



BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk to the Council,
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Minutes of Bembridge Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on 15th December 2015 in The Village Hall, Small Hall

Present: Cllr M Tarrant (Chairman), Cllr D Grannum, Cllr G Kendall, Cllr B Dyer, Cllr M Humphray, Cllr S Pigot, Cllr C Doe, Cllr S Weedall, Cllr A Woodford, Cllr P Pugh, Cllr B Bristow and Mrs J McDade (Assistant Clerk)

Members of the Public: 2, Cllr J Bacon and County Press

1. 197/15 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Would like to say how enjoyable Tony's Retirement party on Friday evening was and thank Jacqui and Emma for organising. Thank you to those who contributed to Tony's gift.

2. 198/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - To receive apologies for absence Apologies received from Cllr Marr.

3. 199/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

199/15/01 To receive declarations of pecuniary or other interests relating to items on the agenda
None

199/15/02 To consider requests and grant dispensations if appropriate
None

4. 200/15 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING - To receive for approval minutes of the Council meeting held on 17th November 2015

RESOLVED: Approved minutes of the Council meeting held on 17th November 2015 and duly signed by the Chairman

5. 201/15 PLANNING COMMITTEE - To note minutes of the Planning Committees held on 17th November and 1st December 2015

RESOLVED: Noted minutes of the Planning Committees held on 17th November and 1st December 2015

6. 202/15 WORKING GROUPS

202/15/01 To note minutes of the Green Town Steering Group Meeting 9th December 2015

RESOLVED: Noted minutes of the Green Town Steering Group Meeting 9th December 2015

202/15/02 To note minutes of the Steyne Park Project CCTV Working Group Meeting 25th November 2015

RESOLVED: Noted minutes of the Steyne Park Project CCTV Working Group Meeting 25th November 2015

7. 203/15 FINANCE

203/15/01 To approve bank reconciliation and cash balances to 10th December 2015

RESOLVED: Approved bank reconciliation and cash balances to 10th December 2015

203/15/02 To approve schedule of payments to 10th December 2015

RESOLVED: Approved schedule of payments to 10th December 2015

8. 204/15 REPORTS

To receive the following reports:

204/15/01 Hampshire Association of Local Councils

Nothing to report

204/15/02 Village Hall Management Committee

204/15/03 Bembridge Youth & Community Centre Management Committee

Next meeting Wednesday 16th December. Discussing taking on the Fireworks event or part of. Councillors thought this would be a bad idea as it is a successful council event and well organised by the parish office. If the BYCC would like to contribute to the event that would be appreciated but 'if it's not broken it doesn't need fixing'. Would prefer it kept as a Parish Council Event.

204/15/04 Village Partnership (plus Green Town Steering Group)

Discussed the Down to Coast and Palmer Memorial Projects, possibility of a new footpath and the new Local Access Forum funding.

204/15/05 Finance & Staffing Advisory Group

All fine, finances well cared for.

204/15/06 Harbour

Cllr Grannum unable to attend meeting

Councillors staggered at the IWC Planning Committee vote granting the Harbour's planning application. There were so many reasons to refuse the plans including going against our Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Bacon thought it may go to the Chairman's vote and stated the PC needed to request a say in the section 106 agreement decisions. Clerk to make request.

204/15/07 St Helens Medical Centre Patient Forum

Next meeting 28th January

204/15/08 Bembridge Bathing Water

Agenda item

204/15/09 Other reports

Cllr Bacon – IW Planning officers to have training on Neighbourhood Plan following concerns of the PC. Julia Baker-Smith is willing to have a meeting with the PC either privately or at a meeting. Request Julia Baker-Smith attend a full council meeting.

204/15/10 Clerk's report

DEVOLUTION MEETING

Message sent on behalf of John Metcalfe, Chief Executive

I write to confirm the agenda for Monday's meeting will cover is intended as follows:

1. Council budget position
2. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Devolution proposal
3. Devolution of Services to Town and Parish Councils

In respect of the final item on the agenda I attach herewith a spreadsheet with the following information

1. A schedule of the costs of the public toilets still managed by the Council.
2. A schedule of the income take from concessions and amenity land hire arrangements.
3. A schedule of the current costs for maintaining the principal parks and the provision of beach cleaning services.

In broad terms the current position for 2016/17 is therefore as follows:

Item	Draft Budget (£)	Likely Costs / Income (£)
Expenditure:		
Public Conveniences	200,000	500,000
Principal Parks Maintenance	360,000	360,000
Beach Cleaning and Maintenance	123,000	123,000
Other amenity maintenance	34,000	34,000
Total Expenditure:	717,000	1,017,000
Income:		
Concessions	286,000	286,000
Amenity Land Hire	37,000	37,000
Dinghy Park	7,000	7,000
Total Income:	330,000	330,000
Net Costs	387,000	687,000

The key points I would like to highlight from this table are as follows:

1. The IW Council would need to secure (or identify) and extra £300,000 in funds to maintain the provision of public conveniences in 2016/17 at the current level. Given that there is no requirement in law to provide this service the Council could choose not to provide any funding to it
2. The contract for the maintenance of principal parks expires at the end of 2017/18 and at that time the Council could significantly reduce its maintenance standards (and therefore costs) such that they only met the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA). There is no formal estimate of what the saving to the Council could be from such a change but a figure of as much as £200,000 could be achievable.
3. Standards of beach cleaning and maintenance are already considered to be at the minimum standard required by the EPA

Some of the options we might discuss could therefore be

1. If the town and parish councils took responsibility for the ownership of the assets and delivery of the services (at the current standards) listed above they would need to provide funding of £687,000 pa from their precept to do so. [approximately £0.27p per week for each premise in the tax base]
2. Excluding responsibility for beach cleaning and maintenance would reduce this figure to £564,000
3. This change could be phased perhaps starting with public conveniences in year 1 requiring only a £300,000 commitment from Town and Parish Council to be topped up by £200,000 from the Isle of Wight Council.

I acknowledge that looked at on an island wide scale the potential for more local control of key neighbourhood assets would seem achievable but the degree to which this is possible depends on the circumstances of each town and parish council. There is also a balance to be found in that the Isle of Wight Council would need to also ensure that it had sufficient resource to be able to manage anything that was not transferred to local ownership and management although it more likely it would have to stop these services where local management was not possible.

If we could accept the general principle of better ownership and management of local assets then we could work a model on a council by council basis, although I suspect many will be able to do so from the information provided here.

Following the meeting on 7th December at County Hall, Emma was told the budget for toilets was being cut from 1st April. She has raised a number of questions with John Metcalfe and requested a further meeting on Monday 21st December.

BIG TREE PLANT

Thank you to the volunteers and lengthsman who planted 20 trees which had been donated by Natural Enterprise's Big Tree Project. The trees were planted as part of the Steyne Park Project at the top of the old school field.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

Bembridge Neighbourhood Development Plan (BNDP) came into force on 28th July 2014, as part of the Isle of Wight Council's Development Plan. From this date, the policies contained in the BNDP are relevant to all planning applications in Bembridge. The Bembridge Village Partnership has commissioned the first Annual Report as part of the monitoring process set out in the BNDP process. Bembridge Parish Council (BPC) considered 102 applications in the period reviewed and in 40% of cases it cited the BNDP in its recommendation; it did not normally cite the BNDP when recommending approval. The Isle of Wight Council (IWC) determined 81 of these applications and cited the BNDP in 23% of its decisions. However, the BNDP was cited in 85% of IWC planning officer's reports which guide decisions. In 80% of cases the IWC decision followed the BPC recommendation; the balance (20%) of decisions went contrary to the BPC recommendations (either in whole, or part) and in reaching half such decisions set BNDP policies aside.

The BNDP contains 30 policies and of these two thirds have been actively used; most frequently used being those relating to design, the environment and the scale of development. The two principal policies of the BNDP are OL.1 which defines the scale of development in Bembridge and H.1 which defines the type of new housing required, with reference to the Bembridge Housing Needs Survey (BHNS). Both principal policies have been used by BPC and IWC.

Since the BNDP came into force, consent has been given in Bembridge for 23 new housing units, giving a net increase of 17 units of which 13 are affordable housing units. The BHNS indicated that

an average of 12 new housing units (3 “market” plus 9 “affordable”) per year were required in Bembridge.

The review indicated that both the BPC and IWC were becoming more familiar with, and more routinely using, the BNDP. The BPC has produced an Action Plan in order to effectively implement the actions needed to fully achieve the vision and objectives of the BNDP.

Copies of the full report and/or the Action Plan are available at the Parish Office, or may be viewed on the Parish Council website.

TONY’S SURPRISE RETIREMENT PARTY

Tony’s party was held on Friday 11th December at the BYCC, arrival 7pm. Buffet and band arranged.

POLICE COMPLAINTS MEETING

A meeting has been arranged on Wednesday 9th December with Chief Inspectors Andy Gill and Justin Eaglen, PCSO Karen Allen, Cllr Mike Tarrant, Cllr Denise Grannum, Miss Sarah Portwine and Mrs Emma Goldring to discuss the complaint made and a local resolution.

DEFIBRILLATOR

After Christmas we will look into organising training for its use with 12 local shopkeepers and arrange for installation in conjunction with the BBA. Plus a campaign to inform the village of all defibrillator locations within Bembridge.

9. **205/15 STEYNE PARK PROJECT CCTV WORKING GROUP** - To agree Steyne Park Project CCTV Working Group Terms of Reference

RESOLVED: Agreed Steyne Park Project CCTV Working Group Terms of Reference

10. **206/15 LANE END PUBLIC TOILETS** - To consider the devolution of Lane End Public Toilets
Disappointed that the RNLI will not take on the toilets or offer any help. Mike Samuelson could not believe we had to pay Business Rates on the toilets. Concern expressed over taking a lease on toilet block that is on top of a pumping station. The RNLI were granted permission to have a new Lifeboat Inshore Station but had to build public toilets that were being lost, they should take them on now. The disabled toilet is within the Lifeboat Station but could be used by anyone. RNLI staff have concerns regarding use of their facilities if the toilets are closed. No toilet provision at the café or beach hut area. Could we look at charging for the toilets? No response from John Metcalfe yet to clerk’s questions and request for a meeting. Need to take our time and look for other options.
RESOLVED: Agreed to write to RNLI Head Office at Poole asking for them to take on the Lane End toilets

11. **207/15 BATHING WATER QUALITY** - To consider Bathing Water Quality application for De-Designation

Believe this is being requested due to costs. Bembridge does not have a vast number of bathers and the quality has improved. Would not look good if warning signs go up on the beach if the quality falls. Still cannot understand why St Helens water is rated better than Bembridge? Would be able to keep a check on the quality if we stayed as we are.

RESOLVED: Agreed to not de-designate Bembridge bath water
10 for 1 against

12. **208/15 WHITECLIFF BAY LIFEBELT TRANSFER** - To consider Whitecliff Bay Lifebelt transfer from IWC, regularly inspect the lifebelt, weekly in summer and monthly in the winter
Weekly inspections would not be possible. It is a busy beach but do not believe the lifebelts would be able to rescue anyone from the shoreline, too heavy and awkward.

RESOLVED: Agreed not to accept the transfer from IWC for Whitecliff Bay Lifebelt

13. **209/15 SLCC TRAINING**

To approve Clerk and Assistant Clerk to attend IW SLCC Tendering, Contracts and Trading course on 20th January cost £10per person

RESOLVED: Approved Clerk and Assistant Clerk to attend IW SLCC Tendering, Contracts and Trading course on 20th January cost £10per person

14. 210/15 DOWN TO COAST MEANDERS & REFLECTIONS BB21 FOOTPATH CONTRIBUTION

To agree £1,000 contribution for the Down to Coast Meanders and Reflections BB21 footpath improvement project clearance windmill end to commence January and be complete by 1st March Clearing and re-instating footpath from Bembridge Windmill to Quay Street, Brading. Eastwight Partnership project working with IW Rights of Way, the Ramblers, Bembridge PC and volunteers. Volunteers will help with the clear-up of the path, Aaron Rogers Gardening will clear the path from the Windmill to the edge of Mr Taylors land and contractors will lay a new footpath. Information on the project available on PC website and Green Towns facebook page. Well done Shelia, need to publicise the project more and get the County Press involved.

RESOLVED: Agreed £1,000 contribution for the Down to Coast Meanders and Reflections BB21 footpath improvement project clearance windmill end to commence January and be complete by 1st March

15. 211/15 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT - To consider Planning Enforcement contribution of £1072 per annum for IWALC and IWC partnership

PC was not involved in the consultation as not a member of IWALC. Enforcement for Bembridge has not been very good recently and cannot see this will improve the process. East Cowes have already refused to accept, so do not believe it will still go ahead.

RESOLVED: Agreed not to contribute £1072 per annum for IWALC and IWC partnership
10 for 1 against

16. 212/15 REVISION OF GAMBLING ACT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES - To discuss response to Isle of Wight Council revising its statement of licensing principles in accordance with Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005.

RESOLVED: Agreed not to respond to Isle of Wight Council revising its statement of licensing principles in accordance with Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005

17. 213/15 LEASES

213/15/01 To agree to execute lease for the Bowling Club land at Mitten Road
Bowling Club meeting their solicitors to discuss lease, so cannot comment until we hear from them.

RESOLVED: Defer until we have a response from Bowling Club or their solicitors

213/15/02 To agree to execute lease for Bembridge, Seaview and St Helens Sea Scouts land at Mitten Road

RESOLVED: Agreed to execute lease for Bembridge, Seaview and St Helens Sea Scouts land at Mitten Road

18. 214/15 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To resolve that in accordance with s.1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public will be excluded from the following item, having due regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Full Council meeting 19th January 2016, 7.00pm Village Hall, Small Hall

Meeting Closed: 7.40pm

Signed:

Dated: