



BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

5 Foreland Road, Bembridge, Isle of Wight, PO35 5XN
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Clerk's Report 20th November 2024

Matters arising from previous meeting:

Minute No: 117/24

Following the resignation of Cllr J Lake and the lack of requirement from Parishioners for a by-election, the notice of Co-Option has been advertised since 24th October. To date we have received no expressions of interest.

Following consultation with IoW Electoral Services it is recommended that the notice remains advertised around the village and on our website, with a decision on co-option to take place if and when a written application is submitted to the Clerk.

Event/Project updates:

An Act of Remembrance and Remembrance Day Ceremony was held at the War Memorial to mark Armistice Day. Cllr L White will be able to update the Council further during the Chair's report.

Office/Lengthsmen updates:

Staff annual appraisals have been completed, with all Health and Safety Manuals received and signed.

Refurbishment of the Point Toilets is now completed which means that all toilets have now received the agreed refurbishments.

Further work has been completed following the Tree Survey (including the removal of a dangerous branch in the Scout Field) and ROSPA report and communicated to Assets & Estates Committee.

The Steyne Park Car Park has been resurfaced at no cost to the Parish Council, and we hope to install new signage at the entrance to the park in the coming weeks.

John O'Connor have also completed their annual cut of the perimeter hedges of the park.

Training:

CLlr C Adams attended a NALC online course 'Mastering Emergency Planning' on 23rd October and will be able to update the Council on this course.

I have attended a Webinar from SLCC on Committees, Sub-Committee and Working Groups. It was very informative and will be useful knowledge when assessing our Committee structure for the next Council year.

Items on the Agenda:

Agenda item 7: Employment Policies

It is good practice for the Council to review its policies annually. Rather than look at all policies in May we are now spreading the review over the year in order to allow more time for analysis.

It is also a requirement of the Quality Council Awards to show these up-to-date policies on our website.

Agenda item 8: Transparency Policies

See above for agenda item 7.

Agenda item 9: General Policies

See above for agenda item 7. Note that these are general policies that are a particular requirement for Quality Council status.

Agenda item 10: Speed Gun

Following on from the successful speed watch initiative the Council are being asked to consider the purchase of a speed radar gun in order for the Council to carry on this work independently.

The cost of a radar gun would be approx. £220 and would need to be taken from the Asset Maintenance fund which currently has a balance of £14,458.

Agenda item 11: Bin on new right of way.

As part of the creation and opening up of the new 'right of way' alongside Embankment Road, the IoWC Right of Way team requested that the Parish Council provide and maintain a public bin at one end of the path.

The Environment and Neighbourhood Committee recommend that Full Council agree to the request.

We currently have an extra bin in stock, and this has been discussed with the Supervisor Lengthsmen who is happy to add this the Lengthsmen's duties of litter collection from the Park and Cemetery.

Agenda item 12: Consultation on remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings

Please find a copy of eth consultation in your papers. This survey is being carried out by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The Council should discuss and agree any joint reply from the Parish Council. Individual Councillors are also encouraged to participate by following the link below:

[Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings)

Agenda item 13: Ryde Town Council proposal for partnership funding of new Information Support Service based in Ryde Library.

Attached to the papers is a recent request from Ryde Town Council for the Parish Council to consider.

Agenda item 14: Local Government services pay agreement 2024

The annual pay agreement is now in place and attached as paper 14.

It is good practice for the Full Parish Council to review and minute their agreement.

Agenda item 15: Christmas Parish Office closing dates

Christmas Day falls on a Wednesday this year. Christmas Day, Christmas Eve and New Years Day are bank holidays.

If the office closes for a full 2 weeks the suggested dates would be from Mon 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025.

Thank you,

Mark Rochell, Clerk/RFO Bembridge Parish Council.