

# Chale Parish Council

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Minutes of the **MEETING of CHALE PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Monday, 12 October 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

**Clerk:** Mrs Sue Waters

**Public:** 1

Ahead of the meeting there was a short presentation by Joel Bateman of the Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Joel had previously sent a hard copy of his presentation that had been circulated to councillors. He explained that 10 years ago the ago of the South Wight of the Island was turned down for Dark Skies status mainly due to the number of street lights which give a glow upwards into the sky. A figure of £70.000 has been quoted by Island Roads to replace the street lights in the three parishes. Chale and Shorwell have fewer street lights than Brighstone so they are starting with this area. Dark Skies status would restrict any polluting light into the night sky. Councillor Ron Groves advised that he thought that Chale Parish Council already had a Dark Skies policy. The area is perfect for star gazing and could encourage star gazing tourists into the area.

**APPROVED: That a letter of support for the project is sent to ANOB.**

## **89/20 APOLOGIES**

To receive and approve any apologies for absence

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

## **90/20 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: Councillor Harding declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item number 10 as he is involved in housing for his employment.**

## **91/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September were received, amended to show that the bank reconciliations for July and August were received, then approved and will be signed following the meeting.**

## **92/20 PLANNING**

The one planning decision published from the IW Council was received.

There was one Licencing application to consider.

**RESOLVED: That Chale Parish Council raises no objection to the Island wide licence for Piazza Ices.**

## **93/20 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**RESOLVED:**

- 1 The Bank Reconciliation for the month of September 2020 was received and approved.
- 2 That the half yearly financial report was received and approved.
- 3 That the parish council ratifies the decision to upgrade the Zoom software to the premium account at a discounted total cost of £115.10
- 4 That the payments of the following cheques and direct debit is approved.  
DD SEB – Electricity for Spanners Hut £28.77

242	Community Action – October payroll	£373.83
243	Mr R Groves – CRAB expenses	£65.25
244	Mrs S Waters – expenses	£117.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£585.35</b>

**94/20 COUNCILLOR EMAIL ADDRESS'S**

A report was received from the Monitoring Officer at the Isle of Wight Council advising that all councillors should have a dedicated email address for council purposes.

**RESOLVED: That councillors have received the advice that they should have individual dedicated email addresses for council business, they have decided that most will continue using their own personal accounts.**

**95/20 RESIGNATION OF THE CLERK**

The clerk has submitted her formal resignation due to her re-locating to the mainland in the New Year. Although councillors were sad to see her leave, they understood the reasons.

**RESOLVED: That an advertisement will be sent to the Isle of Wight County Press with a closing date of Friday 30 October 2020 and that Councillors R Groves, L Groves and P Gosling form an Interview panel for candidates, on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.**

**96/20 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS**

- Even with the ongoing restrictions for the Corona Virus pandemic, the church service, wreath laying and carol will probably still go ahead with restrictions if needed at the time. As the wreath laying and reading of the names of the fallen take place outside the church, they should not be affected by restrictions as long as covid 19 safety measures take place. A church service may also take place inside the church.
- Councillor Hardy has kindly offered to fund a Christmas tree for the Green. This will be installed at the end of November with a Carol Service on Wednesday 16 December 2020 at 6pm.

**RESOLVED:**

- **That the Parish Council will finance a Remembrance Wreath from the Royal British Legion at a cost of £17.00, and that Councillor Groves will still read the names of the fallen, and that Andy Price will play the bugle as usual.**
- **That the Parish Council will fund mince pies and mulled wine if the Carol Concert is allowed under the restrictions at the time.**

**97/20 ACCESSIBLE WEBSITES**

The clerk advised that the community volunteer had not been able to update the Parish Council website by the deadline of 23 September 2020. This means that the Parish Council needs to pay to have the work completed.

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Groves will speak to the community volunteer and that up to £500.00 is used from Reserves to pay for the upgrade of the Parish Council website to ensure it is fully accessible and compliant with current legislation.**

**98/2 HOUSING NUMBERS**

Central government has imposed an additional 9,615 houses by 2035 on the Island, of which a large number will be built on greenfield sites. The local MP has requested support from all Town and Parish Council to lobby parliament to reduce this number, and to ensure that smaller, more affordable houses are built to suit the housing needs of Islanders. Councillors discussed that there are many derelict homes and shops/guest houses which could easily be converted into homes.

**RESOLVED: That Chale Parish Council supports the reduction in overall numbers of new housing required on the Island, also that Brownfield sites should be used ahead of Greenfield ones, and that the majority of homes built should be smaller and affordable for Islanders (although it is appreciated that some larger affordable family homes are also required)**

**REPORTS**

- 1 The Clerk provided a written report regarding activities of the last month, including any written correspondence received. The report contained an update of items from last month including that Natural Enterprise suggests that the emptying of bins at Blackgang Viewpoint Carpark is carried out in the morning rather than the end of the day. They will construct and install some lids for the bins as well to help with the problem of rubbish being dragged out overnight by the local wildlife. Also, a letter had been received detailing the work of Citizen’s Advice for residents of Chale and asking for financial assistance. Councillors were saddened to hear that so many residents needed support but felt that they were unable to offer any financial aid to the organisation at this time.
- 2 Parish Councillors –. Councillor Gosling was not happy with the response from Southern Vectis regarding the cost of the Sunday service for route 6. A working party will be arranged with councillors and clerks from the neighbouring parishes to look at the cost and alternatives which will report back to the full council next month. Councillors Hardy and McWilliam offered to be part of the working party. Councillor Liz Groves mentioned that the 30/40 mile per hour sign by the Wight Mouse had been knocked down and needed repairing. This will be reported to Island Roads.
- 3 The Parish Chairman – Councillor Groves started with explaining that the telephone box on the Green is now officially owned by the Parish Council. He has arranged for the electrical work to be completed by City Electrical at no cost to the Parish Council. Signs have been received from the Isle of Wight Ambulance Service. Before the defibrillator can be moved some internal maintenance is required which Councillors Groves and Gosling will undertake.  
 The activities of CRAB Chale are still in a low-key phase but all resources are in place ready to provide assistance when required.  
 There are prospective tenants for Chale Green Stores who are keen to take on the premises for a shop, café and post office. Ongoing negotiations are taking place with the owner and estate agent.  
 SWAY are forging ahead with their plans to replace Spanners Hut with a community hub. Both the Diocese of Portsmouth and Southern Housing are happy with the plans. Formal planning permission will now be sought. He also advised that the lock to the hut has been vandalised but he has cleared it.  
 Diamond Races – another date for the Public Consolation has been agreed with the organisers for Monday 26 October 2020. This will still be for Chale residents only with all covid 19 restrictions in place. The clerk will contact those people who have previously requested tickets with the new date. He has received a lot of telephone calls. Emails and letters from Shorwell residents who claim that their Parish Council are not responding to them. An email has been received from a local resident requesting that the organisers provide a substantial financial donation to SWAY from the proceeds of the event.  
 Several emails have been received from Island Roads advising that the 30 mile per hour sign at Appleford Road should not be moved. A steward has now inspected the road and agrees with the Parish Council, sending a report to his employers.
- 4 IW Councillor Dave Stewart was not present.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

One member of the public asked about the ongoing problem of lack of Broadband speed at the Military road end of the village. BT requires all business’s and homes to sign the “pledge”. Diamond Races are taking to Wight Wireless regarding this issue.  
 The church is hoping to provide a Carol service on Sunday 20 December 2020 at either 11am or 2pm. This will be dependent on covid restrictions at the time.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm

Chairman.....  
 9 November 2020