



# BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

**The Clerk to the Council,**  
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Via Email: [Lavelle2219@gmail.com](mailto:Lavelle2219@gmail.com)

21<sup>st</sup> December 2017

Dear Mrs Lavelle

Thank you for the questions at Full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> December during the public forum.

Your main question was 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?

I attach a statement that Marianne Sullivan published on Bembridge Community Noticeboard that explains her reasons.

I reiterate a response provided to another resident in September 2017 as follows:-

Open Bembridge was a political group who campaigned during the elections to secure seats on Bembridge Parish Council of which 10 seats were successfully secured. Parish Councils are by no means meant to be run politically and several of the new Parish Councillors took up the office of Bembridge Parish Council on 8<sup>th</sup> May and ceased this political affiliation. Some have continued it which is bad practice within a Parish Council.

This doesn't mean that those Councillors do not stand by the principles in which they were elected; to represent the residents of Bembridge.

You said it was distressing to see decisions made without discussions.

Full Council agenda packs including all of the accompanying papers are available on the Parish Councils website a week prior to the meeting. These documents and many others are open and transparent to help best inform the residents. If you have a look at the information and have any questions you can seek clarification on those questions from the Parish Office prior to the meeting. <https://www.bembridgepc.org.uk/document-library/full-council-documents/>

Regarding the Extraordinary Full Council meeting approving the budget and precept. The budget is £200,000 of which £90,000 is for staffing. This leave discussions for £110,000 of which the majority of the budget is running of services on a day to day basis such as toilets, changing rooms, recreation ground, cemetery etc. and the room for maneuver here is minimal. The majority of debate will always focus upon project, events, donations, grants and sponsorship for which a debate took place around match funding.

People need to put into a realistic perspective the amounts we are considering here.

You said that you can see bullying from both sides and didn't want to name names.

As a member of the public you only see the pinnacle of what is happening at Bembridge Parish Council during the meetings. Bembridge Parish Council is fully committed to addressing the issues and a number of actions will take place in the New Year to eradicate this. The specific details will not be divulged as to protect the council from disrepute.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Goldring', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Emma Goldring  
Clerk Bembridge Parish Council