

NEWCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gareth Hughes

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A MEETING OF NEWCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD AT THE PARISH HALL, NEWCHURCH AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 17TH AUGUST 2026.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Bevan, Davison, Blezzard and West.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr G Hughes (Clerk). IW Councillor Barry.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME : Two residents of Alverstone were present and both expressed their deep concern at the effect on the village of the proposed planning application from Southern Water for the construction of a Water Recycling Plant (WRP). The concerns included resultant flooding, impact of associated traffic, impact on water quality, nature and the local environment.

MINUTES

103/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Cripps, Jewell, Prinal Patel and Rajesh Patel.

104/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Blezzard confirmed his previous interests.

105/26 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13TH JULY 2026.

On the proposition of Councillor Blezzard, seconded by Councillor Bevan, it was -

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2026 subject to the inclusion of a reference to Southern Vectis as well as the IW Council in minute 101/26 -2.

106/26 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORTS.

On the proposition of Councillor Blezzard, seconded by Councillor Davison, it was –

RESOLVED: To approve the reports. It was also agreed that in the future the monthly Accounts Report would also form the basis of the approval of payments.

107/26 IW COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

IW Councillor Barry reported on the desired changes to the bus service in order to accommodate the new development at Branstone. The Clerk had written to the IW Council asking that the Southern Vectis No. 8 service be revised to provide this service. Southern Vectis had advised that they would not make any changes to the current service but would provide assistance to residents by the improvement of the footway to Watery Lane.

Councillor Blezzard expressed his angst at the process at County Hall which had led to the presentation of a petition for an expression of no confidence in Southern Water, being treated instead as a motion.

108/26 PARISH COUNCILLORS REPORTS.

Councillor West asked that Island Roads be asked to renew the pathway surface at the Hairpin bend at Winford.

Councillor Blezzard advised that the Chief Executive of the new Solent Authority was to attend a future IWALC meeting.

Councillor Bevan gave an update on the forthcoming water main works between Winford and Newchurch which would mean the closure of the road for a six month period. Southern Water had contacted the Clerk seeking hall hire arrangements in order that public meetings could be held to explain the project and its consequences to affected residents. It was agreed that Watery Lane would be the most effective venue, the Clerk to contact Southern Water.

109/26 CLERK'S REPORT AND PROGRESS LOG.

The Clerk had circulated the following report –

1. Tipping at Knighton – IW Councillor Barry has previously advised that Russell Chick had undertaken a site inspection, no communication received from Mr Chick to the Parish Council.
2. Letter from local resident concerning operation of Sandown Airport – E Mail sent to Joe Robertson MP. Referred to Dept of Transport, nothing further heard to date.
3. Highway works at Apse Heath – E Mail to Michelle Love of IW Council who subsequently requested of Mr Alan White (IWC Highways) that he respond to e mails sent to him previously requesting confirmation that works are programmed. Still no response.
4. Letter to Police and Crime Commissioner – Response circulated and is an Agenda Item.
5. Cemetery fencing – Inspection taking place with JR Fencing week commencing 10th August.
6. Quotation sought for the removal of bamboo from the Community Garden.
7. Clearance of Sycamore from grave in cemetery.

110/26 CORRESPONDENCE –

All correspondence was contained elsewhere on the Agenda.

111/26 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

This item was brought forward and considered after Agenda item 106/26

The following applications were considered –

1. Water Recycling Project comprising the construction of a Water Recycling Plant (WRP) on land to the south Of Sandown Wastewater Treatment Works, Councillor Bevan had previously attended a public meeting organised by Sandown Town Council to learn of the details of the proposed project.
2. 26/00890/RVC Variation of condition no 2 on 24/01905/FUL relating to the proposed location of the approved dwelling. Land Adjacent Quinton (forming Part Of Oaklea Dairy) Alverstone Road Newchurch.
3. Proposed alterations to south elevation to include replacement of hanger doors with full width bifold glazed system. ICR Touch (IOW) Ltd Embassy Way Sandown. Ref. No: 26/00827/FUL
4. Agricultural prior notification for proposed agricultural barn to be used as shelter and storage. Land In South West Corner Of Winford Farm Watery Lane Newchurch. Ref. No: 26/00894/6PA .

RESOLVED:

- (i) To object to application 1 above and make the following comments –

‘We have read the details of the proposal by Southern Water along with in excess of 170 objections and rising, including a number by people with relevant professional experience and qualifications. We support

the comments and objections made by Dr Birgitta Heiller and over 40 others drawing attention to the dangers of the proposal. In addition we wish to highlight and reinforce a number of concerns.

1. We are concerned about the environmental impact on the Eastern Yar and the Alverstone Marshes SSSI. Pumping treated water into Eastern Yar upstream will change the ecology and geochemistry of the river and will have a detrimental effect on biodiversity, wildlife, and protected habitats including great crested newts and European eels.

2. We are concerned that the additional water pumped into the Eastern Yar will greatly increase the frequency and severity of flooding in Alverstone to the detriment of, and as pointed out by local residents.

3. The work in installing the pipeline will be highly detrimental to the Isle of Wight National Landscape (formerly AONB) and be disruptive to agricultural operations which have suffered so badly during the current drought. The work will result in the loss of ancient hedgerows and veteran trees.

4. The traffic management scheme and road closures will have an unacceptable effect on the residents of Alverstone and Alverstone Garden Village over a considerable period with a one way system in Lower Road. We support the comments made by the Trustees of Alverstone Old School and are concerned that the disruption will have a seriously adverse effect on their bookings and therefore their financial viability. We are further concerned that access to the Alverstone Temporary Construction Compound and the Kern Lane Temporary Laydown Area, and the adverse effect it will have on local residents. If lorries, diggers and other plant overrun established drainage lines, this will result in flooding in Alverstone.

5. Insufficient consideration has been given to alternative better and more sustainable ecological solutions. In addition to the need for greater investment in preventing leaks, investment in small reservoirs should be undertaken as was considered at Whitcroft some years ago. This would be more environmentally sustainable and would have the additional benefit of mitigating the effects of flooding from surface rainwater which has been a serious issue in recent years, most recently last winter.

6. The process will be extremely energy intensive and give the scheme a huge carbon footprint which in exceptional circumstances could stretch the capacity of the Island's electricity supply potentially causing power outages on the Island.

7. The proposed main building measuring 57m x 32m x 15m will be incongruous and visible from the Isle of Wight National Landscape. In addition, it will be constructed on a former landfill site which is contaminated land and unsuitable for this type of development. We would implore the Isle of Wight Council not to sell or make available this land to Southern Water.'

- (ii) To make no objection to application 2 above subject to the conditions proposed by Island Roads being applied.
- (iii) To make no objection to application 3 above.
- (iv) To make no objection to application 4 above subject to the conditions proposed by Island Roads being applied.

112/26 PLANNING DECISIONS.

The following decisions had been circulated –

1.26/00886/DISCondition compliance application on 22/01968/FUL relating to condition 3 (Sewer Diversion).Winford House Winford Road Newchurch Sandown.

Decision: Condition Discharge

2. 26/00772/HOU.Retention and completion of outbuilding.The Cottage Hale Common Arreton.

Decision: Granted

3.26/00602/RVC.Variation of condition 1 on P/00984/14 to allow for the continued extraction of

sand. Knighton Sandpit Off Knighton Shute Newchurch.

Decision: Granted

4.26/00596/LBC Listed Building Consent for proposed replacement of front and rear windows. Old Princelett Farmhouse Princelett Shute Newchurch Sandown

Decision: Granted

113/26 NEWCHURCH NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter had been published and was ready for distribution.

114/26 SPEEDING & HIGHWAY SAFETY

This item was brought forward and considered after Agenda item 111/26 above.

Communications had been received from the following –

- (i) Hants & IW Police Commissioner – response to letter regarding speeding and its enforcement.
- (ii) CycleWight re crossing at Junction near the Fighting Cocks.
- (iii) Mr T. Monks re speed limit on Harbors Lake Lane.

RESOLVED: (i) There was disappointment that the letter was limited in its measures to prevent speeding and it was agreed that a representative of the Police Commissioner be invited to speak at the September meeting of the Parish Council.

(ii) To write to the IW Council in support of the CycleWight proposal for the introduction of a continuous 40mph speed limit on the A3056 between Branstone and Arreton by the removal of the current 50mph section limit.

(iii) The road speed limit at Harbors Lake Lane was replicated in many such local areas and the means of controlling speed would again be raised with the Police Commissioner at the September meeting of the Parish Council.

115/26 MOTION FOR NALC AGM

Councillor Blezzard proposed that a motion be forwarded to IWALC for consideration. The proposed motion being that there be representation of Parish & Town Councils on the new Strategic Solent Authority.

RESOLVED: To present a draft motion for consideration by IWALC.

116/26 COMMUNITY ASSETS

It was agreed to register the Pointer Inn as a community asset.

117/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting of the Parish Council would take place at 7pm on Monday 21st September 2026

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

CHAIRMAN

21st September 2026

