



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SHALFLEET PARISH COUNCIL THAT WAS HELD ON THE 10TH DECEMBER 25 AT THE SHALFLEET CHURCH HALL AT 7.15PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT:- Cllr Timbrell (Chair) Cllr Laurie, Cllr Hill and Cllr Beane.

63/25-26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Broadhead and Cllr Breslin.

64/25-26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RESPECT OF BUSINESS NOTIFIED ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

65/25-26 TO RECEIVE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS WRITTEN REPORTS.

Cllr Stuart and Cllr Spink gave verbal reports to the Council.

Reports attached at end of the Minutes under Appendix A. and B.

66/25-26 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH OCTOBER 25

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th of October 25 were approved and duly signed.

67/25-26 TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SHALFLEET TREE OFFICER AND RECEIVE HIS REPORT ON BOULDNOR FIELD.

It was confirmed by the Council that Mr Ant Mildenhall has been appointed as the Shalfleet Tree Officer.

Mr Mildenhall presented the Council with his assessment report on the site visit he made to Bouldnor Field.

On the newly planted trees he raised the question as to whether the tree planting had been factored into the maintenance contract. (It has not been factored in.)

He presented three options regarding the trees at Bouldnor to the Council for them to consider.

Options

1. Replant the dead, poor condition trees, mulch and set up a maintenance program for the future.
2. Lift the trees in good condition and plant along the Southern boundary and create a screen that will not affect the maintenance team.
3. Do nothing and be left with some trees at wayward angles. Their poor health will require a higher future cost to correct instead of a proactive approach.

Queens Canopy the Council is advised to remove saplings that have not been intentionally planted as part of the Queens Canopy.

68/25-26 TO COMMENT ON THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

25/013359/RVC Forest House, Bouldnor Variation of condition 2 on 2/00345/FUL to allow alteration to design and size.

The Council discussed this planning application and had no objections to this application.

69/25-26 KING CHARLES III ENGLAND COASTAL PATH.

Email received from Darrel Clerk IW Council Rights of Way Manager regarding suggested re-routing of the section of Coastal path at Bouldnor. The Clerk reported that she had asked for Darrel Clerk to attend the meeting if possible. Unfortunately, he could not attend.

The Council discussed the email they received and the map from Rights of Way and showing the 2 routes.

The Council decided to leave the coastal path as it is and for it not to be re-routed on to SPC Land.

70/25-26 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORTS.

- a. Summary of payments and receipt for October and November 25 and to note the bank statements.

It was proposed and duly seconded and agreed that the payments and receipts for October and November were approved and the bank statements were noted.

- b. To approve the budget for 2026/27 and to set the Precept.

Councillors discussed the draft budget. It also discussed the possibility of buying into the services of an IWC Enforcement officer. The Councillors turned down this suggestion as it was said that our residents already pay for this service through their Isle of Wight Council Tax.

Resulting from the discussion on the Budget, Councillors for 2026-27 agreed to increase the precept for the 2026-27 financial year by 3.6%.

It was proposed and duly seconded that the precept for 2027-28 is set at £53,372 an increase of 4.4p per week.

RESOLVED: -

That the precept for 2026-27 is set at £53,372 an increase of 4.4p per week.

71/25-26 a. THE CHAIRMAN TO NOTIFY THE MEETING OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CLERK TO SHALFLEET PARISH COUNCIL.

The Chairman reported to the Meeting that Gareth Hughes has been appointed as the new Shalfleet Parish Council Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer from 1st January 2026.

b. CHAIRMANS REPORT

1. The Chairman thanked Val Taylor who has been our Interim Clerk for the work she had done for the Councillors and Council. She responded by saying that they were one of the nicest bunch of Councillors she has ever worked with.
2. The Chairman reported she had asked the Headteacher at Shalfleet School if she would be agreeable for the children at the school to enter a competition to come up with ideas to use the £150 prize money from the Best Kept Village Awards. The Chairman will personally fund a suitable prize for the best idea chosen by the Cllrs. Mrs Granger agreed to do it in the New Year.

c. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Hill gave an update on the situation on the Shalfleet ATM machine. It should still arrive in time for Christmas.

He also gave an update on the problems he has faced trying to get an Enforcement Officer out to look at a situation in Newbridge.

72/25-26 TO NOTE DRAFT ISLAND PLANNING STRATEGY CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES.

Councillors were asked if they would fill in the consultation on the proposed changes Individually and send it in.

73/25-26 TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENTS OF CLLR TIMBRELL AND CLLR HILL AS THE COUNCILS REPRESENTATIVES ON IWALC.

Due to Councillor Beane's resignation as the representative on IWALC it was agreed that Cllr Hill be the Councils representative with Cllr Timbrell.

74/25-26 TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF CLLR BEANE ON THE COMMUNITY LED HOUSING PROJECT.

Due to Cllr Breslin's resignation from the Community Led Housing Project Cllr Beane was duly elected as the Council's third representative.

75/25-26 CLERKS REPORT.

a. Bouldnor View Car Park

As Councillors will have seen in my correspondence that a Rights of Way Officer has been asked about Bouldnor View Point Car Park. So far, I have not been able to get a response from the Isle of Wight Council on this matter.

I am advising the Council that, with their agreement, I am asking to meet the Chief Executive of the Isle of Wight Council over this matter. Council agreed.

b. Horse and Groom Car Park

I have had no response from Property Services on the questions I have raised regarding our car park next to the Horse and Groom. I will also be bringing up this situation with the IW Council Chief Executive.

c. Stream debris.

I have had a very positive response from the Environment Agency after contacting them on the mainland as they now have no Island telephone contact for the public it is all done by a mainland number. Their Island contact then phoned me and I was informed the stream has been looked at and cleared.

d. Wight Fibre

On going problems with the lack of Wight Fibre's connectivity to households in our Parish has been raised by many of our Residents.

Shalfleet Parish Council and our Isle of Wight Councillors have raised this problem with them and are unable to get answers as to why there is this delay.

Our Chair, Cllr Timbrell is to request the company for a date when their Representative can attend our Parish Council Meeting in the New Year to brief the Council on its intentions of finishing the connect so that houses in our Parish are able to obtain this service as it would appear Rural Parishes are being ignored.

e. To agree to set up a Policy reviews working party.

This item was discussed by the Council.

Resolved:-

That a review working party is set up to review the policies that still need reviewing and for them to then be brought back to the Council for approval.

f. IWALC Newsletter survey.

This is for Councillors to note this item and to complete the survey.

76/25-26 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Public and Representatives of the Press and Broadcast Media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as Publicity would be prejudicial to the Public Interest because of the Confidential nature of the Business to be transacted.

To discuss quotes-commercial in confidence.

Signed

Date

APPENDIX A.

a. Cllr Stuart presented his report as an Isle of Wight Council Councillor: -

He reported the Council accepted the Island Planning Strategy as amended for the Government as the best possible approach.

He informed the Council that the IW Council's Pension Committee has finally agreed to follow Government direction which showed the previous lack of appropriate governance causing damage to the Pension Fund.

Isle of Wight Economic Development Strategy he reported as showing high levels of aspiration with very little process.

The Local Nature and Recovery Plan showed first steps for delivering for the Island.

He reported the Council supports the IW Coroner Service but not the Coroners failures.

There is continued concern with Island Roads over the corporate lack of direct communication and issues such as poor signage and diversions and the ignoring of Resident's needs.

Individual Officers have been as helpful as they are allowed within the cooperate parameters.

A Government supported intervention approach to the PFI between Council Highways and Island Roads is showing progress.

A meeting regarding Brook Hill House is being held late December with Planners.

b. As a Ward Councillor he suggested funding an Enforcement Officer with other Local Parish Councils and recommended allowing up to £10,000 per Parish Council as the IW Council had limited capacity to deal with Enforcement.

He referred to other ward issues such as Wightfibre and a range of concerns about the lack of progress with connections. He also commented on 6 parts of the Parish that was having water crossing the roads.

A range of issues have been raised relating to Southern Housing and Sovereign Housing. Small scale social housing still possibly required.

APPENDIX B.

Cllr Spink presented his report as an Isle of Wight Councillor:-

Island Planning Strategy(IPS): As the PC is aware the IPS was rejected by the Planning Inspector on the following principal grounds:-

The proposed target of 453 houses per annum was not compliant with the government's target of 730 per annum.

EV5 buffer zone re ancient woodland should be reduced from a minimum of 50ms to 15ms in accordance with national policy.

C11 net zero in new development should be removed or revised.

The IPS has been amended to incorporate the above; it is proposed to accommodate the increased target by additional allocated sites (none of which are in the West Wight). In reality the increased target is unlikely to be met, given the practical limitations re building on the Island. The amended IPS has gone to consultation.

The Penn Report: This has attracted considerable media coverage. Pursuant to their statutory duty to guard against reputational damage to the council, senior officers commissioned this report. The report found that there are a small number of councillors who have little trust in some officers, leading to a degree of dysfunctionality in areas of the council. It further found that there has been inappropriate behaviour by some councillors at meetings and by those who had publicly aired their lack of trust. The report made clear, however, that this behaviour was a symptom of the dysfunctionality and not the cause.

I was completely open with Mr Penn and explained why I had lost trust in some officers and in the fairness of many council processes. I accept that councillors have a duty of loyalty to the Council however, this has to be balanced with the principle of a legitimate public interest of those I represent in fair, open and transparent local government.

Fort Victoria/Former 'deli' Yarmouth: I appreciate of course that neither of these are the direct concern of the SPC. Residents have, however, expressed concern to me re both. In summary, I have been informed by planning enforcement that although the large container at Fort Victoria is a 'technical' breach of planning control no enforcement proceedings are to be commenced. I have made it clear in writing that in my view this is entirely unacceptable; however, given that there is no appeal from the decision there is little more that I am able to do. With regard to the former 'deli' enforcement proceedings were on the cusp of being taken. Unfortunately, however, the officer who in my view was carrying out her role professionally and properly is no longer in the employ of the council. This is causing a delay to progress being made.