

Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHILLERTON & GATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 1st SEPTEMBER AT 6:30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL, HOLLOW LANE, CHILLERTON

Present: Cllrs Laursen (Chair), Newton, Smith, Bellamy-James & Thomas.

In Attendance: Virgil Philpott (Clerk / RFO), IW Ward Cllr Whelan & three members of the public.

4422 - PUBLIC QUESTIONS

i. The press have suggested that there is shortly to be an announcement from central government advising households to stockpile essential items for emergencies. Living on an island we are particularly vulnerable to supply chain issues. In Germany, the government has provided emergency planning books for the population. Is there anything similar available in the UK...?

The Parish Council has just acquired a stock of emergency planning booklets which it aims to distribute to every household in the Parish. It is planned to supplement this with localised advice in the form of an insert. There is also information available on the government's 'Prepare' website.: <https://prepare.campaign.gov.uk/get-prepared-for-emergencies/> These matters will be publicised at the next Village Hall coffee morning (in November).

ii. The Jubilee Hedge in Gatcombe was planted in February 2022. Since its planting, it has been maintained by volunteers and the landowner. The original grant to create the hedge had come from 'National Landscapes' and, as a funding condition, the PC had agreed to be responsible for the hedge's maintenance for 5 years. The hedge will soon require a significant 'trim'. Would the PC be willing for the PC Tree Wardens to contact the landowner and ask if he might be willing to undertake this and, if so, also request that any cut take place in late Winter? Failing this, would the PC be willing to fund a trim? Yes, to both. **Action: Tree Wardens / Clerk**

4423 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

4424 - DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr. Laursen declared a non pecuniary interest in matters relating to the Chillerton & Gatcombe Community Association (CGCA).

4425 - MINUTES

Following a show of hands it was unanimously **RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th August 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

Updates on ongoing actions were relayed as follows:

i. **Assertion 10** - Two / three issues were delaying the new website going live:

First, the adoption of '.gov' emails and associated training for Councillors. **Action: Councillors agreed to be available for an online training session on Thursday 3rd September at 4pm.**

Second, technical issues relating to the events calendar. This was due to be addressed at a meeting with the designers on Weds 2nd.

The Clerk also flagged up that the Council's policy documents were currently only available in, non editable, pdf form. In due course they would need updating / revision. Free online software had been unable to convert them satisfactorily. **Action: Cllr Thomas offered to provide a copy of pdf editing software on CD.** If this didn't work, the Clerk was **authorised to purchase a pdf converter.**

ii. Biosphere Presentation... a date was still to be finalised. Cllr Laursen explained that a call for volunteers was required for the Greening Campaign and that this might be combined with the Biosphere presentation. There were five 'pillars' of activity involved in the Greening campaign 1 - Space for nature. 2 - Energy efficient homes. 3 - Health impacts of climate change. 4 - Waste prevention. 5 - Food security. Both the event, and the appeal for volunteers, might be, usefully, advertised in the forthcoming newsletter. **Action: Cllr Laursen**

4426 - REPORT FROM RURAL CENTRAL WARD COUNCILLOR.

Cllr Whelan briefed the meeting about two recent, major, developments at the IWC:

i. The IWC's new Planning Strategy had been finalised. Developments of over 100 houses would need to go before the Planning Committee for councillors' input. Developments of less than 100 houses were overseen by Officers with delegated authority. Safeguards had been implemented to forestall any 'playing' of this system.

ii. The IWC was also striving to make its strategy more localised ('Community Areas Partnerships'). The Chair of the IWC Council intended to engage more with Parish Councils. IWALC was likely to be the chosen forum for this.

4427 - PLANNING

A planning application (26/00134/FUL) that had been previously discussed at the March 2026 meeting (and subsequently refused by the IWC) had been appealed to the Secretary of State. A short window for additional comments had been offered. **Resolved: it was not thought appropriate that the PC should make any additional comments beyond those that had been previously submitted in March.**

4428 - REPORTS / OTHER MINUTES

CGCA - The CGCA wished to place on public record its gratitude for a very sizeable donation from an anonymous individual within the Parish which had allowed the repairs to the Gallybagger's roof and the Village Hall windows to go ahead. It had been a remarkably generous and public spirited gesture.

Overall the CGCA had raised over £12k last year via a combination of donations, grants and fundraising activity. Three quarters of the Gallybagger's roof had now been repaired - with the rest waterproofed for Winter. Work on the village hall windows is due to commence shortly. The current CGCA committee is pro-active and is working effectively alongside other Parish based organisations.

One new innovation from the CGCA is the commencement of a table top sale on the Village Green to coincide with Village Hall markets. Sellers will be charged a fee of £5. There will be no cars allowed on the Green, but, sellers will be able to unload / set up earlier in the day.

4429 - HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

i. It was noted, with sadness, that **Rev Steve Sutcliffe** is leaving the Parish, and relocating near Manchester. His final day is 13th September. He will be much missed.

ii. **Elders Christmas Lunch.** Was debated at length. Historically, the lunch had been arranged under the auspices of the PC, but had been, very much reliant on contributions from volunteers. It hadn't taken place last year ('replaced' by a 'bangers and mash' event in January). There were obstacles to

overcome in terms of food preparation / licensing issues - such that the old 'American Supper' way of organising it was increasingly unviable. A number of councillors said that they were willing to help with serving duties as it had been a worthwhile event, much appreciated by attendees.

Resolved: the cost of external catering should be investigated prior to the next Meeting. Action: Cllr Thomas

4430 - ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

i. Island Roads had been notified that the PC wished to be considered an 'interested party' in respect of its **proposed tree works in Gatcombe**. The Clerk had been told that the process would take several months and require consultations with the IWC's planning team and arborists. It was noted that one of the trees earmarked for works had been identified as a 'veteran tree' and that PC Tree Wardens wished to attend any site meetings with Island Roads.

ii. Councillors were unsure why the Gatcombe Road had been recently closed by Island Roads. Initially it had been thought that this had been to facilitate Southern Water's reinstitution of the village's stopcock / hydrant. However, it was now thought that the closure might be related to further tree work. **Action: Clerk to contact Island Roads and seek clarification.**

iii. **Compost Bins on the Village Green.** To date, the PC had only heard back from one contractor with a digger who had quoted a day rate of £250. There was some time pressure on carrying out the work so it was Resolved that up to £150 be authorised for a half day's work. **Action: Cllr Laursen / Clerk.**

4431 - TRANSPORT & TRAFFIC

Island Roads Stewards' Meeting. Some additional feedback had been received from residents in respect of Island Roads' written response. **Councillors Bellamy-James, Laursen and Thomas agreed to identify several dates when they would be jointly available for a Site Meeting. Action: Clerk to facilitate.**

4432 - COUNCIL MATTERS - FINANCE

i. Following a show of hands it was unanimously **RESOLVED: that the August financial statements, and the accounts presented in the Agenda, be accepted.**

ii. **Bank Account** - the process of transferring accounts had been delayed (waiting upon the provision of ID and issues with the verification technology). Subsequently it had been announced that Co-Op's Business / Community Banking section was being taken over by Coventry Building Society. **Action: Clerk to revisit.**

4433 - COUNCIL MATTERS - REGULATORY

Cllrs Newton, Bellamy James and Lauren were interested in attending Law Society service on Monday 12th October at 10:30 am. **Action: Clerk to circulate service details to Cllr Newton.**

4434 - FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(s)

- Three Year Parish Plan. New planning sessions required - to include emergency planning

4435 - NEXT MEETING(s)

The next meeting of Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council will be at **6.30pm on Tuesday 6th October 2026 at The Village Hall, Hollow Lane, Chillerton.**

The proceedings terminated at 8:08pm.