

CHALE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on **Wednesday 14th May 2025** at 7.00 pm at the Village Hall, Chale Street, Chale.

Present

Chairman: Council Member Mr Dave Stewart
Councillors: Council Members: Gosling, Parker, Lockwood, Burroughs and Burroughs
IW Councillor: IW Cllr Claire Critchison
Clerk: Mikki Bailey
Public: 3

1. WELCOME

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

2. MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2024.

RESOLVED: Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman

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

As chairman I have been supported throughout the year by our very professional and effective clerk (Mikki Bailey) and my colleague councillors (Peter Gosling, Jeremy Lockwood, Chris Parker, Linda Burrows and latterly Andrew Burrows (who replaced our former Councillor Member Rodney Archer).

As a team we held regular parish council meetings and dealt with various agenda items as shown in our regular minutes and supporting documentation, published throughout the year.

Council Activities: Through those meetings we dealt with a wide range of matters and issues and this report provides a summary of some of them for your information including:

- Providing a general response on behalf of the community in relation to various planning applications and related matters submitted by residents.
 - Considering and approving a range of donations and support to requests from various community groups (such as the local church, SWAY, and the village hall)
 - Through a specific initiative during the economic challenges faced by local residents to provide help via the Aspire led food kitchen and council funding grants to help those in need – and I would like to pay particular tribute to Ron Groves and Rodney Archer respectively who led our efforts in this area of community support.
 - Using our resources and Insurance provision to secure replacement of the Telephone Box which was badly damaged following a road collision – and here I would especially thank our parish council clerk (Mikki) for her sterling work to ensure the benefits our insurance was maximized and ultimately the box replaced.
 - Working with the Isle of Wight Council to ensure that Chale Green was regularly cut and where brambles and other growth had impinged onto the green to have this cleared so residents could continue to benefit from this common land.
 - To ensure that the community was provided with a Christmas Tree and lighting for festive celebrations and with particular thanks to various members and a nearby resident to ensure we could once again enjoy ‘carols on the green’
 - To continue to pursue a long-standing important issue of concern about speeding through Chale and the need to more effectively manage road safety. This has included consultation with

community residents and meetings with the Island Road Safety officer to make our case for a review and seek a reduction of speed throughout the area – particularly from Chale Green to Chale Church. This is an ongoing challenge, but we believe is important for the community we represent.

- To continue to support the SWAY youth group as they finalize the building of their new home in Chale and help them to manage the consequential challenges including residential impact and parking management that will need to be addressed in due course.

Council Management and Communication

During the year we have as a Parish Council also focused on good management of the finances and ensuring our clerk is properly equipped with the equipment and ongoing training required to be effective in her role. We have also maintained and developed our community communications through the use of Facebook and our web site.

Finances

From a financial point of view again in times of economic pressure for our residents we have been careful with what is public money and as a result were able to reduce our precept. Our overall Budget for the year was set at £20060 but only £18500 was requested from the public in view of the difficult financial times being experienced and as a result a reduced precept was achieved.

However, with a budget of £1000 allocated as available for appropriate causes and only £350 actually spent – this is an area for the parish council to review going forward.

We did form a finance sub-committee during the year and it is proposed future finance policies will be considered by this committee prior to the approval of the full council. It should also enable us to better use allocated funding in the future for the benefit of Chale and the wider community.

So overall a full and productive year for the Parish Council and I thank all those involved for their contribution and support.

RESOLVED: None.

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

All financial reports relating to 2024/25 were presented at the April Parish Council meeting. Receipts of £20705.10 were received which included £17787.00 precept. Our expenditure was £19232.70 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 £26129.35 which included money put aside for repairs to Hoy Monument and maintenance for the Community Hut. Total balance carried forward at 2025/26 year-end is £27601.75 including £12053.16 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 2025/26.

RESOLVED: None

5. TO RECEIVE ANNUAL REPORTS FROM:

5.1 CHALE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT FROM PRESIDENT, MRS LYNDA BURROUGHS

This year Chale WI has continued to give a warm welcome to women of all ages, interests, and talents. We have provided both open meetings, and members meetings, with diverse topics such as the work of Cats Protection & Wild Women of the Wight, (to name a couple). We held a very successful "Food from the Past" evening talk that was open to the Community, and whilst the very entertaining Dr Ruth spoke about the different eras relating to food, the WI members provided authentic tasters from recipes of each era. In December Our ladies created a host of Angels for the Brighstone Christmas Tree event. As a result, we were able to raise funds for The Daisy Bus, run by Wessex Cancer Trust. Recently, our members have taken a more pro-active part in making decisions about our speakers, activities, and outings. This coming year we will have much more emphasis on the social side of our group, so maybe less Jam & Jerusalem, and more Chat & Champagne!? (Or Prosecco!)

We are very pleased to note that our monthly community Coffee Mornings continue to thrive, and have proved to be a very popular community event, providing a place to meet, relax, and chat, with opportunity to purchase plants & local crafts, whilst raising much needed funds for the Village Hall and other charities. We could not manage this without the delicious home-made cakes provided by our talented members, so as a thank-you, our members were able to attend and enjoy a lovely New Year lunch at Calon in Brighstone.

Joint activities with the Parish Council, have continued with another successful evening, this time focusing on the Caribbean. This coming year we plan, in conjunction with the CPC, to hold a Moroccan evening and hope to jointly host a Community Event BBQ including displays from local organisations.

Our Committee has seen one or two changes this year. We have welcomed Lynn as a new Committee member, and two Committee members, Roz and Helen, have become Vice-Presidents. We remain busy and productive, and always looking ahead.

As you are aware, presently, the members of CWI Committee are also trustees for our Village Hall, which we continue to manage and renovate. We have now overseen the completion of the exterior renovation and paintwork, this time choosing the original colours to match the old Scout Hall across the road. This year we would like to purchase a memorial bench to commemorate the lives of members who have passed on. We also need to continue in our work to raise funds for the Village Hall, as something always needs mending, replacing, monitoring or certificating! The Village Hall website continues to evolve, and is becoming a useful tool for those who wish find out more info or book an event.

Chale WI is group that provides contact, support, fun, and activities, for women of all ages. We hope to carry on doing this for many 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.

RESOLVED: A copy will be appx to these minutes.

5.6 SWAY'S REPORT – JO RICHARDS

Jo advised that SWAY continues to deliver youth provision to 11-13 years and 14-17 years and one scheme for younger people in Ventnor. Funding streams have helped SWAY provide help in Year 6 classes which assist young people going up to high school. This have been very well received.

The Zoom cook along this winter has once again proved very useful, helping young people learn to cook, sit with family and eat meals and has proven to help those with eating disorders.

There is no male youth worker at the moment but SWAT are working hard to change this.

There will be 2 camps this summer, one in Corve and one in Brecon Beacons.

The completion of the Hub in Chale will mean the re-start of youth groups. There will be a community engagement event on The Green on the 17th may but also a public meeting on the 22nd May at the Village Hall.

It is hoped that the Hub will be near finish in September where an opening event will be held. SWAY was honoured with a Kings Award this year and it is hoped the award will be presented at that event. It is hoped that the Hub will provide a small shop, meeting rooms, refreshments, hall for hire and a much need provision for services to held surgeries for advice/help.

Jo asked what was happening to the cycle repair hub in the old bus shelter opposite the Green. Is this something that could be placed at the HUB?

RESOLVED: Councillor Dr Lockwood volunteered to take a look at the equipment at the cycle hub and see if its usable?

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

Claire provided a written report prior to the meeting and read it out;

Resident engagement

I have held Cllr surgeries and visited community coffee mornings to keep in touch with residents. I have followed up enquiries with a range of issues.

My facebook page is updated with road closures and I post relevant information on local facebook groups to keep residents informed. www.facebook.com/clairechalenitonshorwell

Flooding

Thankfully we had no further landslides this winter but we did have flooding in several areas. I requested that Island Roads attended and clear the drainage several times. Work has been done in all areas to alleviate the flooding. This will be a continuous request as the areas are prone to water retention.

Military Road

A number of discussions are continuing to help the Council in approaching the Government for support in retaining this iconic road.

Roadworks

Institute Hill, Barrack Shute and Laceys Lane in Niton have been resurfaced. I will continue to request improvements to the road network. The pedestrian crossing and dropped kerbs at Norris Stores in Niton are still to be arranged.

Farmers Support

I put forward a motion to Full Council to support farmer’s needs. I have been working in conjunction with the NFU to understand the issues faced by the farming community.

Rights of Way

I have reported several areas that needed attention, and new gates have been installed, paths cleared, and signs replaced.

Landslide and Coastal Loss Forum

I have attended the forum to represent the south of the Island. The Forum (LCLF) will focus specifically on Island-wide issues related to landslides, coastal erosion, and their impacts on the community and environment. The purpose of this forum is to bring together the community and the risk management authorities to collaborate, share best practices and update on current programs of work.

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 7.45 pm

Signed:.....Chairman

Dated: 9th June 2025