

## CHALE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on **MONDAY 13th May 2024** at 7.00 pm at the Village Hall, Chale Street, Chale.

### Present

**Chairman:** Council Member Mr Dave Stewart  
**Councillors:** Council Members: Gosling, Parker, Burroughs and Archer  
**IW Councillor:** IW Cllr Claire Critchison  
**Clerk:** Mikki Bailey  
**Public:** 2

### **1. WELCOME**

Council Member Mr Dave Stewart, Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone present

### **2. MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2023.

**RESOLVED: Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman**

### **3. ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF CHALE PARISH COUNCIL**

I begin my report by firstly thanking all my parish council colleagues for their commitment and support during 2023 / 2024. I also wish to thank to our excellent parish council clerk for her outstanding work building on her record of achievement over previous years – a true parish council asset.

During 2023 / 2024, as a parish council, we addressed many issues and concerns on behalf of the Chale Community. These are specifically highlighted in the monthly meeting agendas that we hold and the subsequent minutes recorded - details of which can be found on our website and which are published locally on a monthly basis to keep the community informed.

**Finance:** As with any council or committee it is essential that we maintain good financial accounting and I am pleased to report that not only have we remained within budget for the year but we have done so without the need to increase our precept. This was an important decision made to enable us to recognise and respond to the significant economic pressures being experienced by residents in our community. It also reflects the 'immaculate' record keeping of our parish clerk highlighted by our auditors when approving our annual accounts. Supporting those in need Building on our strategic priority of supporting those in need, during the year we have continued our work with individual families who have found themselves in desperate need, taking advantage of national funding provided through the Isle of Wight Council, to continue to provide crisis support to vulnerable households. It has enabled us to support those locally who have been struggling to pay for food or energy bills. In addition, one of our members has been piloting locally a 'warn hub' strategy linked to an Island wide mobile community pantry service.

**Training and Development:** We have completed various activities to ensure we remain able to support our community, these have included provision of training in the use of the two defibrillators - one installed at the Wight Mouse Inn and one at Stubbings Engineers at Chale Green. These 'life saving' assets are maintained by the parish council and help to ensure we and others can use the equipment respond to emergencies if required.

**Community Engagement:** As a Parish Council we continue to maintain and develop our commitment to community engagement opportunities. We have been strong in our support for the

SWAY group development and look forward to a new facility being built and used this year. We are also further developing our links with the local WI. Following an excellent 'currynite' we have another activity on June 8th as part of our support for the international D Day tribute.

Other Activities: Finally, I would briefly like to mention other activities, including our regular consideration and response to planning applications, response to environmental issues, local facility improvements (such as at the car park at Chale green store or bus stop maintenance around the village) as well as maintaining our other community assets. We are also currently underway with a review of our Emergency Plan to ensure it is fit for purpose should we have a major emergency in our community requiring a fast local response.

Conclusion: In conclusion it has been a busy and productive year for Chale Parish Council members – all of whom are volunteers willing to give their time and energy in support of our community - and I have been pleased to have had the opportunity to be their chairman in 2023 / 24.

**RESOLVED: None.**

#### **4. TO RECEIVE THE 2023/24 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT**

All financial reports relating to 2023/24 were presented at the April Parish Council meeting. Receipts of £18669.14 were received which included £17900.00 precept. Our expenditure was £15670.34 which included the emptying of Dog waste bins, grass cutting on Chale Green, and Grants to local organisations helping residents of Chale. Balance brought forward from last year was £23152.79 which included money put aside for repairs to Hoy Monument and maintenance for the Community Hut. Total balance carried forward at 2024/25 year-end is £26129.35 including £13054.76 of Ring-fenced funds. The Clerk did advise that not all the grant funding was used and it would be nice to see more applications for 2024/25.

**RESOLVED: None**

#### **5. TO RECEIVE ANNUAL REPORTS FROM:**

##### **5.1 CHALE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT FROM PRESIDENT, MRS LYNDIA BURROUGHS**

Lynda provided a verbal report as she attended the meeting.

At Chale WI we continue to thrive, welcoming women of all ages, interests, and talents. This year we have also welcomed people, (even men!), from the local community to some of our outings and evening meetings. We have been able to provide open meetings with speakers from Archaeology to nature, and some of our in-house speakers have demonstrated crafts, farming, and even cheese tasting. Thought provoking talks were also given such as the National coast watch, Autism, and the History of our own WI, which is 95 years old this year. Our monthly community Coffee Mornings have grown into a very popular event, providing a place to meet, relax, and chat, with opportunity to purchase plants & local crafts, raising much needed funds for the Village Hall and other charities.

We were pleased to provide a Warm hub space which was trialed in the Hall during the winter. Through increased communication and joint activities, CWI have begun to strengthen links with the Parish Council, such as a very popular Curry night in November. This coming year we plan, in conjunction with the CPC, to hold a joint 1940's picnic day on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Our committee is as busy as ever, using their wide and varied talents within our WI, as well as volunteer work in Scouting, local Litter picking, the CPC, and Ability dogs for young people.

Surprisingly, we also have an unofficial CWI Men's contingent! who very ably assist CWI with

anything from repairs to the Hall, to attending open meetings, to moving furniture, to testing cake at our Coffee mornings!

As you are aware, the members of CWI Committee are also trustees for our Village Hall, which we continue to manage and renovate. Our purchases from last year have included a much needed dehumidifier for the kitchen, which has finally kept the condensation at bay. This year we plan to rejuvenate the exterior fabric of the hall by a comprehensive redecoration. Our thanks go to the CPC for the funds and some of the manpower to rebuild the crumbling steps at the Hall entrance.

The Village Hall now has a website in progress, (search Chale Village Hall). On the site you will be able to find contacts for booking, booked dates and a brief history of the Hall. It is an ongoing project, so thoughts / ideas are always welcome.

As a WI we look to support & encourage our members to create meaningful lives.

As a committee we seek to adapt, evolve and enrich the lives of others.

As Trustees of the hall we aim to provide a useful community asset, that we hope will be part of the fabric of Chale for years to come.

**RESOLVED: None**

## **5.2 CHALE HORTICULTURE SHOW**

**RESOLVED: There was no report received from Chale Horticultural Show**

## **5.3 SUSTAINABLE CHALE LTD. REPORT FROM MR MALCOM GROVES**

A report was received prior to the meeting and read out by the Chairman, Mr Dave Stewart.

**RESOLVED: A copy will be appx to these minutes.**

## **5.4 CHALE RECREATION GROUND REPORT FROM MR MALCOM GROVES**

A report was received prior to the meeting and read out by the Chairman, Mr Dave Stewart.

**RESOLVED: A copy will be appx to these minutes.**

## **5.5 CHALE CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE REPORT FROM MR DEREK SPRAKE**

A report was received prior to the meeting and read out by the Chairman, Mr Dave Stewart.

**RESOLVED: A copy will be appx to these minutes.**

## **5.6 SWAY'S REPORT FROM DIRECTOR, MR RICHARD WEBB**

Richard advised that SWAY continue to support 80-90 young people and families which includes a lot of 1:1 support. SWAY are currently advertising for a full-time youth worker as the need is greater than ever. One of the biggest issues for young people is around social media. Unfortunately, the hut in Spanners Close is no longer fit for purpose so meetings can no longer be held there. The demographics in changing considerably in the areas that SWAY looks after. The rise in the older generation is significant but they are very much aware of the social need of the residents of Chale. The new SWAY hub which is to be built in Spanners Close is till very much at forefront of the SWAY team who will be looking to employ a community development worker to work with and determine what the needs of the community are. SWAY would like to liaise with the PC over the removal of the old hut at some point in the future along with taking over the SSE account. M.O.P asked if there was a social housing officer involved and whether a vision document could be displayed so that the local community could be updated on the progress.

**RESOLVED: SWAY to lise with Clerk over the old hut and SSE.**

**5.7 CLLR CLAIRE CRITCHISON, IWC WARD MEMBER FOR CHALE, NITON AND WHITWELL**

Claire provided a verbal report as she attended the meeting.

It has been another busy year as Chairman of the Council and Ward Councillor.

I will be standing down as Chairperson of the IW Council. My year as vice Chair and two years as Chair have been a fantastic opportunity but I am ready to pass the role onto another councillor. I am very grateful to have had the chance to be in the position and it has given me many opportunities to attend events, present awards, represent the council and support the community.

I will continue to represent my ward area in the South Wight of the Island.

I have followed up resident enquiries on many issues, including road safety, wightfibre, planning, rights of way and much more.

The rainfall experienced on the Island has been exceptional and the villages were affected in many ways. Roads were impassable, homes and businesses flooded, and crops ruined. I contacted many agencies to arrange for emergency information and had the main roads reopened as soon as it was safe several times. I have been liaising with Island Roads to investigate the ongoing flooding issues at Leechmore, Bowcombe, Whitwell Road and Emmett Hill.

I have attended meetings to discuss the issues with the Military Road. This will be an ongoing problem for this lifeline route in the South and West Wight. I will continue to represent the interests of residents at stakeholder meetings.

It was a pleasure to be a part of the Niton Lantern Parade in December, and ensure it continued by organising the event with the help of a fantastic team of local volunteers.

Supporting and attending village events and community facilities is very important and I will be continuing to encourage people to champion local businesses, shops, libraries, pharmacies, pubs, community groups, bus services, schools, sports clubs etc.

**RESOLVED: None**

**6 PUBLIC FORUM**

The Chairman opened the meeting for Parishioner’s comments and questions. No questions asked.

**RESOLVED: None**

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm

Signed:.....Chairman

Dated: 10 June 2024