



Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council



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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHILLERTON & GATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2023 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, CHILLERTON

Present: Councillors Nigel Phillips (Chairman), John Hobart, Julia Newton & Dave Garnish

Also Present: Mr Virgil Philpott (Clerk), Cllr Warren Drew (IWC) and 4 members of the public

Public Questions:

- The red oak opposite Brook Lane is looking healthy. Might the Parish Council contact the landowner again to ask if it could be tidied up / maintained as a shrub by volunteers working at the brook?
- The IW Ramblers are looking for new sites for their Donate a Gate Scheme. There are 4 gates within the parish boundaries already, but might there be scope for installing another one on G17 (above the playing fields)? Perhaps it would be possible to get technical details of the available gates and make an initial approach to the landowner?
- A number of PSPOs (Public Space Protection Orders) had been in force in the Parish since 2019. These largely related to dog control around livestock. It appeared that these were due to lapse and that the IWC was making moves to have them renewed. Had the Parish Council been consulted about this? It should have been - because PSPOs are not requests; they are directives with fines attached for non-compliance. The Parish Council should have a role to play in publicising these orders and ensuring that they were all correctly sited (as one appeared to be wrongly placed in an arable field).
- About 10% of the plants making up the Queen's Jubilee Hedge have failed. This is, more-or-less, what was expected. Is there money remaining from the original grant budget to purchase replacement plants (the likely cost would be in the region of £100). The answer being, yes.
- A section of woodland on Berry Lane (at the top of Billingham Shute) seems to be being used as fly tipping spot for builder's waste, including asbestos. Would it be possible to contact the landowner and advise of the problem? It might be possible to gather team of volunteers to transfer it to the verge in which case the IWC might remove it.
- IW National History Association has been installing a number of swift boxes to replace lost habitat. Would the Parish Council be willing to have boxes sited within the Parish?

3056 **APOLOGIES** - Cllr Liz Smith

3057 **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST** - Cllr Phillips declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to the CGCA

3058 **MINUTES** - The minutes of the previous meeting was accepted. **RESOLVED:** that, the minutes for the Meeting held on 5th Sept 2023 were approved as a true record – as, indeed, were the notes taken from the informal (non-quorate) meeting of 4th October 2023.

3059 **PLANNING APPLICATION** - Proposed change of land from horse paddock to domestic garden Cosy Cottage Gatcombe Village Road Ref. No: 23/01482/FUL. The Parish Council noted that the neighbours have submitted a lengthy and detailed objection to this application. The AONB has also objected. **RESOLVED:** after discussion the Parish Council agreed that it would make no further comment on this particular application.

3060 **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT** - The Clerk explained that there had been some discussion amongst Parish Councils about pooling resources towards the joint 'purchase' of additional IWC

Planning Enforcement staffing. Though, to date, the IWC had provided no formal feedback to these suggestions (Cllr Drew said that he would chase this up and Cllr Hobart ventured Tash Dicks as a contact). Whilst there was some concern about how any allocation and workload might be managed, it was noted that there was precedent for pooling in respect of IWC Environmental Officers. **RESOLVED:** that the Parish Council was favourably disposed towards the idea of pooling - but would require a formal response from the IWC before it could take the matter further.

- 3061 **CONSERVATION STATUS** - Cllr Smith had proposed that an application for Conservation Area status for Gatcombe should be made. The benefits would be the protection / preservation of the village environment. The cons were that property owners within the village would become subject to additional constraints, beyond those of existing AONB status. It was felt that a clear sense of how the Parish felt about the proposal was needed. **RESOLVED:** that a question about Conservation Status be included in the Parish Survey - which flagged up the pros and the cons and a link to the technical implications.
- 3062 **CLERK'S REPORT** - Virgil Philpott provided a report, which is attached to these Minutes from which the following matters arising, not appearing elsewhere in the Agenda, were noted:
- 3063 **Defibrillator** – St Olaves diocese had said that they would not be able to host the defibrillator as they did not have an external power supply. However, it was noted that there was a power supply to the light on the gate. **RESOLVED:** that the Clerk should contact the diocese again on the basis that they might have misunderstood the offer / technical specification. Failing this, it was wondered whether the Snowdrop Lane area of the village might be a better bet?
- 3064 **War Memorial** - a short remembrance service had been arranged for Friday 10th November **RESOLVED:** a wreath to be purchased to lay at the service.
- 3065 **IWALC REPORT** - Cllr Hobart not been able to circulate written report but would provide one later for the website. He explained that IWALC had met with some of the IWC's senior Service Directors (Colin Rowlands and Sharon Betts) but that the majority of the meeting had taken up with general discussion about the recent flooding.
- 3066 **IW COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** - Cllr Ellis remained unwell. Cllr Drew had offered to attend in her stead. He would be copied in to papers henceforth and would be offered the option of making a written report to the next meeting.
- 3067 **CGCA REPORT** - Cllr Phillips provided a verbal report: there had been some disquiet following an initial decision to exclude children from the CGCA's Halloween Party. However, this was later revised. The CGCA would be organising a Christmas Party (to which children would be invited!). CGCA events continued to be well attended. Cllr Phillips was giving a Talk on the Bronze Age on 17th December.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- 3068 **Website** - Following a recent meeting with Cllr Garnish, the Clerk had circulated a paper to councillors outlining proposed structural changes to the website. **RESOLVED:** that the Clerk should work with Cllr Garnish to update the website in line with this paper and to attempt to make better use of photographic images.
- 3069 **Parish Survey** – Cllr Phillips had circulated a draft survey to councillors. **RESOLVED:** that the survey should be circulated once the question about Conservation Area Status had been tweaked in line with point 3061 (above). It was also suggested that the survey should be offered as an online option. Cllr Garnish felt would be do-able and this could be undertaken as part of the website updates. It was also proposed that the letterbox at Gallybagger could be offered as a return address for physical copies.
- 3070 **Newsletter** - A draft copy of the newsletter had been circulated to Councillors. **RESOLVED:** subject to a couple of small corrections the newsletter should be printed and circulated alongside

the Parish Survey. The Council also resolved to express its gratitude to Jill Webster for designing and setting the newsletter. Jill had been doing this for some years and had offered to continue the work, for free, post retirement. The view of the Council was that she should continue to be paid for her efforts.

- 3071 **Elders Christmas Lunch** - is an event that has been running for a few years as a thank you to the elder members of the community who have given so much to the Parsh over the years but are now, perhaps, less able than they had previously. Gillian Belbin had built up a historical invitee list and she would consult with the with Parish Council and St Olaves about an updated list for 2023. **RESOLVED:** that this list should include guests where this might help facilitate attendance. A date of Monday 11th December was agreed, Cllr Phillips agreed to sign the invitations and an approximate budget of £200 was agreed.

ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVEMENTS

- 3072 **Compost Bin** - A quote of £120 had been received to create second compost bin on the Village Green using logs reclaimed from the recent tree surgery. **RESOLVED:** to accept this quote.

TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC

- 3073 **Community Speedwatch Scheme** – Parish membership of the Scheme has been approved and monitoring sites have been agreed. We are currently waiting for training from the police. Cllr Newton suggested that she might be able to provide high vis vests from the Donkey Sanctuary. It was also hoped that the Parish would, initially, be able to borrow an IWC speed gun before committing to buying one outright. It was suggested that the Clerk make contact with Rookley PC who were planning to launch a Scheme to see if there might be any interest in a shared purchase arrangement.

COUNCIL MATTERS

- 3084 **GDPR** – Satswana had advised that Council data should not be stored on personal IT devices. Cllr Garnish suggested that a Google Drive account would obviate need for purchasing a Parish PC laptop and provide for encrypted Councillor emails. **RESOLVED:** That this should be done and that Cllr Garnish would provide training in setting up new councillor emails at the beginning of the next meeting.
- 3085 **INSURANCE** – Hiscox had provided a quote of £462 (representing a 6% increase on 2023) but which included an extension to cover to include new war memorial. **RESOLVED:** that the quote should be accepted.
- 3086 **IWC Polling Places Consultation.** The proposed arrangements for the Parish remained unchanged. **RESOLVED:** that the council make no comment on the consultation.
- 3087 **Resilience Plan** - Cllr Phillips had drafted and circulated a plan to councillors. **RESOLVED:** that this plan be adopted, subject to a couple of amendments noted in the Meeting

FINANCE

3088 **Monthly Figures – RESOLVED:** that the Sept-Oct figures previously circulated by the Clerk were approved as a true financial record.

3089 **RESOLVED:** to pass the following accounts for payment:

ICO	Data Processing Fee	35.00	Audit & Subs
SLCC	ILCA Course Fee	144.00	Training
Satswana	Annual Subs	180.00	Audit & Subs
David Hayden	Grasscutting (Sep x2)	170.00	Grass Cutting
Wight Stonemasonry	War Memorial Balance	446.23	Other Projects
IWC	Env Officer Contribution	143.00	Devolved Services
David Hayden	Grasscutting (Oct x2)	170.00	Grass Cutting
V Philpott	Sep Wages	338.12	Clerk Salary
HMRC	Sep PAYE	84.60	Clerk Salary
V Philpott	Home Working Allows	30.40	Administration
V Philpott	Folders / Dividers etc	25.86	Stationary
Greenscapes	Tree Work	2220.00	Grass Cutting
V Philpott	Oct Wages	TBC	Clerk Salary
HMRC	Oct PAYE	TBC	Clerk Salary
V Philpott	Home Working Allows	30.40	Administration

3090 **2024-25 Budget / Precept – RESOLVED:** that a financial working party, led by the Clerk / RFO should be convened before the next meeting to produce an outline budget which could be presented to the January Meeting.

3091 **PERSONAL STATEMENT** - Cllr Phillips asked leave to make a personal statement to the meeting, which was granted. He and his wife will be moving to the mainland early in the new year. Whilst he anticipated being around for the January Meeting this would, likely, be his last - at which point he would be standing down as both Chair and Councillor. All in attendance were unanimous in expressing their sincere thanks and appreciation for work that Cllr Phillips had done on behalf of the Parish. He would be sorely missed.

3092 **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
2024-25 Budget, New Chair

3093 **NEXT MEETING**
The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday **9th** January at 7pm at The Village Hall, Hollow Lane, Chillerton. As per point 3084 (above) Councillors would convene at 6:30pm to set up new emails.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.52pm.

Signed

Date.