

Chale Parish Council

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Minutes of the **MEETING of CHALE PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Monday, 9 November 2020** via zoom due to the ongoing restrictions because of the corona virus pandemic, commencing at 7.00pm

Present

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

IW Councillor: Cllr Dave Stewart

Clerk: Mrs Sue Waters

Public: 1

Ahead of the meeting there was a short presentation by Natalie regarding the Wave Project. The project is using worldwide research to reduce violence to 70% of current figures by 2030, using early intervention techniques. Due to covid restrictions, her main work is to "spread the word" of the project to all Town and Parish councils so that when work can begin, councillors are aware of the project. She forwarded some reports to the clerk for councillors to read.

99/20 APOLOGIES

To receive and approve any apologies for absence

RESOLVED: No apologies for absence as all councillors were present.

100/20 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.

101/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October and the Planning meeting held on 2 November were received, approved and will be signed following the meeting.

102/20 PLANNING

There was one Planning Application to consider.

RESOLVED: That Chale Parish Council raises no objection to planning application number 20/01715/FUL, expect that it is hoped that off road parking will be used.

103/20 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED:

- 1 The Bank Reconciliation for the month of October 2020 was received and approved.
- 2 That the Parish Council will fund £60.00 towards the short story writing competition for Sight for Wight.
- 3 That the Parish Council does not grant any funds to Chale Churchyard Committee at this time due to wishing to keep funds for any local groups who are suffering reduced funds due to covid. This decision will be re-assessed in six months' time.
- 4 That the Parish Council recognises that the clerk has worked additional hours and that she should be paid for 50 extra hours in the December payment.
- 5 That the payments of the following cheques are approved.

245	Community Action – November payroll	£411.23
246	Mr R Groves – CRAB & PC expenses	£57.50

247	Mrs S Waters – expenses	£200.70
248	Sight for Wight	£60.00
	Total	£739.43

104/20 FUNDING FOR THE NUMBER 6 WINTER SUNDAY SERVICE

A report was received from the working party of the three parishes who currently fund the number 6 bus on Sundays in the winter. Before committing to further funding, alternative ways of providing transport are being considered, together with requesting usage figures from Southern Vectis. Another meeting will be held on 19 November 2020 for further investigation.

105/20 ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT/POLICY

The clerk submitted a draft policy for councillors to consider, and advised that the webmaster has still not updated the website even after the chairman spoke to him personally.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the draft Accessibility Policy is adopted by Chale Parish Council with a timescale of 1 January 2021 for full compliance.**
- 2. That the chairman will contact the webmaster once again regarding the work required to ensure compliance for an Accessible Website.**

106/20 THE BOX POST IN CHALE STREET

A resident contacted the clerk and advised that the post box in Chale Street has been removed by Royal Mail, and although she has contacted them for a reason why, only an acknowledgement of her enquiry has been received to date. This means that there is no post box in “middle Chale” without a long walk for residents.

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council contacts Royal Mail and asks why the post box was removed without a consultation process and if there are any plans to re-instate it.

107/20 DIAMOND RACES

Due to the on-going restrictions of the Coronavirus pandemic, a virtual public consultation was held on Monday 26 October by the organisers of the Diamond Races, attended by 4 parish councillors, 9 members of the public and the clerk. After 3 of the organising team introduced themselves and provided an update on the current situation of the proposed races, the floor was opened up to questions. Everyone who attended the meeting found it very informative and useful, although a date for the event has still not been agreed. Following the meeting, a letter was received from Paul Sandford (CEO of Diamond Races) requesting that a working party is set up with two members of each of the parish councils involved and members of Diamond races. Brighstone Parish Council is issuing a survey to all residents and business asking their opinions. Councillor Stewart advised that he will contact all three Parish Councils asking for their opinion and to raise any potential problems with the proposed race. It is hoped that with the covid vaccination now being released, that restrictions will reduce.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That Councillors Pete Gosling and Liz Groves sit on the Working Party for the event.**
- 2. That a survey will not be considered at this time due to the cost, but it is hoped that next year Face to Face public consultation will take place instead.**

108/20 NEW CLERK

Following the clerk’s relocation to the mainland next year, an advertisement was placed in the Isle of Wight County Press and circulated to the clerks on the Island. This resulted in three applications. All three candidates were interviewed on Tuesday 3 November by a panel of councillors Ron Groves, Liz Groves and Dian McWilliam. There was a split decision with councillors finding it very hard to decide which was the best candidate.

RESOLVED:

- i. That Mrs Michala Bailey is offered the post on a three-month probationary period starting 01/12/20.
- ii. That the hours are increased to 10 per week recognising that the new clerk is inexperienced and unqualified. This will be reviewed at the end of the probationary period.
- iii. That Sue will to continue to work until the end of December with Michala to provide a handover.
- iv. That if necessary, Sue will offer mentoring support to the new clerk once she has left.

109/20

REPORTS

- 1 The Clerk provided a written report regarding activities of the last month, including all written correspondence received.
- 2 Parish Councillors – Councillors Gosling advised that the attended the Remembrance Service outside St Andrew's church on Sunday 8 November. Even with covid restrictions, it was well attended and social distancing was observed. Although it was a short service, it was very nice.
- 3 The Parish Chairman – Councillor Groves advised that CRAB Chale is ready for the second wave whenever required. Some funds are still available for shopping, food parcels, mileage for volunteers etc from the grants obtained and some community donations. He attended a zoom meeting with other chairman and MP Bob Seeley on Wednesday evening. Several questions were raised – coaches from tier 2 & 3 areas being seen on the Island – the ferry companies have no enforcement powers to stop anyone travelling although with the new lockdown this should not happen. Another question was about the recording of covid deaths not being accurate as people who died of other causes but may have tested positive, are all recorded as covid deaths. No additional requests at the Foodbanks have been made during the recent school holidays when children were not receiving free school meals. Should government consider pub times being staggered rather than the 10pm curfew? Masks are not being worn by all taxi drivers – particularly witnessed at the Bae Systems flu clinic. The meeting was cut short due to the MP being required by the whip to go and vote.
The telephone box is only awaiting an earthing rod to be installed, then Councillor Gosling will assist in carrying out some maintenance ahead of the defibrillator being moved into the box.
- 4 IW Councillor Dave Stewart started his report by thanking the clerk for all her hard work since she started. With Covid, although numbers are still quite low on the Island, there have been 70 new cases in the last 7 days, of which 6 have been in schools. On the question of masks – this is not mandatory in taxis, although drivers should try to mitigate the risk with open windows and having passengers sat behind them. He mentioned that the ferry travel should decrease during lockdown as only essential travel is allowed. St Mary's is not yet being overwhelmed with new covid cases, but staff shortages may have an impact. Covid marshals are being used on the Island to engage and educate people on the restrictions – they have no enforcement powers. There is a press release going out about protecting the vulnerable residents. Dave wished to thank Ron and his team for all the work of CRAB Chale, and advised there will be additional funding available if required. The IW Council had worked out a plan to ensure that no children went hungry during the Christmas holidays – this has now been superseded by the government plan. He attended Remembrance services at Whitwell, Niton and Chale. The IW Council is piloting electric scooters. One company will be hiring them out, starting in Newport. Drivers must hold a driving licence, be issued with a helmet and the vehicles must be ridden on the road not the pavement. Dave went with a small group of people to look at Floating Bridge 5 in Gosport – it is too rusty to be brought back in service. Hopefully, Floating Bridge 6 will be back in service soon. A review of all the problems is being carried out.

110/20

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The member of the public thanked members of the Parish Council for their involvement in the Remembrance Service which attracted 24 residents. He asked about the possible carol service on the Green. Councillor Ron Groves replied that the Christmas Tree has been ordered (paid for by Councillor Harding), and should be installed at the end of the month dependant on the weather. Due to covid, an informal playing of carols around the tree will be held on Saturday 19 December at 6pm. No refreshments or carol sheets will be offered.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 pm

Chairman.....
14 December 2020