

NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT WHITWELL VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7:15 PM

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

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors P K G Fradgley

M01/09/19 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman welcomed 5 members of the public to the meeting.

A member of the public raised the issue of the lack of dropped kerbs in Niton, which made the use of mobility scooters very dangerous. They also asked if there were any plans to build affordable housing in Niton. A second member of the public raised the issue of the lack of dropped kerbs and gave an account of their experience in moving around Niton village using a mobility scooter. The Chairman thanked the members of the public for raising the mobility problem in Niton village. He then referred to an e-mail received from the Isle of Wight Council, setting out its statutory duty to provide a reasonable approach to accessibility issues and mitigating budgetary constraints.

Councillor Boileau Goad supported the request for dropped kerbs. He stated that the issue was largely due to the loss of Undercliff Drive to through traffic and that he would not support the use of Parish funds to solve an Isle of Wight Council issue. Councillor Logan also supported the request for dropped kerbs.

Councillor Stewart reported that he had been approached by Isle of Wight Council officers regarding a package of traffic management measures for Niton and Whitwell, regardless of the outcome for Undercliff Drive. The officers had recognised the impact of the closure on Niton and Whitwell. This was warmly welcomed by all in attendance.

A member of the public addressed the Parish Council on the matter of the introduction of 5G into the Parish in the near future. They asserted that the governing body is biased and asked the Parish Council to consider raising health and safety and environmental concerns with the Central Council and pressing for an independent review. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had already raised the issue with the Isle of Wight Council and had asked to be kept informed going forward.

M02/09/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

M03/09/19 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July 2019 be taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

M04/09/19 FINANCE

Members had before them a schedule showing a cashbook balance of £60,521.64 in the General Funds, £25,332.60 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 16th September 2019 be received and noted.

* Already paid; for ratification only

Cheque Number	Payee	Details	Amount £
1603*	John O'Conner (GM) Ltd	Mowing/strimming Niton Recreation Ground	114.00
1604*	V J Ford	Clerk's salary: August 2019	708.90
1605*	SSE	Electricity for Niton public toilets	35.39
1606*	Isle of Wight Council	Contribution towards repair of NT46	2,000.00
1607*	Imphouse Ltd	Castlehaven gabions and NT46 access	4,814.40
1608*	Ringway Island Roads Limited	Memorial bench, Bannock Road, Whitwell	1,562.09
1609*	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External audit 2018/19	240.00
1610	Natural Enterprise Ltd	Ranger services for Castlehaven; clean and paint old winch	720.00
1611	Isle of Wight Council	Environment Officer services 2019/20	480.00
1612	John O'Conner (GM) Ltd	Mowing/strimming Niton Recreation Ground	198.00
1613	IOW Computer Geek	Website hosting; PC e-mail addresses	184.99
1614	V J Ford	Clerk's salary: September 2019	708.90
1615	V J Ford	Clerk's expenses: September 2019	46.48
1616	The Society of Local Council Clerks	Clerk's membership fee 2019/20	136.00
		Total	11,949.15

The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk, in accordance with Financial Regulation 11.1 a iv, had authorised additional work to be carried out at Castlehaven by Imphouse Ltd to allow safe access to the recently resurfaced stretch of NT46.

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

M05/09/19 EXTERNAL AUDIT 2018/19

The Chairman reported that an unqualified audit report had been received from PKF Littlejohn LLP and thanked the Clerk for her work towards this. He reminded members that the Parish Council had been selected at random as part of a 5% sample to undergo an intermediate audit for 2018/19.

RESOLVED: that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19 be approved and accepted.

M06/09/19 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members had before them two Niton and one Whitwell 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.

M07/09/19 PLANNING DECISIONS

Members were notified of the following planning decisions:

1. P/00173/18, TCP/13825/J: Householder Application – Proposed garage extension to include extension at first floor level to form office; alterations at The Star, Church Street, Niton: **GRANTED**

2. 19/00317/RVC Variation of condition nos 2, 4 and 8 and removal of condition no. 3 on P/00071/19 to allow amendments to approved scheme on Part OS Parcel 3855 To Newport Road And Kingates Lane, Niton: **GRANTED**
3. 19/00359/HOU: Retention of two single-storey extensions at Maycroft, Castlehaven Lane, Niton: **GRANTED**
4. 19/00397/CLEUD: Lawful development certificate to establish the lawful use of the existing visibility splay at Ivy Close, Niton: **GRANTED**
5. 19/00405/CLPUD: Lawful Development Certificate for proposed single storey rear extension at 3, Verlands Close, Niton: **GRANTED**
6. 19/00480/HOU Proposed single storey side extension at Kiln Side, Newport Road, Niton: **GRANTED**

The decision relating to planning application 19/00397/CLEUD, Ivy Close, Niton, was discussed. Councillor Stewart stated that he was committed to a full investigation. The Chairman reiterated his published comments to the Isle of Wight Council, stating that the matter had been badly handled.

The Chairman reported that he had asked Mr Ollie Boulter, Isle of Wight Council Strategic Manager for Planning and Infrastructure Delivery, if there are any village boundaries in existence and, if so, where the Isle of Wight Council thinks they are; and also reminding Mr Boulter that the Parish Council opposed converting SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments) sites into HA (Housing Allocation) sites in the Draft Island Planning Strategy.

M08/09/19 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Stewart reported that, after speaking to the owner of the blue van, the vehicle would be removed from Allotment Road car park. The results of the Undercliff Drive consultation would be published soon; there may be plans for the use of the Niton old library/telephone exchange building in conjunction with Undercliff Drive. With regard to the Draft Island Planning Strategy, settlement boundaries and Parish housing requirements were being considered and a questionnaire would be produced shortly. The lack of affordable housing had been recognised – no affordable housing would be built this year. The Isle of Wight Council was inviting ideas for the budget, which would not be published before Christmas.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Stewart for his report. He expressed the urgency of receiving the results of the Undercliff Drive consultation and complained about the lack of response to the Parish Council's proposal to take over Parish assets (old library/telephone exchange, Allotment Road car park, Bert Sprake Memorial Garden and Niton public toilets) from the Isle of Wight Council. The Chairman thanked Councillor Stewart for help with Castlehaven and for considering Whitwell as the venue for the Isle of Wight Council Cabinet meeting in January 2020. He also thanked the Whitwell WI and the Pepperpot Players for moving their long-standing bookings to allow Whitwell Village Hall to be available for the Cabinet meeting.

M09/09/19 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Hughson reported that members of the Parish Council and other volunteers had tidied up the Bert Sprake Memorial Garden. Councillor Logan had offered to make up a planting scheme. The Chairman applauded the group on the improvements to the garden but reminded them to inform the Clerk before undertaking work on behalf of the Parish Council for insurance purposes.

RESOLVED: that maintenance of the area of land adjacent to Hillstones in Whitwell High Street be included on the agenda for the October Parish Council meeting.

Councillor Stotesbury reported that, in some places, Island Roads' treatments had failed. Councillor Stewart stated that the Isle of Wight Council was in serious negotiations with Island Roads at present regarding the core investment period. He added that 95% of the work was good but invited people to flag up potential problems and asked Councillor Stotesbury to submit photographs of particular problems.

Councillor Boileau Goad reported that he had been working with Councillor Sheerin on the Smugglers Trail project and that they would continue to work with Carol Flux of Gift to Nature. He had spoken to Mr Alan Rowe about producing a map, as in the Parish Council's tourist leaflet. This would be discussed further at agenda item 11.

RESOLVED: that the Smugglers Trail project be included on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

Councillor Boileau Goad reported that the NitWhit Soapbox Derby on 1st September had been a quiet success and thanked the grounds contractor for help with the course. He had also looked at the cost of providing toilet facilities in the Recreation Ground and been speaking to Southern Water regarding the problems with sewerage between Niton and Whitwell.

Councillor Logan had attended the Age Friendly event on 19th September and reported that the Island Age Friendly project had received an extra year's funding.

Councillor Burridge appealed for a member of the Parish Council to attend the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) housing seminar on 4th October and for any questions for submission. She also reported that the new coordinator appointed for the Edward Edwards Library service may be looking to the Parish Council for future funding. The Clerk advised that, in the absence of delegated authority from the Isle of Wight Council, the Parish Council had no power through which to fund the library service directly.

M10/09/19 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk asked if any members would be interested in local training sessions, possibly in partnership with Chale Parish Council.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk approach Chale Parish Council to ask if members would be interested.

The Clerk advised members that it was best practice to use their Parish Council-dedicated e-mail address for any Council business. She asked members to contact her if they would like their password reset.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council-dedicated e-mail address of any member who had not accessed that account by 28th October would be deleted.

RESOLVED: that the order of business be varied for the convenience of a member of the public in attendance.

M11/09/19 WILDFLOWER MEADOW IN NITON RECREATION GROUND

A member of the public briefly outlined their proposal for the development of a wildflower meadow in Niton Recreation Ground, recommending that the project should ideally be undertaken in autumn.

The Chairman thanked the member of the public for their proposal and asked the Clerk to circulate to all members. He stated that the Parish Council had a number of ideas which needed to be prioritised for funding. The means by which to gauge public support for each idea would be discussed under item 14 of the

agenda. The Parish Council would be looking to make decisions in January 2020 during its budget-setting process.

Councillor Stotesbury suggested using an area currently occupied by brambles at the top of the slope and an area at the lower end as a small start.

M12/09/19 STANDING ORDER 5. f

Councillor Boileau Goad explained the background for the Special Motion to vary Standing Order 5. f, which read:

The Chairman of the Council, unless he has resigned or becomes disqualified, shall continue in office and preside at the annual meeting until his successor is elected at the next annual meeting of the Council. The Chairman may serve for a maximum of 2 years.

The Special Motion had been signed by 5 members, in accordance with Standing Order 26. b.

RESOLVED: that the non-statutory stipulation “The Chairman may serve for a maximum of 2 years” be removed from Standing Order 5. f.

M13/09/19 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Members had before them draft revised Parish Council Financial Regulations presented by the Clerk in accordance with the revised National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Model Financial Regulations July 2019.

RESOLVED: that the revised Financial Regulations, as presented by the Clerk, be adopted.

M14/09/19 CASTLEHAVEN VILLAGE GREEN AND PUBLIC FOOTPATH NT46

RESOLVED: that the additional work, authorised by the Chairman and the Clerk and carried out by Imphouse Ltd to allow safe access to the recently resurfaced stretch of NT46, be ratified.

RESOLVED: that, in view of the confusion regarding the status of the stretch of NT46 along the sea wall, the Clerk pursue the idea of additional signposting with the Isle of Wight Council Rights of Way Department.

RESOLVED: that consideration of backfilling at the seaward end of the Village Green, behind the new gabion baskets, be included on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

With regard to the Smugglers Trail project, Councillor Boileau Goad stated that a draft leaflet would be required as a precursor to a grant application and requested authorisation for a draft map to be drawn up by Mr Alan Rowe.

RESOLVED: that Mr Rowe be asked to draw a draft map at a cost of £285.

The Chairman outlined the idea of a media announcement and photographic opportunity at Castlehaven covering the recent works.

RESOLVED: that the Chairman and Clerk organise the event.

M15/09/19 ASHKNOWLE LANE

The Chairman reported that the Lane was still in good condition.

RESOLVED: that up to £500 be made available immediately for any routine maintenance required and that a similar sum be made available on a yearly basis.

RESOLVED: that the nature and positioning of the new signage indication Ashknowle Lane as a safe non-vehicular route between the Villages, including costs, be included on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

M16/09/19 LOCAL ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVE

RESOLVED: that, in view of Councillor Stewart's report of a traffic improvement package for Niton and Whitwell, the item be deferred.

M17/09/19 PUBLIC PRIORITIES

The Chairman drew members' attention to the list of proposed projects, as compiled by the Clerk, and invited suggestions for means by which public support/priorities could be gauged. Suggestions included: Parish website; notice boards; leaflet; electronic survey; share on social media; Connections Parish magazine; stall at Village events; notice in doctors' surgery and other public places. Councillor Stewart expressed a wish to be involved in the process.

RESOLVED: that the Chairman and the Clerk draft a proposal for gauging public support.

M18/09/19 CHRISTMAS ISSUES

The Clerk had obtained a quotation of £46 for the purchase of 100 A6 Parish Christmas cards.

RESOLVED: that 100 A6 Christmas cards be purchased.

The Chairman reported that both sets of Christmas lights, Niton and Whitwell, needed to be replaced. The Clerk had requested, at short notice, a quotation from NDL Events, which had not been received.

RESOLVED: that Councillors Biles and Sheerin and the Clerk investigate the most cost-effective options for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

M19/09/19 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Councillor Logan stated that she strongly supported the assessment of every decision made by the Parish Council for its environmental impact and that Standing Orders should be varied to reflect that policy. She also suggested the establishment of a Working Group to consider ways in which to support the Isle of Wight Council's initiative.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council support the Isle of Wight Council's initiative in declaring a climate emergency.

M20/09/19 APPOINTMENTS

RESOLVED: that Councillor Sheerin be appointed as an additional member to the Footpaths and Transport Working Party.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Hughson be appointed as representative to attend the quarterly Police Priorities meetings; Deputy Councillor Burridge.

M21/09/19 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve that, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded for the following item and they are instructed to withdraw in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1(2) and Standing Order No 3d;

CM01/09/19 WHITWELL VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

The Clerk reported that, at the request of Historic England, she had applied for listing of the one water hydrant currently unlisted.

One tender had been received for the maintenance of the Whitwell K6 telephone kiosk and red water hydrants.

RESOLVED: that the tender from Judd Developments be accepted.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:37 pm

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

APPENDIX TO MINUTES

COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. 19/00709/HOU: Demolition of detached garage; proposed detached garage and sunroom at Underwood, Sandrock Road, Niton: **RECOMMEND APPROVAL**
2. 19/00786/HOU: Demolition of conservatory; proposed single storey rear extension at Puckaster Lodge, St Catherines Road, Niton: **RECOMMEND APPROVAL**
3. 19/00894/HOU: Proposed single storey side extension at Jolliffes Farm, Nettlecombe Lane, Whitwell: **RECOMMEND APPROVAL**