



BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

5 Foreland Road, Bembridge, Isle of Wight, PO35 5XN

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Clerk's Report to Environment & Neighbourhood Committee 3rd Sept 2024

Matters arising from previous meeting:

Bike Racks – The issue of the Bike racks on the 'long border' was raised at the Assets & Estates Committee. It was decided that Cllr Brabazon would assess the location with Supervisor Lengthsman Steve Davidge to agree suitable positions for the new racks. Work may have already begun on the installation by the time of this meeting.

Climate Emergency Plan – Unfortunately there hasn't been time for any progress on this project to date as the Planning Committee have been busy with formulating the Parish Council reply to the Island Planning Scheme consultation.

RSPB Footpath – Mr A Holman will be able to update the committee on further progress at item 6 on the agenda, but the latest correspondence the Parish Office have had from Rights of Way is as follows:

'Yes, we are starting the first phase of the works on Malcolm Thorpe's land being the fencing off of a 2m path leading to the bank down to the old railway line. Phase 2 will be to construct some form of access in the bank (probably steps) and phase 3 will be to make the connection through to the RSPB land. The signing of the necessary deed with the RSPB is imminent.

As far as bins are concerned, they will need to be in place at the time of formal opening and I will keep in touch in this respect. Thank you for remembering.

I would like to mention that Malcolm has been incredibly cooperative with the formation of this path. He has given up land to enable this to happen.'

Lane End Mural – No further progress. I hope to have more information for next meeting of the Committee.

Tree Wardens – Item 8 on the agenda will be an update from Mr G Brasington. The Parish office have received the following correspondence from Mrs H Butler.

‘Calling tree loving citizens who are interested in becoming a tree warden

The Isle of Wight Red Squirrel Forum with the Isle of Wight Council and Parish Councils are looking into the possibility of recruiting and training tree wardens. Several Parishes have wardens already and we would like to extend the scheme across the Island. Initially we are asking for names and the Parish potential volunteer wardens could cover. Later in September a meeting of interested people will be arranged.

Want to see what the role entails? Go to [Become a Tree Warden - Tree Council Volunteer Tree Wardens](#) Good communication skills are essential! As well as looking after trees, there is an opportunity to record species of flora and fauna spotted, including red squirrels.

Please email your name and Parish to Helen and you will be contacted in September when we have further details to give you. The address is: wightsquirrels@hotmail.com

Contact: Helen Butler MBE

Chair The IOW Red Squirrel Forum’

She also emailed with details of a possible grant for funding tree warden schemes. (See below).

Good morning again

There is grant available which is of interest for funding the tree warden scheme and possibly other projects you may have. I have spoken to Mark Simmons and he thought it well worth pursuing re tree wardens and a tree nursery. Website is: isleofwight-nl.org.uk Email: Mark.Simmons@iow.gov.uk Mobile: 07851 093532.

She has confirmed that she has Glynn listed as an interested party and agreed that I can submit our official interest in this following your discussion at agenda item 8.

EV charge points – An email has been sent to all Island Clerks and to IWALC requesting any information regarding experiences with charge point installers, and if there are any companies that could be recommended. Unfortunately, there has been little, to no response.

I’ve also contacted PodPoint. They have sent a number of emails apologising for not getting back to me and promising that someone will reply soon. I still await any answers.

New items:

Parish flower troughs – To be discussed at agenda item 12.

It was agreed at the last Assets & Estates Committee meeting that the following planters are the responsibility of the Parish Council and were previously maintained by the Bembridge Environment & Neighbourhood Committee. It is recommended that the Committee assess and discuss updates to the maintenance schedule:

Andrew Swallow Memorial Garden in Steyne Park – Mrs Shiela Weedall has informed the Parish Office that she is no longer able to continue with the maintenance of this space and wishes to pass the responsibility back to the Parish Council.

Ducie Avenue Planter – It is understood that Mrs Sarah Ricketts is maintaining this planter.

Foreland Road Planter – It is understood that Mrs Debbie Hewitt is maintaining this planter.

Lifeboat Station Car Park – Cllr White and Cllr Sullivan carry out maintenance of this site.

Circular bench planter outside Captain Stan's – Debbie Glover and Cllr White carry out maintenance.

Palmer Memorial – No planting.

King's Road troughs – The Parish Council are unaware if anyone has taken on responsibility for these planters.

Updates and news:

The Have Your Say Day event took place in the Village Hall on Saturday 20th July. It seemed to be a great success with a busy stream of parishioners attending throughout the morning and leaving feedback. The Have Your Say Day Survey gathered 117 responses and a report outlining the results is attached.

We're very pleased to announce that the War Memorial Gardens won the Pride of Place award at the 2024 Wight in Bloom awards. Congratulations have been forwarded to the Community Gardeners and our Lengthsmen.

Councillors have also been invited to the Best Kept Village Award ceremony on Wednesday September 25th. (Fingers crossed).

Thank you,

Mark Rochell, Clerk/RFO Bembridge Parish Council.