



# Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council



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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHILLERTON & GATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 4th APRIL 2023 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, HOLLOW LANE, CHILLERTON

Present: Councillors Nigel Phillips (Chairman), John Hobart, Julia Newton, Elizabeth Smith

Also Present: Mr Virgil Philpott (Clerk)  
1 member of the public

## Public Questions:

Incorporated into the Agenda items (below).

2030 APOLOGIES - Suzie Ellis (IWC)

2031 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST - Cllrs Phillips declared non-pecuniary interests in matters relating to the Chillerton and Gatcombe Community Association.

2032 MINUTES - The minutes of the meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were presented and accepted.  
**RESOLVED: that, the minutes for the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were approved as a true record.**

2033 PLANNING - Councillors were fully supportive of the listed building application for repairs to Chillerton Farmhouse, PO30 3HA (IWC Ref. No: 23/00433/LBC).  
**RESOLVED: that, support for the application be registered on the IWC Planning Portal**

## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- 2034
- **Newsletter** - The newsletter had been printed and circulated. A discussion ensued about the possibility of the future electronic circulation of the newsletter in order to reduce paper use and printing costs. Parishioners might be encouraged to 'opt in' to electronic circulation and an e-copy could be placed on the website. Co-ordination with YPM should be investigated, subject to proper GDPR protocols.
- 2035
- **Village Events** - The Best Kept Village assessment will take place in May. Cllr Phillips has volunteer litter pickers and will make arrangements to remove dog mess.  
**RESOLVED: that, the Clerk should facilitate the purchase of litter picking grabbers and bin bag holders for volunteer use.**
  - **Community Buildings** - no items to discuss
- 2036
- **Defibrillator for Gatcombe** - The Clerk had obtained a quote of £1,195 + VAT for a defibrillator and heated case. A decision was deferred subject to the investigation of additional funding streams and other budgetary considerations.

## ENVIROMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

- 2037
- **Play Area** - Following a short discussion about the technicalities of basketball and netball, it was felt that a hoop could be installed without significant resurfacing of the play area (utilizing heavy duty 'mud mats', if necessary). It was unclear how far the previous Clerk had got with arranging for the maintenance of the site and organising a replacement for the wobbly fire engine.  
**RESOLVED: that, the Clerk should obtain quotes for a hoop / pole / backboard and ascertain the status of the outstanding repairs & renewals.**
- 2038
- **Compost Bin on Village Green** - To date the Clerk had been unable to reach David Hayden by phone to discuss the possibility of his transporting grass clippings.

- 2039 • **War Memorial** - After some discussion, the wording and orientation of the memorial plaque was agreed and the stonemason's quote approved. It was, however, noted that work needed to be done on a gully on the outside of the Village Hall (subject to appropriate permissions from the CGCA) before final installation could proceed.
- 2040 **RESOLVED: that, the order for the plaque should be placed.**
- **Tree Work on the Village Green** - No additional quotes had yet been received. Though one site visit had taken place and two more were scheduled
- 2041 **RESOLVED: that, the Clerk should chase up further visits / quotes**
- **Jubilee Hedge** - The Clerk confirmed that there was residual project funding available for commemorative plaques and plants. It was not clear how far the procurement process had progressed under previous the Clerk, though wording and logos appeared to have been settled.
- 2042 **RESOLVED: that, the Clerk should progress the ordering of plaques and posts.**
- **Posts on the Village Green** - As above it was unclear how far the procurement process had progressed under the previous Clerk.
- 2043 **RESOLVED: that, Clerk should ascertain the original specification, confirm cost and seek to progress.**
- **Red Oak Tree on Brook Lane** - It was reported that the landowner, doubted that the tree in question was the 'Mountbatten' red oak tree. Gillian Belben had uncovered a Council press photo of it being planted in 1980 suggesting that it was the red oak, that contemporaneous permission had been obtained for its planting and that the Parish Council had therefore some 'jurisdiction' in the matter. Debs Goodenough had examined it and confirmed that it would not survive transplantation.
- RESOLVED: that, the Clerk write to the landowner requesting that he desist from flailing the tree, and offering that the Council would, voluntarily, maintain both it, and the hedge immediately behind it.**

#### 2044 TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC

- **Gatcombe Community Bus** – It was (reluctantly) acknowledged that Southern Vectis would be unlikely to reconsider its decision on the commercial viability of rural bus routes. However, it remained within parishioners' rights to lobby the MP on this issue.

#### REPORTS

- 2045 • **IOWC** - Cllr Ellis provided a report (attached to these Minutes)
- 2046 • **CGCA** - Cllr Phillips provided a report (attached to these Minutes) which highlighted that energy costs were a concern and outlined the action that was being taken.
- 2047 • **IWALC** - Cllr Hobart reported that the recent IWALC Meeting had included discussions about the cost / triggering of parish by-elections and the inability of IWALC to send substitutes to the IWC's Scrutiny Committee. He also reported that the demolition of Thompson House was scheduled to start shortly (on the boundaries of the Parish) which would likely lead to some traffic disruption. It had been mooted that 15-20 affordable housing units were being proposed for the site. It was also noted that Arreton Parish Council were seeking to facilitate a round-table discussion on the funding and operation of Village Halls. Cllr Phillips said that he would be willing to participate on behalf of the CGCA.
- 2048 • **Clerk's Report** - Virgil Philpott provided a report (attached to these Minutes)

#### FINANCE

- 2049 • **Monthly Figures** – Despite problems with the bank mandate and online access the bank reconciliation had been done.  
**RESOLVED: that, the financial statements are accepted and the newly proposed reporting format be approved**
- 2050 • **Reserves Policy** - There was a discussion about the reserves policy for 2023-24.  
**RESOLVED: that, reserves of circa £3,500 would be appropriate in light of current precept.**
- 2051 • **Historical Figures on the Website** - The Clerk was only able to make basic changes to website but had identified an online Wordpress training course.

**RESOLVED: that, Clerk be authorised to undertake appropriate training**

2052 **RESOLVED: to pass the following accounts for payment:**

- IOW Print Ready – Newsletter Design - £75.00
- Beardsalls - Newsletter Printing - £105.00
- Island Computers – Domain Renewal - £16.20
- Clerk March Salary & Expenses – £429.33 / £41.20
- Wight Stonemasonry – War Memorial Quote - £892.46

2053 VICE CHAIR

Cllr Hobart was nominated by Cllr Smith and, reluctantly, agreed to take on the Vice Chairmanship for a short period on the condition that he would wish to stand down as soon as another candidate materialized.

**RESOLVED: that, John Hobart be elected Vice Chair.**

2054 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No items to discuss.

2056 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Parish Council Vacancy

2057 NEXT MEETING – the date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** at The Village Hall. There would be an earlier start time (**of 6pm**) on account of the need to facilitate both the **Annual Parish Meeting** and the **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**. Several names were suggested for potential speakers at the Parish Meeting.

**RESOLVED: that, the Clerk should seek a speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed -----

Date. -----