

NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NITON AND WHITWELL
PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON MONDAY 24th APRIL 2023 at
7.15pm**

PRESENT: Councillors T Addison, B Attrill, C Critchison, J Hill, A Logan, A Osborn, L Sheerin (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE: C Burt (Clerk to the Council), K Stay (Parish Warden).

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: There was one member of the public present.

The member of the public wished to raise the subject of a planning application – 23/00250/FUL – relating to a proposed detached house and formation of new vehicular access at The Old Manse, Barrack Shute, Niton. The member of the public had strong feelings against the application and had detailed these in a submission to the IW Council Planning Dept. These were reiterated. The PC's support for the application was questioned in light of the Planning Department's decision to refuse the application. It was explained the PC at the time had not received any objections, and on balance supported on the basis of infill precedent on Barrack Shute.

Cllr Sheerin thanked the member of the public for bringing their concerns to the PC, outlining the subject would be brought up later in the meeting (Item 5.2 Planning Decisions).

Meeting opened at 7:20pm.

M01/04/23 APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllrs Biles, Boileau Goad and Burrridge.

M02/04/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no Declarations of Interest.

M03/04/23 MINUTES:

RESOLUTION: Members confirmed as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2023.

M/04/04/23 FINANCE:

4.1 Financial Statement: Members had before them a schedule showing a cashbook balance of £101,807.92 in the general funds, £25,985.86 in the Public Sector Deposit Fund and £6,367.77 in the Bequest Account.

RESOLVED: That the financial statement, to 18th April 2023, be received and noted.

4.2 Payment of Accounts: A schedule of accounts for March payment was set before the meeting:

Type	Date Paid	Payee	Details	Amount
DD*	14.04.23	Plusnet	Internet for Exchange	28.87
DD*	17.04.23	EDF	Electricity for Niton toilets	1.00
E-trans		Tregear Pottery	Parishioner of the year award	200.00
E-trans		John Peck Construction	Demolition of garages @ Rec car park	4,464.00
E-trans		IW Council	Business rates The Exchange	41.96
E-trans		Top Mops	Cleaning @ Niton toilets	283.32
E-trans		Community Action	C Burt & K Stay salaries	1,265.54
E-trans		C Burt	Expenses	8.80
E-trans		K Stay	Expenses	12.00
Total				6,305.49
* Denotes Already Paid -				

RESOLVED: That the accounts listed, were approved for payment.

4.3 Statement of Receipts and Payments Against Budget 2022/2023:

RESOLVED: Members reviewed and accepted the Statement as presented by the Clerk.

4.4 Annual Accounts and Internal Audit:

RESOLVED: Members reviewed and accepted the Annual Accounts produced for the Internal Audit 2022/23 as presented by the Clerk.

M05/04/23 PLANNING:

5.1 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.

5.2 PLANNING DECISIONS:

- 23/00216/HOU** Proposed alterations/replacement of roof, windows and doors; proposed patio area and garden access steps; landscaping at Waters End Castlehaven Lane Niton **GTD**
- 23/00250/FUL** Proposed detached house, formation of new vehicular access including closure of existing vehicular access at Land Adjacent the Old Manse Barrack Shute Niton **REF**

M06/04/23: INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY:

Members had before them a copy of a consultation paper put forward by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). The paper includes a 44-question request for views/comments. Cllr Sheerin outlined the premise of the consultation, which surrounds Government proposals to replace the current section 106 planning edict that developers provide funds to local County Authority infrastructure projects. This consultation seeks to replace sec.106 with an infrastructure levy, of which a 25% neighbourhood share would be paid directly to the specific Local Authority (i.e. Town or Parish Councils), to fund grass roots projects. Cllr Addison believed the detail required to be absorbed and commented on was out of proportion for a small PC to take on board.

RESOLVED: The Clerk responds that the PC in general agrees with the principle, that a neighbourhood share of the Infrastructure levy funds come directly to the Local Authority affected by the development, but feels the PC is not in a position to respond to the in depth consultation, as it is not in scale with this PC's size and does not believe it is in a position to make any meaningful response.

M07/04/23 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 17th May 2023 at Niton Village Hall:

A draft Agenda is in formulation to include speaking participants – the PC Chair and Ward Cllr – where they provide a summary of their respective activities during the past 12 months. It was suggested that local groups also be invited to discuss the activities they have been able to undertake as a result of grant funding provided by the PC. Ward Cllr Critchison advised she would not be able to attend but will provide a summary report for dissemination. An opportunity would then be provided for public attendees to put forward priority suggestions as to what projects they wish the PC to concentrate on going forward. In order to elicit additional suggestions, it was proposed boxes be made available at the upcoming Whitwell Coronation festivities at the White Horse Inn (6th May) and Niton Historical Society exhibition at Niton Village Hall (7th May) to enable anonymous public input, if desired.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to finalise and circulate the agenda and make appropriate invitations to two groups to participate. Also, to provide suitable boxes in which suggestions can be brought forward at the two village events.

M08/04/23 PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT:

Members were provided with an updated Risk Assessment Schedule for approval. These documents form part of the overall package of the PC's governing documents.

RESOLVED: That with the addition of a medium risk assessment for Niton Recreation ground, the document was approved and should be signed by the Chair and Clerk.

M09/04/23 RENEWAL OF THE PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE, INCLUDING PUBLIC LIABILITY:

The Clerk presented the renewal quote for the coming year, stating this relates to the third year of an extended policy agreement put in place in June 2021. Members felt the relatively small increase in premium was reflective of the longer-term prudence taken two years ago.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to undertake due diligence on whether the levels of cover remain appropriate and make any adjustments as necessary. The annual premium to be paid once this has taken place.

M10/04/23 MAINTENANCE OF ASHKNOWLE LANE:

Cllr Addison outlined there is provision in the budget for annual maintenance of the surfaces. He is aware piecemeal repairs have been undertaken to infill some of the potholes. However, it was noted these repairs will only provide a short-term benefit.

RESOLVED: For appropriate tenders to be sought to undertake any remedial action as soon as possible. In future, these annual tenders to be sought in March.

M11/04/23 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr community catch up/surgery sessions 2023

Niton: Wednesday 17th May 10.30 – 11.30 am, The Exchange

Whitwell: Monday 15th May 10.30 - 11.30am, Whitwell Church

Wightfibre - Update on Whitwell High Street repair works. Due to resource issues, the works were not able to take place when they had hoped. They have a provisional permit in place for the 31/05/23 - 16/06/23 for the continuation of repairs on the storm drain, which will take place under this permit. Until they break ground, they will not be able to confirm what the cause of this issue was. They will let us know as soon as they have the information. They are just waiting for Island Roads to formally grant the permit.

Gate opening - I will be attending the Isle of Wight Ramblers 250th gate installation event Tuesday 9 May 2023. This special gate at Wydcombe has been funded by the Ramblers GB access fund. It is made from local oak by Clifford J Matthews Ltd at Moorhills Farm (Peter Matthews). The oak plaque has been made by Marcus Matthews at Redhill Farm. Both Moorhills Farm and Redhill Farm are adjacent to Wydcombe Manor. The gate has been installed by local contractor Peter Faithful.

Environment Agency - I now have the details of the issue at Lowerfields and will make enquiries and ask for a site visit.

M12/04/23 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had nothing further to add to those subjects already raised.

M13/04/2 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

There were no written Cllr reports forwarded in advance.

Cllr Addison had been recently made aware of correspondence between Parish residents and Ward Cllr Critchison, regarding the future of Undercliff Drive and calling for a risk assessment to be undertaken by the IWC. He wished to understand whether this linked directly with the PC's own concerns over the negative impacts of permanently closing the A3055 to through road traffic.

With that in mind, he sought an update from Ward Cllr Critchison on how the PC might go about taking these issues forward to a conclusion.

She noted the road is impassable to motor vehicles, rather than officially closed. She advised that discussions had taken place with the group and had advised them the situation remains unchanged since a report on the subject was produced in 2020. In that report it was confirmed Central Gov't funding had been turned down for further investigations into reinstatement to provide motor vehicle access.

On the basis no funding would be forthcoming, Ward Cllr Critchison since then has been lobbying for the subject to be included in a future IW Corporate Plan, so that a determination for the local area, in particular Niton, of what might be accomplished to improve alternative local transport links and road safety initiatives.

Cllrs Critchison and Sheerin had been advised of a further spate of vandalism at Niton public conveniences, where paper towels had been set alight in the building Members heard the local PCSO has visited the site randomly at the times of day the vandalism had taken place in the past. Cllr Critchison will once again advise the PCSO at his next surgery in Niton. In an attempt to dissuade this kind of activity, the SWAY leadership has been approached and has agreed to speak to their members about this antisocial behaviour.

Members felt the removal, or at least a heavy cutting back, of the hedge on the gents side would aid in the area being more visual to the front. The subject of closing the toilets overnight again was discussed, as the ultimate deterrent, but members felt this was an unnecessary precaution at this point.

Cllr Critchison had responded to Cllr Osborn's litter picking initiative. On the occasion, she had not found litter, but did come across several instances of dog fouling. Cllr Sheerin reminded members of a previous issue resulting in an advertisement being placed in the County Press and this should be considered again. Previously, this had had a positive medium-term effect. Cllr Hill recalled when Council Dog Wardens had visited to observe the footpath adjacent to the preschool. This resulted in 5 people being reported.

M14/04/23 PARISH WARDEN'S REPORT: Mr Stay reported he had been undertaking maintenance at Niton Rec, painting out graffiti and resurfacing swing frames. He has commenced a programme of grass trimming at various Parish locations. He has reported the poor cleanliness of the bus shelter on Blackgang Road – acknowledgement has been received this is under investigation by Island Roads. Cllr Osborn added the bus shelter opposite the Buddle Inn needs attention. He will report this accordingly. Mr Stay mentioned action is being taken to repair the bus shelter on Kemming Road, as a result of his reporting.

Cllrs were pleased to hear the new skateboard halfpipe at Niton Rec has been positively received and is being well used. Comments from local residents are positive, as a result of lower noise levels. Positioning of the new basketball hoop needs to be finalised. Cllr Attrill and the Clerk will take this forward as soon as possible.

Cllr Sheerin, having received considerable positive feedback, thanked Mr Stay for the impact he has had throughout the Parish.

The meeting was closed at 8:27pm.

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

APPENDIX TO MINUTES

COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. **23/00537/HOU** Demolition of conservatory; proposed single storey rear and front extensions and alterations at Beechwood Sandrock Road Niton **No objections – Support**