



# Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council



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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHILLERTON & GATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, CHILLERTON

Present: Councillors Nigel Phillips (Chairman), John Hobart & Liz Smith

Also Present: Mr Virgil Philpott (Clerk) and 4 members of the public

## Public Questions:

There was some short discussion about recent Parish developments:

- The Parish had come second in the Best Kept Village Awards.
- It had been discovered that a community defibrillator had been installed at the Jewellery Cabin in Gatcombe.
- It appeared that Southern Water had made some attempt to make the water supply pipe in Gatcombe Brook more 'discrete'.
- There was a (later) question about the cutting of verges. It was reiterated that Island Roads cut back verges to a certain distance but that maintenance of overhanging trees and vegetation remained the responsibility of the relevant landowners. If concerns about overhanging vegetation were brought to island Roads' attention they would take enforcement action where appropriate.

It was explained this 'extra' Meeting was being held primarily to discuss a recent Planning Application which would, otherwise, fall outside the deadline window for comments on the IWC Planning Portal. As such the majority of 'normal' Parish Council business was being held over the following meeting as previously scheduled.

3050 APOLOGIES - Cllr Suzie Ellis (IWC) & Cllr Dave Garnish

3051 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST - Cllr Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to the planning application (below).

3052 PLANNING APPLICATION - 23/01481/RVC | Variation of condition 2 on P/01461/16 to allow alterations to design and windows of Cosy Cottage Gatcombe Village Road Gatcombe Newport Isle Of Wight PO30 3EG

Cllr Smith wished to comment on the Planning Application as member of the public and so stepped down from her role as Councillor for the duration of the Meeting. As a result, the Chairman declared that the Meeting was no longer quorate and no resolutions could be passed. It was, however, agreed that there was merit in continuing with an informal discussion about the issue given the attendance of the Planning Consultant - and others who wished to express their, strongly held, views.

The Chairman reminded those present that, even if quorate, the Parish Council had only the power to comment on planning proposals. And it should be remembered that both ultimate decision-making, and enforcement, powers lay with the Isle of Wight Council.

The Planning Consultant stated that the Application was one of three that had been submitted - of which two, as yet, had not been registered on the Planning portal. The Planning Consultant also acknowledged that some works had been done without permission and so retrospective permission were being sought. It was, however, his contention that the majority of the works had not caused any "material harm", fell under permitted development rules or were variations required by Building Regulations.

Some attendees were supportive of this position.

Others were highly critical of the works and very concerned about the precedent of allowing unpermitted works to be carried out and material deviations from previously permitted plans. Concern was expressed about the accuracy / veracity of statements made about the nature of the works and an alleged failure to display planning notices. There was also frustration expressed about the IWC planning department's perceived failure to follow protocol and engage with these concerns.

The Chairman reiterated that the Parish Council was inquorate and unable to adjudicate on this matter, however, it was clear that feelings were running high and, as such, it might be appropriate for the Council to contact the relevant IWC Enforcement Officer to draw attention to the dispute and suggest that it would be highly beneficial to undertake a site visit and meet / communicate with all the interested parties at the earliest possible opportunity.

3053 PARISH ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION – As the meeting remained inquorate there was no ability to make a formal resolution about this matter. In principle, the service looked very useful but it was uncertain whether local Parish data had yet been uploaded to the website. It would be worth contacting the IWC to check this before further consideration was given to the scheme.

3054 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS  
In addition to previously scheduled items (GDPR Policy, Parish Survey and the Website) it was suggested the Newsletter and Conservation Area status for Gatcombe should be added to the November Agenda.

3055 NEXT MEETING  
The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm at The Village Hall, Hollow Lane, Chillerton.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed -----

Date. -----