



# Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council



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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHILLERTON & GATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
ON TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2021, BY VIDEO LINK, COMMENCING AT 7PM

Present: Councillors Nigel Phillips (Chairman), Gillian Belben, Peter Whiteman,  
John Hobart and Elizabeth Smith

Also Present: Mrs M Warr (Clerk)  
19 members of the public, 2 members of the press and Mr Mark Snow, Ms  
Di Barker and Ms Natalie Smith for the school item  
IW Cllr Steve Hastings

## PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Mark Snow, Headteacher of Chillerton and Rookley Primary School, Ms Di Barker, Chair of the Stenbury Federation and Ms Natalie Smith, Isle of Wight School Improvement Manager attended to answer questions on the informal consultation on the proposed amalgamation of Chillerton and Rookley Primary School with Godshill Primary School.

The Chairman allowed all present to ask questions and a lengthy discussion took place to ensure all points raised were covered. The session was recorded and is available on application to the Clerk.

It was pointed out that this was an informal consultation and people were urged to submit comments and questions before the closing date on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

Mr Snow said the need for sustainability was paramount and the drop in pupil numbers and subsequent loss of funding highlighted the fact the School could not continue under the present arrangements. There is no statutory requirement to undertake an informal consultation, but it was felt this was the best way to initially engage with parents and residents. The decision to move to a formal consultation will be made by the local authority after the elections. A number of measures had been put in place to promote strong leadership and governance, but the falling pupil numbers make it untenable. The loss of the preschool was mentioned several times and parents felt this was a backward step as the care and learning had been exemplary and a good advert for the primary school. This had been closed due to lack of pupils and moved to Godshill.

The three speakers were thanked for attending and holding an open and honest discussion.

## **1777. APOLOGIES**

None received

## **1778. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Cllrs Phillips and Whiteman declared non-pecuniary interests in matters relating to the Chillerton and Gatcombe Community Association as the Treasurer and Chairman to the Association respectively.

Cllr Phillips declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Save our Schools campaign.  
Cllr Whiteman declared a non-pecuniary interest in the school consultation item as he is governor at Barton Primary School

**1779. MINUTES**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were presented.

**RESOLVED:**

**That, the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 are approved as a true record.**

**1780. CONSULTATION - AMALGAMATION OF CHILLERTON AND ROOKLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL WITH GODSHILL PRIMARY**

**RESOLVED:**

**That, the following statement will be the response of Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council to the informal consultation on the amalgamation of Chillerton & Rookley School with Godshill School.**

**This council believes that the management of the school by the Stenbury Federation has not been a success. The number of pupils has consistently declined, and educational standards as measured by OFSTED have fallen.**

**Rather than effectively closing the school and sending pupils to Godshill, which is similarly challenged and managed by Stenbury, we believe that the way forward is to take the management of the school away from the Stenbury Federation.**

**A new governing body should be established dedicated solely to the wellbeing of the school and its pupils. Part of the program of the new body should be an intense period of marketing on the benefits of attending a local school to the parents of the area and others wishing for a rural education for their children.**

Members also gave their support to the 'Save our School' campaign group.

**1781. PLANNING**

**Enforcement Issues**

It was noted that the complaint regarding the caravans in Snowdrop Lane has been acknowledged.

The security light at the Southern Water treatment plant had been reported but had received no response. Mr Herbert, the Isle of Wight Area Manager for Southern Water, who was at the meeting for a another purpose, offered to look into this.

**1782. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

- *Newsletters* – it was noted that no feedback had been received from the latest edition
- *Notice Boards* – the work to ease the doors of the notice board will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> March

- *Village Events/Community Support* – Cllr Belben suggested holding a ‘market on the bench’ event, similar to the events that had proved popular during the first lockdown. It was agreed that this could take place during May when seedlings and spare bulbs would be available. Cllr Belben will lead on this item.
- *Community Buildings* – no items to discuss
- *Walk Leaflets* - no items to discuss

### 1783. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

- *Grass cutting* – **RESOLVED: that, the grass cutting contract with David Hayden would be extended until 2022.**

It was noted that an additional grass storage bin on the Village Green was required, as the current one is full and ready to be covered for compost. Mr Hatch offered to make and install a second box and this offer was gratefully accepted.

- *Dog Bins* – it was noted that the order for the new dog waste and litter bin had been submitted. The bins would be installed soon.
- *Furniture Maintenance* – it was agreed to hold Spruce Up Sunday again, possibly in mid-July, providing current restrictions had been lifted. A view will be taken at the June meeting.
- *Play Area* – no items to discuss
- *World Wars Memorial Project* – no items to discuss
- *Community Initiatives to enhance the Environment including:*
  - *Bridleway G10 cut* – this took place on 9<sup>th</sup> February and although this was successful from the Rectory Lane end, there had been some undergrowth left on the south facing bank. Feedback had been given but a response had not been received.
  - *Island Roads gully clearance* – the Chillerton gullies were inspected and attended to. It was noted that gully work had been carried out at the Barns under a separate query. Flooding was reported at Sheat and the owner was urged to report it online to Island Roads. The senior steward will inspect the situation with the overhanging trees at the Newbarn end of Gatcombe and the ongoing flooding issues at Gatcombe. It was suggested that a message could be sent through YPM to encourage landowners to cut back trees overhanging the network. The grips have also been re dug at Coxs Corner
  - *Replacement stile in field from play area footpath to Loverstone Lane* – the issues with the stile had been reported by a resident and it was agreed that the drop was quite severe on one side. The landowner will be approached with an offer to replace the stile with a gate. **RESOLVED: that a letter would be sent to the landowner of the stile, with an offer from the Parish Council to buy a replacement in the form of a gate.**
  - *Verges presentation at IWALC* – Cllr Belben made a presentation, regarding the verge project carried out in the Village, to the IWALC topic meeting and this had been very well received. Cllr Belben will assist with drafting a letter to Island Roads and key IWC cabinet members, with a view to adopting a strategy on verge management across the Island. The local verge cutting, scheduled for the end of

February, had been delayed due to the tractor breaking down and this is the only verge cutting tractor on the Island.

**1784. TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC**

- *Speed Signage Relocation* – it was agreed to start the process once again to ask for 30mph to start near Highwood Lane, where the 40mph limit currently begins.  
**RESOLVED: that a letter would be sent to the IWC to request that the 30mph restriction should start near Highwood Lane where the 40mph restriction currently is in place.**
- *Transport (Winter Service)* – it was noted that Chale PC have pulled out of the arrangement with Southern Vectis for 2021/22 due to lack of funding. No further updates have been received from Niton and Whitwell PC

**1785. REPORTS**

- IWC – Cllr Hastings report had been circulated and members were dismayed at the item regarding the possible siting of 207 mobile homes in Chale. Cllr Belben agreed to write to the IW Council to add PC support to oppose this. It was noted that occupation had not been seen over the winter months as suggested in the licence application. As this was probably Cllr Hastings last PC meeting, he was warmly thanked for his time as the IW Councillor and given good wishes for the future.
- CCGA – Cllr Whiteman reported that the Reading Room refurbishment was almost complete, and a grand reopening would take place when the current restrictions are lifted. Thanks was given to the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make this happen over the last few months.
- IWALC – Cllr Whiteman reported on the recent workshop, that focused on the problems with councils outside of IWALC and ways to take IWALC forward with support from NALC. A topic meeting had also been held where the two guest speakers were Clive Joynes from the IWC Elections office and Cllr Belben (as mentioned in item 1783). Two changes of note to the election process for this year is abolishing an additional 8 signatures on the application for an IW councillor and the requirement to bring a marker to the polling booths, as these will not be supplied.
- South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum – the clerk attended this forum and the guest speaker was Sharon Kingsman, IWC Principal of Public Health. The presentation dealt with the Mental Health Alliance and ways that town and parish councils can help. A mental health survey will be conducted at the end of March and it was suggested that T&PCs could nominate a mental health champion that would sit on the alliance.

**1786. FINANCE**

**a) RESOLVED:**

**That, the financial statements are accepted and approved**

**b) RESOLVED:**

**To pass the following accounts for payment:**

- M Warr – salary Feb - £242.90 - Stationery /mileage annual expenses - £91.60
- C Phillips – stake Christmas tree - £50

1787. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None identified.

1788. NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7pm

**RESOLVED:**

**That, the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm.**

**That, the Annual Meeting would be rescheduled for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May due to the elections.**

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.04pm.

Signed -----

Date. -----