

Chale Parish Council

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Minutes of the **MEETING of CHALE PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Monday, 8th March 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: 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.

A short update was given by Mr Graham Biss, Gift to Nature, advising that it's been a frustrating year. A bid was submitted to carry out work at Blackgang Viewpoint Car Park which later resulted in the grant being cancelled due to funds being diverted to COVID related projects. A larger bid of £17k was submitted to bring open up the back area. This included a picnic and seating area. That bid decision is due April/May. As a pre-cursor work has started to open up the bank but was stopped as the area is part of the SSSI, Compton Bay/Steephill Cove area and classed as an asset of IWC? We then have to wait 28 days for Natural England to make a decision. Should Gift to Nature secure the grant then the bird nesting season will have to have finished before commencement of works. Gift to Nature is an Environmental Charity and are very big on protecting SSSI sites. As part of this project 2 quotes to re-tarmac the car park were obtained coming in between £30k-£35k. Therefore, it is not possible to do this. It is a very well used site and there is now a regular concession on the site who are keen to return. This enhances the use of the site and the issue of Litter is addressed by them. Gift to Nature will continue to keep the hedge at its current level. General priority is to keep grass cut, free of litter and benches in good order. Councillor Stewart expressed his support to maintain the car park to a good standard and asked Graham to discuss the situation further with him.

22/21

APOLOGIES

To receive and approve any apologies for absence

RESOLVED: Apologies received from Mary Kershaw.

23/21

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.

24/21

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th February and the Planning meeting held on 18th February 2021 were received, approved and will be signed following the meeting.

25/21

PLANNING

RESOLVED:

A. There were no Planning Applications to consider.

B. There were no Planning Decisions to consider.

26/21

FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED:

- 1 That the Bank Reconciliation for the month of February was noted.
- 2 That the payments of the following cheques are approved.

266	Mrs Rachael Payton - CRAB	£216.00
267	Mr Ron Groves – CRAB/POP UP SHOP	£1101.25
268	Community Action - Payroll	£573.97
269	Michala Bailey – Clerk Expenses	£88.92
270	IWC – Grounds Maintenance	£630.00
	Total	£2610.14

Clerk explained the large sum of £1101.25 to Mr Ron Groves included the £1000 Grant money from DEFRA, to be used purely for the purchase of food/household items For the pop-up shop and will be receipted separately.

27/21

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

The Date of the 4th April 2021 was agreed by Councillors. (COVID restrictions allowing) This was due to the issue of ensuring the Parish was clean and tidy in readiness of visitors and holiday makers and it was felt that the National date of 28th May to 13th June was too late. The set date is flexible and weather dependant. Volunteers requested.

RESOLVED: 4th April 2021 set for Litter Pick, weather dependant. This could be moved to following week.

28/21

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM

1. Clerk.

Clerks written report was circulated prior to the meeting to all councillors. It was expressed that there is a lot of work and paperwork to complete in readiness for the end of year audit and another meeting may have to be held in order for councillors to ratify that. The Dog Bin at Viewpoint car park has now been reported as stolen. No one is owning up to removing it legitimately. Clerk confirmed that Councillors Kershaw and Harding are now signatories on the Parish bank account. The Defibs have been checked this month and a spare set of pads were purchased as a reserve.

RESOLVED: None

2. Chairman.

There are still no signs up at the Hoy Monument advising visitors that it may be unsafe. Chairman was approached by resident advising that approx 30 toads were killed last year crossing the road from the Green to the gully opposite. The resident has volunteered to make some signs, at no cost to the Parish, just warning people. So far this year he has found 3 dead. It is currently spawning season and they are looking for water.

A complaint from a resident at Spanners close about the broadband speed was received. Chairman spoke to him and explained the ongoing battle with BT about this. Another resident has complained about the 40mph in Chale Street, especially the area where the speed goes 30-40-30 and drivers do not slow down again. Chairman advised him that the Parish Council have attempted to deal with this previously but will re-visit it. The Chairman has also spoken to a resident who wishes to apply for planning permission to add dormer windows. Suitable advice was given.

The pop-up shop is currently being looked after by the Chairman. It opens 8am-5pm daily.

There have been 2 virtual meetings with Bob Seely MP this month. There is concern that there is a lack of Dentists on the Island and a lack of funding for independent pharmacies. Bob Seely has written to the Secretary of State with his concerns. The concerns over closure of Post offices were raised again, and there is talk of a mobile unit for the Island. Dredging in Sandown Bay causing erosion along the coastline was also discussed. There is a project to introduce Beavers to the Island (lower and eastern Yar) as there is a rapid decline in populations around the UK.

The Parish Asset Register requires addressing due to the forthcoming Insurance renewal. There is a £250 excess for any claim which exceeds the value of some assets. The Defibs are not added to the overall asset value as they are automatically included in the policy. The Old School sign post is no longer relevant as Chale no longer have a school. The seats/benches are the biggest and largest valued asset. Chale resident, Mr

Badman who made the benches is more than happy to repair any bench at no cost to the Parish. Various other assets were discussed but it was felt that the assets are over-insured.

A letter has been received regarding Chale Show. It is proposed to hold the event 31st July and 1st August 2021, COVID restrictions/guidance allowing.

RESOLVED: Chairman to make further contact with the Land Manager of the National Trust surrounding the Hoy Monument to chase up the signs.

Clerk to speak to Insurance Company and change the insured values of Assets. All Benches to be removed from the insurance and any other item valued less than £250.

3. Councillors.

Councillor Harding reported that the sign at The Terrace has been replaced and put in a better position than before.

Councillors McWilliam attended the South Wight Parish Health & Wellbeing Forum.

Minutes of that meeting will be sent to the Clerk for circulation.

RESOLVED: Clerk to circulate minutes of meeting when received.

4. IWC Councillor – Dave Stewart.

The budget for IWC has been approved which mean that Chale Parish Council will receive its precept.

A very interesting fund has been announced in the last budge called the Community Ownership Fund. It is intended for communities who wish to protect assets, which will include shops. This is not a loan but a match fund or grant.

With regards to speeding issues, other Parishes are looking at 20mph zones. The IWC have set aside funds to purchase average Speed Camera's which could be useful. It would also be useful for Chale Parish Council to look at what speed would be acceptable in various areas through the village.

The Diamond Race event is still ongoing but have to secure funding so the proposed April 2022 date is questionable. The other, shorter event over at West Wight now has local parties involved, namely Tapnell Farm and Rob Da Bank. This is looking to be a more family orientated event. The route has far less residential properties on it. The event is still on target to run October 2021. The national body is coming to the island at the end of the month to look at the route etc. It still requires consent from the safety Advisory Group and Secretary of State. There are mixed views from local residents. A planning issue is currently being looked at for 207 mobile homes along the military road, believed to be in Brighstone Ward area. Local Councillors and Bob Seely are opposed to it. Sewerage and drainage is concerning due to the vulnerability of the area. Councillor Gosling advised that the site in question has a very rare butterfly population and should be looked into.

The scrutiny committee is meeting tomorrow evening to discuss the floating bridge. The council are in legal mediation with the designers and builders.

At cabinet meeting on Thursday, there will be a discussion of the acquisition of the camp hill site.

Election paperwork was released today for IWC and Parish Councillors. The election is on Thursday 6th May 2021. The IWC count will happen Friday 7th May, Town & Parish Council count on Saturday 8th May. Police and & Crime commissioner count on Monday 10th May.

Covid news is that the current infection rate is 9.87 per 100,000. At its peak the rate was over 1200 per 100,000. The IOW is now one of the lowest in the country. What is extremely interesting and amazing is that virtually half of the IOW population is now vaccinated. Obviously, IOW did not want this to escalate again during easter holidays and caution must be paid should the large-scale events earmarked this summer go ahead.

RESOLVED: Clerk to investigate the Community Ownership Fund. Councillor Gosling to email Dave Stewart with details of Rare Butterfly.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: No Questions received.

Resident Mr Archer asked if he could update the Council on the current situation with St Andrews Church. There are 3 situations that are affecting its future. Covid has caused the church to close for the last 10 weeks but the church will open this Saturday for a service at 6pm. The Diocese of Portsmouth are in serious financial difficult showing 1 million pounds deficit. There have been some rationalisation proposals which include all the churches on the IOW to have their own Deanery. Thirdly the Bishop and the Minister are both retiring this year. The Bishop has put forward a very good vision of the Church the future. Councillors are invited to attend the Annual Church Meeting on the 15th April. At 6pm. It is clearly a loss of a major Parish Asset if the church closes.

However, there are some very positive aspects. There is currently suggestion that the church building should be used for other community benefits and to open the doors to the wider community. Digital services have been held during lockdown and there has been a clear increase in attendees especially for those who do not want to go to church and those who cannot go to church thru mobility of health issues. Zoom services will continue every Sunday at 11am. In addition to this Mr Archer advised Councillors that he has registered his interest, on behalf of the church for the post office license due his previous Post Master experience. That said he does not wish to detract from the Parish Councils continued work in saving CGS.

RESOLVED: Mr Archer asked that the Parish consider a community consultation in relation to the use of the church building should it close. Chairman thanked Mr Archer for his update.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.18 pm

Chairman.....12TH April 2021