

NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY ON MONDAY 22nd JUNE 2020 AT 7:15 PM

PRESENT: Councillors T Addison (Chairman), B Attrill, J Boileau Goad, S Burridge, P K G Fradgley, M Hughson, 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)

APOLOGIES: Councillor S Biles

M01/06/20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was noted that the Clerk had received one request from a member of the public wishing to join the meeting. However, due to internet connectivity problems, the member of the public was unable to attend.

RESOLVED: that the issues which the member of the public had intended to raise be covered by Councillor Sheerin and the Clerk within their respective reports.

M02/06/20 CO-OPTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman welcomed one co-option candidate and explained that the other candidate was unable to join the meeting due to internet connectivity and mobile network problems. Councillor Boileau Goad suggested that the co-option be postponed until a face-to-face meeting could be held.

RESOLVED: that, due to Covid-19 restrictions and the uncertain future with respect to face-to-face meetings, the co-option proceed as per the agenda.

The Chairman asked the candidate to introduce themselves and say why they would like to be co-opted.

RESOLVED: that Mr Ben Attrill be co-opted for the Niton Ward.

Councillor Burridge asked the Clerk to note that she had abstained from voting on this resolution.

The new member agreed to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed by the Chairman.

The Chairman requested that a note of explanation be sent to the other candidate.

M03/06/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor	Interest	Item	Minute Ref	Reason
S Burridge	Personal	Local Government Association new model member Code of Conduct	M17/06/20	Daughter co-wrote the Code of Conduct

M04/06/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 18th May 2020 be taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

M05/06/20 FINANCE

Members had before them a schedule showing a cashbook balance of £94,669.24 in the General Funds, £25,459.03 in the Public Sector Deposit Fund and £6,315.74 in the Bequest Account. A schedule of accounts for payment was also before the meeting.

RESOLVED: that the Financial Statement to 16th June 2020 be received and noted.

*Already paid; for ratification only

Cheque Number	Payee	Details	Amount £
1647*	SSE	Electricity for CRAB Niton ops room	317.29
E Trans*	Wight Computers Ltd	Remote assistance to fix scanning problem	14.86
E Trans*	Co Co Design Co	Artwork for CRAB Whitwell newsletter	25.00
E Trans	Community Action IOW	Enhanced DBS checks for CRAB volunteers	83.00
E Trans	John O'Conner (GM) Ltd	Mow/strim Niton Recreation Ground	213.00
E Trans	Whitwell Garage	Diesel for CRAB minibus	60.00
E Trans	Playsafety Ltd	Niton Rec annual safety inspection	128.40
E Trans	V J Ford	Clerk's salary: June 2020	708.90
E Trans	V J Ford	Clerk's expenses: June 2020	437.04
E Trans	Undercliff Garage	CRAB Niton minibus service	253.87
		Total	2,241.36

Councillor Burridge asked if the CRAB Team had any further use for the A3 printer. Councillor Boileau Goad stated that it would be returned to Councillor Burridge by 4th July.

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

M06/06/20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members had before them two 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.

M07/06/20 PLANNING DECISIONS

Members were notified of the following planning decisions:

1. 20/00573/HOU and 20/00594/HOU: Demolition of existing conservatory; replacement oak garden room; and retention of engineering works required for the provision of new vehicular access at The Old Rectory, Ashknowle Lane, Whitwell: **GRANTED**

M08/06/20 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Stewart informed members that Mr Graham Biss of Natural Enterprise was running the "Let's Buy Local" promotion.

Councillor Stewart was aware of 2 cars that had been left in the Allotment Road car park and needed to be moved. He reminded members that vehicles must be taxed and insured in order to park legally in Council car parks.

Details of a recent party held in the Parish, which had breached current Government restrictions, had been passed to Superintendent Jackson of the Hampshire Police Constabulary.

With regard to Undercliff Drive, the Isle of Wight Council was reviewing all capital budgets. Councillor Stewart undertook to update the Parish Council in due course.

Councillor Stewart reported that the Perpetuus Tidal Energy Centre (PTEC) project be denied funding due to the current financial situation. He stated that Government subsidies for tidal energy had ceased.

A new Isle of Wight Council Monitoring Officer would be appointed in early July.

Chale, Niton and Whitwell would be sharing a Rural Communities meeting with Brighstone, Saint Lawrence and Shorwell. Councillor Stewart said Stronger and Safer Communities would be looking at how community groups had offered local support during the Covid-19 crisis. He said there were some good examples on the Island.

The Isle of Wight Council was developing an Outbreak Management Plan to prepare for a second wave of the Covid-19 virus. Plans were being put forward for public health interventions. Councillor Stewart would share the plan with town and parish councils.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Stewart for his report.

M09/06/20 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Sheerin reported that she had been contacted by a Parishioner with suggestions for extending the one-way system and introducing a 20 mile per hour speed limit in Saint Catherine's Road following a recent accident.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk convey the Parishioner's suggestions to Island Roads for consideration.

She also reported that Niton Community Football Club had received a grant of £10,000 from the Isle of Wight Council and, as a result, had raised £55,000 towards the new changing facilities.

Councillor Burridge reported that she had spoken to the horse riders previously observed cantering along bridleway NT26 behind Greenlyd Close and that there had been no further problems.

Councillor Stotesbury asked if the position of the new fence at a property in Castlehaven Lane could be mentioned to the Isle of Wight Council Rights of Way Team.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk refer to the Isle of Wight Council Rights of Way Team.

Councillor Boileau Goad reported that the need for a reliable contractor to carry out maintenance work at Niton Recreation Ground promptly.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk schedule the Recreation Ground maintenance tasks using a traffic light system.

Councillor Boileau Goad gave an update on the activities of the Community Response And Back-up (CRAB) Working Group: a leaflet advertising local businesses and encouraging local people to buy local would be printed and delivered before 4th July; hours when the "ops" room would be staffed would be further reduced, although support would still be available via the mobile number; John's Club had made a fantastic contribution with the loan of the minibus; from 4th July, volunteers would be placed on "stand by" although CRAB would continue.

Councillor Boileau Goad had been receiving three to four calls per week reporting people entering Niton Recreation Ground to use the skateboard facilities, which were closed due to Government restrictions preventing the use of outdoor playgrounds. It was noted that the open-plan layout of play equipment at the Recreation Ground regrettably did not support closure of the playground without closing the entire area.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk publish regular updates on the Parish Council and CRAB websites.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk continue to monitor closely changes in Government restrictions with a view to re-opening the Recreation Ground as soon as possible.

M10/06/20 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that a member of the public had suggested that Niton be designated a Conservation Area.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk ask the Isle of Wight Planning Policy Team if there were any plans to propose a Conservation Area in Niton at some point or if the option was permanently dismissed after the public consultation in 2012.

The Clerk informed members that the railings around the Whitwell War Memorial had been removed for maintenance. However, the brick pillars at the rear of the Memorial had been found to be unstable. She had therefore asked a local reputable builder to inspect the pillars and to provide a costed assessment of the work required to repair them.

M11/06/20 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. Government guidance relating to the Covid-19 pandemic had been carefully monitored and the CRAB teams had been directed accordingly. The Parish Council's Accessibility Statement had been adopted under delegated powers in April 2020 and published on the website.

M12/06/20 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

Members had before them a draft Equality and Diversity policy prepared by the Clerk.

RESOLVED: that the Equality and Diversity Policy, as presented by the Clerk, be adopted and published on the website.

M13/06/20 NITON PUBLIC TOILETS

The Clerk reported that a new three-year contract for the supply of electricity to the toilets had been agreed with EDF at competitive rates.

The Clerk informed members that the volunteer who had been cleaning the toilets daily since April 2011 had informed her that he would be unlikely to continue after the summer. Members agreed that the volunteer had given sterling service to the Parish, which should be marked appropriately. Councillor Stotesbury said that he was aware of one or two other people who had indicated their willingness to step in if required and he would approach them. The Clerk stated that a contingency for professional cleaning had been included in the budget for the year.

M14/06/20 PARISH ONLINE MAPPING SOFTWARE

The Chairman and Vice Chairman outlined the benefits of subscribing to the Parish Online mapping software. CRAB Niton had taken advantage of the extended (three-month) free trial period to produce a detailed map of the Parish, which had been extremely useful. Features of the software, including asset mapping, were briefly discussed. The cost for a year was £140, excluding VAT.

RESOLVED: to purchase a licence for the Parish Online software, for one year initially.

M15/06/20 NT53 BRIDLEWAY, NITON

Councillor Sheerin reported that Parishioners had complained about the state of the bridleway surface. In winter, water and aggregate had washed down Pan Lane, Church Street and into Rectory Road. It was noted that the ditches along Pan Lane no longer took the water from the surface. The Isle of Wight Council Rights of Way Department had planned to carry out improvements and funds had been allocated for this. However, the work would be carried out to the standard required of a bridleway, rather than the standard for disabled access. Councillor Sheerin had asked if a member of the Parish Council could attend the site with a representative of Rights of Way.

The Chairman asked if the Parish Council could supplement the work in some way.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Sheerin ask the Rights of Way Team if the Parish Council could supplement the scheme.

M16/06/20 PARISH MINIBUS: A THREE-YEAR BUSINESS CASE

Members had before them a simple three-year business case for a Parish minibus, which had been prepared by the Clerk. There followed some discussion during which concerns regarding ongoing costs were expressed.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council look to fund a community minibus, operated by a separate community organisation.

M17/06/20 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NEW MODEL MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

The Clerk reported that, at the Chairman's request, she had sought the view of the Isle of Wight Council Monitoring Officer through the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) and was awaiting a response.

The Clerk said she had found the new model to be clearly worded and that the Isle of Wight Council Code of Conduct, which the Parish Council had also adopted, reflected the new model quite closely.

RESOLVED: that members submit their response to the consultation on an individual basis.

M18/06/20 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NALC) CONSULTATION

After some discussion, it was agreed that it was too early to respond to the NALC consultation on the impact of Covid-19 on local government and its future post crisis as there was still much to be learnt. However, the general feeling of members was that centralisation blocks local action. CRAB was acknowledged as an excellent model, demonstrating what may be achieved locally.

Councillor Boileau Goad reported that the CRAB Core Team would be using the model to write an emergency plan for future use.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:35 pm

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

APPENDIX TO MINUTES

1. 20/00738/HOU: Proposed detached garage/workshop at The Coach House, Nettlecombe Lane, Whitwell: **NO OBJECTION**
2. 20/00777/HOU: Proposed detached double garage (revised scheme) at 2, Crumbley Cottages, Godshill Road, Whitwell: **NO COMMENT**