

NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT WHITWELL VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7:00 PM

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

IN ATTENDANCE: C Burt (Clerk to the Council) and 1 member of the public.

The member of the public expressed his thanks for the creation of double yellow lines at the junction of Bannock Road and Whitwell High Street, which have improved visibility considerably. He then wished to explore the possibility of formalising a footpath from Southford Lane into Whitwell. He understands the verge has been used by pedestrians for many years. He mentioned this as the hedge is overgrown and users now are forced onto the road. He has communicated with IW Council Highways Dept, who responded that it was private land, so did not fall under their responsibility. As a result, the hedge width is currently being reduced and laid by a private contractor. He asked if the PC would be willing to take up his quest to have the path officially recognised as a footpath. Cllrs agreed to look at the possibility of creating a recognised footpath, with Cllr Boileau Goad approaching IWC Rights of Way team first, to understand how the process could be taken forward.

The member of the public then enquired if verges generally could be cut more frequently. Cllrs responded the verges are cut by Island Roads twice a year, with certain months when the verges have to be left to grow to protect wildflower species.

Meeting opened at 7:15pm.

M01/11/23 APOLOGIES: None.

M02/11/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS: Cllr Critchison declared an interest with regard to Agenda Item 10.

M03/11/23 MINUTES:

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd October 2023 be taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

M04/11/23 A TRIBUTE TO ANN INNES: Tributes were read by Cllrs Burrridge and Hill.

A memory from past Parish Clerk, Vickie Ford "I had the privilege of working with Ann for the last decade of her time in office. My dearest memory is being greeted at her back door with a smile and often a hug when I would arrive with cheques to sign. She would always show more concern for my personal welfare than Parish matters, bless her, which was lovely."

"Ann passed away on 6th November after suffering for 4 years from Parkinson's Disease and the very cruel Lewy Body disease. Ann, a wife, a mother and a grandmother will be remembered by us all for her time as a year 3 teacher at Niton Primary School, a deputy head and head teacher before her retirement in 1997 after 21 years of long service. Her Welsh roots ensured there was an Eisteddfod and St Davids day parade. Ann was a member of the Parish Council for over 30 years, serving as Chair on two occasions. In her retirement she travelled the world with Geoff, her husband, always returning to Chamonix for high altitude climbing, which is the place she loved the most. Thankyou Ann for your service to the community of Niton and Whitwell. We will remember you fondly".

M05/11/23 FINANCE:

5.1 Financial Statement & Bank Reconciliation: Members had before them a schedule for October showing a cashbook balance of £86,262.71 in general funds (including £3,399.05 in earmarked reserves), £26,691.77 in the public sector deposit fund and £6,367.77 in the Bequest Account.

RESOLVED: that the financial statements as of the 21st November 2023 be received and noted.

5.2 Payments for Authorisation: A schedule of accounts for payments for November were set before the meeting.

Type	Date Paid	Payee	Details	Amount
E-trans		Mark Willis	Repair at Niton Toilets	210.00
E-trans		SSE	Electricity for the Exchange	41.53
E-trans		Natural Enterprise	Gift to Nature 23-24 for Castlehaven	600.00
DD*	10/11/23	XLN - Daisy Comms	Broadband for the Exchange	27.54
DD*	16/11/23	EDF	Electricity for Niton W/Cs	1.00
E-trans		Top Mops	Cleaning @ Niton toilets	303.47
E-trans		Community Action	C Burt & Keith Stay salaries	1,438.05
E-trans		C Burt	Sundry expenses	400.29
	Total			3021.88

* Denotes Already paid

RESOLVED: that the Parish accounts, excepting the payment to Gift to Nature, as listed above be approved for payment. A detailed breakdown of the Gift to Nature payment to be sought for further consideration.

M06/11/23 PLANNING:

6.1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

RESOLVED: that the Clerk be asked to submit to the Isle of Wight Council the comments set out in Appendix I which forms part of these minutes.

6.2 PLANNING DECISIONS:

1. **23/01508/HOU** - Demolition of single storey extension; proposed replacement single storey extension; proposed dormer on the south elevation with Juliet balcony; alterations (revised plans) at Nell Bank High Street Whitwell - **GTD**
2. **21/01827/FUL** - Proposed development of 22 dwellings, access road, parking and landscaping (revised plans, tree report and ecological assessment) (revised description) (revised site address) (re-advertised application) at Land rear of Rosewood and Trenale (known as School House Meadow) and including St Michaels High Street Whitwell - **REF**
3. **23/01508/LBC** – Listed Building Consent for relocation of water hydrant at St Michaels High Street Whitwell – **REF**

With the above planning refusal in mind (23/01508/LBC), Cllr Addison suggested the PC now formally adopt the 8 Parish water hydrants as Parish Assets.

RESOLVED: Research to be undertaken to determine the ‘ownership’ status of the water hydrants.

M7/11/23 CASTLEHAVEN WORKING PARTY: Members had before them a report from the Castlehaven Working Party. Five actions were recommended:

- (i) To obtain Land Registry Title plans for Beach Cottage and Castlehaven Cottage
- (ii) To raise an official protest to IWC Planning Enforcement regarding why no action being taken regarding the size and footpath obstruction of the building on the Western side of the green.
- (iii) To seek full PC agreement for repairs/restoration/completion of the works on the seaward side of the green.
- (iv) To contact IWC Planning to enquire why application 21/02232/FUL- Castlehaven Retreat remains outstanding.

- (v) To engage with IWC Environmental Health regarding current waste management methods at the properties on Castlehaven Lane.

RESOLVED: Actions (ii) and (iii) approved to be taken forward, with costings to be obtained regarding action (iii). Actions (i) (iv) and (v) to be taken forward by the Clerk.

M08/11/23 NETTLECOMBE LANE FINGER POST COSTINGS: Following discussions between Cllr Adison, the Parish Warden and the landowner, the proposal is to adopt the fingerpost as a Parish Asset, taking on its ongoing maintenance. In this regard, Members had before them costings totalling approx. £440 to have the fingerpost and oak fingerboards refurbished.

RESOLVED: The costings were approved and commissioning of the fingers to be taken forward.

M09/11/23 NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH MAPS: Members were apprised of a meeting held by the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk with the artist - Alan Rowe, who is known to the PC for his work in producing the Smugglers Trail pamphlets. Alan provided several other examples of his work and has digital copies of the artwork he undertook for the Smugglers Trail, which can be revised to incorporate our ongoing requirements. The concept discussed was for a multi-media Parish-wide map to incorporate both village centre street maps. Further ideas/suggestions were sought from Members, so a brief can be put together to obtain costings for the project.

RESOLVED: The ideas discussed to form the basis of a brief for the artist to be taken forward and initial costings to be obtained.

M10/11/23 LANTERN PARADE GRANT FUNDING REQUEST: A request from the organisers of the reintroduced Lantern Parade to consider assistance in funding the materials costs. The PC had been supportive in prior years.

RESOLVED: The PC to fund up to £300 towards these costs.

M11/11/23 PARISHIONER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Ballot sheets were provided to Cllrs to nominate their candidate.

RESOLVED: The majority of ballots were for Pat Reynolds, for her involvement in resolving the long running drainage issues in Whitwell High Street.

M12/11/23 WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Ward Cllr Critchison relayed information regarding a change in IW Planning Dept's timescales and negotiation processes in light of the much-delayed decision on application 21/01827/FUL. She will forward a fuller version of these changes to Cllrs for information.

She has been involved with parishioners throughout her Ward who suffered property damage as a result of recent stormy weather. A draft Winter resilience & emergency plan has been drawn up by Chale PC, who have agreed to share this with the other PCs in her Ward for their use.

Mention was made of the ponies roaming St Catherines down. As a result of negative user comments, the ponies have been removed.

Planning permission has been granted for the SWAY hub in Chale.

Cllr Critchison has had discussions with residents of Nettlecombe Lane, regarding double yellow lines. And she is putting a report together to go to IW Council Highways dept. to point out reasons why they to be revised. She has a meeting in December with Highways to discuss Niton village centre issues.

M13/11/23 CLERK'S REPORT: The Clerk reported that the Environment Officer decision made last meeting has not yet been actioned, due to the Parish Wardens recent incapacity. This to provide continued Parish-wide vigilance of environmental matters until the Warden is back in position. Christmas trees have been delivered and are ready to be put up. The Community outing on 13th December is half full so far, with further expressions of interest.

The company which provided the telephone kiosk equipment had asked if the project could be used as case study. An update was sought from Indra Ritches, who confirmed the equipment had been received and will be installed once a carpenter and electrician have been sourced, with installation early in the new year.

M14/11/23 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS: Cllr Sheerin has had parishioners enquiring how much longer the Wight Fibre works will take and that instances of property damage have been experienced. No definitive timescale has been received. Cllr Addison is pleased Ward Cllr Critchison is meeting with IW Highways, relating an elderly parishioner's experience using a walking frame outside Norris stores and confronting the size of the kerb. He felt the provision of a dropped kerb would be beneficial. He asked if the Chair could write to the Whitwell PCC to congratulate their efforts to improve the access path leading to the Church as a result of a financial bequest.

Cllr BurrIDGE relayed her disappointment at being alone when placing the wreath at the Whitwell war memorial, notwithstanding announcing her intent. She attended the Local Government Association conference, networking with other Parish and Town Cllrs. She picked up several ideas, which she will collate and share in due course. One of which is the possibility of producing a regular Parish newsletter.

Cllr Critchison asked if Christmas lights could be put up on the lantern parade route on 3rd December.

M15/11/23 PARISH WARDEN'S REPORT: In his absence, Mr Stay provided a written report that his surgery went well and he is hoping to resume works (light duties to start with) in the first week of December.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8:20pm.

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

APPENDIX I TO MINUTES

COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. **23/01902/FUL** – Demolition of existing single storey flank extension, proposed two storey extension at The Lodge Graytiles St Catherines Road Niton.

The current single storey is largely not visible from a street view. The new two-storey aspect will have a detrimental effect on this view.

This is a sensitive geological area, and we have concerns over the impact of screw pile or similar groundwork excavations which could possibly affect neighbouring properties.

The materials proposed for the exterior of the new extension are not in keeping with its AONB location.

For these reasons, the Parish Council is not supportive of this application.