

Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council



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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHILLERTON & GATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY
5th MARCH 2024 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, CHILLERTON

Present: Councillors John Hobart (Acting Chairman), Elizabeth Smith, Julia Newton & Peter Whiteman

Also Present: Mr Virgil Philpott (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

- There had, again, been fly-tipping of hazardous waste (seemingly asbestos tiles) on private land at Berry Lane / Loverstone Lane. This had been reported to the IWC. There was some uncertainty who the landowner was, but attempts would be made to notify him. Could the Parish Council investigate the feasibility / cost of installing solar powered cameras (though it was acknowledged this would need the landowner's permission and appropriate signage)?

4022 APOLOGIES – Cllr Debbie Ellis (IWC)

4023 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST - None received.

4024 MINUTES - The minutes of the previous meeting of 9th January were accepted. Cllr Smith requested an amendment to point 4019 from the meeting of 6th February to state that the Parish Council was in agreement with the AONB's comments. RESOLVED: that, the minutes for the Meetings held on 7th January and 6th February 2024 (the latter as amended, above) were approved as a true record.

REPORTS

Clerk's Report - Virgil Philpott had provided a report (attached to these Minutes) in respect of which the following matters arising, not appearing elsewhere in the Agenda, were noted:

4025 Defibrillator

VP had had a site meeting with IOW Defibrillators at Saint Olaves Church. They had advised that there was a new defibrillator on the market with an insulated case that obviated the need for a power supply. One of these could be installed next to the notice board, on a post, for £1,000. It was agreed Clerk should advise the Rev Steve Sutcliffe of this development and then make the necessary arrangements for purchase / installation.

It was also noted that parishioners had requested another defibrillator by the school in Chillerton. This hadn't been budgeted for in the forthcoming financial year, however, and it was felt that one defibrillator in each village, provided by the Parish Council, represented significant progress for the time being.

4026 Compost Bin

The Clerk had not had any luck with securing a volunteer with a digger. It was suggested that it might be worth mentioning the issue to the Horticultural Society and offering the 'compost' to parishioners.

4027 Swift Box Scheme

There had been 4/5 expressions of interest, but it was not clear how many of these properties

would be suitable. Gillian Belbin was in the process of ascertaining this. In the meantime the PC felt that it needed a steer on the amount of subsidy requested before it could reach a decision on any funding.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

4028 Parish Survey

Some of the headline findings were discussed, briefly, though it was noted that the Parish Council would need to revisit the findings in greater detail once forward planning commenced.

There had been a clear majority against applying for conservation area status. Cllr Smith felt that the question should have applied to Gatcombe and not to the Parish as a whole. She said she would likely be submitting a petition to the IWC for conservation area status for Gatcombe in a personal capacity.

It was also noted that a desire to retain the school had, apparently, declined, however, it was thought that this likely reflect some resignation amongst parishioners that it was a 'done deal'. It was still believed that the original covenant had stipulated that the land should be used for educational purposes. There was also a suggestion, from the floor, that an application had been made to have the school designated as a local asset, however, none of the Councillors present were aware of this.

4029 RESOLVED that the Clerk should circulate the results of the survey through YPM and the website.

Chillerton & Gatcombe Community Association

4030 There was no CGCA representative at the Meeting but Cllrs Hobart and Whiteman said they would be attending the Scarecrow Festival planning meeting on Thursday (7th March).

Grant Applications

4031 RESOLVED that the PC should offer £150 to Horticultural Society, following their grant application. The Youth Trust had not provided any specific evidence of work within the Parish, and while the PC was supportive of their work in general, given that funds were tight, no support would be offered on this occasion.

4032 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

Grass Cutting Contract

Three quotes had been received. Following discussion, it was agreed to go ahead and accept the lowest quote of the three contractors: David Trickey. This would save about £600 over the next two years and also included some 'extras' not in the current agreement. RESOLVED: that the Clerk should advise the contractors who had tendered, as appropriate.

4033 Southern Water

It was noted, once again, that distress and confusion had been caused to Gatcombe residents following Southern Water's recent letters. The Parish Council's understanding was that the 1907 Seely Agreement had permitted Shanklin Urban District Council to install and maintain waterworks on privately owned land in Chillerton. In return, villagers living on that land were to receive a water supply either free or at a preferential rate, depending on where they lived. This arrangement was to continue for 999 years and would, most likely, be reflected in residents' Deeds.

It was noted that this Agreement had been recently acknowledged by Southern Water when it came to avoiding responsibility for repairing water mains in Gatcombe and, so, the Parish Council's advice was that residents could safely ignore any demands from Southern Water, quoting the 1907 Seely Agreement. RESOLVED: that this information be communicated through YPM.

4034 Dog Fouling

There appeared to have been massive escalation in dog fouling around the G6 footpath. There had been a suggestion that the Hunt was responsible, however, two councillors had noticed, what appeared to be, a commercial dog walking van parked in the vicinity whose occupants had allowed their dogs to run free. They would keep an eye out for it in future and report the details to the IWC's Environmental Officer. It was also suggested that the Clerk investigate the cost of installing a new dog bin on G6.

4035 COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor Vacancy

The IWC's electoral officer had confirmed on 5th March that there had been no request for a bye election, following Cllr Garnish's departure and that the PC is, therefore, free to fill the vacancy through co-option. RESOLVED: Cllr Smith would write a piece for YPM advertising the vacancy and the Clerk would follow up on any leads from the Parish Survey and put up the usual co-option notices.

4036 FINANCE

The monthly figures for January - February 2024 were approved. RESOLVED: to pass the following accounts for payment:

11-Jan-24	V Philpott	Home Working Allowances	25.00
11-Jan-24	V Philpott	Travel	4.50
11-Jan-24	V Philpott	Dec Wages	389.32
11-Jan-24	HMRC	Dec PAYE & NI	97.40
17-Jan-24	V Philpott	2nd class stamps	4.50
17-Jan-24	D Trickey	Compost Bin	70.00
30-Jan-24	IWALC	Annual Membership	95.64
30-Jan-24	CGCA	Xmas Tree Contribution	50.00
30-Jan-24	CGCA	Village Hall Hire Fees	80.00
7-Feb-24	V Philpott	Travel	8.10
7-Feb-24	V Philpott	Dec Wages	389.32
7-Feb-24	HMRC	Dec PAYE & NI	97.40
7-Feb-24	V Philpott	Home Working Allowances	25.00
20-Feb-24	V Philpott	Speed Gun Reimbursement	164.99
20-Feb-24	V Philpott	Printer Paper / Toner	26.97

4037 PERSONAL STATEMENT

The Clerk requested leave to make a personal statement and informed the Council that he would be tendering his resignation due to a change in his day job and a serious family health matter. His intention was to stay on until a successful handover had been undertaken. RESOLVED: that the Clerk should advertise the vacancy using the IWALC network and isleofwightjobs.com.

4038 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Community Directory / An update from the IWC on their roads speed review

4039 NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday 7th May 2024, 6pm**, at The Village Hall, Hollow Lane, Chillerton. **This would also include the annual Parish and Annual Meetings.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:40pm

Signed -----

Date. -----