



BEMBRIDGE PARISH

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the Village Hall on
Wednesday 1st May 2024
The meeting will commence at 6.30pm

AGENDA

1. Introduction and Welcome
2. Apologies
3. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd May 2023
4. To receive the Chair's report which will include a presentation by Cllr Adams on the Bembridge Community Resilience Project
5. To receive the District Councillor's report
6. A short Presentation by Theo Vickers, an award winning, underwater photographer and marine biologist who is passionate about marine life of the IOW & Solent. Theo is from the IOW and uses his camera to spark interest in and promote marine conservation in the island's communities.
7. Public Forum – To invite members of the public to raise items of interest
*This is an opportunity for parishioners, to raise any matters of concern or suggestions for projects re future improvements to the local community.
(If a vote is taken by a show of hands only those on the Bembridge electoral roll may vote)*

All attendees are invited to stay for refreshments

Cllr Liz White – Chair Bembridge Parish Council

18th April 2024



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 Annual Meeting of Bembridge Parish

On Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr L White (Chair of Bembridge Parish Council), and 41 members of the public

Julia Shorrocks (Clerk Bembridge Parish Council)

1. Introduction and Welcome:

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and paid a tribute to Barbara Clough, who passed away last month. Barbara had been a Bembridge District Councillor & Parish Councillor for many years.

2. Apologies:

Several apologies were tendered and accepted including from Bembridge District Councillor, Cllr J Robertson.

3. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting in 2022

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 27th April 2022 were approved and signed by Cllr L White

4. Chair of Bembridge Parish Council's Report

The chair thanked everyone who has:

- given their time to the village groups and organisations,
- all others who quietly undertake beach cleans & litter picks,
- The Community Gardeners, who meet every Wednesday & look after the War Memorial & central village planters. As a result at the IOW Best Kept Village awards in September 2023 Bembridge won Best kept Memorial Garden 2022.
- The Parish Lengthsmen who strim, hedge cut, litter pick helping Bembridge win the Best kept Extra Large Village award at IOW Best Kept Village 2022,
- all Councillors for their time
- Cllr Joe Robertson who has worked so hard campaigning for the village.

It had been a difficult year. Money was tight and difficult decisions had to be made. Some projects had to be delayed and grant funding will be required for future projects.

Staff Changes

- Daryl – long term lengthsman left. The chair thanked him for all his work.
- Steve – joined the team of Kevin and Pete.
- Clerk – Mark Pink retired in August & was thanked for his time in post
- The Council arranged a Service Level Agreement with Ryde Town Council to cover period without a clerk in October and November. Thanks to Lisa Dyer for all her help.



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- Mark Rochell joined the Council as RFO. He is an accountant and has brought new light to the Council's finances with clear reports and projections.
- Julia Shorrocks joined the Council as Clerk. She has been a Parish Councillor for 14 years so brings much experience.

The Council had Quality status in 2016 to 2020. It was not possible to reapply as the council's accounts from 2017/18 were subject to examination.. The External Auditor dismissed all the complaints but unfortunately at a cost to the Council of £18K. Bembridge residents deserve to have a Quality recognised Council & BPC aims to achieve this award.. Mark and Julia will work towards CiLCA and the Council will publish an annual report shortly. The website is being updated and a new version will soon go live..

Bembridge was subjected to Section 19 Flood inspection & report after the flooding in June/July 2021. One recommendation was the creation of a flood group. The council had already established a flood group, following the presentation at last year's APM. A bid for a grant for emergency equipment from SSEN was successful.

Bembridge PC combined with Brading TC and St Helen's PC to take advantage of matched funding from IOW Council to commission a LCWIP (Local cycling, walking infrastructure plan).

Both reports have been adopted by IOW Council & can be viewed on the BPC website.

Next year the Council will be undertaking a revision of its Housing Needs Survey.

5. District Councillor's Report

Cllr J Robertson had to tend his apologies to the meeting. He sent a written report to update the village which is copied in its entirety below.

This time last year we were waiting for the planning application on the field between Steyne Road and Hillway Road to go before Planning Committee. A year later and we are still waiting. I have been working closely with residents and community group Build a Better Bembridge to resist this application together with a forthcoming application on the field the other side of Steyne Road. Over the past year I have also been working with residents to stop any development or damage to the woodland along Love Lane. I undertook a site visit with the Isle of Wight Council's tree officer in April 2023 where I saw for myself the significant tree replanting taking place, monitored by the tree officer.

The Section 19 Flood Report published early in 2022 is being used to make a case for improving drainage infrastructure in the Village. The Council have appointed a new drains officer who has visited Bembridge on a number of occasions, meeting with me and representatives from the Parish Council. A plan has been drawn up for Station Road, with plans to follow for Lane End and Hillway Road. I have also met with Southern Water on several occasions, including during a visit to the sewage treatment plant in Sandown. I am putting pressure on them to bring forward their plans for Bembridge including roll out of free water butts which have reportedly been successful in Havenstreet.

I continue to be a member of three of the Isle of Wight Council's Committees. The Appointments and Employment Committee successfully interviewed for a new Chief Executive at the end of 2022. I have been holding the Council's Cabinet to account as a member of Corporate Scrutiny Committee including



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scrutinising the decision to keep the Floating Bridge settlement agreement secret and the decision to spend £1.3 million on upgrades to County Hall. I have also been trying to get more NHS dentistry on the Island, together with colleagues on Health and Adult Social Care Committee.

We are now halfway through the current Council term with local elections in May 2025. Since being elected I have a 100 per cent meeting attendance record – the only Isle of Wight Councillor out of 39 to have full attendance. I continue to work closely with the Chair and Clerk of the Parish Council to get things done more effectively.

6. Presentations ‘Bembridge, an All-Age Caring Community’

- **Andrew Larpent Church Warden, Holy Trinity Church –**

Andrew gave a talk about his career in the care industry. I have lived in the village for 2 years and have had two careers – the first in the military and the second in the care industry.

Whilst in the care industry I ran a large care group in Australia and was instrumental in building a care home. I was able to travel all around the Commonwealth and see how other member countries ran their care systems.

I spent a great deal of time studying how people lived with dementia and how they stayed connected to life by using their memories of the person they were.

This community is very good; it is connected and caring. There are many initiatives taking place that are designed to help those with loneliness and dementia.

I am a church warden at Holy Trinity Church and it is an example of how the community is thriving.

There is plenty of diversity in the village: people’s health, the way they live, the age of the community.

The primary school is in the heart of the community and is a wonderful place.

The pandemic was a very difficult period, and we went straight into another one with the cost-of-living crisis. This is affecting people in the village. The Parish Council stepped up and helped to get the many groups of like-minded people together in one place to form the Winter Warmers Partnership, to reach out to people who were struggling with the cost of living and heating bills. We are now moving on and have renamed ourselves the Bembridge Community Support Group. We want to keep going and ensure no one is left behind.

We need to get young people to engage with older persons and we hope this group can achieve this.

We are grateful to the PC for bringing all the groups together as it has already achieved much.

- **Corinne from the ‘Living Well Service’,**

who gave a presentation on the types of help available to residents. She explained what Living Well did, their outreach workers aims and how people could get in touch.

- **Bembridge Parish Council Community Resilience Group**

Cllr Chris Adams gave an update on the state of play with the Fire Station following last year’s presentation

He was a fire and rescue officer on the mainland for 30 years before moving to Bembridge. As he explained this time last year he was recruited as a volunteer for recruitment and publicity for the fire service. There were 4 aims to get the Bembridge Fire Station reopened:



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1. Volunteer representative FRS including Safe & Well visits to people's homes. This is Chris
2. A small vehicle which would give better access and need less crew to man. They have got a Mercedes Sprinter which needs a minimum of 2 crew and a maximum of 4 crew.
3. Recruit personnel. This is a stumbling block at the moment. The Hampshire rules for recruitment are not more than 5 mins from Fire Station and a person must give 90 hours a week. As nearly everywhere in Bembridge (due to one way systems and tourist traffic) is more than 5 minutes away there are few available people to recruit. Coupled with the need to devote 90 hours a week and the recruitment pool goes down even more. This is hopefully changing soon as there is a pilot in place elsewhere and so the 90 hours, 5 mins away should go.
4. Community Hub including storage for non-perishable equipment. The fire station is being used for this and hopefully once the repairs to the roof are complete it will become the 1st Responder Hub too. The successful bid to SEN meant that flood equipment could be bought – it has been used once this year already. There is still some money left to purchase a bit more equipment. There are 6 volunteers and the lengthsman and their van are also available during the day. There is an aim to run defib training, 1st response CPR session on 28th June with Murray Clarke (Community First Responder) in the Village Hall..

7. Public Forum

Q. How often have the Defibs been used? Cllr Chris Adams answered that he didn't know but would find out.

Q. Who pays for the batteries etc for the Defibs? Again it is not known, and it would be investigated.

Q. Is there a plan to renew the equipment at Steyne Park? There is much need to renew the equipment the PC fully agrees. However they needed to replace the swings after they became rotten and so that was a priority. Play equipment for a public place is incredibly expensive and so whilst the PC would love to revamp Steyne Park completely it needs a long term goal and some serious funding to be achievable. This is something the PC are very keen to begin so they will be looking for help from the electorate. Anyone with appropriate skills please let them know.

Q. There was going to be a walk around the village with IRs. Has this happened yet? Not yet but trying to find a date.

Q. I don't like the white boxes that Wight Fibre are putting in. Can we stop them? And I disagree with the LCWIP as I don't want every footpath tarmacked over – it will allow cyclists to whizz passed. The LCWIP will not result in every footpath being tarmacked over.

Q. Is there any update on fast charging EV points? No new ones yet but the PC are working on this particularly Cllr Brabazon who has made many contacts at IoW Council and got Bembridge on the list.

The meeting finished at 7.50 pm and refreshments were served.