

Chale Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Chale Parish Council held in the WI Hall, Church Place, Chale on Monday, 10 February 2014 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Liam Cumming (Chairman), Alan Lock (Vice Chairman) and Ron Groves

Also in attendance:

Mrs Barbara Herbert, Clerk and RFO

Cllr D Stewart, the local member for Chale, Niton and Whitwell

PC Neil Payne

PC Sue Gill

Mrs Jill Cowley for the presentation

There were two members of the public present

193/13-14 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Liz Groves

194/13-14 To receive any declarations of Members' interests and written requests for Dispensations on items forming the agenda.

No declarations of members' interests were made at this stage. There had also been no written requests for a Dispensation received.

195/13-14 To welcome Mrs Jill Cowley, to outline plans of the Remembrance Orchards scheme

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Jill Cowley to the meeting, to provide background information on the proposed scheme to plant Remembrance Orchards, across the island, to commemorate the sacrifices made in the First World War. Mrs Cowley advised that a number of parishes had memorials to the fallen. However, she was trying to raise awareness of the lives of those families whose men came back, how they had coped, who undertook their jobs while they were at war. Also how they had dealt with the physical and mental damage suffered by their menfolk. In an attempt to bring these families back to life, Mrs Cowley was working with local schools and communities, welcoming any anecdotes, history or local knowledge of these people. In Yarmouth and Shalfleet it was planned to create centenary trails around the local addresses of the WW1 individuals identified.

A Development Officer from the Heritage Lottery Fund had been assigned to the project and together they were moving towards a full grant application. However, to be successful, evidence by way of a letter was required, which confirmed ownership of the land by the council/organisation and not just that permission of a landowner had been granted for the planting of the trees. A commitment also had to be made to oversee the trees for a minimum period of 5 years. A further criteria stipulated by the Heritage Lottery Fund was proof that the scheme would lead to a permanent local record, so to increase the understanding of life and times during WW1. Old maps depict that there was a swathe of orchards across the Island, by recreating this would provide a living memorial to those who had died.

Councillors expressed their total support for the scheme. However, as the Parish Council did not own any land, they were unable to suggest how the scheme could be progressed at this present time.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Cowley for attending.

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196/13-14 To confirm and authorize the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2014

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2014 be confirmed and the Chairman authorised to sign them as being a true record

197/13-14 To consider any matters arising, not requiring a resolution.

- a. Minute 176/13-14b Merlin Sign – No further update was made
- b. Minute 176/13-14c Cat's Eyes along edge of carpark – The clerk had no further information to report.
- c. Minute 190/13-14 a. iii Armed Forces Day - An acknowledgement and letter of thanks for the donation had been received. Also an invitation had been extended for the Chairman and his wife to attend the day, as a VIP guest. This was passed to Cllr Stewart who expressed his interest in attending.

198/13-14 To receive a report on any local safety neighbourhood issues occurring since the last meeting held of the Parish Council

Councillors noted that there had been no issues reported on the website "Crime Reports", covering the previous four week period.

PC Neil Payne and PC Sue Gill of the Local Safety Neighbourhood (LSN) team, Beat 11 were present. They advised that currently the team remained unchanged since the previous year. They were based at Ventnor Police station, although a move to the Coastal Centre remained a possibility.

PC Payne provided details of the dates and type of incidents that had occurred in Chale over the previous six months, which totalled 18 since July. The clerk queried that it appeared that not all had been listed on the "Crime Reports" website. At every meeting she provided a monthly incident report for councillors based on this website, which did not tally with the number of occurrences advised.

The Beat 11 priorities continued to be speeding in rural areas and the Street Mapping exercise. It was planned to increase the number of events, using those volunteers trained to undertake a Community Speed Watch. If councillors considered speeding to be a particular problem in any part of Chale, then the LSN team would be pleased to conduct a Speed Watch event in that area. Although any recorded speeding was unenforceable, the driver would be sent an educational letter.

PC Payne and PC Gill were thanked for their attendance.

199/13-14 Town and Country Planning

- a. To consider the following planning application received and make comments in accordance with the guidance for material planning considerations listed at <http://www.iwight.com/council/departments/planning/appsdip/MakingCommentsInfo.aspx>
TCP/13885/C The Old Manse, Blythe Shute, Chale – Demolition of garage; Proposed garage with attached garden store and workshop

RESOLVED :

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THAT Chale Parish Council raises no material planning objections in respect of the application TCP/13885/C The Old Manse, Blythe Shute, Chale

- b. The following decision taken by the Local Planning Authority since the last meeting of the Parish Council was noted:
TCP/16934/L Middle Bramstone Farm, Chale Street, Chale – Conditional Planning Permission for alterations and conversion of cow shed to form 2 units of holiday accommodation

200/13-14 To consider the deadline for applications for the vacant position of co-opted councilor

The clerk advised that no applications had been received for the vacant position. In addition, unfortunately, prior to the start of the meeting she had been furnished with the resignation letter of Mr Paul Gower-Johnson.

RESOLVED :

THAT the deadline for applications for the vacant position of co-opted councilor be extended until Tuesday, 4 March 2014

201/13-14 To receive and sign the declaration of acceptance of office from the Vice Chairman

RESOLVED :

THAT the signed declaration of acceptance of office from Cllr Alan Lock, the Vice Chairman be received

202/13-14 To appoint a further signatory to all the Parish Council's bank accounts

RESOLVED :

THAT the appointment of a further signatory to all the Parish Council's bank accounts be deferred until the next meeting, due to the lack of eligible councilors present

203/13-14 To consider the re-investment of funds held in the Cambridge Building Society

Councillors were referred to the report advising that the Cambridge Building Society 2 Year Council Bond (Issue 6) was due to mature on 1 March. Details of current savings accounts available were detailed. However, as these were subject to change, at any time, no decision could be taken as to the best account in which to place the maturing funds. Councillors were reminded that the monies were ring fenced for the sole use to cover any necessary repair and maintenance of the Hoy Monument.

204/13-14 To note the response from Chale WI with regard to the Notice Board

A letter had been received advising that the WI Committee appreciated the offer of financial support towards the repair of the Noticeboard. An estimate for the repair had been accepted totalling £230.00. Following a question it was confirmed that the repair

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would also cover the Noticeboard used by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED :

THAT a donation of £115 be made to the WI to assist with the costs of the repair to the Noticeboard outside the WI hall.

205/13-14 To appoint a representative to attend the consultation on the future of youth services, scheduled to take place on 11 February

The clerk reminded that a copy of the power point presentation had been circulated on 4 February.

RESOLVED :

THAT Cllr Lock attend the consultation workshop on the Future of Youth Services scheduled for 11 February

206/13-14 To respond to the Island Plan Core Strategy Policy SP2 Housing Regulation 18 and SA/SEA Scoping Consultation

RESOLVED :

THAT the Parish Council declines the invitation to submit a response to the Island Plan Core Strategy Policy SP2 Housing Regulation 18 and SA/SEA Scoping Consultation

207/13-14 To consider recommendations from the Working Party established to consider applications for a replacement parish clerk

Councillors had before them a list of possible key relevant questions to be asked of the shortlisted candidates

RESOLVED :

- i. THAT the Working Party meet at 2.30pm on 18 February to formalise arrangements for the interview process to be followed;
- ii. THAT the successful candidate be formally appointed at the meeting of the Parish Council scheduled to take place on 10 March;
- iii. THAT it be agreed for the successful candidate to shadow the clerk as soon as possible, following their appointment

208/13-14 To consider how best to take forward the proposed extreme weather support scheme

Councillors noted that, at the meeting in December, it had been welcomed for a scheme to provide extreme weather support for vulnerable residents in Chale, to form an addendum to the Parish Council's Emergency Plan. Mr Bryant, the Emergency Plan co-ordinator had proposed the suggestion.

RESOLVED :

THAT further discussion on the proposal to establish an extreme weather support scheme be deferred until Mr Tony Bryant was available to attend a

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meeting of the Parish Council

209/13-14 To consider being recharged for the grounds maintenance works of Chale Green from 1 April 2014

Councillors noted the email received from Mr Lee Matthews, Recreation and Public Spaces Manager. In the light of the significant economic pressures, with a massive savings target being faced for the next financial year and beyond, the IW Council had requested that the cost of the grounds maintenance works for Chale Green be recharged to the Parish Council, with effect from 1 April. The value of this was judged to be £900 per annum. The clerk advised that in the past, when the Parish Council was responsible for cutting the grass the cost was in the region of £1,100 per annum.

RESOLVED :

THAT Mr Lee Matthews be invited to attend the meeting of the Parish Council on 14 April, to enable further discussion on the issue of paying for the grounds maintenance works of Chale Green

210/13-14 Bio Diversity Working Party

Cllr Lock advised that no further progress had been made by the Working Party.

211/13-14 Parish Plan Update Working Party

Cllr Lock reported that the Working Party had made no further progress.

212/13-14 Hoy Monument Working Party

Cllr Lock advised that there was nothing to report. He had not made contact with Mr Terry Wren.

213/13-14 To receive an update on the No 6 bus service scheme

Cllr Stewart advised that the IW Council were in the process of drawing up a formal Memorandum of Understanding between them, Southern Vectis and the Local Bus Forum for consideration at the next meeting of the Community Bus Management Committee. A recruitment campaign for additional volunteer drivers was to be undertaken. The training process was now more complicated and lengthy, as it involved candidates having to travel to the mainland.

Cllr Stewart confirmed that he planned to enquire of Niton and Whitwell Parish Council for a deputy to cover any meetings of the Management Committee that he was unable to attend. He would advise the name of any willing councilor, so that approval of the nominee could be obtained.

214/13-14 To note the draft Minutes of the Executive Committee of IWALC held on 16 January

Reference was made to the Minutes of the Executive Committee of IWALC held on 16 January, which had been attended by Cllr Lock. Of specific note was the discussion held with IW Council deputy leader, Cllr Steve Stubbings who had proposed for all parish and town councils to raise their precepts, so to help offset some of the massive forthcoming cuts in public services.

215/13-14 To receive a report from the IW Councillor for Chale, Niton and Whitwell, Cllr D Stewart

Cllr Stewart made particular mention of the following:

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- The meeting of Full Council on 26 February, when a decision on the Budget for 2014/15 would be taken
- Various options for budget savings that the IW Council might give consideration
- The ground stabilisation projects at Bouldnor Road, Yarmouth and along the Undercliff Drive, Ventnor
- Discussions regarding the community asset transfer of the Coastal Centre to the Ventnor Town Council subject to ongoing discussions
- A proposed initiative to install 20mph speed limits in some rural areas

216/13-14 Clerks Report

- a. Finance
- i. The interim budget to the end of January 2014 and the bank reconciliation with Statement No 53 were received and duly noted
 - ii To authorise payment of cheques

RESOLVED :

THAT the following cheques be approved for payment
000797, £102.58 Mrs B Herbert, Clerks Expenses
000798, £157.50, IW County Press, Advert in Situations Vacant
000799, £36.00, The island Copier Co Ltd, Quarterly Contract

- b. Administration
- i. To note and consider a new date for the Annual Meeting of the Parish as the date suggested clashes with a meeting of Village Partnership

RESOLVED :

THAT arrangements be made for the Annual Meeting of the Parish to be held on Monday, 19 May 2014

- ii. To consider the appointment of an Internal Auditor for the 2013/14 accounts

RESOLVED :

THAT contact be made with the clerk to Niton and Whitwell Parish Council to inquire who acts as their Internal Auditor

217/13-14 Correspondence

Correspondence received was updated further at the meeting.

218/13-14 Councillors' reports

No reports were made.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8. 45 PM

Signed -----

Dated -----