



BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk to the Council,
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Minutes of Bembridge Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on 19th December 2017 in The Village Hall, Small Hall, Bembridge

PRESENT: Cllr M Sullivan (Chairman), Cllr M Donlon, Cllr S Weedall, Cllr R Weaver, Cllr A Hopkinson-Woolley, Cllr G Stillman, Cllr R Widger, Cllr A Steane, Mrs E Goldring (Clerk) and Mrs J McDade (Assistant Clerk) **PUBLIC:** 17 members of the public, IW Cllr B Tyndall and County Press

PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs White – I asked a question at the last meeting but this was taken as a statement and comment was made at the time. The question for consideration to increase the precept due to increasing costs, inflation and to fund earmarked reserved. In the past the Cloisters formed a committee to fundraise, if works progressed this could be replicated for 5/7 High Street and the Village Hall such as selling bricks etc. rather than take out a loan.

Cllr Sullivan – it has just been announced that Councils will be allowed to raise the council tax to fund policing, therefore the budget has been approved and precept set and it was wise to stay with what we did. Thank you for your thoughts a written response will be provided.

Mrs Lavelle - people got in on the Council particularly the South Ward as Open Bembridge Councillors and very quickly change sides. What made them change their minds? It is distressing to see decisions made without discussions and just being voted through with no explanation. Open Bembridge stood for openness, transparency and the preservation of community assets, why is the PC not telling us what is going on?

Cllr Sullivan – the Parish Council has never been so open and transparent. A written response will be provided.

Mr Green - regarding potential development of 5/7 High Street, how long would it take to release the covenant, is there a right of appeal if IWC say no and if you employ somebody for this project it doesn't have to show on the profit and loss account.

Cllr Sullivan – thank you for your question and written response will be provided.

Mrs Lavelle - Reading between the lines, can see bullying from both sides and don't want to name names, sad things are being done in an underhand way. The two Chairs are quite aggressive.

Mrs Sheaf – would like to congratulate Cllr Sullivan on doing a good job for the Parish Council

Cllr Steane – asked for item 19 to be held in camera as this is an employment issue and a discussion was required

Councillors agreed to exclude the press and public from item 19

1. 235/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hopes 2018 will be a positive year for the Parish Council

2. 236/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence

Apologies from Cllr Fagan and Cllr Curtis. Non-attendance of Cllr Reeder and Cllr Millington.

3. 237/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

237/17/01 To receive declarations of pecuniary or other interests relating to items on the agenda
Cllr Donlon and Cllr Weedall are Trustees of Bembridge Friendship Circle, item 15 so declared a personal interest. Cllr Weedall and Cllr Weaver declared a personal interest in item 10, as they are on the BYCC Committee.

237/17/02 To consider requests and grant dispensations if appropriate
None received

4. 238/17 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

To receive for approval amended minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st November 2017 and Extra Ordinary Meeting on 5th December 2017

RESOLVED: Approved minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st November 2017 and Extra Ordinary Meeting on 5th December 2017

5. 239/17 PLANNING COMMITTEE

To note minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 21st November and 5th December 2017

RESOLVED: Noted minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 21st November and 5th December 2017

6. 240/17 WORKING GROUPS

240/17/01 To note minutes of the Road Safety & Security Group Meetings held on 30th November 2017

RESOLVED: Noted minutes of the Road Safety & Security Group Meetings held on 30th November 2017

240/17/02 To note minutes of the Steyne Park Project Group Meeting held on 15th November 2017

RESOLVED: Noted minutes of the Steyne Park Project Group Meeting held on 15th November 2017

7. 241/17 FINANCE

241/17/01 To approve bank reconciliation and cash balances to 14th December 2017

RESOLVED: Approved bank reconciliation and cash balances to 14th December 2017

APPENDIX A

241/17/02 To approve schedule of payments to 14th December 2017

RESOLVED: Approved schedule of payments to 14th December 2017

241/17/03 To note the Internal Audit Action Plan

RESOLVED: Noted the Internal Audit Action Plan

8. 242/17 REPORTS

To receive the following reports:

242/17/01 Hampshire Association of Local Councils

Cllr Steane – has heard nothing

Clerk – Ventnor have now resigned from IWALC and will be joining HALC. Trying to arrange for the 8 non-IWALC Councils on the Island to meet in the New Year to consider share opportunities.

242/17/02 Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Weaver – the Committee were happy with the request to move the toilets into the Village Hall and upgrade the kitchen but need to discuss dates as to when the works can be done. Have given them information on Wi-Fi and they will discuss at the next meeting in February.

242/17/03 Bembridge Youth & Community Centre Management Committee

Cllr Weaver - all going well and have a healthy bank account. The soup run at the weekend was well attended.

242/17/04 Village Partnership (plus Green Town Steering Group)

Cllr Weedall - next meeting for both groups is the 10th January. The Clerk, Lengthsmen and myself attended the opening of the BB21 with the East Wight Partnership and IWC Rights of Way. It was a huge project of £50,000 completed and has been well received.

Cllr Sullivan – would like to thank Cllr Weedall for organising the Star Competition and Cllr Stillman for photographing the stars on judging night in terrible weather. It was a fabulous event and very successful.

242/17/05 Road Safety & Security Group

Cllr Stillman – Sherbourne and High Street nearly got finished by Island Roads in the recent roadworks, but Church Road will now be started once roadworks commence from March 2018. TROs will be completed early 2018 and will include road markings missed at Sherbourne and High Street. A speed watch volunteer has agreed to complete the Police forms and other volunteers will help him out when required. Hotspots have been identified in the Village to target. The Security Information Day was a success with only the Blue Lamp Trust not attending. A further day will be arranged for next year.

242/17/06 Harbour APPENDIX B

242/17/07 Police report

No serious problems in Bembridge, but would like to remind residents not to put Christmas presents in windows on full show.

242/17/08 Amey Waste Forum report

Cllr Sullivan – no meeting but new green waste bins have been delivered to those who ordered and will be collected fortnightly. Put orders in ASAP as the early bird offer runs out on 18th January.

242/17/09 IW Bus & Rail Users Group

Cllr Hopkinson-Woolley - no meeting attended. Railway line to Ventnor is being encouraged.

242/17/10 Age Friendly/MLAFL

Cllr Reeder - not at meeting

242/17/11 Isle of Wight Councillors reports

Cllr Tyndall – there will be a public consultation on the IWC Budget on Tuesday 16th January and on 15th January for Town/Parish Councils. The IWC will sign for the Sandown Bay Academy to become a new school this week. Discussions are still ongoing about the 6th Form.

242/17/12 Clerk's report

APPENDIX C

9. 243/17 HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

To approve updates to the Health & Safety Policy

RESOLVED: Approved updates to the Health & Safety Policy

10. 244/17 STEYNE PARK

To agree to grant a lease or license to BYCC for MUGA (as and when required to comply with the Biffa grant funding criteria)

A license would be easier and can be revoked easier than a lease for the old basketball court for the MUGA. Looking at the Biffa main grant for Community buildings and recreation stage one expression of interest deadline is 28th Feb and stage two full application is 28th March. The grant is £10,000-75,000 and requires 10% third party contribution so this will need to be considered. Once the grant criteria is fully know a draft version to be agreed at a future Council meeting.

RESOLVED: Agreed to grant a lease or license to BYCC for MUGA (as and when required to comply with the Biffa grant funding criteria)

11. 245/17 ROAD SAFETY & SECURITY

To agree appointment of Cllr K Fagan to the Road Safety and Security Group

RESOLVED: Agreed appointment of Cllr K Fagan to the Road Safety and Security Group

12. 246/17 CONSULTATIONS

To agree Boundary Commission Isle of Wight review consultation response

RESOLVED: Agreed Boundary Commission Isle of Wight review consultation response

13. 247/17 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

To agree housing needs survey form and timescales

RESOLVED: Agreed housing needs survey form and timescales

14. 248/17 TRAINING

248/17/01 To agree an introduction to VAT Course on 28th February 10.00-15.00 Eastleigh £50 for the Clerk
(Budget £1211.90 committed expenditure £1211.90)

RESOLVED: Agreed an introduction to VAT Course on 28th February 10.00-15.00 Eastleigh £50 for the Clerk

248/17/02 To consider amendments to the Training Policy

RESOLVED: Agreed amendments to the Training Policy with the addition after cost effective to state ensuring quality

15. 249/17 BEMBRIDGE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

To approve the Lunch Club joining the Bembridge Friendship Circle Charity

The Lunch Club catered for 64 people today for Christmas dinner and including a raffle for free. Lunches are served Tuesday and Thursday by a great bunch of volunteers.

RESOLVED: Approved the Lunch Club joining the Bembridge Friendship Circle Charity

16. 250/17 GRANTS

250/17/01 To approve grant of £250 for the Optio Fund (Budget £1000 spend to date £650)

RESOLVED: Approved grant of £125 for the Optio Fund with a local business being asked to sponsor the balance of £125, their advert in the Parish Newsletter would be given a prominent space at the front.

250/17/02 To approve a contribution for the Armed Forces Day (Budget £1000 spend to date £650)

Proposal: To refuse a contribution for the Armed Forces Day but to support the Bembridge Armed Forces Day event

5 Approved 3 abstentions

Proposal: To approve a contribution for the Armed Forces Day of £50

Proposal failed

RESOLVED: To refuse a contribution for the Armed Forces Day but to support the Bembridge Armed Forces Day event

17. 251/17 BEMBRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

To adopt BNDP Annual Report 2017

RESOLVED: Adopted BNDP Annual Report 2017

18. 252/17 LSI WATER CONTRACTS

To agree to use LSI Energy to analyse the water bills to source cheaper options

RESOLVED: Agreed to use LSI Energy to analyse the water bills to source cheaper options

19. 253/17 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED: 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

All Councillors in favour

20. 254/17 EMPLOYEE CONTRACT

To agree a permanent contract for Simon Cope from 22nd February 2018 for 15 hours per week

Cllr Steane – confident it will be passed but last year we were offering St Helen surplus lengthsmen hours, so is there insufficient work for the lengthsmen? What are the legal implications and employment rights? We are in interesting financial times and showing £108,500 salaries in our £159,000 budget (68%), should we not be looking at cutting back?

Clerk – so far there is no budget for IWC Rights of Way next year, so there will be more work for the lengthsmen. We were not selling surplus lengthsmen hours, the work would have been on top of their contracted hours. Bembridge is the only Parish with lengthsmen, and the point was to start clustering with neighbouring Parishes to work in partnership. After two years employment rights become the same as permanent employees. The office manage the lengthsmen work schedule which in the Spring/Summer is mainly grass cutting/grounds maintenance and in Autumn/Winter is property maintenance. The list never ends. The salary budget is £90,000 with an additional £9,750 for property manager and planning consultant, the £10,000 from toilet refurbishment was renamed moving toilet to Village Hall.

RESOLVED: Agreed a permanent contract for Simon Cope from 22nd February 2018 for 15 hours per week

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Full Council 16th January 2018, 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Meeting Closed: 8.10pm

Signed:

Dated:.....