



Chale Parish Council

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Minutes of the **extraordinary** meeting of Chale Parish Council held on Tuesday, 8th November 2016 in the Women's Institute Hall, Chale commencing at 7.00 pm.

Present

Chairman: Cllr. Ron Groves
Councillors: Cllrs: Bernasconi, McWilliam, Paragreen, Cumming and Liz Groves
Clerk: Katie Riley
Public: None

288/16 APOLOGIES
To receive apologies for absence.

None

289/16 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS
1 To receive any declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests
2 To receive and consider granting any written requests for dispensations

None

290/16 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME CONSULTATION
To provide a combined PC response to the consultation

The Chairman called an extraordinary meeting to respond to this consultation after receiving additional information from the IWC about the number of claimants in Chale, and confirmation that an extension to the deadline (10th November) for comments was not possible. There are 84 claimants in Chale, 50 of which are of working age and 34 are pensioners. This proposal potentially affects the 50 local residents of working age. Further information provided:

- All 50 of these claimants would be affected by the 70 or 75% liability restriction
- Only 2 claimants are in band D or higher so just 2 residents would be affected by a Band C restriction
- And no claimants receive less than £2 per week so none affected by the option to set a minimum level of support at £2 per week

RESOLVED

Councillors resolved to complete the survey together and for the Clerk to compile and feedback the following responses to the IWC in time for the 10th November deadline.

- Councillors are in agreement that the council should keep the current council tax reduction scheme. In order to meet the funding shortfall they would be in favour of reducing the number of councillors and capping the wages of senior council staff at £80000pa.
- Regarding option 1 to reduce the level of CTR support from 80% to either 75% or 70%, 75% would be preferable to 70%, however they would prefer the shortfall to be met by the cap on wages and number of councillors suggested above.

- Regarding option 2 to reduce the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive CTR from 13 weeks to 4 weeks, Councillors feel this is fair and are in agreement.
- They disagree with option 3 to remove the element of a work related activity component in the calculation of the current scheme for new employment support allowance claimants, as they feel the current system for deciding on the ESA work-related activity group is unfair.
- They disagree with option 4 to limit the number of dependent children within the calculation of CTR to a maximum of two from any new children born on or after 1 April 2017 as they feel this would be discriminatory.
- They did not feel there was enough information to comment on option 5 sufficiently which is to remove the entitlement to the severe disability premium where another person is paid universal credit (carers element).
- They disagree with option 6 to limit CTR to a maximum council tax band C charge on the basis that larger families need larger homes and would want this to stay the same.
- They agree with option 7 to set a minimum level of CTR support at £2 per week and feel this is cost effective.
- Councillors disagree that there should be an increase in the level of council tax as this would require a referendum and mean more people losing out.
- Councillors disagree that savings should be found from reducing or cutting other council services. They question whether as much as £22 million now needs to be saved given recent decisions to delay loan re-payments and generally feel it is unfair to ask this question without more information.
- They wouldn't want to see an increase in council tax or reduce the funding available for other council services and return to their original suggestion of reducing the number of councillors and capping wages at a maximum of £80,000.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.33

Chairman.....
14th November 2016