



# BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk to the Council,  
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## Minutes of Bembridge Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00 pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Village Hall, Bembridge

**Present:** Cllr K Fagan (Chairman), Cllr M Sullivan, Cllr S Weedall, Cllr M Donlon, Cllr G Stillman, Cllr L White, Cllr R Weaver, Cllr N Maclean, Cllr M Curtis, Cllr A Steane, Mrs E Goldring (Clerk) and Mrs J McDade (Assistant Clerk) **Public:** IW Cllr B Tyndall and 64 members of the public

### PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Resident: item 17 - a purchaser tried to contact Gully Howards and was told the property was not on the market. If it has been taken off the market, who made the decision and were all councillors advised? Was the decision taken outside Full Council? Who gave the authorisation? Would be grateful for an answer.

Chairman: No instruction was given to Gully Howard and the property has not been taken off the market.

Resident: item 7, 112/18 - Chaired Parish Meeting at which discussions were held on 5/7 sale for which there was great discord. Why the change of view on economic assets. There should be information road shows or resign and stand again. Explain why individual councillors changed allegiance after the elections and explain at interview the economic situation, as there is a lot of discord.

Chairman: Individual councillors make their own decisions

Resident: item 10, 115/18/02 – I would like to thank the Parish Council for listening to our concerns regarding BB40 and putting in an objection to the IWC. It has now gone to the Planning Inspectorate for determination and hope we can count on the PC's continued support.

Resident: this is an analysis of the financials. November 13 narration of budget for 2014/15 the Clerk commented about disposal of 5/7 High Street so why was £20,000 allocated for repairs and maintenance of the building? November 16 narration of budget for 2017/18 anticipated similar year end cash balance as last 2 years of £120,000 cash in hand. This shows 3 years of overspending, showing old councillors did not understand the finances. The committee report of the 1<sup>st</sup> May is a biased report by the Clerk with miscalculations, incorrect comments and £25,000 put on the sale price for no reason. This is very bad, can anything be done about that?

Chairman: A written response will be forwarded

Resident: **Appendix A**

Resident: item 7, 112/18 -the Parish Meeting was concerned with the performance of the majority of the council. The contradictory, argumentative and ill-informed sheet sent to me, who produced and paid for it? The incompetent email sent to me from the office with no name. Bear in mind everyone at the Parish Meeting expressed and voted on lack of confidence in those councillors who changed allegiance, in the chair who is neither honest nor competent and in the performance of the Clerk.

Resident: at the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August there were many questions asked to the PC and responses were promised. Are these publicly available and if so where?

Chairman: These are available on the website, a link will be forwarded to you

Resident: item 17 - there have been three calls to halt the sale of 5/7 High Street and a vote of no-confidence. Councillors represent the people of Bembridge and should represent their views.

Resident: item 17 - probably don't like email of 13/8/18 and what was said but should still have a response as you are a public servant. Audit of 18/7/18 it was said that capital expense lacked clarity and general reserves were on a rocky edge at 5.5 months. If giving up 5/7 High Street where is the money it brings in going to be found, cut backs or raising the precept, there is nothing else to sell. What are your plans with the money raised from the sale, we must be told?

Chairman: Capital receipts can only be spent on capital projects. Assets that are for all the community such as the Village Hall for all residents and a Multi Use Games Area for youngsters in the village, to name two.

Resident: item 17 - This is a difficult situation and my personal opinion was not to sell 5/7 High Street but there is a lot of propaganda going around and many people are not being told the truth only one view. The previous council voted on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 to rescind the sale, but Open Bembridge were not happy with this they wanted control and revenge, there is lots in previous minutes look for yourselves or talk to previous councillors for information and facts. The way OB have behaved over the last 18 months is disgraceful and moving forward so much could have been done for the community but we have missed out on funding because of the infighting which is an absolute disgrace.

Resident: **Appendix B**

Chairman: Capital receipts will be spent on Capital projects. Thank you for the valid points raised and happy to receive ideas.

19 members of the public left the meeting

#### **1. 106/18 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

I have heard and read a lot of comment on social media about the openness and transparency of the Council, alleged financial misappropriation of council funds, our staff and the role of the staff. I will deal with these matters in that order:

Councils operate like any other organisation, we have appointed committees with delegated powers; they are responsible for making decisions within their remit. Anything that falls outside of their delegated powers comes back to full council for a decision. Meetings or parts of some meetings (whether Full council or committees) have to be held in private because of their confidential content (Commercially sensitive matters, Personal Matters, Personnel Matters, etc). These, are NOT secret meetings this is a statutory requirement and protects the Council from potential litigation.

The Financial misappropriation of Council Funds is a serious allegation and that matter needs to be addressed. Unlike most normal businesses Councils have three audits per annum; our bank accounts and payment schedules are reconciled and signed off by a rotation of Councillors; ALL Councillors are requested to take an active role in this process – NOT ALL DO. Payments outside of the normal day to day running of the Council come to full Council for approval i.e. grants. I would be happy to receive factual evidence from anyone proving the allegations of misappropriation of funds.

There is much confusion and spin about our Staff. I take this opportunity to deal with this matter once and for all. Councillors set policies and providing they are legal and deliverable the Staff delivers those policies, often under extremely difficult and challenging conditions. It is up to the staff to deliver policies, offer professional advice and it is not for Councillors to micro manage every aspect of the day to day running of the council. As councillors, we are jointly and severally responsible for our Staff. We take that responsibility very seriously and will not tolerate bullying or harassment of our Staff on Social Media, in person, on the telephone or by mail – electronic or otherwise. This applies equally to Councillors and members of the public. The Council has a number of policies in place that will be enforced to ensure a safe working environment for our Staff.

We are a £200K council with 5 members of staff. If you break that down it equates to just under £550.00 per day. It is important to know what your council actually does – I have a copy of the forward plan September to December and all of this is in addition to the daily running of the council like toilets, footpaths, roads,

committees, etc. This forward plan will be placed on the website (and updated where possible) for those who wish to view it.

Lastly and as a comparison for those who are really interested in how this Council performs; take the time to look online and compare the running costs of services provided by other Town and Parish Councils with ours.

2. **107/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for absence  
Apologies accepted from Cllr R Widger  
Apologies received via email from Cllr T Millington

3. **108/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**108/18/01** To receive declarations of pecuniary or other interests relating to items on agenda  
Cllr Stillman declared a pecuniary interest in item 16

**108/18/02** To consider requests and grant dispensations if appropriate  
None received

4. **109/18 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

To receive for approval minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018  
**RESOLVED:** Deferred approval of minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018

5. **110/18 FINANCE**

**110/18/01** To receive bank reconciliation and cash balances to 17<sup>th</sup> August, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
**RESOLVED:** Received bank reconciliation and cash balances to 17<sup>th</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
8 in favour 2 abstentions **Appendix C**

**110/18/02** To approve schedule of payments to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
**RESOLVED:** Approved schedule of payments to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
9 in favour 1 abstention

**110/18/03** To note the internal audit report action plan  
**RESOLVED:** Noted the internal audit report action plan  
7 in favour 2 abstentions 1 no vote

**110/18/04** To receive and approve the notice of conclusion of audit  
**RESOLVED:** Received and approved the notice of conclusion of audit  
9 in favour 1 abstention

**110/18/05** To agree insurance renewal due on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018 with AXA £2954.09 (year 2 of the 3 year long term agreement) (Budget £3200 spend to date £0)  
**RESOLVED:** Agreed insurance renewal due on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018 with AXA £2954.09  
All in favour

**110/18/06** To agree van insurance renewal due on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
**RESOLVED:** Agreed van insurance renewal due on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
9 in favour 1 abstention

6. **111/18 REPORTS, POLICES AND PROCEDURES**

**111/18/01** To receive the clerks report and confirm delegated decisions  
The Clerk read out a statement resigning from her position due to the bullying and harassment from some Councillors and their Open Bembridge supporters  
The Clerk left the meeting

**Appendix D**

Chairman stated that he was very sad that Bembridge has lost the best Clerk, her work was recognised not only on the Isle of Wight but also the South of England. She has left an amazing legacy in the village. I wish her well.

**111/18/02** To receive Isle of Wight councillor/s report

IW Cllr B Tyndall – the Boundary Report shows that Bembridge will be separated from St Helens and Brading, Bembridge having one Councillor and one for St Helens/Brading. The local cabinet meeting held in Brading last week was a success. Bembridge has lost one of the best clerks on the Island which is very sad.

**111/18/03** To agree terms of reference for Staffing & Finance Committee

**RESOLVED:** Agreed terms of reference for Staffing & Finance Committee

6 in favour 2 abstentions 2 against

**111/18/04** To agree amended terms of reference for the Road Safety & Security Group

**RESOLVED:** Agreed amended terms of reference for the Road Safety & Security Group

6 in favour 4 against

**111/18/05** To agree Standing Orders to add hierarchy for attendance at training, seminars, conferences etc. and amend 3r and 27b and c

**RESOLVED:** Agreed Standing Orders to add hierarchy for attendance at training, seminars, conferences etc. and amend 3r and 27b and c

6 in favour 4 against

**111/18/06** To agree protocol for recording Bembridge Parish Council meetings

3 in favour 6 against 1 no vote

**RESOLVED:** Agreed not to implement the protocol for recording Bembridge Parish Council meetings

Resident called out ‘incompetent chair’ and was asked to refrain from calling out during the meeting or he would be asked to leave

**111/18/07** To agree that Bembridge Parish Council Staffing & Finance Committee should be held at 6.30pm in the Village Hall or BYCC

4 in favour 6 against

**RESOLVED:** Agreed that Bembridge Parish Council Staffing & Finance Committee will not be held at 6.30pm in the Village Hall or BYCC

**7. 112/18 PARISH MEETING**

To note the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in the Village Hall

**RESOLVED:** Noted the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in the Village Hall

Resident called out again and was given a final warning

**8. 113/18 PROPERTIES**

**113/18/01** To agree to obtain the remainder of the Basketball Court as freehold from the Isle of Wight Council

**RESOLVED:** Agreed to obtain the remainder of the Basketball Court as freehold from the Isle of Wight Council

7 in favour 3 abstentions

**113/18/02** To agree the ongoing maintenance responsibility, cost and liability for the new Village entry signs

**RESOLVED:** Agreed the ongoing maintenance responsibility, cost and liability for the new Village entry signs

9 in favour 1 abstention

**9. 114/18 TRAINING**

To agree training for new Councillors to join with other Parish Councils to reduce the cost (Budget £850 spend to date £51.30)

Gurnard Parish Council no longer wish to join with Bembridge for training

**RESOLVED:** Agreed for Councillor Training £250 and Employer Training £325 with Sue Chilton  
All in favour

**10. 115/18 FOOTPATHS**

**115/18/01** To agree BB19 footpath improvement project total £2082 IWC contribution £532 cost £1,550  
(Budget £2000 spend to date £0)

**RESOLVED:** Agreed BB19 footpath improvement project total £2082 IWC contribution £532 cost £1,550  
9 in favour 1 abstention

**115/18/02** To note BB40 diversion order has been referred to the Planning Inspectorate by IWC for a final decision and to agree the Parish Council input as an objector

**RESOLVED:** Agreed objections previously made still stand  
9 in favour 1 against

**11. 116/18 BEMBRIDGE MAGAZINE**

To agree to provide the e-newsletter content to the 'Bembridge Magazine' on a monthly basis free of charge in return for providing distribution of the magazine from the Parish Office

**RESOLVED:** Agreed to provide the e-newsletter content to the 'Bembridge Magazine' on a monthly basis free of charge in return for providing distribution of the magazine from the Parish Office  
8 in favour 2 abstention

**12. 117/18 VILLAGE HALL/TOILET**

**117/18/01** To agree that the Isle of Wight Council requires an undertaking that the new facility will be retained as a public convenience for the benefit of the village in perpetuity

**RESOLVED:** Agreed undertaking requested by Isle of Wight Council that the new facility will be retained as a public convenience for the benefit of the village in perpetuity  
7 in favour 2 abstentions 1 against

**117/18/02** To consider toilet tenders received

**RESOLVED:** Rejected the toilet tenders as too expensive

**117/18/03** To agree to breakdown the package of works to enable delivery within budget

**RESOLVED:** Agreed to breakdown the package of works to enable delivery within budget  
6 in favour 4 abstentions

**117/18/04** To note village hall availability of build works is not acceptable until January 2019

**RESOLVED:** Noted village hall availability of build works is not acceptable until January 2019  
6 in favour 4 abstentions

**117/18/05** To agree to use temporary toilets until the new toilet is constructed (if required)

**RESOLVED:** Agreed to use temporary toilets until the new toilet is constructed if required  
6 in favour 1 abstention 3 against

**13. 118/18 VAN**

To agree to purchase a replacement van up to £6000 and trade in the current van if possible (Earmarked Reserves budget £6000 spend to date £0)

**RESOLVED:** Agreed to purchase a replacement van up to £6000 and trade in the current van if possible  
8 in favour 2 against

**14. 119/18 LENGTHSMEN WORKSHOP**

**119/18/01** To accept quote from Scottish & Southern Electricity networks to install new supply to the Lengthsmen workshop at the old school field entrance (Budget £10,000 spend to date £0)

**RESOLVED:** Accepted quote from Scottish & Southern Electricity networks to install new supply to the Lengthsmen workshop at the old school field entrance

8 in favour 2 against

**119/18/02** To agree to purchase a security fence and gate to install at the old school field entrance to secure the site (Budget £10,000 spend to date £0)

**RESOLVED:** Agreed budget of £1,300 to purchase a security fence and gate to install at the old school field entrance to secure the site

8 in favour 2 against

**15. 120/18 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 items, having due regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

6 in favour 2 abstentions 2 against

Chairman suspended standing orders to allow the meeting to continue for 30 minutes

8 in favour 2 against

Cllr Stillman left the meeting

**16. 121/18 EMAIL RESIGNATION ADVICE**

Cllr Stillman returned to the meeting

Cllr Curtis left the meeting

**17. 122/18 5/7 HIGH STREET**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Confirmed 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 7.00pm in the Village Hall

**Meeting closed: 9.35pm**

**Signed:**

**Dated:**