



NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 34th ANNUAL MEETING of the PARISH OF NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW held on Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at St Peter's Church, Seaview at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs Elliott (Chair), Redpath, Rogers, Marlton, Barry, Adams, Geernaert-Davies, Hadfield and 17 members of the public.

1. To Approve the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on the 10.05.2022:

The Chair read out the minutes and then proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th May 2022 were approved, the motion was seconded and approved by the meeting.

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 Dinghy Park fence was finally replaced after multiple pandemic/supply chain issues.
- 2) The Council has followed up with the drainage repair work to the Ladies' toilet in Puckpool Park.
- 3) In response to Community concerns the Council reinstated the dog bin at Seagrove Bay – Island Roads refusal to service bins at the block (after doing so for many years) has complicated the servicing arrangements but we are partnering with multiple private companies to provide the best service we can.
- 4) The flowerbeds at Puckpool Park and planters throughout the Parish continue to thrive due to the great work by Care In the Garden and the Council continues to support this financially.
- 5) The Parish Council has engaged a planning consultancy 'Troy Planning' to help with the production of a Neighbourhood Plan and it is anticipated to take two years to complete if we continue to engage their services – the 'Area of Designation' process consultancy is in flight with the Isle of Wight Council and hopefully will result in the Council being able to proceed swiftly from the 19th May Onwards.

3. Reports from Community Groups:

The Nettlestone and Seaview Community Partnership Chair – Vilma Barraclough – read a report which will be available to read on the Parish Council website.

Lynn Stack, also from the Partnership, gave a report on the Parish's Open Spaces – the report will be available to read on the Parish Council website. After the Open Spaces report, a member of the Partnership encouraged everyone to visit Sophie Watson's Garden and view the wide variety of wild flowers that have returned in response to the 'meadowing' initiative being trialled there.

4. Flood Risk Mitigation in the Parish – Q&A:

Cllr Adams invited representatives of the Isle of Wight Council, Environment Agency and Southern Water to answer flood related questions that had been raised by residents.

The Following questions were raised:

To Southern Water – what is the exact function of the pumping station located by the north eastern corner of the Reserve (behind East Gull Sands)?

Where does it pump water from and to?

Does it transport any waste water/sewage?

Has there ever been or could there ever be an emergency overflow at the pumping station?

If so, where is spillage directed?

In the last few years, monitoring equipment has been installed twice within the Reserve at the main outfall 2. Contractors told me they were doing a job for Southern Water. What were Southern Water monitoring and what was the outcome?

The last time gardens flooded (on Seaview Duver), one of the contractors who came to inspect the drains around the properties at the west end of the Duver, said the pumping station at the bottom of Oakhill Road had been overloaded.

If this overflows where does the spillage go?

What is the maximum capacity of this pumping station, how many properties does it serve, and is its size adequate for purpose?

Southern Water responded, "Salterns Road pumping station is one of 200 on the Island and initially sends water to the Appley pumping station, which in turn sends it to Sandown. There has only been one emergency overflow this year and the details can be accessed via Southern Water's 'Beach Buoy' website. These overflows do contain a mix of surface water and effluent and get discharged via the sea/beach outlet.

Monitoring equipment has been installed at the Lagoon but Southern Water needed to check why and clarify at a later date."

Southern Water started to explain what happens with water from the pumping station at the bottom of Oakhill Road – they believed the pumping station was 'Springvale' pumping station but the resident who asked the question disputed

this so Southern Water will double check the details and respond at a later date.

A resident then mentioned that a large number of new houses are constantly being proposed for the Island and they could not believe that the data being provided to the Planning Department by the agencies present was accurate or more applications would be rejected as the Island's infrastructure is clearly not capable of dealing with its current load, let alone more housing so who does input data to planning applications - related to this, another resident asked if rain water and foul water will be separated on new developments?

Southern Water responded that they are not a statutory consultee on planning but they do provide data to the IWC on request. The IWC confirmed that the Island's current infrastructure is insufficient to cope with new developments and part of the solution was to insist that surface water and foul water will be processed separately on all new developments (this is extremely difficult to enforce on existing developments) and there are plans to recycle rain water on the Island – via the Island Planning Strategy, rather than just disposing of it.

To the Environment Agency - We have over time noticed, and reported an increase in algae bloom in the lagoons to the Parish Council. In May 2020 the Parish Council contacted the Environment Agency, concerned that a deterioration of the quality of 'fresh' water flowing into the lagoons from the south (via the Barnsley Brook whose source is at St. Helens) might be the cause for the increase in algae growth.

This causes considerable problems during the winter months when it dies back and is washed towards the main outfall, where it gets caught at the grille. It then sinks and causes a barrier which, unless removed, considerably reduces the rate of flow of escaping water and contributes to the flood risk. Last winter, there was so much, I asked Colin Pope, emeritus Ecology Officer for IW Council, to identify the weed. It seems to be a branched filamentous alga.

If I remember correctly the EA said it was doing a desk-top study – can we have sight of this?

To my knowledge, no water testing was done - are the EA responsible for testing water and monitoring for pollutants?

If so, can they give an assurance they will instigate monitoring and report back to the community?

The Environment Agency (EA) responded, "Algal bloom incidents are categorised as a 1,2 or 3 by the agency and central government only provide funding to investigate a 1 or a 2. The Lagoon's blooms were categorised as a 3 so no further investigation has been undertaken – algal blooms are naturally occurring and no fish died so this incident was categorised as a 3."

The agency confirmed that climate change is increasing water related incidences and that they will provide the community with appropriate contact details for reporting and monitoring the agency's response to incidents.

Cllr Adams said that on a related note, it was clear to residents that a 'slick' often appears from the discharge pipe on the beach at the bottom of Seaview High Street so can the Community be provided with test kits – it was confirmed that test kits will be made available.

To the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) and EA:

The flood waters that reach our properties are fluvial – rain water rushes down the Barnsley Brook into the valley and gathers behind the Duver. The Barnsley Brook is what is termed an ‘ordinary water course’. As such, the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) is I believe Isle of Wight Council.

We watch water levels closely during times of heavy rains. We have been advised to register for flood alerts. This we have done so in the past, but de-registered because we only received flood warnings that bore no relation to our situation. EA Flood Warnings relate to data gathered about rising sea and river waters, not to fluvial inundations from an ordinary water course.

How can flood warnings be improved?

The IWC responded, “The IWC is indeed the LLFA and the officers who attended the meeting are responsible for ‘Ordinary Water Course’ management and work closely with the Environment Agency. One of the officers present gave a detailed summation of multiple issues identified in the Parish that could exacerbate flooding and explained that they had visited all of the areas concerned and were instigating a schedule of works to manage them all proactively.

A resident mentioned that water butts were excellent for collecting excess water and wanted to know if residents were being incentivised to install them – Southern water confirmed that they were engaged in a (so far) successful trial to roll out water butts in hot spots across the Island (areas with the least permeable ground) and assuming this continued to be a success, should get rolled out in many areas.

A resident asked if a study had been carried out by Southern Water to understand what capacity of housing could be tolerated on the Island? They responded that these figures were calculated and this resulted in mitigating actions, such as the roll out of underground water tanks to store excess water – the resident expressed their scepticism that underground tanks were going to cope with the excess surface water created by the loss of green space required to accommodate hundreds of new homes.

5. Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr Redpath gave the meeting an overview of the steps and costs involved with the Parish Council undertaking the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Council has engaged Troy Planning consultants to assist with the production of the plan and it is anticipated to take two years. Currently, the Council is undertaking an ‘Area of Designation’ consultancy – the IWC officer responsible for overseeing the consultancy was present and confirmed that the consultation was underway and should finish on the 19th May – they will then endeavour to confirm the designation as soon as possible after the 19th May (this is important as the Parish Council cannot apply for central grant funding until the designation is official). Cllr Redpath assured those present that the production of the 2017 Parish Plan (which was not adopted by the IWC) had not been in vain as much of that good work would be revisited

during the production of the Neighbourhood Plan, as well as the Community being consulted heavily about its desired outcomes for the Parish. A resident asked if the Neighbourhood Plan would just be ignored by the IWC (like the 2017 Parish Plan) – the IWC officer present confirmed that legislation compels them to adopt it once it has been approved by local referendum.

6. Roadside Inn:

Cllr Geernaert-Davies explained that the Roadside Inn was three years into five years protection offered by it being registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). With only two years of protection left (although there is the potential to extend the protection) it is an appropriate time to investigate what the Community would like to see done with the building so to that end, the Parish Council has formed a Working Group to consult with the public and see what could be done with the Community's support. Questmap have told the Council that they believe they can still lease it to Co-Op for use as a shop (Co-Op have not responded to the Council's request for clarification). Cllr Redpath asked the meeting if there was still a desire in the Community to turn the empty Inn back into a Community Asset and the response was 'yes but what should it be?'. It was explained that the Working Group will be consulting with the public about their ideas for the asset and then investigating the feasibility of bringing those ideas to life.

7. Any Other Issues of Concern:

A resident expressed their gratitude to the organisers of the May Day street fayre in Madeira Road and also asked if anything could be done to reduce the numbers of dogs present. The resident had counted 18 dogs in close proximity at one point and noted that a resident with mobility issues was unable to navigate their way through the various dogs and their leads.

There being no further questions, the Annual Meeting was declared closed at 8.45pm

Chair
___ May 2024