Chale Parish Council

www.chale.org.uk

Minutes of the **MEETING of CHALE PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Monday, 8th February 2021** via zoom due to the ongoing restrictions because of the corona virus pandemic, commencing at 7.03pm

Present

Councillors: Cllrs: Ron Groves, Liz Groves, Dian McWilliam, Brian Harding and Pete Gosling
IW Councillor: Cllr Dave Stewart
Clerk: Mrs Michala Bailey
Public: **5**

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.

12/21 APOLOGIES

To receive and approve any apologies for absence

RESOLVED: Apologies received from Mary Kershaw.

13/21 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: Dispensations were received from all Councillors for agenda item 7.1 & 7.2.

Declarations of Interest were received from Mr Brian Harding for item agenda 4A.

14/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th January 2021 and the Planning meeting held on the 21st January 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2021 and the Planning meeting held on 21st January 2021 were received, approved and will be signed following the meeting.

15/21 PLANNING

To comment on the following application and note any IWC decisions received.

A. 21/00090/HOU: Saeter, The Terrace, Chale, Ventnor, Isle Of Wight. PO38 2HL
Proposal: Proposed front extension.
The Chairman asked Mr Brian Harding, owner of Saeter to explain to the Council the proposed plans which are a 2.5 x 3 m extension from lower ground floor utilty room to the kitchen which will be converted into a garage with an elevator upto the kitchen. Essentially allowing Mr Harding to exit his vehicle in the dry and out of any bad weather into his home. Pre- planning advice was sought prior to submission of the application and AONB have no objection. There are no skylights so no extra light pollution will be caused.
RESOLVED: **Clerk to submit record of No objection to planning.**

B. No planning Decisions received.

16/21 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED:

1 That the Bank Reconciliation for the month of January 2021 was noted.

2 That the Clerk does not wish to take up a work place pension this financial year,

3 That the payments of the following cheques are approved.

1262	**Mr Ron Groves - CRAB**	**£81.00**
1263	**Michala Bailey - Expenses**	**£55.53**
1264	**Community Action - Payroll**	**£829.97**
1265	**SLCC – Mikki training (3 day event)**	**£90.00**
	Total	**£1056.50**

17/21 No 6 BUS SERVICE

To review the service against the % of users from Chale, in relation to setting the 2021/2022 budget. The Chairman explained that along with Gatcombe & Chillerton PC, Niton & Whitwell PC Chale PC pay for the NO 6 Bus service to run on Sundays and Bank Holidays and have done so for the last 4 years. This year Southern Vectis have requested £2000 from Chale PC to continue to run the service. G&C PC have voted NOT to continue to pay for the service. Figures show that for 2019/20, 48 Chale passengers used the service! With G&C not contributing for 2021/22, Chale PC will have to pay more. Whilst the PC support the need for the need for the service it is no longer affordable. It was also highlighted that passengers from Ventnor, Carisbrooke and Newport also use the service but the TC/PC's do not contribute to the service.

RESOLVED: Chale Parish Council can not afford to support the Service.

18/21 BUDGET 2021/2011

1. To discuss and agree draft budget. The Clerk then explained that last year's budget of £12360.00 was met by a precept of £10536 which included a grant of £231 and a further grant from Chale Village Partnership of £1323 (check) meaning that a small amount of £500 was taken from reserves to fill the shortfall. The spend to date and forecast expenditure for next 2 months may bring an approx. £900 underspend, however, Dog Bin emptying, grass cutting invoices were due and may use that underspend. The budget for 2021/22 is set at £13920, with the biggest expenditure being Clerks wages, (due to small pay rise and increase in hours) and the 2nd biggest being £2000 for the No 6 Bus. Savings have been made where they could be but there is still a large increase for 2021/22. However, as Council agreed to stop paying for the No 6 Bus, that would be a significant saving bringing the proposed budget to £11920.

RESOLVED: All Councillors present agreed to the proposed budget for 2021/22 of £11920.

2. To set CPC Council Tax Precept for 2021/2022. The Clerk explained that there will be No grant of £231 this year. The taxbase has decreased (this is determined by how many households pay full council tax and due to COVID, more residents are having to claim tax credits and council tax assistance therefore pushing the taxbase down). Therefore, even if the precept amount was kept the same as last year there would still be an increase of approx. 2,9% per Band D household. In figure terms that would be an increase of £1.21 per year. The shortfall from required funds for the budget of £11920 to what the Parish Council receive in precept will be taken from the reserves. Councillors were reminded that for Insurance purposes, 50% of the precept must be kept in reserve along with the money ringfenced for Hoy Monument, The Hut Community Grant and the Hut disposal. This will bring the reserves down to approximately £4800. (figure cannot be exact until end of financial year) The Chairman advised Councillors that the Precept was raised last year for the first time in 4 years. A discussion on the HOY Monument took place and it was agreed due to complexities it should be placed as an agenda item for March 2021.

RESOLVED. Clerk to advise IWC to raise precept for the Parish to £11000 and confirm that will be £3.11 per annum per Band D property increase. Clerk to place Hoy Monument as Agenda item for March 2021.

.

19/21 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM

1. **Clerk.**
   Clerks written report was circulated and all councillors confirmed receipt. Clerk advised that there were still ongoing issues with Lloyds bank changing over Clerks and currently no access to online banking was granted. New forms signed and sent to Lloyds.
   The 'Cliff Edge' sign at The Terrace was not an Island Roads asset but they have sent it onto the IWC management team to replace. Currently still no sign in situ.
   RESOLVED: Ward Councillor Stewart contacted IWC to chase sign at The Terrace.
2. **Councillors**
   Councillor Dian Mcwilliam attended the South Wight Parish's Health & Well Being Forum. Minutes from that meeting will be sent to the Clerk for circulation. Also advised that the Dog Bin at Blackgang Viewpoint Car Park is missing.
   RESOLVED: Clerk to circulate minutes of meeting when received and to contact Island Roads regarding Dog Bin.
3. **Chairman**
   Chairman has had another busy month attending IWALC meeting with Bob Seely MP, who has indicated that there are 9 post offices at risk of closure across the Island. Large retailers on the Island have been approached with a view to taking on the main post office within their premise, but so far none have accepted. The main post office in Newport is now closed. Rural Parish Councils could be asked to part fund up to £1500 per annum post offices through the Council Tax precept and there was a discussion on a mobile Post Office Van. 5G was mentioned as to why Cowes is a priority and that was due to businesses but there was mention that every household will get 4G by 2025. The school meal voucher system will continue for the moment. COVID still continues to be a big concern and the next few weeks/months could be very difficult.
   At the CRAB business meeting they confirmed that the cycling event will take place in September. Diamond Races is postponed until next year and there may be a change of route. Everything will come down to community safety. Ashley Curzon at IWC stated that 56 million businesses did not qualify for COVID grants and that the application process was complicated and forms lengthy. Andy Stubbings advised that business is quite at the moment but that supplies were difficult to get and delays were between 2-6 months. Taxi drivers are suffering and one driver advised his las call was 3 days ago. School runs are not taking place and there is no requirement for minibuses to be used.
   The pop-up shop is going well. Hunts are supplying a lot of fresh veg and fruit and giving a really good discount. The shop is supporting a few vulnerable people in the village. A few CRAB donations have come in BUT the pop-up shop has now been raided twice over the last fortnight. CRAB expenses are for collection/ delivery of food and prescriptions for vulnerable and housebound residents.
   The Asset of Community Value upon Chale Green Stores has been granted by IWC.
4. **IWC Councillor – Dave Stewart.**
   Diamond Races have postponed their event until April 2022 and then it will be subject to funding. There is a new body come forward called Isle of Wight Road Races who are proposing to take the event course nearer to Freshwater. The proposed route, in October, is a lot shorter than before and a multi-cycle start as opposed to a time trial. Hey have to liaise with the ACU, a National Governing Body first. Then they have to go through the same process with the IOW Safety Advisory Group. Public safety is a priority. IWC have secured funding for mobile speed cameras which will be used around the Island. It is very much the organisers responsibility to liaise with the public over this event. Of course, this is very much dependant on the COVID situation.
   The Tour of Britain is secured and contacted for 2022. The same organisation wants to run the Festival of Cycling in 2021. Anyone can apply to enter this event. IWC are looking to do a joint venture with the organisers on this event. Again, the safety of the IW residents is paramount and this event must comply with COVID measures.
   The IWC budget has been very complex this year. Books have been balanced. Savings made and most importantly £6million set aside for Adult Social Care and Children Services. There is a large amount of Coastal Flood prevention capital investment coming to the Island. Schools and affordable housing are also benefiting.

A COVID reserve has been set aside to help deal with Long COVID, Mental Wellbeing of all ages and anything else that may arise as the IWC expect Government Grants to cease.

COVID vaccinations on the island are going well. We are Equivalent to the national average pace. The Riverside is now open with Free Parking. Rates have dropped dramatically over last 7 days BUT we are not out of the woods yet. There is no doubt that lockdown has helped.

Blackgang Viewpoint Car Park was listed to have parking charges/meters installed but it is no longer being considered for this year. Of course, there are lots of issues, importantly safety, as an issue if this were to happen as drivers would then park on grass verges. Chairman was thanked for his prompt response in writing a letter outlining the issues surrounding this.

The elections are still going ahead, Town & Parish Council, Police and Crime Commissioner and IW Council in May, obviously in line with COVID restrictions.

.

20/21 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF PUBLIC.

1. Mr Tyerman advised that he did not receive COVID relief on his business premises due to them being empty at the time COVID hit. He then went on to ask that a set of 11 questions he submitted to the Parish Council, to which he received replies on the 22 January, be made public and attached to the minutes of this meeting.

RESOLVED: The Chairman stated that the questions were emailed to the Clerk on the 7t January and asking to attend the meeting on the 11th. The 11 questions that could not be answered in the short timescale before the PC meeting on the 11th. The questions were circulated to all the Parish Councillors. Mr Tyerman was informed of this and that the answers will be given either at the February meeting or sent directly to him and that 'Due Consideration' will be given if they are able to appear in the minutes as February has a very busy meeting schedule. The Parish Councillors responded and the answers were collated and sent to Mr Tyerman on the 22nd January, 1040 BST as it was felt that due to the busy February meeting schedule, there would be insufficient time to cover the questions fully. The questions were answered fully and emailed and as far as the Parish Council is concerned the matter is now closed and no longer relevant due to the fact that Mr Tyerman has applied for planning permission for 3 houses to be built on the site to replace Chale Green Stores. Mr Tyerman was advised that if he wanted the questions and answers in the public domain then he could send them to a newspaper who may print them. He was advised that all emails received from members of the public are kept and remain within the Parish Council confines. Should anyone wish to have access to them they are more than welcome. In addition, some of the questions were preposterous and an invasion of privacy of some of the residents and the Parish Council were not going to allow that.

Ward Councillor Stewart confirmed to Mr Tyerman that he had received both the list of questions and his correspondence regarding COVID 19 and thanked him for doing so.

2. Mr Clark advised that he and Mr Parker wished to meet with Ward Councillor Stewart to discuss further the issues with broadband. after the last meeting he had a discussion with Trevor from Go Internet who has purchased wight wireless network and hinted that a better service may be possible at the other end of the village and Trevor was happy to discuss that further. A possible solution is a leased line which the Wight Mouse has recently installed and who are receiving a better signal.

RESOLVED: Councillor Stewart to arrange a meeting to discuss further with Mr Parker and Trevor Cook from Go Internet.

The Chairman then closed the meeting to the public.

21/21 **CHALER OF THE YEAR**

The Chairman put forward a name for Chaler of the Year for 2021. A full explanation for the nomination was given.

RESOLVED: All Councillors agreed with the nomination, which will be awarded at the May AGM.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.41 pm

Chairman.....8 MARCH 2021