

NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE EXCHANGE, NITON HIGH STREET
ON MONDAY 22nd MAY 2023 AT 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Councillors T Addison, B Attrill, S Biles, J Boileau Goad, S Burrridge, C Critchison (also Isle of Wight Council Ward Member), J Hill, A Logan, A Osborn, L Sheerin (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE: Chris Burt (Clerk to the Council), K Stay (Parish Warden), two members of the public and Mr Russell Chick (IW Council Planning Development Manager)

The members of the public sought to put forward a proposal to extend the pavement along Kemming Road, Whitwell to the Kingates Road junction. A package of information was provided to the Clerk, including photographs, diagrams and maps. They have lived in the area for some time and, since the road surface was improved, have experienced larger volumes of speeding traffic. There is a hard white line along the bend, up to the point where a footpath to Strathwell Manor commences, which is used by residents as on road parking. This is now a pedestrian hazard and two vehicle collisions have occurred in the last 18 months, where parked vehicles have been struck. A bus stop is also situated in the area. The members of the public wished gain the PC's advice and support on how to take the proposal forward to the appropriate authorities. They believed, historically, an agreement was reached to extend the pavement, but it was never fulfilled.

Having viewed the information provided, Members were supportive of the proposal and Ward Cllr Critchison suggested an approach to Island Roads was made. The clerk should provide the information package to Ward Cllr Critchison who will pass it on to the appropriate IR department.

Mr Chick advised he was sent in the stead of IW Cllr Paul Fuller, who had been asked to attend as a result of a conversation had with Cllr Burrridge at a recent IWALC meeting. The issue of payment to the IWC for local enforcement action had been mooted. Mr Chick was happy to provide Members with more information about the revised IWC Planning Enforcement Strategy. In addition, he was prepared to discuss any local planning issues Members wished to discuss.

The current enforcement policy has been in place for some while and in today's environment of increased volumes, scope and complexity, it has been deemed not fit for purpose. The new strategy covers a restructuring of case officers overseeing planning control matters. Cases will be prioritised to ensure serious breaches in conservation areas, AONBs, SSSIs with significant environmental impacts are dealt with first and then less impactful breaches thereafter. There currently is a backlog of cases, some of which have been outstanding for over 2 years. These will be tackled first. The most important change is that these minor cases will need to be paid for. The charge out rate for a dedicated local case officer for 1 day per week will be £11,600 p.a. rising to £35,000 p.a. for 3 days per week. These charges are more directed towards the larger town/parish councils with greater numbers of enforcement cases and where urgent action is required. For smaller Parishes choosing not to engage or cannot afford a dedicated resource, cases will be dealt with as now.

Mr Chick will provide an up-to-date list of the Enforcement Actions relevant to the Parish (of which there are 7).

Cllr Burrridge raised the case of Bridge Cottage in Niton, which has seemingly not been advanced. Mr Chick advised after an 18-month appeal process, the landowners appeal case has only just gone before the inspectorate, providing an example of how long these cases can take.

Cllr Addison sought an update on the planning application relating to the High Street, Whitwell development, having been approached by local residents on numerous occasions. This is not an application Mr Chick is working on, so he will provide an update via the Clerk. Similarly, he will provide an update on the Ladyacre Farm, Niton development.

Mr Chick advised a change of policy in the Planning Dept. with regard to protracted application situations. A finite timescale for the submission of specific accompanying and subsequent reports/variations will be introduced.

Cllr Boileau Goad brought up the situation regarding Beach Cottage, Castlehaven and the continuing issues experienced on the sea wall and the structure adjacent to the green. Mr Chick will provide an update.

Mr Chick was thanked for his input and for the information he will provide in due course.

The Meeting opened at 7:36pm.

M01/05/23 APOLOGIES: None received.

Cllr Sheerin thanked everyone for their support and hard work during her time as Chair, commenting there is now a momentum to undertake and complete projects, which she hopes can continue.

M02/05/23 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED: that Councillor Hill be elected Chair for the year 2023/24

Councillor Hill signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Burrridge, supported by Cllr Addison, wished to record a vote of thanks to Cllr Sheerin for her time in office.

M03/05/23 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED: that Councillor Osborn be elected as Vice Chair for the year 2023/2024.

Councillor Osborn signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Burrridge wished to record a vote of thanks to Cllr Addison for his time in office as vice-chair. Cllr Addison wished to record that Cllrs Hill (representing Whitwell) and Osborn (representing Niton)'s terms of office reflects the rotating nature of the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair between the two villages.

M04/05/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

M05/05/23 OTHER APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

RESOLVED: that the following appointments be made:

Planning Committee	All members (Chair Cllr Burrridge)
Footpaths/Community Transport Working Party	Cllrs Critchison, Logan, Osborn and Sheerin
Recreation Ground Working Party	Cllrs Attrill, Biles, Boileau Goad and Hill
Youth Working Party	Cllrs Critchison, Hill, Logan and Osborn
Castlehaven Working Party	Cllrs Addison, Attrill, Osborn & Sheerin
Community Response and Backup (CRAB) Core Team and Working Party	Cllrs Hill, Osborn and the Clerk

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED: that the following appointments be made:

IWALC Executive Committee	Cllr Burrridge
IWALC Deputy	Cllr Critchison
Health and Well-being Advocate	Cllr Logan
Age Friendly Champion	Cllr Logan
Environment	Cllr Logan

M06/05/23 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS.

All Members had before them a revised copy of the Standing Orders.

RESOLVED: that the Standing Orders, as presented by the Clerk be adopted.

All members had before them a copy of the Financial Regulations.

RESOLVED: that the existing Financial Regulations be retained without change.

M07/05/23 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2023 be taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

M08/05/23 FINANCE

8.1 Financial Statement & Bank Reconciliation: Members had before them a schedule showing a cashbook balance of £95,302.61 in general funds (including £3,399.05 in earmarked reserves, £26,073.74 in the public sector deposit fund and £6,367.77 in the Bequest Account.

RESOLVED: that the financial statement as of the 16th of May 2023 be received and noted.

8.2 Payments for Authorisation A schedule of accounts for payment was set before the meeting.

Type	Date Paid	Payee	Details	Amount
DD*		Plusnet	Internet for the Exchange	28.87
DD*		EDF	Electricity for Niton toilets	1.00
tbc		IW Council	Business rates The Exchange	39.00
tbc **		John O'Conner	Maintenance at Niton Rec	137.85
tbc		Top Mops	Cleaning @ Niton toilets	302.04
tbc		BHIB Council Insurance	Annual Insurance Premium	858.08
tbc		Gareth Hughes	Internal Audit Report	155.00
tbc		Community Action	C Burt & K Stay salaries	1,303.04
tbc		C Burt	Expenses	117.38
tbc		K Stay	Expenses	22.99
Total				2,965.25

* Denotes already paid. ** Payment to be withheld until a satisfactory explanation be provided for why the grass in the lower part of the playing field had not been cut.

The Clerk requested the following payments also be included for approval.

tbc		Glazing the Island	Balance on Exchange Windows	448.00
tbc		Niton Village Hall	Hire of the hall for the Annual Parish Meeting	20.00
tbc		SSE	Electricity for the Exchange	4.11
Revised Total				3,437.36

RESOLVED: that the Parish accounts as listed above, together with the additional payments detailed by the Clerk, be approved for payment.

8.3 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/2023

RESOLVED: that, having reviewed its annual accounts for the Internal Audit adopted on 24th April 2023 (**M04.4/04/23**) the effectiveness of its Internal Audit Review and Process on 27th March 2023 (**M04.3&4/03/23**) and received its Internal Audit Report 2022/2023 on 10th May 2023, the Annual Governance Statement as prepared by the Clerk be approved and signed.

8.4 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN: ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2022/2023

RESOLVED: that the Accounting Statements 2022/23 as prepared by the Clerk be approved and signed.

M09/05/23 PLANNING

9.1 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.

9.2 PLANNING DECISIONS:

1. **23/00373/HOU** Proposed single storey extension on front elevation at 3 Howard Close Niton **GTD**
2. **23/00387/FUL** Proposed replacement dwelling at Meadow Rise Lacey Lane Niton **REF**

M10/05/23 DARK SKIES INITIATIVE

Members had been provided with details of the request for N&WPC to provide a letter of support and approval for the initiative, so that an IW Council application can commence. Four other local PC's to be included in the initiative (Brighstone, Chale, Chillerton & Gatcombe and Shorwell) have similarly been approached. Members also had received a message from the Vice Chair of Shorwell PC, detailing how they propose to go forward.

The belief is a consensus view needs to be agreed between the five PC's so that pressure can be brought bear on the IW Council to produce and place into effect a SPD, or similar, which provides genuine and detailed planning system protections for dark skies, to an equivalent standard of those adopted by comparable planning authorities.

RESOLVED: Although being generally supportive of the desire to join the initiative, in line with Shorwell PC's view, Members wished to defer a decision until June's meeting. At that meeting, to invite the Shorwell vice-chair and a representative from the IW Council Dark Skies Initiative team, to obtain a better understanding of what action the IW Council will take to achieve the result outlined above.

M11/05/23 WASTE BIN RE-SITING IN WHITWELL

Members discussed how the re-siting had been brought to the PC's attention and received a history of the situation from Ward Cllr Critchison. The issue revolves around a small number of complaints by residents, concerning the perceived obstruction of the bin in its current location and whether it could be better placed to provide waste provision for broader usage by locals and visitors. Island Roads do not believe it poses a hazard in its current location. This is why the PC is being compelled to pay the £208 re-siting cost.

RESOLVED: The Clerk and Cllr Addison to seek wider views on the subject via the Whitwell Village Facebook page and report whether there is a wider mandate for the re-siting to go ahead. Feedback to be tabled at the June PC meeting on whether there is a mandate from residents on how to proceed.

M12/05/23 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr community catch up/surgery sessions 2023 -

Niton: Wednesday 21st June 10.30 – 11.30 am, Niton Exchange

Whitwell Monday 3rd July 10.30 - 11.30am, Whitwell Church

Residents refuse bin - Bin hallway up Nettlecombe Lane is being misused by dog walkers. The service provider has been asked to ensure it is emptied and clear its current content asap. I suggested the resident, puts a notice stating it is a private domestic bin and not to be used for dog waste. A wheelie bin lid lock could be purchased or use of a bungee cord over the lid to deter walkers from abusing it. If this does not help alleviate the situation, we can provide a larger black bin to ensure that the resident is not losing capacity.

Wightfibre -Notified them of the disappointment from local businesses and residents over the works in Niton this week. Asked if there could be a bit more communication for any future works.

Road safety - There is an entry on the HSIR for accessibility improvements throughout Niton. This includes more continuous and wider footways, as well as increased provision of dropped kerbs.

Unfortunately, due to the highway layout in the area, it is not possible to just install dropped kerbs to improve accessibility. To achieve an improvement, more significant footway construction schemes would be needed. I have asked for clarification on this as many residents would find a few dropped kerbs very helpful for increased mobility access.

Environment Agency - Update from Environment Agency - The investigation has been closed.

There were no additional reports of the initial concern relating to the smell of fuel/oil in the area. There were also no indications on the cause of the smell. However, during my investigation, I did locate a pipe discharging from a private septic tank in the area, from a residential property. I have since spoken with the property owner and they are working to update their system to prevent future pollution from entering the ditch. At this time, there is no evidence that the pollution is far reaching due to the mainly dry nature of the ditch in question. Comment was made that the PC appeared not to be included in any conversations surrounding the outcome of any samples taken and what, if any remedial measures had been taken.

It was agreed the Clerk should write to the Environment Agency to express the PC's dissatisfaction with not being involved in any discussions regarding the incident.

M13/05/23 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk provided Members with an update on an exchange of emails regarding a continuing flooding issue on Castlehaven Lane. Rob Reed, our IW Council Environment Officer (EO), had reported remedial works undertaken by the adjacent landowner (The Buddle Inn) where a flexible plastic pipe had been installed in an effort to contain excess runoff spilling onto the lane. Mark Donovan of Niton Harbour Club had questioned the effectiveness of this solution. This comment was relayed back to the EO. He then forwarded this comment to IW Council drainage personnel, who have agreed a site visit to include Mark Donovan and the Clerk, date yet to be agreed. The Clerk will report back to the Castlehaven Working Party once this site visit has taken place.

The Clerk and Cllr Osborn took part in an IWALC arranged Media course. There they met members of Ryde Town Council responsible for media coverage and County Press reporters. Ryde TC will forward copies of their Press and Media Protocol and Social Media Policy, so that they can be adapted for N&WPC use. An overhaul of the PC's website will be undertaken.

M14/05/23 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Osborn advised on his activities for the past month:

1. Putting up and taking down of street bunting for Niton Coronation festivities
2. Support given to Niton Coronation Parade - Road marshall.
3. Support given to Historic Exhibitions in Niton Village Hall as part of or Niton Coronation festivities
4. Support given to Parish Warden in weeding and cleaning High Street and Blackgang Road and Star Lane.
5. Liaison with Parish Church Warden regarding subsidence of graves around Niton War Memorial.
6. Liaison with Island Roads regarding: the state of bus shelter Niton Undercliff (Buddle Car Park)

also drain issues on the High Street and an enquiry re Sandrook Road; reasons; plan of action and time scales as this road closure has meant cancellation of buses, and restricted road traffic. Island Roads advised it was not within

their remit - AO to liaise with IW Council Highways Dept. Given the subject had been raised at the recent Annual Parish Meeting, he expressed a desire to work with Ward Cllr Critchison to understand whether a finite timescale for reopening could be provided.

Cllr Boileau Goad advised he has not been able to identify whether the play park items offered for sale by a Company based in Berkshire are of a standard acceptable to RoSPA. This despite the fact that the Company has supplied the equipment to local primary schools and play parks.

He also reported that Peter Matthews is unable to assist us with any Recreation Ground projects at present, due to his heavy workload.

Cllr Sheerin emailed IW Council Rights of way team regarding overgrown local footpaths, and when any scheduled works were to take place. Due to a backlogged schedule, Niton's footpaths will not be cut until June. She enquired if, in the meantime, the PC could trim the worst areas. The response was that the PC could not touch them. If we did, the footpaths in question would be taken off the RoW's works schedule and responsibility transferred to the PC.

Cllr Addison wished to comment regarding the recent Annual Parish Meeting, to thank the outgoing Chair for the organisation of a distinct and open meeting, believing it was a much more interesting way of delivering the PC's message to the community. It was great to hear from the organisations that have benefitted from PC grant funding. He conveyed that 100% of the issues raised by Electors related to transport and road safety issues. Mindful that many of these issues fall outside the PC's ability to action or influence decisions, he believes it would be appropriate to convene a dedicated open meeting, to include our Ward Cllr, to discuss these issues, along the lines of the meeting held in Brighstone.

Cllr Burridge acknowledged Pat Reynolds contact, subsequent to the Annual Parish meeting, for being able to present her thanks for the PC lending its support to her long running attempts to have a flooding issue resolved outside her property in Whitwell.

Cllrs Burridge and Osborn had been involved in judging for the Best Kept Village awards. Judging across the Island is now complete. Cllr Burridge will be attending a meeting to hear which villages have been selected to go forward to the next stage of judging. She will feedback accordingly.

M15/05/22 PARISH WARDEN'S REPORT

Mr Stay has reported 4 FixMyStreet situations this month, concerning issues in both Niton and Whitwell. Two of these have been satisfactorily resolved. He was impressed that a particular hazard in Priory Walk, Niton had been reported and repaired in the same day. He has commenced a further programme of refurbishing benches and undertaking trimming and weeding of the various outdoor PC maintained assets. Cllr Biles enquired whether any further incidents had been experienced at the Niton public conveniences. Mr Stay was able to report matters had improved significantly.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.47pm.

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

APPENDIX TO MINUTES

COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 1. 23/00659/HOU** Proposed loft conversion, with rear dormer and roof lights in front roof slope at Ridge House Barrack Shute Niton. No objections **SUPPORT.**
- 2 23/00797/FUL** Proposed outbuilding to provide office/gym/recreation area at Downlands Newport Road Niton. No objections **SUPPORT.**