



NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 33rd ANNUAL MEETING of the PARISH OF NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW held on Tuesday 10th May 2022 at Seagrove Pavilion, Seaview at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Elliott (Chair), Cllrs Redpath, Rogers, Marlton, Barry, Adams and 9 residents

1. To Approve the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on the 25.05.2021:

The Chair proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th May 2021 were approved, the motion was seconded and approved by the meeting.

A Councillor pointed out that in the minutes, the matter of whether Nettlestone Green would be designated as a ‘Village Green’ had still not been resolved by the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) – the Clerk explained that he periodically contacted the officer handling the application and it was to that officer’s frustration that the IWC legal department had still not ruled on the application. The Councillor asked that the minutes showed that this process had been running for the best part of three years.

2. To Receive a Report From the Chair of the Parish Council:
The Chair reported the following highlights from the previous twelve months:

- 1) The move back to physical meetings for the Parish Council (PC) as the legislation expired that allowed virtual meetings – it had been managed well and just one meeting missed (in December) under official advice.
- 2) Defibrillator adopted on Seagrove Bay Wall and associated maps created for parish noticeboards
- 3) First independent tree safety assessment carried out of Sophie Watson's Garden since PC took it over – extensive work required that should help guarantee the safe enjoyment of the garden for years to come.
- 4) In partnership with the Nettlestone & Seaview Community Partnership (NSCP), the flowerbeds at Puckpool Park have developed through a whole year, the larger areas of grounds the PC control are being managed as 'meadows' and the PC will take over the financial obligation associated with the flower planters in the parish.
- 5) Multiple controversial planning applications have been across the planning committee's desk and the Parish Council has worked hard to make sure that local opinions were represented e.g. the Farmer's and Donkey Field.
- 6) Engagement with the IWC to include local Green Spaces for protection in the Island Plan – whether any have made the cut is an unknown at this point as the IWC have delayed the release of the document.
- 7) Work was undertaken at Kerry Fields Play area to repair and reinforce the concrete bases and safety matting on the swings and slide, which should keep the area safe for our young residents for a considerable period of time.
- 8) Essential work to replace the manhole cover in Puckpool Park men's toilets has been completed to allow the men's and disabled toilets to cope with peak demand in the park – the ladies' toilets will require similar work in the near future.

The Chair then invited the IWC Ward Councillor (and PC Vice-chair) David Adams to update the meeting about some major planning issues affecting the Parish. Cllr Adams explained that he had ensured that the application to put 50+ houses on a site in

Puckpool Hill would be brought before the IWC Planning Committee (rather than just be decided by a Planning Officer). Cllr Adams also informed the meeting that he was frustrated at the IWC not keeping him abreast of the latest developments with the disposal of the land in Eddington Road. At the moment the IWC seems to be progressing a disposal of the land to Southern Housing Group on the understanding that it will have 60-90 houses on it – all social housing and not a mix of types. The Parish Council and former ward Councillor had worked hard for several years with Vectis Housing Association on the outline for a scheme with no more than 45 units of mixed ownership/rental on it. At this point a resident proposed a motion that the Parish would only support a development at Eddington Road that replicated the Vectis Housing Association scheme – the motion was unanimously supported.

A Councillor registered their concern that the IWC leadership had not (so far) kept their promise to consult with the Parish about the disposal of the land and take its views for the site onboard in their decision making.

3. Questions or matters arising from the previous item:

Cllr Adams expressed his concern that the repairs to roads and pavements that Wightfibre had been carrying out as they increased the presence of fibre optic cabling around the Parish were not of an acceptable standard and invited residents to report evidence of poor workmanship to him.

4. Reports from Community groups:

The Chair of NSCP ‘Mrs Vilma Barraclough’ gave an update on the Community Partnerships activities – available to read on the Parish Council Website.

The Parish’s ‘Age Friendly Champion’ – Mrs Sally Rivlin – highlighted the Age UK Isle of Wight campaign ‘Pavements are for people’ – a copy of their leaflet is available on the PC’s website.

Chair of the Trustees for the Seagrove Pavilion Trust ‘Mrs Ann Burghard’ gave a report that is available to read on the Parish Council Website.

5. Matters of concern or interest raised by residents of the Parish:

Cllr Adams let the meeting know that he will be inspecting three Parish sewage pumping stations with Southern Water in an attempt to better understand the challenges facing the safe disposal of sewage in the Community. He further explained that Natural England have stopped the development of over 100,000 houses in the country due to unacceptable nitrate levels – he believes that this is an issue on the Island too and is investigating whether the IWC have in fact been aware of this since 2018, which would invalidate a large number of planning decisions.

A resident expressed their belief that the biggest threat to the Island and its environment is development and in particular the development of executive housing. The resident praised Cllr Adams for his efforts in trying to influence the culture around planning at the IWC and was impressed that the PC had donated £750 to the campaign to challenge the irregularities in the process that led to permission being given to develop over 400 houses on Westridge Farm. The resident raised grave concerns over the approach of Planning Officers at the IWC and quoted one senior officer who had said ‘.. the difference between brownfield and greenfield site is semantics..’. The resident said they found it depressing that the public were not being listened to by the IWC Planning Department and in response a Parish Councillor pointed out that the PC had put money aside to challenge planning decisions where it was felt appropriate. Residents from Springvale raised the issue of flooding in the Parish and in particular just how sever it had been in August 2021 – multiple homes had been devastated my several feet of water. The residents want to see changes to the national planning policy to prevent the issue of flooding continuing to get worse and would like the PC to put pressure on all levels of Government to tackle the issue of flooding.

A Councillor suggested that starting the meeting at 7pm and arranging a presentation on a relevant subject of interest might attract more residents to future Annual Parish Meetings (APM) – the meeting then voted to have the next APM at 7pm.

There being no further questions, the Annual Meeting was declared closed at 7.25pm

Chair

3rd May 2023