

Chale Parish Council

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Minutes of the **MEETING of CHALE PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Monday, 11th January 2021** via zoom due to the ongoing restrictions because of the corona virus pandemic, commencing at 7.05pm

Present

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

IW Councillor: Cllr Dave Stewart

Clerk: Mrs Michala Bailey

Public: 6

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.

01/21 APOLOGIES

To receive and approve any apologies for absence

RESOLVED: Apologies received from Mary Kershaw.

02/21 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: No Declarations of Interest were received.

03/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Chairman clarified that the reason for the Emergency Meeting was to discuss 'Chaler' Of the Year, which could not take place whilst members of the public were present.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2020 and the Emergency meeting held on 14 December 2020 were received, approved and will be signed following the meeting.

04/21 PLANNING

A. There were no Planning Applications to consider.

B. The three Planning Decisions published from IW Council were received.

05/21 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED:

1 That the Bank Reconciliation for the month of December 2020 was noted.

2 That the payments of the following cheques are approved.

DD	SSE – Hut Electricity Bill	£36.17
256	Sway Donation	£500.00
257	SLCC – Clerk Membership	£136.00
258	Mr Ron Groves - CRAB	£213.00
259	Community Action - Payroll	£573.97
260	Michala Bailey – Clerk Expenses	£39.80
261	Mr Ron Groves - Expenses	£50.00
Total		£1548.94

06/21 NATIONAL CENSUS.

A discussion took place regarding the email received asking for Parish Council assistance in identifying community groups/individuals who would be able to provide or co-ordinate support, during the census which will take place on Sunday 21 March.

It will predominantly electronic but hard copy will be available.

Ward Councillor Stewart was asked if he knew anymore about this, in particular, are

the Parish Council being asked to distribute and collect forms? Concern was also raised that some residents are not online and others who are may have issues due to the ongoing internet problems in the village.

RESOLVED:

Ward Councillor Stewart will ask what is expected from the Parish Council.

07/21

GIFT TO NATURE

The Gift the Nature report was distributed prior to the meeting and in particular their request to meet with the Parish Council to discuss any problems. Council agreed that they do a great job at the Blackgang viewpoint and continue to do so under tough COVID restrictions but all agreed they would be interested in hearing what they have to say.

RESOLVED:

Clerk to invite Gift to Nature to March 2021 Parish Council Meeting.

08/21

CHALE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Contact has been made with the website volunteer by both Chairman and Clerk. The website has been updated over last few days and discussions over age of content have been held. Volunteer and Clerk happy to continue working together to ensure accessibility and compliance. Clerk advised Councillors that a quote had been sought from alternative provider. £1800 to create website and £94 pa to host and keep domain name.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed to continue working with volunteer.

09/21

CHALE GREEN STORES

The Chairman advised Councillors that the Asset of Community Value application has been Acknowledged by the IW Council and that a decision by them will be made by 10th February 2021. Ward Councillor Stewart advised that he has had no involvement with the ACV and it was being dealt with by Ashley Curzon at IW Council so any response will be from him. The Chairman advised that the planning application for the shop has been received today and will be published on Friday, therefore it cannot be discussed in today's meeting. The Chairman then invited Mr Vernon Tyerman, owner of Chale Green Stores to make comment. Mr Tyerman asked if it was appropriate to discuss a list of questions' he had send prior to the meeting. He was advised that the questions had been circulated to all Councillors for comment and may be addressed at the February Parish Council Meeting to which Mr Tyerman would be invited. Mr Tyerman then asked if he could read a statement to the Meeting:

" I completely empathise with those who would like to restore a convenience store and PO to Chale. As Chair of the Chale Village Partnership I worked with other villagers to try to save the school and scout hut. And it was after all my late wife Jenny and I who saved the shop from closing in 2004. It was quite frankly a labor of love for us over the next 8 years as we invested heavily of our time and money to get modernized and conformed for success with additional space and the opening of a café. However the shop never received enough trade from village residents so our business model required visitors to use it and thereby support its availability for the village. But sadly it never was a profitable venture, even though we owned the building and therefore had no rent to pay.

In 2013 we decided to relocate to the USA to be closer to our family and sold the business. At first the momentum we had created carried it forward, but significant changes in the grocery retailing market on the island (new supermarket chains, lack of reliable suppliers) added pressure for our tenants. Turnover began decreasing. Facing cost pressures the café was closed, virtually eliminating the visitor trade. The CPC tried a "Use it or Lose It" campaign which unfortunately did not stimulate sufficient business and the tenants closed down in September.

The Covid Pandemic has transformed the way people are shopping to online with home delivery or click and connect. These habits will not revert after the pandemic. This is the death knell for small local shops. There is no chance that a restored shop in Chale could be financially viable. As sad as it is, this is reality, and no one can legislate against the laws of economics.

The solution for those few individuals who still need local services is better transportation

particularly to Niton where they are all available. Volunteers could provide transport. Perhaps providers in Niton could be encouraged to have weekly “pop up shops” in Chale at the WI hall or at the church, or in a mobile facility as with the library or the fish and chop man? There is no point in “flogging a dead horse” as the saying goes. Creative thinking and cooperation with neighbouring villages would be a more productive approach.”

Councillors were asked if they had any comments to make. Mr Tyerman was advised that local village shops, namely Brighstone and Niton were thriving at present due to local residents not wishing to travel into large towns to shop for fear of being at risk of COVID. Mr Tyerman queried why the previous tenant of the shop could not make the shop work. When it was suggested that maybe the rents were too high, Mr Tyerman advised that the rent did not change over the period of time they were tenants.

Mr Tyerman then asked 2 procedural questions.

- 1 What are the requirements for attending a Parish Council Meeting?

RESOLVED:

By application and invitation.

- 2 Were any other matters considered at the Confidential Meeting on the 14 December? Was it the Community Right to Bid on Chale Green Stores? Why was this considered Confidential as opposed to being discussed in the Public Meeting?

RESOLVED:

As part of the CR2B the matter of the original purchase price was discussed and as the Parish Council are still under a Non-Disclosure Agreement with Mr Tyerman the public could not be present.

10/21

REPORTS

- 1 The Clerk provided a written report regarding activities of the last month, including all written correspondence received. It was acknowledged that the outstanding letter to the SAG regarding Diamond Races has yet to be completed but it was felt there was still sufficient time to do so. Ward Councillor Stewart advised that the SAG meeting will be held at the end of January with a view to submitting an informal report to Cabinet. Councillor Stewart has met with some residents at Brighstone and Chale who, whilst Support the event are rightly concerned about safety. He advised that there may be a Review on the course route which could be a positive step forward from a safety perspective. Councillor Stewart will advise the Parish Council as soon as he has any update.
- 2 Concerns raised over a Cliff Edge sign at the end of The Terrace has rusted and rotted.
RESOLVED:
Clerk to advise Island Roads.
Concerns over levels of COVID in the Parish and whether these residents are able to access help with shopping etc.
- 3 Parish Chairman – Mr Ron Groves – has attended several meetings on behalf of CPC. In particular a meeting with Bob Seely MP. He is applying for Park Status on the Island, of which there will be more information in January. Food Banks are coping at present however if there is a problem to contact Citizens Advice. Hotels on the Island are not allowed to open due to the Tier 4 COVID status on the island. The Reading room is almost finished. The IW Council would like to see volunteer First Aiders in the community but currently not relevant due to Tier 4 restrictions. A discussion took place on “2nd home owners getting away with not paying council tax. By spring it is expected that all over 50’s will have had their COVID vaccination.
At the CRAB meeting Niton are trying to get access to a minibus, but currently have access to a Land Rover that has been loaned by local land owner. The problem is the requirement for a physical shield between driver and passenger which Niton are trying to arrange in the loan vehicle. Heating Oil is now an issue due to closure of local supplier and now all heating oil is coming from mainland. A concern is burnout of NHS and council staff due to number of hours staff are working due to COVID. The ops room at Niton is now re-opened 10am-1pm. This may have to be extended. Ability to be

vaccinated at home for the homebound is being considered. The No 6 bus is being reviewed but further meetings are required before decisions can be made. Diamond Races route may be reconsidered but we have yet to received details on this. Pleased to say that the Christmas tree was removed day before lockdown. Thank you to Pete and Keith Joyce for assisting. Lights are being held by Chairman. Next meeting with CRAB is Friday 15th January at 2pm.

- 4 IW Councillor Dave Stewart – Business grants are again available from today. Details have been sent to Wil at CRAB. COVID nationally has massively increased. From IOW perspective we have gone from being one of the lowest R Rate to now the 12th most highest. The new variant is so infectious that the message is STAY AT HOME. Whilst there are over 40 patients in St Mary’s Hospital, the hospital is not yet overwhelmed. This is being closely monitored. The vaccination programme is going well and extra centres will be opening. Lots of effort Is being made to get Care workers/ residents of Care Homes, Teachers and Staff Vaccinated. It was acknowledged that whilst the message of STAY AT HOME is the way forward, not everyone in the village can do so, especially if Shopping for food for themselves or others who are shielding. CRAB and the popup shop are vital to those who are struggling and once again efforts are being made into ensuring there is transport and assistance available. The helpline is still open and able to assist If those who are vulnerable are unable to get to a vaccination appt, arrangements via CRAB can be made by way of a taxi or when the new vaccine arrives, it will be delivered to the patient. Sadly over 4000 residents on the IOW have been confirmed as positive for COVID. We still have 2 centres for testing and one mobile facility. Teachers in schools that are open are given a lateral flow test. Which is a very good indicator. There will be a meeting on 15 Jan at 2pm for small businesses which will discuss the money coming in from government and grants available. BT vouchers have been distributed in the hope that more residents will sign up for broadband. Ultimately the aim is to get quality broadband in the area. Others broadband providers are also being spoken to. He suggested a meeting with some residents who have IT knowledge to see what alternatives could be found to solve the issue. One other issue for the village is the closure of Ventnor to Wroxall road which is being closed temporarily. It may cause extra traffic flow through Chale. The speed issue at Appleford Road is still be dealt with.

RESOLVED:

Councillor Stewart to arrange broadband meeting.

11/21 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No Questions received.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8 pm

Chairman.....8 February 2021