

# Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHILLERTON & GATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 2nd JUNE AT 6:30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL, HOLLOW LANE, CHILLERTON**

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

**In Attendance:** Virgil Philpott (Parish Clerk) & four members of the public.

### **4379 - PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No questions were received.

### **4380 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from IWC Ward Councillor Cllr Whelan.

### **4381 - DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST**

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

### **4382 - MINUTES**

Following a show of hands it was unanimously **RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th May 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

Updates on ongoing actions were relayed as follows:

**i. Assertion 10** - The website designers had produced an initial, draft, site. It was proposed that a working party be convened to review the site and provide feedback en bloc. All five councillors were interested attending and it was suggested that the Gallybagger be used as a venue. It was determined that Cllr Newton was likely to have the most limited availability, so it was suggested that the Clerk liaise with her initially before proposing a date. The Chair of Godshill Parish Council had also indicated a willingness to attend as he had recently worked with the same designers on their website. **ACTION: Clerk / Cllr Newton / All.**

**ii New Parish Noticeboards** have been delivered. Thanks is due to Cllr Thomas for storing these. Cllr Laursen proposed that she have an informal discussion with a local builder regarding potential assistance with installation. **ACTION: Cllr Laursen**

**iii Emergency Booklets** - the Clerk had arranged with the speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting to get supply of LRF leaflets for distribution within the Parish. If needed, this could be followed up with the IWC (Darren Steed). **ACTION: Clerk**

### **4383 - REPORT FROM RURAL CENTRAL WARD COUNCILLOR.**

No report has been received.

### **4384 - PLANNING**

No new planning applications had been received.

### **4385 - HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

No new applications had been received for the Development Fund.

#### 4386 - REPORTS / OTHER MINUTES

**CGCA** - The Scarecrow festival had gone very well. The CGCA wished to convey their thanks to all who had contributed. They were not sure, yet, about the total amount fundraised, but, would circulate the figure in due course.

The Gallybagger roof continued to be an issue of pressing concern. A local builder had offered to undertake the repairs 'at cost' (circa £16k) and it was possible that the work could be divided into stages to help with cashflow. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council could help with a loan, or a grant, but was restricted, by law, as to what it could contribute in any given year, by a formula based on the number of parish electors. For this year the figure was just under £4k. At this juncture Cllr Laursen recused herself from the discussion.

Cllr Bellamy James proposed that, in light of all great work that the CGCA undertook within the Parish, in principle, if the CGCA applied for a grant, the Parish Council would back it. The funds could be used to help directly with repairs, or as matched funding to help lever in additional funding. This said, the Council couldn't *guarantee* year-on-year support given future unpredictabilities and was also mindful that it ought to hold a little back in the event that other organisations needed support. Following, seconding by Cllr Newton, after a show of hands it was unanimously **RESOLVED: that, upon receipt of a satisfactory application, the Parish Council would offer a grant of £3k to the CGCA with an option to apply for more later in the financial year if funds remained.**

#### 4387 - ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

**i. Dung Heap Runoff** - Following the last month's meeting the Clerk had conveyed the relevant regulations to Cllr Smith - which included clarification about permitted distance / gradients and water courses. On the basis that some residents had expressed ongoing concerns, it was suggested that the Clerk contact the IWC Environmental Officer for further guidance. **ACTION: Clerk.**

**ii. Water Testing** - Another Gatcombe resident had raised a question about recent water 'testing' in Gatcombe. It was unclear whether this related to the brook or to residential water supplies. It was suggested that the Clerk raise this with the IWC to see if any more information could be gleaned. **ACTION: As above.**

**iii. Hunt Kennels** - A resident had complained about (perceived) increase in noise from the hunt kennels. Councillors were aware that the kennels were largely a voluntary operation and that insulation / soundproofing work had been undertaken previously. It was possible that current noise was seasonal: linked to new litters. It was suggested that Cllr Laursen have an initial, informal, conversation with the kennels to make them aware of residents' concerns with an option to contact the Master of Hounds later, if deemed necessary. **Action Cllr Laursen.**

**iv. Biosphere Presentation** - Cllr Laursen explained that, following extensive data analysis, Ian Boyd had put together a presentation about future trends relating to resilience and sustainability on the IW. There were some worrying headlines about demographics, food and water security. This might be very useful for Councillors / Parishioners to see. It was also noted that a community showing of the National Emergency Briefing film was taking place in Ventnor later in the week as follows: <https://buytickets.at/greenpeace1/2234025> **ACTION: Cllr Laursen to discuss presentation options with Ian Boyd and revert.**

**v. Flash Bangs** - Further to the resident's question raised at the previous month's Annual Parish Meeting, it had been confirmed that the loud explosions heard in Chillerton recently were, indeed,

flash bangs set off for 'training' homing pigeons. It was understood that the PCSO was planning on investigating further and would report back in due course.

#### **4388 - TRANSPORT & TRAFFIC**

Island Roads had replied to the Clerk regarding a potential Road Stewards' Meeting. They had suggested that, initially, the Council draw up an agenda before proceeding further. **ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Councillors (and YPM) to identify a list of concerns that could be communicated to Island Roads.**

#### **4389 - COUNCIL MATTERS - FINANCE**

i. The Parish Council's Internal Audit Report for 2025-6 had been previously circulated by the Clerk. The auditor had highlighted several issues of concern relating to the absence of the previous Clerk. Following a show of hands it was unanimously **RESOLVED: the Internal Audit Report be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

ii. Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) had been completed by the Clerk and Internal Auditor. The Clerk had alerted both the internal and external auditors to issues with figures on the previous year's AGAR (2024-5). After liaison with both regulators, it had been necessary for the Clerk to rework / re-state the figures for 2024-25. This work had now been completed and approved by the internal auditor. Following a show of hands it was unanimously **RESOLVED: that Sections 1 & 2 of the 2025-6 AGAR be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

iii. Following a show of hands it was unanimously **RESOLVED: that the internal Auditor's Certificate of Exemption be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

iv. Following a show of hands it was unanimously **RESOLVED: that the Council's Financial Statements as 27 May 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

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

vi. **Banking** - The Council discussed concerns relating to its current banking supplier. Historically, there had been significant difficulties with mandate changes and some issues surrounding banking protocols over the last two years had recently come to light. Whilst new paperwork was in place for an update of the mandate, following a show of hands, it was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Council should investigate options for a new supplier. ACTION: Clerk to investigate and report back.**

#### **4390 - COUNCIL MATTERS - REGULATORY**

i. The Clerk updated the meeting on laptop / cloud storage options. He had not yet alighted on a solution that *particularly* appealed - either in terms of software or cost effectiveness. It was suggested that a conversation with the Parish Clerk at Godshill might be useful as they were currently undertaking a similar exercise. Though they did not, yet, have cloud storage they were using private area of their new website as a repository for key Council documents. **ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Godshill Parish Council and report back.**

ii. The Clerk had circulated a draft Vexatious Complaints Policy for consideration by the Council. Cllr Bellamy-James proposed that this be accepted. Seconded by Cllr Newton. **RESOLVED: that, the Vexation Complaints Policy be adopted.**

#### **4391 - FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(s)**

- SSE Grant applications
- Long term plans for Powers of Competence

**4392 - NEXT MEETING(s)**

The next meeting of Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council will be at circa **6.30pm on Tuesday 7th July 2026 at The Village Hall, Hollow Lane, Chillerton.**

The proceedings terminated at 7:45pm.