



BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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



Minutes of Bembridge Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on 17th October 2017 in The Village Hall, Large Hall, Bembridge

Present: Cllr M Sullivan (Chairman), Cllr M Donlon, Cllr S Weedall, Cllr R Weaver, Cllr M Curtis, Cllr R Widger, Cllr G Stillman, Cllr A Hopkinson-Woolley, Cllr M Reeder, Mrs E Goldring (Clerk) and Mrs J McDade (Assistant Clerk) **Public:** County Press and 28 members of the public

PUBLIC FORUM

Margaret Wills – Can this Council make enquires as to why such considerations are being given to the landowner, whose beach hut and fenced garden obstruct BB40, and the present owners of the café called The Beach Hut? Why are they so important that a cash-strapped IWC is proposing to spend what is bound to be a lot of money on moving the BB40? What is their influence, hold, over the IWC? Who do they know? I can't seem to get across to the powers that be, that the beach is used all year and whatever the weather. A hand-rail will not stop the seawater, seaweed, stones and other debris thrown onto the seawall at spring tides when linked with stormy weather. Despite bad conditions, the public have been able to access and escape from the beach without difficulty by crossing in front of the café. But now the route has been blocked by a padlocked gate so is unusable even when the café is closed. When the IWC purchased the land for the toilets, the conveyance stipulated 'Full and Free Right of Access for the General Public'. The café put up a notice stating that 'There is NO Public Right of Way through this Land'. What makes a Public Right of Way? The use by the public over many years. In this case we know the route has been around or over the concrete plinth since 1965. The modification order was rejected because of the variation to the route with the toilets in place and after their removal. As most of the beach huts are to the west, towards Whitecliff, naturally the public have taken the shortest route across the plinth in front of the café and onto the beach. An old beach hut tenancy map drawn up in 1962 clearly shows a footpath straight down to the shore which would be used by the privately owned huts to the east, but also shows the path to the west behind what were then Mr Butler's huts and beyond.

Graham Ferris – in order for a footpath diversion, then it must be for the public good, but moving it to the seawall is not safe. BB40 public footpath should not be fenced off.

Gill Rogers - Can the clerk confirm in her role as the Proper Legal Officer of the Council and the Responsible Financial Officer that in regard to 5/7 High St, that maintenance costs are shared between 3 parties 50% being paid by 7 High Street, 33% being paid by 5 High Street and the remaining 17% being paid by the Parish Council?

Can the clerk confirm that the Parish Council at this time is solely responsible for council tax on the rear yard of 5/7 High Street? Is any of this council tax then charged out on a pro-rata scale to all users of the yard and if not should this be rectified.

Yet again the precept has been queried by a vocal opponent of Bembridge Parish Council on a social media website. Can the Responsible Financial Officer confirm, once and for all, that the precept and budget work starts in October? At that point in time the figures included within the precept workings last year were relevant and that the precept request has to go in during January. Therefore at that time the precept was agreed at a public meeting and voted on by 11 elected representatives to the village the figures were correct.

Can I finally say that last month residents called for Councillors to come together and work for the village, not to look back but to look forward? This plea was not helped by the report in the IWCP written

by a reporter that does not understand the standing orders of our council and who brought the council into disrepute. How sad therefore I was today to be forwarded a written personal attack by two people on social media on another Councillor with no substance, in my view, whatsoever. It really is time that some Councillors thought about why they were elected and if they put as much effort into their roles as Councillors as they did with writing on social media we might see some positives coming out of the council.

Clerk – Confirmed question regarding maintenance was correct. Confirmed Parish Council was solely responsible for the council tax on 5/7 yard. Confirmed details of last year's precept and budget workings. Cannot not comment on final statement regarding County Press and Councillors.

Mr Boynton – Would like to ask the Councillors who commented on Open Bembridge facebook page alleging that another Councillor never supported the High Street so as to enhance his business at Lane End, actually believed this comment?

Cllr Sullivan – I have not been following social media. I for one do not condone what has been said.

Cllr Weaver – these comments were aimed at me as a landlord at Lane End. There is no substance to them as I have always been very pro keeping 5/7 High Street, and put the motion forward to rescind the decision to sell the building. So far I am the only person to put forward ideas to improve the building and maximise the income. I rent commercial properties at Lane End, so the complete opposite is true as 5/7 would be directly competing with ours.

Cllr Reeder – I heard through the grapevine that you did not want to retain 5/7 High Street. I apologise. If rents rise others will be affected. Was not being nasty just putting others points across.

Cllr Curtis – expressing an opinion. Another orchestrated meeting. Do not believe the previous Council have been supportive of the High Street.

Cllr Hopkinson-Woolley – many misunderstandings. Everyone wants to do the best for Bembridge

Mrs Levelle – there is more expenditure on the agenda. Would like to remind everybody that we are in times of constraint, and should find other ways to pay for the likes of the fireworks event.

1. 194/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No election was called, so there will be a Co-Option at the 21st November meeting. Applications should be forwarded to the Clerk by 5pm on Friday 10th November. More information is available in the Parish Office.

2. 195/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Millington and Cllr Steane

3. 196/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

196/17/01 To receive declarations of pecuniary or other interests relating to items on the agenda
Cllr Curtis declared an interest in item 20.

196/17/02 To consider requests and grant dispensations if appropriate

No requests

4. 197/17 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

To receive for approval amended minutes of the Council meeting held on 19th September 2017 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 3rd October 2017

RESOLVED: Approved amended minutes of the Council meeting held on 19th September 2017 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 3rd October 2017

All in favour

5. 198/17 PLANNING COMMITTEE

To note minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 19th September 2017

RESOLVED: Noted minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 19th September 2017

6. 199/17 WORKING GROUPS

199/17/01 To note minutes of the Road Safety & Security Group Meetings held on 13th September 2017

RESOLVED: Noted minutes of the Road Safety & Security Group Meetings held on 13th September 2017

199/17/02 To note minutes of the Steyne Park Project Group Meeting held on 20th September 2017
RESOLVED: Noted minutes of the Steyne Park Project Group Meeting held on 20th September 2017

7. 200/17 FINANCE

200/17/01 To approve bank reconciliation and cash balances to 12th October 2017

RESOLVED: Approved bank reconciliation and cash balances to 12th October 2017

All in favour

APPENDIX A

200/17/02 To approve schedule of payments to 12th October 2017

RESOLVED: Approved schedule of payments to 12th October 2017

All in favour

200/17/03 To monitor the budget

Same information as at the 3rd October meeting and will go through in detail at next week's Finance and Asset Committee meeting.

200/17/04 To review Internal Audit Report action plan

RESOLVED: Approved Internal Audit Report action plan

All in favour

APPENDIX B

200/17/05 To review Financial Risk Assessment

RESOLVED: Approved the Financial Risk Assessment

All in favour

APPENDIX C

200/17/06 To agree Fireworks payment of £500 to BYCC (*Budget £500 spend to date £0*)

Parish Council used to organise and run the Fireworks Event with a budget of £2,500, but last year the Bembridge Youth & Community Centre agree to run the event with a donation of £500 from the Parish Council for the next 3 years. This is the second year of the agreement and a review due before 2019 event.

RESOLVED: Agreed Fireworks payment of £500 to Bembridge Youth and Community Centre

All in favour

8. 201/17 REPORTS

To receive the following reports:

201/17/01 Hampshire Association of Local Councils

Mrs Goldring - No meeting

201/17/02 Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Weaver - No meeting

201/17/03 Bembridge Youth & Community Centre Management Committee

Cllr Weaver - Meeting next week

201/17/04 Village Partnership (plus Green Town Steering Group)

Cllr Donlon – next meeting on 8th November in the Parish Office

201/17/05 Road Safety & Security Group Report

Cllr Stillman – in limbo waiting for responses from Island Roads regarding Ward Walk requests and parking issues at Walls Road. So far 59% of the 20mph survey responses would support in principal a 20mph in the village, but we have only had replies from 114 residents. Our next meeting is tomorrow 2pm in the Village Hall, all welcome.

201/17/06 Harbour

Read aloud

APPENDIX D

201/17/07 Police Report

PCSO Moul - Cold callers and burglaries are on the increase. Make sure all premises are locked securely and items of value cannot be seen through windows. Would recommend that residents photograph all valuables so they can then be identified if stolen and then returned promptly.

201/17/08 Amey Waste Forum Report

Cllr Sullivan – meeting next week

201/17/09 Isle of Wight Councillors reports

IW Cllr Michael Murwill - **Garden Wheelie Bins** -Advanced discussions have taken place with Amey and we are aiming to be ready to make an announcement on 6th November 2017. **The 2018/19 Budget** - I have been working with fellow cabinet members and the council officers to establish next year's budget. We are determined to balance the books, but to do this, very difficult decisions will have to be made over the coming months, in order to reduce the total revenue budget by £7.5 million for the year. **The IWC Corporate Plan** - This was presented at Cabinet last week and will be voted on by the Full Council tomorrow night.

201/17/10 Clerk's report

APPENDIX E

9. 202/17 PUBLIC TOILETS

202/17/01 To agree Lane End disabled toilet service level agreement with RNLI

RESOLVED: Agreed Lane End disabled toilet service level agreement with RNLI

All in favour

202/17/02 To discuss locking the toilets at night

Do not believe it is workable for Councillors to lock the toilets every evening. Public toilets should be opened 24 hours. Ask the police to monitor the areas more frequently. Would cost approx. £1,500 per toilet for self-locking mechanisms but cost of minor repairs to date is not £500, so not cost effective. Need to monitor toilets more regularly and if problems try to engage with those causing the damage. By locking the toilets will only move the problem elsewhere.

RESOLVED: Agreed not to lock the toilets at night but to monitor the toilets and engage with youths when problems arise.

All in favour

202/17/03 To consider costs of self-locking mechanisms for toilets

RESOLVED: Agreed not to consider costs of self-locking mechanisms for toilets at present

All in favour

10. 203/17 FOOTPATH BB40

To discuss consultation on Footpath BB40 proposed diversion deadline 31st October

Footpath has been over the concrete for numerous years and was used before concrete block was built to house the toilets. Believe the IWC own the concrete block but has been registered by someone else. The café is not open during the winter so why does the path have to be locked off? It is dangerous to walk along the seawall at some high tides, not only in the winter. Why would the IWC pay for this diversion when it is the landowner and business owner who want the diversion? This is a public right of way and should be open to the public now. The proposal is not satisfactory and should be rejected by the IWC, and the original footpath re-established. Moving the footpath could set a precedent for other landowners to request other paths be moved.

RESOLVED: Object to the proposed BB40 diversion order, footpath should stay in original position

All in favour

11. 204/17 ANNUAL REPORT & NEWLETTER

204/17/01 To agree the quote for a hard copy newsletter delivered and seek advertisements to cover costs (*Budget £1650 spend to date £0*)

Thank you to Cllr Weaver for organising the advertising in the Annual Report, which more than covered the costs. Wightleaflets only deliver to part of the village so volunteers will need to be organised for the remainder.

RESOLVED: Agreed to appoint Desktop Studio to assist with the production, print and part delivery of Newsletter.

All in favour

RESOLVED: Agreed to seek advertisements to cover costs

All in favour

204/17/02 To discuss annual report surplus £467

Money could be used for grants or special projects. Should go into general reserves but be identifiable so the public can see where the money has been used.

RESOLVED: Agreed that annual report and newsletter surplus should be added to the general reserves under an identifiable heading.

All in favour

12. 205/17 STREET FAIR

To agree the resource support from the Parish Council to complete the paperwork for the road traffic closure, market license, insurance, risk assessment and banking

Very good cause and office already do the tasks. Help will be needed on the day to help with the running of the event such as marshals and litter picking.

RESOLVED: Agreed the resource support from the Parish Council to complete the paperwork for the road traffic closure, market license, insurance, risk assessment and banking

All in favour

13. 206/17 HIGHWAYS

To discuss Station Road maintenance request

This is an unadopted road and all residents of the road are responsible for the section in front of their premises. Station Road residents need to form a Resident Association to solve the road issue and then come back to the Parish Council.

14. 207/17 COMPUTER NETWORK

To ratify decision for Acronis back up cloud system for Parish data £12.50 per month plus VAT (*Budget £600 spend to date £337.50*)

RESOLVED: Ratified decision for Acronis back up cloud system for Parish data £12.50 per month plus VAT

All in favour

15. 208/17 APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES

208/17/01 To appoint a My Life A Full Life representative

RESOLVED: Agreed to appoint Cllr Reeder as My Life A Full Life representative

All in favour

208/17/02 To appoint IW Bus and Rail Group Users representative

RESOLVED: Agreed to appoint Cllr Hopkinson-Woolley as IW Bus and Rail Group Users representative

All in favour

16. 209/17 MEMBER OFFICER PROTOCOL

To agree Member Officer Protocol Policy

Excellent document

RESOLVED: Agreed Member Officer Protocol Policy

All in favour

17. 210/17 TRAINING

210/17/01 To agree Chairmanship skills training cluster with Whippingham and Calbourne 2 sessions by Sue Chilton contribution cost £225 plus £29.00 for hire of the Village Hall. Cost increase due to East Cowes no longer wishing to attend training. (*Budget £1000 spend & committed spend to date £607.90*)

RESOLVED: Agreed Chairmanship skills training cluster with Whippingham and Calbourne 2 sessions by Sue Chilton contribution cost £225 plus £29.00 for hire of the Village Hall. Cost increase due to East Cowes no longer wishing to attend training.

All in favour

210/17/02 To agree attendance at HALC AGM 4th November Chandlers Ford free event cost of travel
(Budget £250 spend to date £0)

RESOLVED: Agreed attendance at HALC AGM 4th November Chandlers Ford free event cost of travel
All in favour

210/17/03 To agree HALC Councillor Skills Training for Cllr Reeder & Cllr Steane £90.00 each plus travel
(Budget £1000 spend & committed spend to date £607.90)

Mrs Chilton has quoted £350 for 2 x 3 hour sessions in 1 day which would be open to all Councillors
wanting to attend. Mrs Chilton and Mrs Taylor are accredited trainers.

RESOLVED: Agreed to appoint Mrs Chilton to carry out Councillor Skills Training for £350.00
All in favour

RESOLVED: Agreed to vie £211.90 into Training Budget
All in favour

18. 211/17 CONSULTATION

To agree 2018/19 Local Government Finance Settlement technical paper consultation deadline 26th
October 2017

RESOLVED: Agreed 2018/19 Local Government Finance Settlement technical paper consultation
deadline 26th October 2017

All in favour

19. 212/17 PORTABLE PA SYSTEM

To consider purchase of a portable PA system for use at Parish Council meetings cost £784 plus VAT
(Office equipment budget £1500 spend to date £441.61)

Microphones seem to be working well at this meeting, so should monitor over the next few meetings.

RESOLVED: Agreed not to purchase portable PA system at present time

All in favour

Cllr Curtis left the meeting

20. RENT REVIEWS

To receive the rent reviews report from Christopher Scott and agree charges for 5 & 7 High Street and
SH Tree Services rear yard

Mr Hughes asked if Cllr Weaver had a pecuniary interest in this item due to business connections. Cllr
Weaver stated that he had no pecuniary interest. Mr Green asked what comparative market evidence
we had to support the rent increases. Clerk stated that further information would be requested from
Christopher Scott regarding rent reviews and discussed at the Finance and Staffing meeting next
Wednesday which is open to the public.

RESOLVED: Defer the item to Finance and Staffing meeting on Wednesday 25th October, 7pm in the
Village Hall

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Confirmed Full Council 21st November 2017, 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Meeting Closed: 8.50pm

Signed: Dated:.....