

NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY ON MONDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7:15 PM

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

M01/09/20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman welcomed 3 members of the public to the meeting. He asked them to introduce themselves and outline their reason for addressing the Parish Council on the matter of the Perpetuus Tidal Energy Centre (PTEC). The members of the public explained that they were members of the Undercliff Community Group, which had been formed to represent the interests of Undercliff residents, primarily with respect to the PTEC project. They referred to the recent Isle of Wight Cabinet decision, which had been subject to Scrutiny earlier that day but had been upheld. The members of the public outlined their reasons for disagreeing with the decision. They stated that the Isle of Wight Council local member had not consulted local residents, as he had promised he would in the initial phase of the project four years ago, and that they would like to see an improvement in the way local people were consulted. Furthermore, the Isle of Wight Council had initially contributed £1M to the project for 15% of the shares but, through the recent Cabinet decision, had given up two thirds of its shares and its position on the Board of Directors of PTEC and had extended the loan period from 5 years to 10 years.

The Chairman stated that he would vary the order of business from the published agenda to allow the item on PTEC to be considered at the start of the meeting.

M02/09/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor	Item	Minute Ref	Interest	Reason
T Addison	Diamond Races	M15/09/20	Disclosable Pecuniary	Providing professional services to organisers

M03/09/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 2020 be taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

M04/09/20 PERPETUUS TIDAL ENERGY CENTRE

Councillor Stewart read out the statement he had presented at the Isle of Wight Council Scrutiny Committee meeting. He stated that, in his opinion, it would not have been right for the Isle of Wight Council to invest a further £244,000 in the project as requested by PTEC, in view of the additional financial pressures due to Covid-19.

The Chairman stated that there was no good news for the Parish Council: there were concerns because of the lack of public consultation, the prospect of the project being significantly larger than previously planned and the Isle of Wight Council's lack of control over it.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council seek reassurance from Councillor Stewart that an appropriate amount of local consultation will be undertaken by PTEC if there are plans for any offshore energy generation project to proceed in future.

The three members of the public thanked the Parish Council for receiving their representations and left the meeting.

M05/09/20 FINANCE

Members had before them a schedule showing a cashbook balance of £85,890.57 in the General Funds, £25,476.77 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 21st September 2020 be received and noted.

* Already paid; for ratification only

Cheque Number	Payee	Details	Amount £
E Trans*	Top Mops Ltd	Daily cleaning Niton public toilets	288.00
E Trans*	Co Co Design Co	CRAB newsletter artwork	30.00
E Trans*	Business Services Centre	Printing CRAB newsletter	79.00
E Trans*	John O’Conner (GM) Ltd	Mow/strim Niton Recreation Ground	213.00
E Trans*	Island Survey Systems Ltd	Land survey	370.00
E Trans*	Top Mops Limited	Consumables for Niton public toilets	59.46
E Trans*	V J Ford	Clerk’s salary: August 2020	708.90
E Trans*	Top Mops Limited	Daily cleaning for Niton public toilets	672.00
E Trans*	John O’Conner (GM) Ltd	Mow/strim Niton Recreation Ground	123.00
E Trans*	Wight Computers Ltd	Web hosting, SSL certificate and domain name	171.59
E Trans	V J Ford	Clerk’s salary: Back pay and September 2020	821.94
E Trans	V J Ford	Clerk’s expenses: September 2020	246.35
E Trans	Focus Heating and Plumbing	Statutory Legionella Risk Assessment for Niton public toilets	78.00
		Total	3,861.24

The Clerk drew members’ attention to Agenda Item 20, which related to the review of her salary.

RESOLVED: that the Parish accounts, as listed above but with the exception of the Clerk’s salary and back pay, be approved for payment.

M06/09/20 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Parish Council Planning Committee meeting held on 8th September 2020 be taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

M07/09/20 PLANNING DECISION

Members were notified of the following planning decision:

1. 20/01157/LBC: Listed Building Consent to replace the glass panels in the lantern room with acrylic panels at St Catherine’s Lighthouse, St Catherine’s Road, Niton: **GRANTED**

The Clerk reported that she had not yet received a response from Trinity House to the Parish Council's request to retain the glass lens locally if possible.

M08/09/20 "PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE" WHITE PAPER CONSULTATION

RESOLVED: that the comments prepared by the Clerk be submitted to the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) for inclusion in the collective response to the consultation.

RESOLVED: that the Island MP's statement below, included at paragraph 2.14 in his white paper, be added to the comments: "The Isle of Wight should argue for 'Exceptional Circumstance' due to the Isle of Wight's status as an island separated by sea from the mainland."

M09/09/20 ISLE OF WIGHT HOUSING AND LAND USE

All members had before them a copy of Mr Seely's White Paper.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk inform Mr Seely MP of the Parish Council's unanimous support for his White Paper, referring to the 2014 Parish Housing Needs Survey results.

M10/09/20 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Stewart reported that the Isle of Wight Council had removed the unauthorised/dangerous bollards from NT46, Castlehaven Lane. He confirmed that the cost of this work had been borne by the tax payer at that present time. All in attendance at the meeting agreed that the mounting costs for remediating the damage at Castlehaven should not be shouldered ultimately by the tax payer but re-charged to those responsible.

The Parish Council should have received a quotation for cutting back the verge on the seaward-side of Blackgang Road, as requested. The Clerk confirmed that this had been received.

Councillor Stewart had raised concern with the Chairman of IWALC regarding an article on the Diamond Races, which was published in a recent IWALC bulletin. Councillor Stewart had undertaken to ensure the safety of the community. The Isle of Wight Council Cabinet would be maintaining ongoing monitoring of the Diamond Races proposal, while the Safety Advisory Group (SAG), a separate multi agency body, would be overseeing the submission of the Diamond Races plan.

Councillor Stewart reported that the Isle of Wight Council was expected to break even on its budget for the current financial year. Progress on Undercliff Drive had been delayed due to Covid-19 but Councillor Stewart would continue to press forward. A new manager of the Highways PFI contract had been appointed.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Stewart organise a site meeting for himself, the Chairman and the new manager to inspect the state of Undercliff Drive.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Stewart for his report.

M11/09/20 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Boileau Goad expressed concern that the door to the recently installed enclosure at Castlehaven blocked access to part of public footpath NT46 when open fully. The Clerk reported that this had been noted by the Isle of Wight Council Rights of Way Team. Councillor Boileau Goad complained that the skateboard half pipe in Niton Recreation Ground was very noisy and suggested that the new skate park include some noise-reduction measures. The Chairman remarked that it was time for a meeting of the Recreation Ground and Skateboard Half Pipe Working Parties to be convened. Councillor Boileau Goad

complained of a lack of enforcement with regard to dog fouling. The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Isle of Wight Council Recreation and Strategic Open Spaces Strategic Manager asking when Environment Officer services would resume in the Parish but had not received a reply. Councillor Stewart asked the Clerk to forward the e-mail to him to follow up. Councillor Boileau Goad outlined his concerns regarding Bridge Cottage, Castlehaven. He stated that there would be a planning application coming up shortly and asked all members to read his recent e-mail and go to look at the site if possible in preparation. He reported that the Community Resilience And Back-up (CRAB) Niton group had approached the Ventnor Foodbank with a view to establishing a Niton branch. He saw this as a good opportunity.

Councillor Sheerin reported that she had attended a recent Local Access Forum (LAF) meeting at which there had been a request to let the Isle of Wight Council Rights of Way Team know of any public footpaths previously unrecorded. The Cyclewight group had offered to help out with the cost of restoring the Blackgang Road footpath/cycleway if work went ahead. Councillor Sheerin reported that the Niton Pre-school and Primary School had confirmed they would like to make decorations for the Parish Christmas trees again this year. Councillor Stewart remarked that the trees bring people together and will help local morale at Christmas.

Councillor Burridge reported that people had been riding mopeds along bridleway NT26. Councillor Stewart said that a resident had recorded a video, which he had asked to be sent to the Police. Councillor Burridge and the Clerk had attended a Local Government Association (LGA) “webinar” on the proposed new Code of Conduct for Councillors.

Councillor Logan expressed her concern for people headed for financial problems and stated that the Parish Council should be aware. Councillor Boileau Goad stated that CRAB Niton and Whitwell was looking to identify those in need of support.

Councillor Stotesbury asked if there had been any progress with cutting back the grass verge on the seaward side of Blackgang Road. The Clerk said that she had received a quotation of £310.88 from Island Roads.

RESOLVED: that Island Roads be asked to proceed with cutting back the grass verge and that the Clerk ascertain if the quotation included trimming back the blackthorn bushes at the Niton end of the verge.

M12/09/20 NITON PUBLIC TOILETS

Councillor Burridge asked how many days per week the toilets were cleaned; the Clerk stated that the toilets were cleaned every day. Councillor Stotesbury confirmed that the quality of the work was very good.

RESOLVED: that the contract with Top Mops be continued and be reviewed again on its first anniversary (July 2021).

M13/09/20 COVID-19 DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Members had before them the log of decisions taken by the Chairman and Clerk under delegated authority.

RESOLVED: that, in view of the rapidly changing situation, the Chairman and Clerk’s delegated authority with respect to Covid-19 related issues be continued.

With respect to the development and adaptation of the CRAB model to produce a Parish Resilience Plan, the excellent work of CRAB Niton and Whitwell was noted. The Chairman remarked that CRAB’s work had placed the Parish “ahead of the game”.

M14/09/20 SOUTHERN VECTIS NUMBER 6 WINTER SERVICE

Members had been notified that the period for which Southern Vectis would be seeking payment for the Sunday service from the Parish Councils had been extended for this winter due to the impact of Covid-19 on passenger numbers. Under their delegated authority, the Chairman and Clerk had offered on behalf of the Parish Council to split the cost of the No 6 bus winter 2020/21 service so that Chale Parish Council contributed £2,000, Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council contributed £2,000 and Niton and Whitwell Parish Council contributed £2,457 **for this year only** due to the extraordinary circumstances. Members had been asked for any objections and none had been received. The offer had been warmly accepted by Chale and Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Councils.

RESOLVED: that the additional financial support for the Sunday, Christmas and New Year bank holiday service, winter 2020/21, as offered to Chale and Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Councils, be ratified.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Councils wished to hold a meeting to discuss other options for next year's winter Sunday service.

M15/09/20 DIAMOND RACES

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Boileau Goad, gave an outline of the event. He reported on the meeting he had attended with the organisers, explained that he saw the event as being very beneficial to the Island and appealed for people to be able to make their own informed decisions. He suggested that the Parish Council should support the Isle of Wight Council.

Councillor Stewart stated that he was concentrating on safety issues and wanted every house on the course to have its own safety plan; any event had to be approved by the Safety Advisory Group. He observed that Island unemployment was rising and that it was now acknowledged that the Island had some of the best roads in the country. The Isle of Wight Council was in contact with the Isle of Man Government.

M16/09/20 WHITWELL TELEPHONE KIOSK / LIBRARY

The Clerk reported that the telephone kiosk had been temporarily closed and emptied of books to facilitate repainting during the week beginning 28th September. She had very much appreciated the generous help she had received from Mrs Carol Bellamy. Mrs Bellamy had requested additional shelving for the books.

RESOLVED: that procurement new shelving be authorised up to a cost of £200.

M17/09/20 COACH STAGING WALL, NITON UNDERCLIFF

RESOLVED: that the item be deferred until the October Parish Council meeting.

M18/09/20 ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOME-SCHOOL TRANSPORT 2020/21

Councillor Biles outlined his family's personal experience regarding arrangements for home-school transport for the autumn school term. It was acknowledged that, although transport had eventually been provided for all students, the last-minute arrangements had added to the stress of returning to school amid a global pandemic.

RESOLVED: that, in view of the experience of some Parishioners, the Isle of Wight Council be asked to:

- Reflect on this year’s last-minute arrangements and to put measures in place to prevent recurrence
- Simplify the home-school transport policy to be easily understood
- Improve communications with all parties concerned.

M19/09/20 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME CONSULTATION

Members had the consultation documents before them.

RESOLVED: that no change to the current system be recommended.

M20/09/20 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH AND ROAD SAFETY

The Chairman stated that he wished to instigate a Community Speed Watch programme incorporating a speed display to draw drivers’ attention to the speed of their vehicle. The Parish Council may need to buy the equipment, although there may be the option to borrow from another Council. The 20 mph limit through Godshill was not supported or enforced by the Police; the Chairman asserted that it was a matter of engaging and educating drivers.

Councillor Stewart said he was supportive of the idea and suggested that the Parish Council liaised with the Community Action Road Safety (CARS) group.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk circulate information regarding 20 mph speed limits and Community Speed Watch for consideration at the October Parish Council meeting.

M21/09/20 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.

CM01/09/20 2020/21 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD

RESOLVED: that the application of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) agreed new pay scales to the Clerk’s salary with effect from 1st April 2020 be authorised.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:20 pm

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