

# Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHILLERTON & GATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 3rd MARCH 2026 AT 6.30PM AT THE GALLYBAGGER, MAIN ROAD, CHILLERTON**

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

**In Attendance:** Virgil Philpott (Acting Parish Clerk); three members of the public.

### **4326- PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

One question was received: "Was the Parish Council aware of the massive Southern Water works proposed for the Tolthill reservoir "(Ref 26/00087/TW)? There had been only a one week window for planning comments and the application was currently "under consideration". It was unusual for only a one week comment window to be offered. The works involved masses of pipe, tree and hedge work, with potentially huge visual and environmental impact. A proposition was included to turn a bridleway into an access road. When would the work be carried out? What were the reinstatement plans? It was surprising that Southern water had not scheduled any community engagement programme.

Councillors had not been aware of the plans until earlier that day - when an email had been received from Southern Water seeking to book the Village Hall for 16th March for an public consultation event. **ACTION: Councillors to seek further engagement with Southern Water as a matter of urgency and to publicise the consultation event.**

### **4327- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Thomas & Gladwin.

### **4328 - DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST**

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

### **4329 - MINUTES**

The Acting Clerk had reformatted / updated the Minutes missing under the previous incumbent.

**RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on held on 3rd and 19th February 2026, 7th October 2025, 4th November 2025, 2nd December 2025 and 6th January 2026 were all approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

### **4330 - REPORT FROM RURAL CENTRAL WARD COUNCILLOR.**

No report was received. It was reiterated that Cllr. Gladwin had requested that she be prompted for a report rather than just added to the Meeting Agenda / circulation list. **ACTION: Acting Clerk**

### **4331 - PLANNING**

There had been some technical issues with the IWC Planning Portal which had prevented the Acting Clerk from accessing the site. Following extensive dialogue with IWC it had been identified that Wightfibre users were unable to access the IWC site following work carried out on the IWC portal in early February (different IP protocols). The issue was now being addressed.

Councillors discussed the following planning applications:

- **Planning Application Ref: 26/00134/FUL - Llamedos, Main Rd Chillerton** The applicant was in attendance and explained that Planning Permission had already been granted to facilitate the conversion of his barn / stable block into living accommodation. This new application related to change of use from holiday lets to residential accommodation. All internal works had already been approved and no external changes were being proposed. **RESOLVED: (with abstention by Cllr Smith) that Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council has no objections to this planning application.**
- **Planning Application Ref: 26/00038-9/HOU-LBC - Dairy Cottage, Sheat Manor Lane Gatcombe.** These applications had been discussed, in outline, at the previous meeting. Councillors had subsequently had the opportunity to review the applications online. **RESOLVED: That Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council has no objections to these planning applications.**

#### **4332 - REPORTS / OTHER MINUTES**

- **The CGCA** is currently engaged in planning for its annual Scarecrow Festival - which continues to be its major fundraiser.
- **The Greening Campaign:** The local mapping walk had taken place and a report would be forthcoming in due course. Thermal imaging is still on hold barring weather. It was noted that the door remains open for interested residents to join the scheme.
- **Noticeboards:** The Acting Clerk had ascertained that a £50 land registry fee would be required to answer the question of the ownership of the land adjacent to St Olaves which was under consideration for re-siting the noticeboard. It was suggested that a couple of other options be investigated (Island Roads / historical maps) before committing to this. Failing this, the title search should proceed. In the meantime it was reiterated that orders for the new boards be placed. **ACTION: Acting Clerk / Cllr Laursen**
- **Commercial Van Parking:** concern was expressed about a couple of commercial vans that were being parked 'semi-permanently' in the locale. It was established that one van was outside the Parish boundaries. In respect of the other, it was suggested that the acting Clerk contact the parent company to flag up potential safety concerns and enquire about the rationale for parking within the Parish. **Action: Acting Clerk**

#### **4333 - HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

**Development Fund:** No new applications had been received.

#### **4334 - ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

- A local property had been flooded during recent heavy rainfall. Emergency flooding information had been gathered together by the previous Clerk to go into the Quarterly Newsletter. **ACTION: Acting Clerk / Cllr. Laursen to to progress.**
- **Hollow Lane Drainage:** It had been established that JA Dempseys had carried out the re-surfacing works under the direction of Public Rights of Way. A dialogue was now underway about getting the drainage issue addressed.

#### **4335 - COUNCIL MATTERS - FINANCE**

- **Monthly Figures** - The Acting Clerk had completed the necessary historical financial reconciliations and the 2026-27 budget had been approved. **RESOLVED: that, the financial statements are accepted.**
- **Accounts for Approval** - The Acting Clerk had produced a list of retrospective account paid since September 2025 that not been presented for signature by the previous incumbent (list appended to these Minutes - below). To date, three new accounts had been received for March as follows:
  - Acting Clerk - February Invoice £674.40
  - Acting Clerk - reimbursement for filing supplies £15.29
  - CGCA - hall hire £100. **RESOLVED: to pass all accounts for payment.**

- **Banking Mandate:** The Acting Clerk drew councillors' attention to the fact that the banking mandate had not been updated under the previous incumbent. **RESOLVED: that the banking mandate be updated to reflect the current Council's composition, with Cllr. Laursen added and any departed signatories removed.**

#### **4336 - COUNCIL MATTERS - REGULATORY**

- The Acting Clerk confirmed that all outstanding co-option declarations / register of interest forms had been lodged with the IWC's Electoral Officer.
- **Assertion 10:** The Acting Clerk drew councillors' attention to the fact that this year's audit includes a new regulatory regime (Assertion 10) which focused on GDPR, transparency and data security. There were a number of actions that the Council needed to take to ensure better compliance including acquiring .gov emails for councillors' use and making changes to the website. It was also suggested that serious consideration be given to obtaining a Council owned laptop with associated cloud storage for backup. **ACTION: Acting Clerk to progress and report back on anticipated costs.**
- **Contractual Issues:** Concern was expressed that the previous Clerk had not been fully compliant with council policies and contractual responsibilities during the last five months of her employment. This carried potential implications in respect of the audit and the proper use of public funds. **RESOLVED: that Councillors would seek to instigate dialogue with the previous Clerk before deciding on an appropriate course of action.**
- The Acting Clerk had obtained an updated, NALC-approved, employment contract for future. Councillors asked whether the current locum arrangement could be novated into an offer of employment. **ACTION: the Acting Clerk to clarify whether re-advertising was required.**

#### **4337 - VILLAGE ANNUAL PLAN**

**ACTION:** Cllr Newton to provide an updated template for discussion at future meetings.

#### **4338- FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(s)**

- Annual Parish Meetings
- AGAR Inspection & Audit
- Transport & Traffic

#### **4339 - NEXT MEETING(s)**

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

The proceedings terminated at 7:50pm.

