



BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk to the Council,
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Minutes of Bembridge Village Partnership Green Town Steering Group meeting held at **4.00pm** on the **16th April 2015** in the Parish Office Meeting Room, 5 Foreland Road, Bembridge

Present: Cllr A Lee (Chairman), Mrs S Weedall, Mrs B Clough, Mr J Leaver and Mrs J McDade (Asst Clerk)

Guest Speaker: Brian Curd Vectis Astronomical Society Talk on Dark Skies

The Vectis Astronomical Society was formed in 1998, has an observatory by Amazon World in Arreton, approx. 100 members and is a registered charity. New updated equipment is now required and a new observatory building wanted. One idea is to get the whole of the Island registered as a 'dark skies area' and obtain international recognition for the Island's night sky with help from ANOB. The main aim is to be the first area to get the status which would mean having the right amount of light at the right time in the right area. The status would help obtain funding for a new observatory and information building. The new street lights being installed by Island Roads has helped reduce the light pollution. Vectis and ANOB are looking for new sites to install monitoring boxes around the Island. The Duver, Windmill and Coastguard Green were suggested. Vectis and ANOB are trying to toughen the planning regulations on light pollution and are in talks with the Isle of Wight Council to have their Island Plan adjusted. By insisting on velux windows to have blinds attached and conservatories in ANOB areas to have a solid roofs light pollution can be cut. Reducing security lights and going for lower lighting, like the new street lights, is more effective for security and helps reduce light pollution. Star gazing holidays are increasing and could help extend the Island's tourism season. Northumberland has seen an increase of 100,000 tourists visiting the area.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - To receive apologies for absence
None
2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** - To receive for approval minutes of the Green Town Steering Group meeting held on 18th February 2015
3. **RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes of the Green Town Steering Group meeting held on 18th February 2015. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **STREET FAIR** - To discuss Street Fair stall
Along the lines of last year's stall. Display boards showing projects done this year and advertising litter picks coming out. New volunteer forms and comment forms available. Information from Natural Enterprise that we had last year would be good. Dog poo bags again. Display on what can be recycled; Shelia will gather items for the stall. Map of local footpaths and forms for comments and any improvements required need to be available. Information boards to be arranged in the office.
5. **BEMBRIDGE IN BLOOM 2015** - To discuss Bembridge in Bloom 2015

Wight in Bloom not giving any funding this year, so £200 less than last year. HRD still sponsoring Bembridge in Bloom Awards. Office will produce posters once dates have been confirmed. Could ask Island Roads for sponsorship. Details as per last year.

6. **LITTER PICK** - To discuss Spring Litter Pick for Saturday 18th April
Confirmed the litter pick for 18th April, meeting at 10am in the Steyne Park car park. Keep Britain Tidy tabards and waste bags are with the Lengthsmen. Photo of the litter pickers before the event are required.
7. **RIGHTS OF WAY** - To discuss BB14 footpath improvement project
Good job done on the BB14 and the BB10 coastal path. Worries over cyclists using the coastal path, as a walker was knocked off the path this week by two cyclists, they did stop to help him but it shouldn't have happened in the first place. 'No Cyclist Signs' are needed for the paths.
8. **WAR MEMORIAL GARDEN** - To discuss removal of flax and replanting of the War Memorial Garden
Looking good at the War Memorial Garden, and the Weeders are working on what new plants are required and the cost. 4 new members have joined the group.
9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
Are we arranging any events for the 70th anniversary for the end of the war or do we know of any? No knowledge of any events.

Upgrades to BB4 and BB34 will not be started until Spring 2016.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - To confirm date and venue of next meeting

Date to be confirmed by email