because of the corona virus pandemic, commencing at 7.00pm

Present

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

IW Councillor: Cllr Dave Stewart

Clerk: Mrs Sue Waters/ Mrs Michala Bailey

Public: 1

At commencement of meeting, all persons' present were advised that the meeting would be recorded via Zoom for the purposes of accuracy when completing the minutes and that the recording would be deleted once the minutes were verified and agreed. No Objections received.

Ahead of the meeting there was a short presentation by Richard and Andy from SWAY. SWAY continue to support 2 families within Chale currently and have supported six over the last eighteen months. Due to the hut being out of use with no water and COVID restrictions, Zoom has been utilised to hold cooking sessions with young people and their parents as well as crafting sessions. SWAY drop off the ingredients or goods required for the session. Family workers continue to meet young people for walks or meet in Newport for a drink. Recently a night walk to the Pepperpot was arranged and all 15 vacancies were filled. Mental Health issues continue to be of concern. SWAY are still actively seeking a solution to their accommodation issue. The two options being considered are a new build next to current hut or to utilise the former shop building which is now empty. Discussions with Southern Housing, IOW Council Planning Office and the owner of the shop have been made in relation to both options. SWAY were thanked for all their hard work in supporting vulnerable/struggling families in Chale especially under COVID conditions.

111/20 APOLOGIES

To receive and approve any apologies for absence

RESOLVED: No apologies for absence as all councillors were present.

112/20 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: No Declarations of Interest were received.

113/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November and the Planning meeting held on 23 November were received, approved and will be signed following the meeting.

114/20 PLANNING

There were no Planning Applications to consider.

RESOLVED: No applications received

115/20 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED:

- 1 That the Bank Reconciliation for the month of November 2020 was received and approved.**
- 2 That the Parish Council will fund the annual subscription for the new clerk of the SLCC at a cost of 136.00**

- 3 That the Parish Council will fund the new clerk's attendance at the Practitioners Virtual Conference in February 2021 at a cost of £75.00 plus VAT.
- 4 That the Parish Council will make a donation of £500.00 to SWAY following a request for funding.
- 5 That the Parish Council agreed to viring £150.00 from the Hall Hire budget to the IT budget to cover cost of zoom upgrade for virtual meetings.
- 6 That the payments of the following cheques are approved.

249	Community Action – December payroll	£1508.41
250	Mrs Sue Waters – expenses	£ 91.98
251	Chillerton & Gatcombe PC – Bus	£2000.00
252	Chale WI – Hall Hire	£15.00
253	Mr Ron Groves – CRAB	£72.00
254	Mr Pete Gosling – CRAB	£9.00
255	Mrs Michala Bailey- Expenses (New Clerk)	£63.60
Total		£3759.99

116/20

POLICIES FOR REVIEW AND ADOPTION

The clerk submitted 3 draft policies for councillors to consider and 3 for reviewing.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Annual review of the Code of Conduct, Publications, Complaints Policies are agreed by Chale Parish Council with no changes.
2. That the new Health and Safety, Equality and Diversity and Remote Access to Meetings Polices were adopted with a timescale of 1 January 2021 for full compliance.

117/20

DIAMOND RACES

Ward Councillor David Stewart addressed the meeting advising that the Council priority for the event is Safety. The Safety Advisory Group, who are representatives from both Statutory and Voluntary organisations sit on this panel, are involved. There is also legislation under the Isle of Wight Act that organisers must meet before the event can take place. Brighstone Parish Council have, or about to carry out, a local consultation and it is believed that Shorwell P/C will be doing so in the New Year. He advised that a Cabinet meeting on this will take place in March 2021. Concern was expressed over the lack of time between the Cabinet meeting in March and the race taking place in October, leaving very little time for response to the event. Ward Councillor Stewart suggested writing to IOW Council expressing concern over the lack of time between decision and event and that Chale Parish Council also need to express the views of the community and their needs. Concern was also raised that 2 Race Team Managers have expressed their concerns over safety of Road Surface and Camber on YouTube. Councillor Stewart confirmed that it is the responsibility of the Event Organiser to produce a dynamic risk assessment. He also confirmed that he is in support of the event but only if all safety measures are met.

RESOLVED:

1. A letter raising the concerns from Chale Parish Council to Mr Kevin Winchcombe of SAG and copied to Ward Councillor David Stewart.
2. That Councillor Pete Gosling send a YouTube link of the Race Team Managers expressing concern over safety of the event to Ward Councillor David Stewart.

118/20

CHALE GREEN STORES

The Chairman gave an update that at least 2 people had expressed an interest in taking on the lease of the shop, as well as SWAY. He then introduced the owner of property Mr Vernon Tyerman to give an update on the current situation with the building. Mr Tyerman gave a brief history of ownership and stated that he and his late wife had invested heavily to support Chale Community. Since the shop closed in Oct 2019 he has tried to get the shop both sold or re-leased but to no avail. This involved employing the services of an agent. He advised that the Parish Council were initially interested in purchasing the building but had later withdrawn their interest along with 2 other people that were interested but have since withdrawn. The Chairman advised the meeting that the

Parish Council did in fact enter into negotiations with Mr Tyerman, a price was agreed and that the Parish Council secured a Government Loan to purchase the shop, BUT, Mr Tyerman later increased the asking price, beyond the Councils borrowing capacity, forcing the Parish Council to withdraw from further negotiations. The Chairman then closed this discussion.

With regard to SWAY using the building, he felt that their plan to build a purpose- built unit, housing a small shop would be sufficient for the village.

He has now taken Pre-planning advice from IOW Council Planning and submitted a Planning application to convert the premises to residential units. 3 properties in total will sit on the plot, 2,3 and 4 bedrooms respectively. The intention is not to sell to a developer but directly to purchasers. He advised that the application meets all requirements of the Island Plan in particular the building upon a brownfield site. His wish is not to financially gain from this but to donate all profit to IOW Charities. His purpose in addressing the Parish Council was to gain support for the application.

Councillors were in agreement, that a shop is an essential component to the village and they were not in favour of the application. A suggestion that Mr Tyerman meet with SWAY to discuss further the leasing of the building to them should be considered. Mr Tyerman was not in agreement with leasing but was happy to sell the property to SWAY. He stated that the village did not support the shop and that is why it failed. He suggested that a small shop, run by volunteers on limited opening hours would be the only way forward for the village.

119/20

REPORTS

- 1 The Clerk provided a written report regarding activities of the last month, including all written correspondence received.
- 2 Parish Councillors – Councillor Kershaw advised that the bus shelter by the church has a damaged roof. Photos have been taken.

RESOLVED: Clerk will find out who is responsible for repair and report accordingly.

- 3 Parish Chairman – Mr Ron Groves – virtually attended a meeting with Bob Seely MP. Various topics discussed. Filming of ‘The Beast Must Die. Shortage of Flu Vaccinations on the Island and the chaos around the visiting of relatives in Care Homes during COVID.

IWALC asked about the IWC taking over the management of toilets and more importantly that the IWC should take more notice of Parish Councils particularly in Rural areas which is seen to be severely lacking. Bob Seely was in support of this.

Red Funnel have been very helpful with complex situations.

A further IWALC meeting with Bob Seely was around planning issues. IWALC are concerned about building on Greenfield sites and not Brownfield sites and housing not being affordable to Islanders but being purchased by mainlanders for holiday lets. As a result, Bob Seely is aiming to apply for National Park Status.

Councillor Groves attended a CRAB meeting with Niton and Whitwell Parish Council who are both working to assist vulnerable people. Chale have received very generous anonymous donations both in money and goods for the food bank. Should COVID escalate after Christmas then Chale Parish Council is in good shape to assist.

He wished to thank Cathy and Brian Harding for financing the purchase of the Christmas tree and Keith and Kevin Joyce for helping to set it up on the Green.

On 19th December Andy Price and his group of musicians will play Carols around the tree for up to 1 hour. Under COVID restrictions carol sheets cannot be given out. They are hoping to walk up to Spanners Close where there is a fantastic light show in aid of Charity, with the owners’ permission. Andy is hoping the owner will go round with a bucket in the hope of receiving further donations.

- 4 IW Councillor Dave Stewart – Expressed his thanks to Ron Groves for all the hard work in supporting vulnerable residents through COVID with CRAB project. It has become a beacon across the island. Also stated that the R-rate of COVID is coming down and

currently at 16 per 1000 population. The COVID vaccination programme will be announced this week.

The code of conduct surrounding digital citizenship has been very good across the Island in particular the use of Social Media and Zoom.

The IWC is currently in process of preparing the budget for next year including the council tax precept. Whilst the maximum increase is 1.99% there is provision to add an additional 3% to make provision for Adult Social Care which has been under immense pressure this year due to COVID.

The IWC priority is to keep people safe and have received substantial funding from central government. Questions relating to groups of people coming to Island for Pub Crawls was asked. He stated that the problem was not as bad as perceived. Local Pubs were being mindful of COVID restrictions and that whilst visitors/2nd home owners from Tier 2 could not be stopped he hoped that those in Tier 3 would not come. The IWC will be looking at this closely.

The Parish Council congratulated the IWC for the construction of the St Mary's Junction. Dave confirmed that development of St Georges Way has been agreed and funding secured. Ward Councillor Stewart will be distributing a newsletter over next couple of weeks.

- 5 Parish Councillors – Liz Groves and Pete Gosling attended the IWALC meeting. They reported that Diamond Races had not yet consulted with SAG (Safety Advisory Group) 20 Parish Councillors attended the meeting and 2 were for the event. 20 were against. Some Councillors expressed that the event should be postponed for another year (Isle of Man have postponed their event) due to COVID restrictions.
- 6 The Town and Parish Council meeting held of 30 November 2020 – no councillors were able to attend but the minutes of the meeting had been circulated.

120/20

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions received

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20:22 pm

Chairman.....

11 January 2021