

MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF CHILLERTON AND GATCOMBE HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd MAY 2023 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, HOLLOW LANE, CHILLERTON AT 6PM.

Present: Cllr Nigel Phillips (Chairman), Cllrs Hobart & Cllr Newton and 2 members of the public

In attendance: Mr Virgil Philpott (Clerk) IW Cllr Paul Fuller & Mr James Brewer (IWC)

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1. APOLOGIES

Apoloiges were received from Cllr Liz Smith and IWC Cllr Suzie Ellis.

2. Presentation from IWC Planning & Enforcement Team

The two IWC representatives gave a short presentation about Planning and Enforcement before taking questions from the public and Parish Council members.

Topics included the new IW (fifteen year) Planning Strategy and planning enforcement not being a statutory requirement. The IWC planning team were often unable to be pro-active on enforcement issues with only 3.5 officers dealing with c.2,000 annual enforcement requests. Consideration was being given to a system whereby Parish Councils might contribute. The enforcement team's preferred method of contact for all enforcement issues is through the online portal

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/enforcement/report-an-unauthorised-development/>

It was clarified that parishioners raising concerns about enforcement issues can do so anonymously though any comments made on planning applications are public.

3. CHILLERTON AND GATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The annual report for 2022-23 was presented. A copy is attached to these minutes.

4. IW COUNCILLOR

The IW Ward Councillor provided a report, which is attached to these minutes.

5. CHILLERTON AND GATCOMBE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The annual report for 2022-23 was presented. A copy is attached to these minutes.

6. OPEN SESSION

It was suggested that The Chairman's report should be amended to include a statement that "*...we have an on-going positive and proactive relationship with Island Roads on the subject of verge management*" as it was felt that both parties deserved congratulations on this issue.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 6:40pm.

.....Chairman

.....Date

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO CGPC 2023

It's been a frustrating sort of year. Everything seemed a lot harder to achieve than expected, and issues with our bank account meant that some items have had to be held over until the next financial year.

We have had a turnover of personnel. Councilor Sara McWilliam moved out of the area and therefore resigned. Councilor Julia Newton has been co-opted to take her place. Subsequently Councilor Peter Whiteman resigned, bringing us back down to four again. Both Sara and Peter will be sadly missed.

In neither case were requests for a bye election sufficient to trigger one so we will shortly decide whether or not to co opt again. I personally think that we should. Five is a very small number of councilors making us vulnerable to sickness and other absences.

Our Clerk, Lindsey Hood, also left us to work full time for the Ambulance Service. We will miss him also but wish him well in his vital work. In his place we have appointed Virgil Philpott.

It is this last change that caused our difficulties with the bank account. Lloyds Bank got into a dreadful mess over the changeover. As a result, we essentially lost our banking services for the whole of March and April.

Speaking of money, we had hoped to keep our precept at a standstill, but unfortunately it became apparent that there will be considerable costs caused by a need to make safe some of the trees on the Green. We absorbed as much as we could into the budget for next year but did need to increase the precept by £1000. This was still one of the lowest rises on the Island.

Our concern for the trees on the Green was caused by the fall of a large Willow branch in a garden on Lansdown Gardens. This caused considerable damage and it was fortunate that no one was standing under it at the time. Inspection by tree surgeons suggested that further work is needed to make some of the other trees safe. We are seeking acceptable quotes from a number of firms so that the work can be carried out.

We are very close to erecting a war memorial in the Parish, on the outside wall of the Village Hall, when we have decided the final details.

Last Christmas saw the return, after the Covid hiatus, of the Elders' Lunch. It was a happy affair although some of those that used to come to it are no longer with us.

We continue to be concerned by the speed of vehicles coming through the Parish. Changes to speed limits are still being held up by the Island Council's long-term review. Even when that is complete it may take a long time for our roads to reach the top of the generated work.

We have expressed our view that speed in the actual village areas should be limited to 20mph, and the Whitford Road to 40mph.

A proposal has been made by our Isle of Wight Councilor that a multi-Parish Speedwatch Scheme might be established. We will examine this in the new financial year.

Work continues on the Play area. We are looking for a replacement for the 'wobbly fire engine' which is nearing the end of its life. We can't get the fire engine anymore but we may be able to get a 'wobbly airplane' instead. We are also looking at the possibility of installing a basketball net.

The news from the school has not been good. Having secured a decision from the Isle of Wight Council that it was to stay open, this prospect was undermined by the resignation of the final teacher and the business manager late last year. The school is now empty.

Later this year we expect to ask you all to participate in our regular survey, which will lead to the development of our next three-year plan. It is the most complete way of gauging your concerns and feeding them into our actions.

As ever we work to enhance our environment in this beautiful part of the World. Last year this resulted on our winning the 'Best Kept Village on the Isle of Wight' contest for the first time in decades. This was not just for the Parish Council but also for the Horticultural Society, the CGCA and all the volunteers that pick up litter, maintain bus shelters and the phone box library; that look after our hedges and flower beds and everything that makes Chillerton and Gatcombe such a wonderful place to live. I thank you all.

I am proud to serve as your Chairman.

Nigel Phillips

Annual Report 2023 – Godshill Parish Council

Councillor Suzie Ellis, Central Rural Ward, April 2023.

Despite having faced some personal health challenges this year, I have continued to enjoy representing Central Rural Ward, and supporting the community locally.

Much of my time has been spent on planning issues - our planning department continues to be under resourced, and this has a direct effect on residents both making applications and raising enforcement concerns. I have worked hard with residents, parish councils, applicants and officers to find resolutions to issues raised, and remain committed to seeking fair and balanced outcomes for all.

This year, sadly, has once again brought flooding issues for many, both in Central Rural and across the Island, with Arreton being particularly badly affected with devastating flash flooding. I worked with Island Roads, the IWC planning department and Drainage and Flood Risk Management Officer to address both the immediate issue and to find a resolution to protect against future flooding, and whilst we have made progress in some areas I continue to work with Southern Water, the IWC, Our MP, the EA and local landowners to address ongoing issues faced by many residents both in Arreton and across the ward.

Traffic concerns, road safety and speeding continue to be high amongst the concerns raised with me, and I continue working with residents, parish councils, Island Roads and the Neighbourhoods Policing Team to address. I am particularly grateful to Insp Matt Gooding for his pro-active approach, and his willingness to engage with residents, I feel his attendance at Parish Council meetings has been very helpful. I am disappointed however that the formation of a Central Rural Speedwatch Group has not so far been successful due to a lack of volunteers - I remain hopeful that this will be the year we see it get off the ground!

I have attended many meetings and briefing and training sessions with the Isle of Wight Council, I continue to sit on Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Childrens Services as well as a number of smaller working groups and enjoy supporting our Primary schools both as Ward member and as an associate Governor of the Stenbury Foundation.

I continue to push for improved safety outside of the Primary Schools within the ward.

I am always very happy to hear from residents, and to speak on the telephone or to meet in person where appropriate.

I publish regular updates on my [facebook page](#) including Planning Notices and Traffic Orders together with other information which residents may find useful.

I am proud to represent Central Rural at the IWC, and will continue to give my best.

I thank residents for their support.

Suzie Ellis
April 2023