

NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY ON MONDAY 26th OCTOBER 2020 AT 7:15 PM

PRESENT: Councillors T Addison (Chairman), B Attrill, J Boileau Goad, S A Burrige, 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

M01/10/20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman welcomed Mr Andy Dorning, South Wight Area Youth Partnership (SWAY) Lead Youth Worker, and two young people from SWAY to the meeting. Mr Dorning outlined SWAY's background and explained how the organisation had grown since inception. He reminded members that he usually attended a Parish Council meeting in the autumn to give an update but he had wanted members to hear from the young people themselves. The work of SWAY had continued since March but in different forms to comply with Covid-19 regulations. At present, bubbles of up to 15 people could meet, providing a risk assessment was in place.

One of the young people related how he had become a Young Leader within SWAY eighteen months previously. Since then, he had volunteered with various youth groups, helped younger people engage in activities such as kayaking, assisted with "firepit" nights and encouraged others to gain confidence, inside and outside of SWAY. He stated that he had "done stuff he wouldn't have done otherwise". Mr Dorning added that the young person had gained a "Passport for Independence" and reported that SWAY was hoping to roll out the course remotely over the winter. A brief report on the activities enjoyed since Covid-19 regulations followed.

Councillor Boileau Goad thanked one of the young people for their work with the Community Response And Backup (CRAB) team over the past months.

The Chairman thanked Mr Dorning and the young people for attending the meeting.

M02/10/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

M03/10/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2020 be taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

M04/10/20 FINANCE

Members had before them a schedule showing a cashbook balance of £85,232.75 in the General Funds, £25,479.68 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 19th October 2020 be received and noted.

Cheque Number	Payee	Details	Amount £
E Trans*	Top Mops Ltd	Daily cleaning Niton public toilets	672.00
CHQ 1648*	SSE	Electricity for CRAB Niton ops room	1,217.79
E Trans*	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External audit fee 2019/20	360.00
DD*	EDF Energy	Electricity for Niton public toilets	12.00
E Trans	V J Ford	Clerk's salary: October 2020	728.42
E Trans	Society of Local Council Clerks	Clerk's subscription 2020/21	140.00
		Total	3,130.21

The Clerk explained that the invoice from SSE represented the electricity charges for Niton Library during its use as Niton CRAB operations room.

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

M05/10/20 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS AGAINST BUDGET 2020/21

Members had before them a statement of variance against budget for the second quarter 2020/21. The Clerk explained that she had revised the balance of payments relating to Castlehaven Village Green restoration and Castlehaven other costs in the year end forecast, although the total remained unchanged.

RESOLVED: that the statement be received and noted.

M06/10/20 EXTERNAL AUDIT 2019/20

The Chairman reported that an unqualified audit report had been received from PKF Littlejohn LLP and thanked the Clerk for her work towards this.

RESOLVED: that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 be approved and accepted.

RESOLVED: that the notice of completion of audit be displayed on the Parish notice boards for a period of three calendar weeks.

M07/10/20 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.

M08/10/20 PLANNING DECISIONS

Members were notified of the following planning decisions:

1. 20/01192/CLPUD: Lawful Development Certificate for proposed siting of a mobile log cabin (Caravan) at Rookley Cottage, Rectory Road, Niton: **GRANTED**
2. 20/01265/HOU: Demolition of conservatory and garage; Proposed single storey rear and side extension at 32, Chatfeild Road, Niton: **GRANTED**
3. 20/01328/HOU: Proposed alterations and installation of new windows to front elevation at 8, Verlands Close, Niton: **GRANTED**

M09/10/20 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Stewart reported that the Covid-19 infection level on the Isle of Wight was 24 cases per 100,000 population, the lowest in England. The Isle of Wight Council was working to ensure that young people were provided with food.

Abandoned vehicles were being removed from the roads; the floating bridge was back in operation; Saint Mary's "roundabout" road works were on target and had entered the worst phase.

The Isle of Wight Council's financial reserves had been decimated by Covid-19 but there would not be a long list of services coming to the town and parish councils.

Councillor Stewart congratulated the CRAB Team on its operations. He said that Covid-19 cases on the Island had begun to rise but that organisations were well-placed to act; even before the situation deteriorated significantly, help was available if needed. He expressed an interest in growing food locally. Councillor Logan repeated her suggestion that the Isle of Wight Council consider County Farms.

Unemployment was a concern, at double the usual level for the time of year.

Councillor Logan asked about help for children living in poverty who would be impacted by the loss of school meals vouchers. Councillor Stewart said that help was available through "Crisis" (Citizens Advice Bureau), which was advertising for people to get in contact if they needed help.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Stewart for his report.

M10/10/20 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Burridge reported that she had been in correspondence with an Isle of Wight Council Planning Enforcement Officer with regard to the land off Barrack Shute, Niton. She noted that the land had been sold prior to auction. Building work at 3, Verlands Close, Niton, had been suspended by Building Control as the foundations of the existing building would not support the new steel rods.

Councillor Sheerin reported that she had received complaints about people walking round fields with dogs rather than sticking to the public rights of way. Dogs were being let loose and also allowed to foul in the fields, which had led to farm animals being harmed.

Councillor Boileau Goad reported that a third legally-parked car had been written off by a coach turning into Blackgang Road from Niton High Street. The idea of shortening of the parking bay was discussed. The Smugglers Trail was proving to be very popular; Councillor Boileau Goad had contacted Potting Shed artist Alan Rowe requesting some black and white drawings for children to colour, which would be made available at the pubs and Post Office. He noted that no planning application for the building work at Bridge Cottage had been submitted.

The Chairman asked if anyone knew of the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk contact the Rector to ask if any acts of Remembrance were being held.

The Chairman gave a short report on the meeting held with Chale and Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Councils to discuss future arrangements for a winter Sunday bus service. National advice was being sought and other options explored. The Parish Council would continue to work in partnership with the other Parish Councils. The Chairman also reported that the situation regarding the protected trees in Bannock Road was being monitored.

M11/10/20 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that, due to the previous volunteer's return to work, she was exploring options for construction of bookshelves for the Whitwell telephone box library.

RESOLVED: that an appeal be made for a carpenter to construct the shelves.

M12/10/20 CRAB NITON AND WHITWELL

Councillor Boileau Goad reported that CRAB had been liaising with the Ventnor Community Foodbank with a view to setting up an outstation in Niton, which would be run by the Foodbank. CRAB had been given three food parcels to store in the operations room for use if a need was identified. The Foodbank was also working with Babybox. Councillor Logan said that she would be happy to help.

In the event of another lockdown, there would be no Government food parcels so people should be encouraged to maintain a small stock in their cupboards. CRAB had been keeping in mind food growing locally.

RESOLVED: that a statement supporting measures taken by the Isle of Wight Council to provide for those in need for as long as necessary be drafted by Councillor Boileau Goad and circulated to members.

M13/10/20 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH AND ROAD SAFETY

The Chairman explained that he did not see the current Community Speed Watch programme as appropriate for the villages.

RESOLVED: that the Community Speed Watch programme not be pursued.

M14/10/20 COACH STAGING WALL, NITON UNDERCLIFF

Councillor Boileau Goad explained that the privately-owned wall was in need of repair and suggested that the Parish Council may be able to help.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Boileau Goad contact the owner of the staging wall and ask if they would like to provide an estimated cost of repair as the basis for any potential support for the PC to consider in the future.

M15/10/20 PARISH CHRISTMAS TREES

RESOLVED: that the Clerk order a Christmas tree for each of the Villages.

RESOLVED: that the yearly purchase of two Christmas trees on an ongoing basis be authorised.

M16/10/20 PARISH EXCURSION TO BUSY BEE CHRISTMAS WORLD

The Clerk reported that Southern Vectis were operating covid-safe private hire.

RESOLVED: that, regrettably, the risk of running the trip for vulnerable Parishioners outweighed the benefit.

RESOLVED: that creative ideas for the alleviation of hardship facing Parishioners be brought to the next meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:52 pm

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

APPENDIX TO MINUTES

COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. 20/01576/HOU: Proposed detached timber garage at 4, St Catherine's Cottages, Blackgang Road, Niton:
Recommend Approval
2. 20/01639/FUL: Proposed dwelling and detached garage at Ivy Close, Newport Road, Niton:
OBJECTION on the following grounds:
 - The Parish Council is unhappy with the access as there is inadequate visibility;
 - It understands that any further development in Ivy Close is dependent on the visibility splay being established;
 - To date, the landowner has not received a formal request from the applicant to allow the visibility splays to cross their land.

The Parish Council requests that the related issues be properly considered.