

NEWCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gareth Hughes

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A MEETING OF NEWCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD AT THE PARISH HALL, NEWCHURCH AT 7PM ON MONDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Bevan, Blezzard, Cripps, Davison, Harris, Jewell and West.

15 minutes time allocated for residents of Newchurch Parish to speak to the Council on Parish matters.

There were no questions from the public.

MINUTES

142/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Mosdell and Mr G Hughes (Clerk) (due to holidays). In the absence of the Clerk the minutes were taken by Councillor Blezzard.

143/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Blezzard declared his previously recorded interests.

144/23 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21ST AUGUST 2023

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21st August 2023

145/23 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORTS.

Members had before them a summary of receipts and payments for August 2023 and a schedule of payments for approval. An invoice in the sum of £252 from BDO LLP for the limited assurance review of the 2022/23 accounts was added to the schedule of payments. Attention was drawn to the fact that almost 50% of the council's bank balance was in the current account.

RESOLVED: To approve the financial report for August 2023 and payment of the August 2023 invoices as amended and to ask the clerk to transfer £20K from the current account into an interest bearing account. Clerk to investigate whether account earning best available rate. **GH**

Members were advised that the completed AGAR in respect of the 2022/23 accounts had been received from the external auditor. There were no matters to be drawn to the attention of the council. A notice advising of the completion of the audit needs to be posted. **GH**

RESOLVED: to note the information.

146/23 IW COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In the absence of Councillor Mosdell the chair reported that a meeting had taken place with John Bevis regarding the public right of way on his land at Branstone and that following this Rights of Way had agreed to maintain the footpath.

147/23 PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Davison reported that the person who previously supplied the wreath for Remembrance Sunday is no longer doing it and an alternative supplier has been found. The community garden needs tidying up, brambles and bindweed needs removing and the paths need more shingle. This is a job for Eddie Reid. **GH** In addition the gate from the churchyard to the community garden has been damaged again and needs attention.

GH On 29th August Councillor Davison reported that a mini motor car under SORN had been left in School Lane car park. The MOT on this vehicle ran out on 16th September 2022. It seems we are being used as a storage facility. It was agreed to ask the Clerk to contact DVLA with a request that the owner be asked to move it. **GH**

Councillor West reported that documents confirmed that the licence from the Isle of Wight Council to the Parish Council on the Queens Bower car park expired in 2003. We therefore have no right to put notices on vehicles left there requiring their removal. Despite the licence expiring in 2003 the parish council still pays for the grass cutting. It was agreed this should be an agenda item for the next meeting. **GH**

Councillor Cripps reported that following a request to Island Roads to repair the Alverstone to Langbridge cycle path the feedback is that there is no problem with the cycleway. This is clearly wrong and a further approach should be made by the Clerk. **GH**

Councillor Harris reported on the proliferation of Himalayan Balsam on different people's land and on the cycleway. Natural Enterprise, the charity doing the clearing appears to not yet have got round to it. It was agreed to ask Island Roads to clear it from the verge side of the cycle path. **GH**

Councillor Jewell reported that following a request Island Roads some dips in the road had been filled in. There are still issues in Chambers Drive and he will go back to Island Roads. **SJ** The work was completed quickly last time. Councillor Blezzard reported that the last IWALC topic meeting dealt with the relationship with Isle of Wight Council over devolution of services. The view was that legal processes should be made simpler with freeholds of assets handed over to the parishes when they hand over services. A meeting will take place to discuss these issues presumably with whoever is in control at County Hall after Wednesday.

There is also a problem going forward with the use of the Riverside Centre for meetings as the Hunnyhill Room will not be available the last Thursday in the month. Isle of Wight Council will be asked to make County Hall available. IWALC is looking for a part-time self-employed Communications Officer to produce the Bulletin and arrange meetings with the MP and the Isle of Wight Council Cabinet. NALC is consulting on the model financial regulations which run to 19 pages which are considered to be too detailed and complex for smaller councils like Newchurch. Anyone wishing to answer the consultation is welcome to do so on the NALC website. There are NALC elections this year and any councillor wishing to stand for the Smaller Councils' Committee can submit a nomination on the NALC website. Councillor Bevan reported that he had attended a Branstone Stakeholders' meeting at Christopher Scott's office. It was planned to provide a community allotment that would be open to all. Richard Grogan is applying for a substantial grant. Some of that money could be used to fund the allotment which it is hoped to set up by Spring 2024. There is no money for Phase 2 of the development at present so it is hoped to use the land as a children's play area. Councillor Bevan advised that he had tried to remove vegetation from the School Lane car park but couldn't take it all away. With regard to contravention of the rules at the car park it was suggested that a byelaw was needed and that NALC's Legal Department could be used for advice. **GH**

Councillor Bevan advised that the NPSCA wondered whether the parish council may wish to extend the School Lane car park. Councillor Jewell suggested that land at the side may be suitable for a playground. There was concern that this may not meet safeguarding requirements. It was agreed to ask the Isle of Wight Council's Safeguarding Officer to carry out a site visit. **GH**

Councillor Bevan advised that he had rescheduled a meeting with a heating engineer re the Parish Hall heating. Finally Councillor Bevan advised he had received a letter from Hale Common residents asking for parking restrictions between the cycle track and the business park. It was agreed to respond saying that we will wait to see how well the car park at Peddelers is used. **RB**

148/23 CLERK'S REPORT AND PROGRESS LOG

The Clerk reported as follows:

1. Email sent to Island Roads regarding provision of waste bin at Parkway. A negative response received from Island Roads. They don't have the resources to empty any more bins.
2. Letter written to Mr Bevis concerning footway at Branstone, (see County Councillor's report).
3. Email sent to Ollie Boulter re tipping at Knighton.
4. Notices placed on three abandoned vehicles.
5. Email sent to Island Roads concerning condition of cycleway north of Station House, Alverstone.
6. No reply yet to request for lower speed limit at Forest Road

149 /23 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence received other than that reported under other items.

150/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following LDC application was considered:

23/01419//CLEUD Lawful Development Certificate to establish legal commencement of permission P/01591/11 (construction of 2/3 storey blocks of 42 units of holiday accommodation with associated swimming pools; alterations to vehicular access (revised scheme).

RESOLVED: To request that the local planning authority is totally satisfied that the evidence submitted in support of the application is properly scrutinised and validated before issuing the certificate of lawfulness. **BB**

151/23 PLANNING DECISIONS

No decision notices had been received since the last meeting. Members noted that cladding put up at a house in Chambers Drive had been done under permitted development.

152/23 BRANSTONE TO APSE HEATH FOOTPATH - UPDATE

There was nothing further to report.

153/23 PARISH COMMUNICATIONS - UPDATE

Councillor Cripps reported that he had circulated information from Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council. We should start with something simple and publish as and when there is enough material to make it worthwhile. There was so far a poor response from people happy to receive information by email and it was also important to comply with GDPR. It was suggested that Rosey Messing be asked to produce the newsletter. **RB**

154/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed to be MONDAY 16th OCTOBER 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

CHAIRMAN

16th OCTOBER 2023