



BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk to the Council, 5 Foreland Road, Bembridge, Isle of Wight, PO35 5XN
Tel: 01983 874160 Email: bembridgepc@btconnect.com



Minutes of **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held at **7.00 pm** on the **6th May 2014** in the **BEMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr G Kendall (Chairman), Cllr S Pigot, Cllr M Tarrant, Cllr C Doe, Cllr J Marr, Cllr B Bristow, Cllr P Pugh, Mrs E Goldring – Clerk and Mrs J McDade – Asst Clerk **PUBLIC:** 15

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence. Apologies received from Cllr D Grannum.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

To receive for approval minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th April 2013.

RESOLVED: Approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th April 2013.

3. ANNUAL REVIEW

To receive an annual report review for 2013/14 by Cllr Gordon Kendall Chairman Bembridge Parish Council.

I have pleasure in introducing the Parish Councils Annual Report. To start I would like to give my personal thank you to my fellow Councillors, our Clerk (Emma), Deputy Clerk (Jacqui) and our Lengthsmen (Tony and Pete); without whose hard work nothing would have been possible. I have been equally impressed by the considerable work done by individuals from the Bembridge Community on working parties, management committees, litter picks and other community activities and without whose support we would have had difficulties achieving what we have. As in previous years I assume the low numbers of public attending Council meetings is a tacit acknowledgement that the Council is performing satisfactorily.

Again the Council has had a very busy year and the prospects for the coming year look equally busy. In addition to the routine Council activities we have been involved in many new initiatives and projects, some of which I would like to highlight (but not in any order of importance):

After two years of hard work, including the immense hard work of the Chairman of the working group who is sat in the audience, the Bembridge Neighbourhood Development Plan has been produced, approved by an independent Examiner and is due to go to community referendum in July. Provided it receives sufficient support from the public it becomes statutory planning policy and will be used by Isle of Wight Council Planners in assessing all planning applications in the Parish area. Well done to all concerned.

The amenity projects in the village, including the Point tidy up project, Bembridge in Bloom, the BB22/36 footpath major upgrade, the clearing of the BB4 footpath, litter picks and general care of gardens and green areas in the village. In addition after continual community pressure a major stretch of BB10 the coastal footpath and BB19 footpath have been upgraded by the Isle of Wight Council. I appreciate the 'hard graft' involved which has made the village a nicer place.

The Village Partnership has delivered several community projects including, the popular Dragons Den (made seven awards to local organisations), the BB22/36 footpath major

upgrade and the Christmas festivities – delivering such events requires a lot of hard work and time.

Other significant work includes: The annual November fireworks event (although somewhat dampened by bad weather), the Macmillan coffee morning (which raised £95.00 for the Macmillan Cancer support charity), securing use of the Primary School tennis courts for community tennis use and coaching; refurbishment of the Point and Steyne Park toilets and the Green Towns initiative.

This year is shaping up to be equally busy with a major project just started in Steyne Park/Forelands Playing Field, upgrading/repairs to our High Street building and with financial support from the Pilot Boat and a donor restoring the Palmer Memorial and War Memorial (at last) – to name but tree!

I am sorry if I have missed anything which you hold dear, but it has again been a busy year. Bembridge Parish Council is widely acknowledged as one of the most forward thinking, active, professional and helpful local councils on the Island; for example the Council was recently congratulated by the IWC Emergency Management team for the high quality of our input.

The Parish Council is financially stable with a balanced budget and sound financial management, with only a modest precept increase.

Thank you for all of your continued and invaluable support, in particular Mrs Goldring.

4. GUEST SPEAKER

Mr Lee Matthews IWC Sports & Recreation -Lee started work with the Isle of Wight Council 25 years ago as a Sports Development Officer trying to get the community involved in sports for the health benefits, mental health benefits and social inclusion. Some 25 years later Sports England are going back to this approach asking communities what it is they want to increase involvement. The community is the driver and if there is an established need that can be demonstrated the funding is available to deliver increased provision.

Bembridge is one of the most proactive local councils on the Island and already has excellent facilities to build upon and improve. The funding streams are in place until 2017 for local council and 2020 for schools. The Isle of Wight has received a community activation award which includes funds to improve grounds, small funds for improving facilities such as car parks, lights and windows etc. all of which was not previously funded as they were thought to be ancillary. Now it is recognised that these elements all make up the overall sports provision of local communities. There is hardly any partnership funding required like there used to be.

The hard standing could be developed for netball and basketball. Already have links with Tennis and Cricket. Make sure the business plan is right for you and is not too big to manage and run. Funding is also available for coaching training and qualifications. The sports clubs involved will already know who their governing bodies are. Schools are attracting the funding to 2020 to enhance their PE provision however this needs to be continued after school and at weekends within the community. A local consultation would be useful to bridge the gaps and evidence the need. All of the ducks are lined up with the land management agreement for Foreland Playing Field which won't take long to execute.

The Isle of Wight has a representative on the County Sports Board who meets in Hampshire. Development of new clubs is a priority but sustainability of existing clubs is also a priority including provision of sailing.

There are examples to learn from such as the multi-use games area (MUGA) in Freshwater which has a problem with algae and slip hazard. Astroturf is no longer supported but an all-weather surface would be. The bigger you go the harder it is to get the funding so phase the project across smaller grant applications. Could approach Sports England with an idea to gain opinion to see if it will attract funding rather than completing all of the application form

to be rejected. Thank you to Lee Matthews for attending and his ongoing offer of assistance with the Steyne Park Project.

5. OPEN FORUM

Ray from Co-op sent a letter to the Parish Council about the speed of traffic coming down Kings Road. The issues have been raised with Island Roads who are considering installation of illuminated speed reactive sign and hatching and potentially other options.

Noel Stimson asked to install a mirror opposite Station Road to assist the drivers and was told by Island Roads that they are not supported as the reflection from a mirror could cause danger to the driver. Feel the village is dangerous particular with the poor signage of the one way system around the High Street and Church Road. A family of cyclists were happily travelling the wrong way around. IWC would be in serious trouble if this is not addressed as a matter of priority. The Parish Council can add weight to the request but do not have the powers to implement these courses of action.

The weight of traffic up Sherbourne Street is an issue particularly with the co-op delivery lorry trying to manoeuvre into its loading bay outside the shop with a disabled space located at the end. Why was this space ever relocated as it is causing more problems? It needs to be repositioned to its original place outside the shop making it easier for the lorry. Cllr G Kendall recently walked the patch with the District Steward from Island Roads and raised all of these issues which are kept on a log and chased by the Parish Office. IWC has a new Island Roads contract manager who will be reviewing all of the outstanding issues for action.

Gail Wade; Can we improve the skate park to make it bigger and more interesting for the older children to do tricks? Parents continually have to take children out of the village to Sandown or Ryde to use their skate parks. Feed in ideas to the Steyne Park Project.

Mrs Milne grateful for the steps that have been installed at BB40 by the Isle of Wight Council and thank the Parish Council for their support.

Keith Cook member of the Steyne Park Project Group and also Chairman of Bembridge Football Club thank the Village Partnership for the contribution through the Dragons Den event. Bembridge Football team only formed this season and have won the Hampshire cup which has only been to the Island 6 times since 1931. Came runners up in the Unison Cup and will proceed to win the league this week and be promoted to division 2 next season. They have helped with improvements to the changing rooms and are affiliated to BYCC. Bembridge Youth teams are also taking shape under the leadership of Glen Walker with 3 teams being entered next season and over 40 kids attending training aged 4-13. Lovely to see everybody working together for the good of the community.

Bill Bristow raised the issue of the can of white paint which has been rolled across the crossing on Foreland Road and thrown at the bin and bus timetable. If anybody hears of this please let the Parish Office know to help find the culprits.

Arthur Robinson noted that the Harbour Commission are due to put in the planning application for development. Malcolm has been going round giving a presentation which is considered to be consultation. How are people going to use their boats if the cannot park? Bembridge Harbour Trust feels the application should be recommended for refusal. The Harbour Act states that any funds raised from development need to be reinvested but it was felt this was not the case and were being fobbed off with a sewage treatment works. Bembridge Harbour Trust wants to speak to Malcolm constructively about where the Harbour will be in 100 years' time. How can we work with him to preserve this asset and use the charitable status to benefit the Harbour? Fear is the finance from development could equally disappear with the new owner.

Meeting Closed 20.00

Signed.....

Dated.....