

Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHILLERTON & GATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 7th JULY AT 6:30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL, HOLLOW LANE, CHILLERTON

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

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

4393 - PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Two written questions had been received and circulated with the Agenda:

a. Subsequently, the Parish Council had been in contact with Wightfibre and had received the following reply about the potential installation of fibre broadband in Chillerton *"...Unfortunately, I have been advised that this is a significant project, and the work required to bring services to the area will take a considerable amount of time to complete. Our planning team has indicated that they are intending to proceed with the project; however, it is currently anticipated that the area will not be reviewed again until March 2027 onwards..."*

b. Regarding the request to fund the future removal of vegetation from the brook, the Council indicated its willingness, in principle, to assist, but, would need to ascertain the best option.
ACTION: Clerk to make enquiries about the feasibility of moving vegetation from the brook to the compost bins on the village green using the existing grass cutting contractor. Also to ascertain the approximate cost of one-off IWC / other contractor removal.

c. A further question was received from the floor as follows: Could an extra set of double yellow lines be added at the narrowest section of the Main Road in Chillerton? Whilst the need for parking in the village was accepted, it felt dangerous for certain residents to pull out of their drives when cars were parked adjacently. It was noted that three separate households had called for this issue to be raised at the Island Roads Stewards' Meeting (*see 4402 viii below*) **ACTION: Clerk to circulate details of this Meeting, once confirmed.**

4394 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Newton.

4395 - DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

4396 - MINUTES

Following a show of hands it was unanimously **RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd June 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

Updates on ongoing actions were relayed as follows:

i. **Assertion 10** - the outcome of the recent meeting to revise the new website's structure had been communicated to the designers. The next step was to arrange training for local website administrators so that they could populate / amend the site as appropriate. It was hoped that

Parish organisations could be involved in this so that they could update their own pages. **ACTION: the Clerk was waiting to hear back from one organisation, but, failing a response, would seek to progress training within a week, or so.**

ii **New Parish Noticeboards** - new fixings had been purchased and the work was scheduled to take place imminently.

iii **Emergency Booklets** - the Clerk had spoken directly to the IWC. They were currently out of stock but would be in touch as soon as they had a new supply.

iv **Dung Heap Runoff / Water Testing** - the water testing question had been resolved. The IWC had referred the dung heap question to the Environment Agency who had requested clarification of the precise location. **ACTION: It was suggested the Clerk try 'What Three Words' or Google Maps in order to progress this.**

v. **Hunt Kennels** - The matter had been raised with both the operators, and the IWC's Environment Officer. The latter had provided the following response: *"...I've now heard back from (The Hunt) who have outlined the recent changes to a draghound and bloodhound pack and stated that they are aware of a number of instances relating to noise. They believe some were one-off incidents and some associated with the change in pack nature, but they have also outlined a number of issues and remedial actions which include;*

- 1. Noise from puppies left at kennels addressed through taking puppies with hounds.*
- 2. Improved wifi and camera system to better enable identification of any problem hounds.*
- 3. Lodge doors have been re-hung following damage by hounds.*
- 4. Improve training of temporary staff and reduce instances of when kennelman is absent.*
- 5. Re-homing of several bloodhounds.*
- 6. Increase internal lodge space, improve ventilation and noise insulation in additional lodge.*
- 7.. Most recently introduced bloodhounds have been on site for approximately 1 month so are still settling in....accelerating training, discipline.*
- 8. Pack less settled than during season - increasing exercise of hounds, duration, intensity etc with aim to reduce noise.*
- 9. Ensuring staff don't play loud music.*

The Hunt also added that the alterations to one lodge to increase space will take time to implement but they aim to have it completed in the next 3 months. From my perspective I think The Hunt has appreciated the 'informal' approach but it remains to be seen as to how effective the taken/proposed actions will be. Hopefully they will be effective but...we can adopt a more formal approach in terms of investigation if and when needed..."

vi. **Biosphere Presentation** - Ian Boyd was willing to make a presentation. It was agreed that should be offered as a public presentation, in the Gallybagger, on a Sunday lunchtime. **ACTION: Cllr Laursen to arrange.**

vii. **Flash Bangs** Were being used to scare off hawks before the release of homing pigeons. The PCSO was monitoring the situation.

viii. **Island Roads Stewards' Meeting** - a detailed, 13 point agenda, had been sent to Island Roads who had responded as follows: *"...Thank you for submitting the list of issues from residents and parish councillors. ...These are matters that require investigating with the relevant teams/ colleagues in Island Roads. We will liaise and investigate as required and come back to you with written responses which you will then be able to forward on to the residents / parish members. Once we've had an opportunity to consider these issues, we will then write back and advise if a site meeting would be useful. "* **ACTION: Ward Councillor Whelan asked to be copied in this correspondence to help ensure that appropriate Meeting(s) took place.**

viii. **2025-6 Audit** - had been completed and signed off by regulator, subject to any questions arising from the Exercise of Public Rights period, which, the Clerk advised, is currently underway.

ix. **Electronic Storage** - the Clerk had discussed this issue with Godshill Parish Council's Clerk. He had recommended a laptop supplier, but, it transpired, Godshill had not fully resolved their software / storage / GDPR issues to their satisfaction and were not, yet, using the 'councillors' area of their website as a 'cloud' repository for shared information. It was likely that we might do this first and that that this might, therefore, shape future decision making.

4397 - REPORT FROM RURAL CENTRAL WARD COUNCILLOR.

Cllr Whelan attended gave a verbal report on his first weeks as Ward Councillor. It had been *"chaotic, but, stimulating"*. He was Chair of the Public Health and Licensing Committees. As part of the new majority group he hoped to *"alter the perception that the Council should solve every problem, instead empowering residents to do it themselves."* He had recently attended briefings on public health, (*"50% of the working age population of the IW had long term health problems"*), rogue traders, the heatwaves (*"check on neighbours as blood pressure medication could increase dehydration risks"*), and Island Roads. It had been *"a surprise"* to learn that utility companies had the authority to dig up roads without providing advance notification to the IWC. There had been 1,300 such closures this year. However, technically, this should only happen where there is *"immediate danger to life or property"*. As a result, dialogue was *"ongoing"*. He was thanked for attending the Meeting and stated that he hoped to attend, at least, quarterly and asked to be copied into issues that he might provide assistance with.

4398 - PLANNING

Consideration was given to Planning Application: **Ref 26/00765/TW Gatcombe Kennels Woods** *"... remove sycamore tree over path ... completely dead."* Following a show of hands it was unanimously **RESOLVED: that the Parish Council had no objections to this application.**

4399 - REPORTS / OTHER MINUTES

CGCA - repair works to the Gallybagger's roof are underway. The Scarecrow Festival was very successful generating approximately £4.7k towards CGCA funds.

4400 - HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

4401 - ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

i. Cllr Laursen briefed the Meeting on training that she had recently undertaken, as part of the Greening Campaign, conducted by the Met Office, to collect oral histories of major climate incidents from older residents and farming communities.

ii. Cllr Smith said that following recent works by Southern Water in Gatcombe, the village stop cock had been tarmacked over. **ACTION: Clerk to raise with Southern Water**

4402 - TRANSPORT & TRAFFIC

i. **Speedwatch Scheme** - the Council hoped to attract enough new volunteers to restart the Scheme, however, there was some question as to whether Hampshire Constabulary had suspended the Scheme following threats to participants. **ACTION: Clerk to clarify the situation.** There were two locations 'authorised' for use of the speed gun on Chillerton Main Road. With a new Parish Newsletter due soon, there would be an opportunity to advertise for volunteers.

ii. At Cllr Laursen's request the Clerk had asked Southern Water whether they might consider approaching Island Roads about instituting temporary 30mph speed limits in Gatcombe for the duration of the reservoir works in light of the proliferation of site traffic.

4403 - COUNCIL MATTERS - FINANCE

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

ii. Cllr Thomas asked whether the annual ROSPA inspection was strictly necessary given that the IWC's seemed particularly invested in the village and regularly inspected the Playpark. **ACTION: Clerk to seek clarification from the insurers as to whether the annual ROSPA inspections is needed in addition to IWC inspections.**

4404 - COUNCIL MATTERS - REGULATORY

Councillors reiterated their long term interest in obtaining Powers of Competence for the Council which necessitated the Clerk obtaining CILCA certification. The Clerk explained that there was cost implication to CILCA (approximately £850 for registration and training). The Clerk was willing, in principle to undertake CILCA, but, would prefer that any start was deferred to the Winter. Following a show of hands it was unanimously **RESOLVED: to approve future expenditure in support of CILCA certification.**

4405 - FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(s)

- Consideration of SSE / Police Crime Commissioner grant applications (to fund a new speeding sign).
- Issue of speaking invitation to IWC Public Realm Officer
- Assets Register

4406 - NEXT MEETING(s)

The next meeting of Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council will be at circa **6.30pm on Tuesday 4th August 2026 at The Village Hall, Hollow Lane, Chillerton.**

The proceedings terminated at 8:05pm.