



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 Village Partnership Green Town Steering Group meeting held 10th January 2018 at 3.00pm Parish Office, 5 Foreland Road, Bembridge

PRESENT: Mr J Leaver (Chairman), Cllr S Weedall, Mr I Graham, Mrs B Clough, Mr J Doolan, Cllr M Sullivan, Cllr M Donlon, Mrs D Grannum, Mrs E Goldring (Clerk), Mr John Taylor and Gina (both Natural England)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence Mr T Freeman.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

To receive for approval minutes of the Green Town Steering Group meeting held on 8th November 2017. Roger Dixcey to be amended to Richard Dixcey and date of next meeting incorrect.

RESOLVED: Approved minutes with amendments of the Green Town Steering Group meeting held on 8th November 2017

3. NATURAL ENGLAND COSTAL PATH CONSULTATION

Guest Speaker - John Taylor Natural England

John Taylor thanked Ian Graham, Sheila Weedall and Jeff Doolan for the accompanied walk along sections of coastal path prior to the meeting.

In 2008/9 the England Coast Path Act came in. There is funding ring-fenced for all stretches to be complete during 2020. The Isle of Wight was not originally included but lobbying from various bodies has ensured that it now is included.

Bembridge already has a good network of paths. The Island is clued up about access. Brading Marsh could see some improvements with reunifying the route along with improvements around the Coast Hotel.

There are two gifts which are rollback and coastal margin. Rollback is proposed for the whole of the Island as there are routes that get stranded into the sea. Coastal margin covers spreading room and accepted land. Accepted land is known as gardens, housing, parks, schools, holiday parks etc. often on the fringes of land to ensure the financial impact upon the land owner is minimal.

National Trails department to step in once the Coastal Team implements the plans. If you don't add in the river Medina the Island is the 3rd or 4th longest route in the Country. Currently at stage two with the community drop in sessions. Stage three is for Natural England to formulate a plan with lines on the map in September 2018 however likely to be 2-3 months behind. The Secretary of State could then take 4-5 months to make a decision. The Secretary of State will approve, approve with conditions or reject the plans.

Any upgrades will be organised via John Brownscombe such as bridges etc. Funded 75% Natural England and 25% IWC and IWC maintain going forward. Reasons that a route would not be pursued are privacy and impact upon business. Does IWC have any budget going forward or would it be expected of the Parish Councils to fund it?

The permissive path on RSPB land is felt to be an improvement upon the coastal path route as it currently runs along Embankment Road. It joins up with harbour land owned by Malcolm Thorpe. Malcolm has confirmed in the past that he is happy for this access to continue. Questions have been raised about the original route following the old railway line that has over time been taken over by

businesses. Land Registry searches have been conducted in the past for this land and can be provided to Natural England for information to consider. A modification order has been submitted upon the RSPB land however the Parish Council did not support it as it was concerned that the permissive rights could be withdrawn. The England Coast Path Act legislation overrules any sec 31 or modification order as it would become the route upon the definitive map, if agreed.

A new bridge would be required and there are specific designation on the lagoon such as SSSI and SAC. This improvement was considered before but not pursued due to the need for Planning permission and approvals from RSPB and Malcolm Thorpe. Natural England will have meetings with landowners and consider the feedback received. Natural England can suggest a formal route or optional route.

Improvements could be made to BB10 steps down to the café and along the front try to divert to Paddock Drive between Poplar Close. BB7 requires improvements. Difference of opinions whether it should be at the top or on the beach. The quay owned by the harbour company across the bridge signs state private property no access. This falls within St Helens boundary and not Bembridge. Ryde School prevented access through the land. The access is fine for now but rollback will be difficult in the future. This area has been upgraded with some realignment taking place. BB10 westward of Crab and Lobster has some rollback.

The final plan will have a further 8 weeks consultation period on the proposed plans. John to email timescales to the Clerk.

- To agree Natural England Coast Path (ECP) Improvements to public access along the Isle of Wight Coast consultation response

RESOLVED: Ian Graham to work with the Clerk on a draft consultation respond.

4. FORWARD PLAN

To discuss forward plan

Project	Latest Actions	Actions Required
The Point Clear Up Project inc Bembridge Trail Sign/Leaflet		OK
Palmer Memorial Restoration inc Sign/Leaflet	Needs weeding and to plant large trough	SW
WW1 Remembrance Orchard, Lane End Cemetery		OK
Lincoln Way Pond Clearance		Annual clearance
Big Tree Plant Old School Field	1 dead to be replaced by Lengthsmen in spring	Lengthsmen
Lane End Clear up	More weeds to be removed	OK
Culver Trail Project Signs and leaflet	Need to be checked	?
Mound, Lane End Cemetery	Ok	Ok
Compost bin area, Lane End Cemetery	Ok	Ok
War Memorial Gardens fence	Ok	OK
Birdham Corner flower beds	Ok	OK
Concrete Planters	To be cleared and replanted opposite Kings Oak	TBA
Regular Events	Latest Actions	Actions Required
Beach Cleans	Ok	Ok
Litter Picks	Ok	Ok
Bembridge in Bloom Awards	Successful event	Ok
Best Kept Village	Successful	OK

Wight in Bloom	Chase for sponsorship	None available
Footpaths	Latest Actions	Actions Required
BB22 – Hillway Road to Sandown Road		
BB4 – Beach Road dead end		
BB14 –Howgate Road to Coastal Path	Slip reported	ROW
BB21 – Bembridge Windmill to Brading		
BB10 – Sandhills		
Brooks Close/Foreland Farm Lane		
BB2		
Poplar/Beachfield/Merlin Close		
BB42	Overgrown reported and cut back	

5. MEN IN SHEDS

Men in Sheds project feeds into the Age Friendly work. Lois from Age UK met with Sheila and Emma to share information on how the others have been implemented on the Island. Ventnor has a shop, Sandown has an engineering shed, Newport has an acoustic shed, Totland is the only one that comes under the Parish Council. All others are stand alone, set up as separate entities with their own constitutions, insurance and are self-funded. This could be via an annual membership fee of £25 or pay £1 per visit. Awards for all grant funding is available from £300-£10,000. Need to consider where it is going to go. Other grants such as RSV via Asda up to £1000 are available for tools and to kit out the sheds. A plea to the community to donate tools could also take place.

A promotional event would be required to be advertised via Facebook, Website, Newsletter, Vectis Radio, Parish News, WI, TWG etc to generate the interest. The event could be held in conjunction with something else such as a Friendship Circle coffee morning.

Do they have a focus? Parish Lengthsmen expressed concern that they would be taking on their work. No this would not be the case. Other groups such as the Friday gang at the Steam Railway 8-15 men focus on the side of the tracks such as trees, branches, repairing fences etc. Cannot demand anything of the participants as it's up to them to drive it. Different activities could be expected of different people so its success will depend upon those involved. Is there a mailing list of all the men over 70 in Bembridge? Perhaps Age UK may be able to assist.

RESOLVED: Ian Graham to assist Sheila Weedall with the promotional activities/event.

6. SPRING LITTER PICK & BEACH CLEANS

To agree spring litter pick and summer beach clean dates

Spring litter pick in the past has linked up with Keep Britain Tidy. This year they are promoting a Great British Spring Litter pick 2-4th March. It was felt appropriate to tie in with this. Focus upon all areas of the village and not just Rights of Way. Come back to Steyne Park for tea and cakes; book BYCC. Get some green town florescent jackets. SW to get a price.

RESOLVED: Spring litter pick 3rd March 10.00am commencing at Steyne Park and returning for refreshments.

Beach cleans proposed at 10.00am on the following dates. Tides have been checked.

24th March

16th June

21st July

11th August

8th September

Ensure that there are enough gloves, litter pickers and bags. Need a renewed emphasis on getting more people involved.

RESOLVED: Dates to be circulated to members and agreed via email.

7. WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION PROJECT

To consider quotes and grants funding for War memorial restoration project. Quotes have not been received need to chase. £3,000 in the budget this financial year and £1,500 next financial year to include WWI commemoration. Would ideally like the works complete before November being the centenary of the end of WWI.

RESOLVED: Chase quotes.

8. VILLAGE TREES

To agree extent of replacement tree programme including liability, budget and approval process.

How much will IWC or Island Roads charge for trees? A borough in London charge £250 per tree which comes with a 2 year guarantee. Who takes on the liability and ongoing maintenance? Parish Council would need a proposal to consider. Is a quote required from Island Roads to cover all trees on the spreadsheet or as and when a request comes in?

RESOLVED: Ian Graham to liaise with the Clerk regarding the proposal.

9. RIGHTS OF WAY

To agree IOW ROW improvement plan consultation response deadline 23rd Feb.

The plan has been considered but seems very aspirational and vague. A response should be submitted but needs to be drafted.

10. PUBLIC REALM

- To discuss concrete planters opposite Kings Oak project for spring

The Parish Lengthsmen will be required. Diarise a date at the end of March. Plants can be provided from the Coastal Gardener when required.

- To discuss entry signs into Bembridge

Island Roads will change all entry signs in 2020 to road name type signs. Is the location correct and what should the design be? Refer this agenda item onto the Village Partnership to consider.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting Wednesday 14th March at 4.00pm in the Parish Office

Meeting closed 17.00

Signed:.....Dated:.....