

Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHILLERTON & GATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 4th AUGUST AT 6:30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL, HOLLOW LANE, CHILLERTON

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

In Attendance: Virgil Philpott (Clerk / RFO), IWC Public Realm Officer & one members of the public.

4407 - PRESENTATION

IWC Pubic Realm Officer, Davide Fossa, attended the Meeting. He explained the nature of his role, and took questions. He overlooks the Parish's public realm environment - streets, parks, footpaths - and seeks to address problems with fly tipping, littering, anti-social behaviour, dogs, illegal camping etc. Lately, he has had some successes with fly-tipping prosecutions (including one in Gatcombe's Rectory Lane).

Mr Fossa explained that Public Realm vehicles have 360 degree cameras which are always on - and that he wears a body camera - for evidential purposes. His interactions with the public are generally 'advisory' but Officers are empowered to issues cautions / fines for contraventions.

The Public Realm enforcement team is, currently, very small: comprising only two 'beat' officers (with, two others, unfortunately, on two long term sick leave) so his current 'patch' is enormous. In a personal capacity Mr Fossa has a great fondness for Chillerton as he lived here when he first moved to the Island. He aims to devote four hours a week to the Central Ward. The work of the Public Realm team is financially supported by Parish Councils. Without their contributions, the service would be greatly diminished - as not all the service provision is a statutory requirement.

Mr Fossa was asked what the protocol for reporting issues is. The IWC website has an effective reporting portal which residents can access (including the facility to upload photographs) - at

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/article/1386/Littering-fly-tip-and-animal-carcasses>

Unofficially, Mr Fossa has also provided his number to Clerk and Councillors so that he can be contacted in an emergency, albeit given the size of the area that he has to cover, he cannot always guarantee to be immediately accessible.

4408 - PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions were received.

4409 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bellamy-James and Whelan.

4410 - DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

4411 - MINUTES

Following a show of hands it was unanimously **RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th July 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

Updates on ongoing actions were relayed as follows:

i. Clearance of Vegetation from Chillerton Brook - The Clerk has liaised with the current grass-cutting contractor. He is willing to help with the future removal of cleared vegetation. This can be pre-scheduled if the Clerk is given advance notice of future clearances.

ii. Assertion 10 - website training (for four individuals) had taken place. Unfortunately, illness had slowed overall progress and some 'structural' alterations are still required from the site designers. However, it is anticipated that the site should be live before the next Meeting. The Clerk is conscious of a shortage of images / general background material. **ACTION: Clerk to approach specific individuals who might be able to assist in providing material.**

iii New Parish Noticeboards - new (lockable) boards have been erected in Chillerton. It is suggested that the keys should be placed in the key safe at the Village Hall - and a new key safe procured for the board by the school. **ACTION: Clerk.** Key access is to be restricted to certain, trusted, individuals with the Gallybagger / Clerk listed as a 'public' drop off point for materials. *N.B. it was also noted that new activity posters were needed from the CGCA and that the banner advertising the Gallybagger's opening times needed updating.*

iv Hunt Kennels - there is an Open Day on Saturday (8th August) at 3pm for any interested parties.

v. Biosphere Presentation - Sunday lunchtime opening at the Gallybagger had not been a success and so Cllr Laursen was looking for an alternative presentation date that might maximise attendance. There was a suggestion that there might be some overlap with the interests of the Horticultural Society?

vi. Speedwatch Scheme / Newsletter - Hampshire Police had clarified that the scheme was still active. Cllr Laursen had a piece, calling for new volunteers prepared for newsletter, which she was currently designing.

vii. ROSPA - The Clerk had received clarification from the Parish Council's insurers that formal, annual, ROSPA inspection of the playpark was mandatory. As an aside, it had been noted that the signage on the Playpark's gate needed updating. **ACTION: Clerk.**

4412 - REPORT FROM RURAL CENTRAL WARD COUNCILLOR.

Cllr Whelan had sent his apologies.

4413 - PLANNING

Cllr Thomas recused himself from the deliberations. Consideration was given to the following Planning Application: The Lodge, Main Road, Chillerton, PO30 3ER Ref: 26/00892/HOU. This was a 1 metre enlargement of a previous extension that was rotten, required replacing, and was not visible from the road. After a show of hands it was unanimously **RESOLVED: that the Parish Council had no objections to this application.**

4414 - REPORTS / OTHER MINUTES

CGCA - the repair works to the Gallybagger's roof had been largely completed. Only the porch roof remained outstanding. The CGCA have received grant funding for the repair of the Village Hall windows and are hoping that work can commence in 2-3 months time.

4415 - HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

4416 - ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

i. Dung Heap Runoff - the Environment Agency had responded to the Clerk's enquiries as follows: *"...using the grid reference you provided (SZ 48630 85457) and our mapping system, I can see that the manure heap is around 50 metres from the nearest surface water. This distance is compliant with Farming Rules for Water and Nitrate Vulnerable Zone Regulations. As part of the NVZ Regs the manure heap must be moved at least every 12 months, and you said it had recently been moved. I have no immediate concerns that the manure heap is in contravention of the regulations."*

ii. Reprint of Footpath Leaflets - It was understood that Beardsalls held the design 'masters' of the old footpath leaflets. **ACTION: Clerk to obtain copies of the masters.** It was agreed that the Council should revisit this subject once the new website was active and it was clear how walk pdfs / mapping 'presented' in real life.

iii. Dog Bag Dispensers - Cllr Thomas asked that the meeting give consideration to the purchase of dog bag dispensers to be sited alongside existing Parish dog bins. It was **RESOLVED to purchase two dispensers, as a trial, for the Playpark / Village Green footpaths, at an approximate cost of £100.**
ACTION: Clerk / Cllr Thomas

iv. Greening Campaign - Cllr Laursen briefed the Meeting on the Greening Campaign. The Project's funding had been extended for a further two years and a new Community Co-ordinator had been appointed. Future, grant applications would be strengthened if submitted as joint proposals from the four Central Ward Parishes. There would be some free online training that could be offered to residents via the new website. **ACTION: Cllr Laursen / Clerk to liaise to get project information for the website.**

v. Southern Water - Cllr Laursen recalled that Southern Water had mentioned a water-butts-for-residents scheme at the Tolt Hill reservoir briefings. **ACTION: Clerk to request updates.** Additionally, Clerk to chase Southern Water for a response to the request for temporary 30mph speed limits in Gatcombe in light of the reservoir works.

4417 - TRANSPORT & TRAFFIC

Island Roads Stewards' Meeting - Island Roads had responded to the thirteen point agenda that had been submitted and, provisionally, agreed to the requests for a site meeting. It would be necessary to give consideration to their written responses before scheduling a meeting. Councillors Bellamy-James, Laursen and Thomas had indicated their willingness to attend. Those residents who had identified issues should also be informed, as appropriate. **ACTION: The Clerk to circulate Island Roads' response via YPM, collate responses, revert to Island Roads and schedule a Meeting.**

4418 - COUNCIL MATTERS - FINANCE

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

ii. Bank Account - the Clerk had ascertained that Co-Op offered a free, online, business bank account that looked like it would be appropriate for the Parish Council. **After a show of hands it was unanimously RESOLVED: that the Parish Council should seek to progress an application for this bank account.** The Clerk should be the principal account controller with the Chair and Vice Chair (Cllrs Laursen and Newton) as additional controllers / mandate signatories. **ACTION: Clerk to initiate the application process.** It was noted that all involved would be required to supply personal information for ID validation process.

4419 - COUNCIL MATTERS - REGULATORY

4420 - FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(s)

- Assets Register

421 - NEXT MEETING(s)

The next meeting of Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council will be at **6.30pm on Tuesday 1st September 2026 at The Village Hall, Hollow Lane, Chillerton.**
The proceedings terminated at 8:30pm.