

NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT WHITWELL VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 24th JUNE 2019 AT 7:15 PM

PRESENT: Councillors T Addison (Chairman), S Biles, J Boileau Goad, S Burridge, P K G Fradgley, M Hughson, M A Innes, A Logan, L Sheerin and J A Stotesbury

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Dave Stewart (Isle of Wight Council) and Mrs V J Ford (Clerk to the Council)

M01/06/19 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman welcomed a Whitwell resident to the meeting. At the May meeting, the resident had requested that the Parish Council purchase a memorial bench for the area on the corner of Bannock Road and Slay Lane; M22/05/19 refers. The resident stated that he had raised £400 in public contributions towards the cost of the bench and that other residents had expressed support for the idea.

RESOLVED: that the request for the purchase of a memorial bench be included on the agenda for the July Parish Council meeting.

The resident also expressed his view that there was a lack of dog fouling notices in Bannock Road. The Chairman stated that the situation was being reviewed now that the Parish Council was paying for the services of an Environment Officer.

The Chairman also welcomed Mr Dominic Wray, Manager of Blackgang Chine theme park, to the meeting to answer any questions on the summer firework displays. The question of late-night traffic was raised and Mr Wray stated that signs would be in place to remind visitors to drive carefully when they left at the end of the evening. Councillor Stotesbury asked what measures were in place to clear away rubbish after the displays. Mr Wray said that it was planned to increase the litter recovery efforts in the field from which the fireworks were let off and stated that no complaints had been received in previous years from the adjacent landowners. Councillor Logan asked why the fireworks had to be let off from the top of the cliff. Mr Wray said that it was not possible to let off the fireworks from a lower level and still provide entertainment. Councillor Logan reported that she had received complaints from people with dogs and she also expressed concerns regarding wildlife. Councillor Boileau Goad asked if there was a better way to provide entertainment other than by using fireworks. Mr Wray said that the park had tried laser shows and light shows but fireworks had attracted more visitors. He added that the park had reduced the duration of each display and had given specific times in which the displays would take place.

The Chairman thanked Mr Wray for attending the meeting.

M02/06/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor	Interest	Item	Minute Ref	Reason
L Sheerin	Personal	Accounts for payment: Niton Football Club lease	M06/06/19	Involved with fundraising activities for the Club

M03/06/19 ACQUISITION OF ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL ASSETS WITHIN THE PARISH

The Chairman welcomed Ms Andrea Jenkins, Senior Surveyor, Isle of Wight Council Asset Management, to the meeting. Ms Jenkins explained that the Isle of Wight Council had received a letter from Niton Community Projects Community Interest Company asking for the use of the old library / telephone exchange building. The building had been leased to the Edward Edwards Library and was currently being

used as a store. It was thought that the lease would include a clause stipulating that the building was “for use as a library only” and that, in theory, once the building ceased to be used as a library, the lease would have ended. Ms Jenkins offered to send a copy of the lease to the Parish Council. The Chairman agreed that this might be a useful starting point. Ms Jenkins explained that the Isle of Wight Council had an obligation to obtain “best consideration” for the building. She suggested marketing the property for rent in conjunction with the Parish Council. If there was a preferred tenant, the Isle of Wight Council could agree a head lease with the Parish Council / Niton Community Projects and a sub-lease could then be agreed with the tenant. The lease could transfer all responsibility for maintenance to the sub-tenant.

After some discussion, Ms Jenkins invited the Parish Council to put forward a proposal for the retention of all Isle of Wight Council assets within the Parish: Allotment Road car park; Niton public toilets; the Bert Sprake Memorial Garden; the old library / telephone exchange.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council put forward a proposal to retain all Isle of Wight Council assets within the Parish.

M04/06/19 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Councillor Stewart reported that he would be distributing his newsletter during the coming week. He would be holding a public meeting on Saturday 29th June at 2 pm in Niton Village Hall, which Mr David Evans, Isle of Wight Council Strategic Manager for Highways and Transportation, would be attending to speak on Undercliff Drive and the badger “crossing”. Councillor Stewart asked that Parish Councillors attend the meeting.

The White Lion public house would be re-opening as a going concern in July.

Councillor Stewart also reported on issues including Medina Bridge, mental health provision, winter homeless provision, Municipal Journal awards, the future of Island Line and the success of the brown bin collection.

Councillor Stewart left the meeting.

M05/06/19 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 20th May 2019 be taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

M06/06/19 FINANCE

Members had before them a schedule showing a cashbook balance of £70,504.07 in the General Funds, £25,284.66 in the Public Sector Deposit Fund and £6,265.61 in the Bequest Account. A schedule of accounts for payment was also before the meeting.

RESOLVED: that the Financial Statement to 17th June 2019 be received and noted.

*Already paid; for ratification only

Cheque Number	Payee	Details	Amount £
1587*	SSE	Electricity for Niton public toilets	37.22
1588*	Jewson Ltd	Picnic benches for Niton Recreation Ground	749.09
1589*	Signpost Express (IW) Ltd	Mr Thomson memorial plaque	86.40
1590	John O’Conner (Grounds Maintenance) Ltd	Mowing/strimming Niton Recreation Ground	220.80

Cheque Number	Payee	Details	Amount £
1591	V J Ford	Clerk's salary: June 2019	708.90
1592	V J Ford	Clerk's expenses: June 2019	211.90
1593	Whitwell Village Hall	Hire of hall 2019	30.00
1594	CANCELLED		
1595	Wilks, Price, Hounslow	Completion of Niton FC lease	340.00
		Total	2,384.31

The Clerk reported that 2 of the new safety mats under the cable way had been damaged during the most recent grass cutting.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk contact the grounds maintenance contractor regarding the damage to the safety matting.

RESOLVED: that the Parish accounts as listed above be approved for payment.

M07/06/19 BANK SIGNATORIES

The Clerk presented a list of current signatories to the Parish Council accounts.

RESOLVED: that the signatories to the Lloyds Ban current account be Councillors Addison, Biles, Boileau Goad, Burrige, Hughson, Innes, Logan, Sheerin and Stotesbury and the Clerk.

RESOLVED: that the signatories to the National Savings and Investments Bequest account be Councillors Addison, Fradgely and Hughson and the Clerk.

RESOLVED: that the signatories to the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account be Councillors Addison, Boileau Goad and Burrige and the Clerk.

M08/06/19 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members had before them two Niton planning applications.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk be asked to submit to the Isle of Wight Council the comments set out in the Appendix which forms part of these minutes.

M09/06/19 PLANNING DECISIONS

Members were notified of the following planning decisions:

1. P/00346/19, TCP/22936/B – Proposed dwelling and garage; formation of vehicular access on land west of 2, Meadowside, Pan Lane, Niton: **GRANTED**
2. P/00269/17 – TCP/26676/F – Demolition of buildings; proposed five dwellings with associated car ports and landscaping at Fields Nursery, Town End, Niton: **GRANTED**
3. P/00633/17 – TCP/04949/G – Variation of condition 2 on P/01380/14, TCP/04949/F to allow re-positioning of semi-detached houses at Niton Football Club, Blackgang Road, Niton: **GRANTED**
4. 19/00006/LBC: LBC for retention of replacement windows at 4, Brookside Cottages, High Street, Whitwell: **REFUSED**

5. 19/00086/FUL: Proposed detached dwelling on land adjacent to Danby, Southford Lane, Whitwell:
WITHDRAWN

RESOLVED: that the Clerk request an update on the progress of the s106 agreement associated with planning application P/00269/17, TCP/26676/F, Fields Nursery.

M10/06/19 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Logan reported that she was working to form a small Community Interest Company in order to construct a garden on land adjacent to Beauchamp, Undercliff Drive, including the addition of benches and re-opening of the footpath. The garden would be a community asset. It was intended to remove the unprotected sycamore trees and use the wood to make the benches. At a later date, beehives may be placed on the site.

Councillor Boileau Goad reported that he had attended a stakeholder workshop held by Southern Water; the company had offered to visit the Parish with its information caravan during August/September. He also appealed for photographs of failed drainage in the Villages for submission to Southern Water.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Boileau Goad arrange for the information caravan to visit the Parish.

A Whitwell resident had offered to stage a demonstration of his steam engine on Niton Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: that, subject to the necessary insurance cover and risk assessment being in place, Councillor Boileau Goad and the Clerk arrange for the demonstration to go ahead.

Councillor Boileau Goad reported that a resident of Puckwell Lane had expressed concern regarding the impact of the new build on the land previously occupied by Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church on property in Puckwell Lane with respect to surface water drainage. This was being pursued privately with the Isle of Wight Council.

Councillor Boileau Goad renewed his appeal for hay / straw bales for the NitWhit Soap Box Derby on 1st September.

Councillor Sheerin gave an update on Niton Football Club proposed clubhouse / changing facilities. The Football Club would be holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 11th July at 7 pm at Joe's Bar, Niton.

RESOLVED: that representatives of Niton Football Club be invited to attend the next Parish Council meeting.

Councillor BurrIDGE reported that she had been unable to attend the recent Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) meeting. However, she was aware that Ryde Town Council had suggested that all town and parish councils request the revised grass cutting schedule from Island Roads and monitor the effects of the reductions.

With regard to the land rear of Barrack Shute, Niton, Councillor BurrIDGE reported that the Local Planning Authority had instructed the Legal Department to issue an enforcement notice which will seek the cessation of the land for residential purposes and the removal of caravans buildings and paraphernalia located on the land.

The Chairman outlined his input to the Isle of Wight Council Undercliff Drive consultation, by which he had attempted to balance the background information. He encouraged other members to complete the survey on a personal basis.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk circulate the Chairman's input to the survey to other members.

Councillor Innes asked why the telephone kiosk outside the old library building in Niton had not been maintained. The Clerk explained that, unlike the Whitwell telephone kiosk, the Niton kiosk was the property of a Community Interest Company, which was responsible for maintenance.

Councillor Stotesbury had received complaints regarding parking on the bend at the Niton end of Kemming Road and the condition of the Puckwell Farm attenuation pond in Niton. The Chairman gave a brief update on the pond: the Clerk had referred a complaint regarding the pond to the Isle of Wight Council Countryside Officer, Mr Bob Edney, as the enforcement authority. The water had been tested and found to be in good condition.

M11/06/19 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR) AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES (WEBSITES AND MOBILE APPLICATIONS) ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS 2018

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council remained compliant with GDPR in terms of policies but recommended that, in order to protect the personal e-mail addresses of members of the public using the "contact us" tab on the website, the website be switched from an http connection to an https connection with SSL security certificate at an annual cost of £65. She also recommended the addition of a cookie notice bar at a one-off cost of £35.

As it had an existing website, the Parish Council was not required to comply with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations until September 2020. However, the Clerk recommended the addition of Accessibility tools for the website at a one-off cost of £190.

RESOLVED: that a cookie notice and accessibility tools be added to the Parish Council website and that the site be made https secure with immediate effect.

M12/06/19 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON UNDERCLIFF DRIVE

The background information and consultation questions had been circulated to members.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk submit the following response to the consultation:

Do you agree or disagree that the Isle of Wight Council should reinstate Undercliff Drive for vehicular traffic?

Agree

Do you have any other comments?

- **Undercliff Drive is an A road;**
- **Undercliff Drive is strategically important;**
- **The closure of Undercliff Drive has had an economic impact on the whole Island;**
- **The closure has forced all traffic down a route which is single-track in places;**
- **Other existing roads into Ventnor are not reliable.**

RESOLVED: that the Chairman and Clerk be given delegated authority to incorporate relevant remarks from the Chairman's input to the consultation.

M13/06/19 CASTLEHAVEN VILLAGE GREEN

The Chairman gave an update on the progress of the work to increase the height of the gabions adjacent to the Village Green. Natural England was not looking for a formal application but had asked for details and methodology of the engineering work to be provided.

The Niton Harbour Club had indicated its willingness to continue to maintain the grass on behalf of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: that the Niton Harbour Club be awarded a grant of £150 in consideration of maintaining the grass during the 2019 season.

Members had before them a proposal for the incorporation of Castlehaven Village Green into the Gift to Nature portfolio and for cleaning and painting the non-working winch. A proposal to provide a picnic bench for the green had also been made.

RESOLVED: that the matter be deferred to the July Parish Council meeting.

RESOLVED: that Gift to Nature be asked to consider the incorporation of Niton Recreation Ground and the Bert Sprake Memorial Garden into its portfolio and to present its proposal for discussion at the July Parish Council meeting.

M14/06/19 PARISH EXCURSIONS

RESOLVED: that the Clerk be authorised to organise three further Parish excursions during 2019: one in July/August (Island Minibus Services), one in September/October (Island Minibus Services) and one in December to Busy Bee Christmas World (Southern Vectis Solo bus).

M15/06/19 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY

RESOLVED: that a surgery be held at Niton Village Day on Saturday 6th July.

M16/06/19 ASHKNOWLE LANE: MATCHED SIGNAGE IN NITON AND WHITWELL

RESOLVED: that the Isle of Wight Council Rights of Way Department be asked to envisage the form and location of the proposed signage.

M17/06/19 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL CONSULTATION: COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

Councillor Burridge stated that the draft minutes of the IWALC Executive Committee of Thursday 20th June had recorded that: *“Members were unanimous in rejecting all the options outlined in the consultation and it was agreed to write to the Isle of Wight Council requesting no change be made to the present system. It was strongly felt that all the options resulted in additional funds being taken from the poorest members of society and this was not acceptable.”*

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council’s response to the consultation be in concert with IWALC.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:15 pm

Signed..... Date.....

APPENDIX TO MINUTES

1. 19/00359/HOU: Retention of two single-storey extensions at Maycroft, Castlehaven Lane, Niton:
Recommend approval
2. 19/00397/CLEUD: Lawful development certificate to establish the lawful use of the existing visibility splay at Ivy Close, Niton: **Niton and Whitwell Parish Council, having considered the application, strongly recommends refusal.** The original conditions relating to the visibility splay should be applied.