



# BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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## Clerk's Report 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025

Matters arising from previous meeting:

Minute No: 139/24

Ryde Town Council have been informed that Bembridge Parish Council has agreed to supply £300 of partnership funding towards the Information Support Service based in Ryde Library.

Minute No: 141/24

Rasmus Dahlgren (aged 9) has been presented with a framed copy of his picture and a certificate as winner of the photography competition. His winning photograph is produced on the front cover of the Annual Report.

Minute No: 142/24

Bembridge Parish Council's application to the Local Council Awards Scheme for a Silver Award has been processed by the National Association of Local Councils and we have received the latest update:

*'Just to advise that your application to the Local Council Award Scheme has now progressed to the Triage stage. This is a light touch look at your application by our Triage team who will help to ensure it is in good order ahead of being fully assessed by the panel. Feedback will be sent to you and (if needed) you will be given the opportunity to update your application documents prior to being assessed by the panel.'*

*Please find below the process deadlines and next stages.*

- *Triage team to contact you with any feedback by **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January.***
- *Your response to any Triage feedback by **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February.***
- *Applications will be sent to the panel for assessment by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February.** Panels to meet in March.*
- *Results and panel feedback to be given by **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April.***

*We wish you the very best of luck with your application and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.'*

### Event/Project updates:

The winners of the Christmas Star competition were presented with certificates and gift vouchers at the Friendship Circle coffee morning on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Further updates to follow from Cllr S Noyes.

The Annual Report was completed prior to the Christmas break with 2500 copies printed over the holidays. Royal Mail collected boxed copies on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January ready for distribution to all households in Bembridge. The deliveries are scheduled to begin the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> Jan.

### Office/Lengthsmen updates:

Unfortunately, we start the year with disappointing news.

Over the Christmas holidays the skate park in Steyne Park was vandalised:



Thankfully all now cleaned by the Lengthsmen:



On a more positive note, the new slide for the children's play area has been delivered and fitted.



Finally, Police Community Support Officer Steve Hull will be holding his first 'surgery' in the back room of the Parish Office on the morning of Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January. I'll update further details on how this progressed on the night of the meeting.

#### Items on the Agenda:

##### Agenda item 7.1: Updated 3-year Business Plan

The updated financial analysis for 2024/25 carried out by the Finance & Governance Committee has shown that following strict budgetary control and an internal restructuring process to maximize efficiencies, the Parish Council is now in a position that allows it to reforecast the Business Plan and reduce the annual year on year increases needed to achieve its goals. For the year 2025/26 the year-on-year increase will now be reduced from the previously forecast 12.15% to 6.86%. 2026/27 is forecast to fall from the expected 9.45% to 6.25%, leaving 2027/28 with an expected increase of 5.5%. Each year included in the new plan is therefore now within the Parish Council's set financial objective of increases between 5%-10% year on year.

Following on from the IoW Council's decision in Feb 2024 to apply a 100% Council Tax premium to second homes, the tax base for Bembridge has increased from 2077.60 for 2024/25 to 2321.10 for 2025/26. Using this new tax base the average weekly precept for Bembridge has actually fallen by 10p per week, from £2.27 to £2.17. It is forecast that there will be an increase of 14p per week in 2026/27 and 13p per week in 2027/28.

These more modest rises in the Precept, when compared to the previous Business Plan, will still allow the Parish Council to build up reserves for its planned projects of approx. £150,000 over the period of the new Plan.

#### [Agenda item 7.2: 2025/26 Budget](#)

Following on from the revised Business Plan the 2025/26 Budget is presented for the Council's agreement and adoption.

#### [Agenda item 7.3: 2025/26 Precept](#)

Finally, the Parish Council are required to agree to request a Precept from 2025/26 of £262,398 as per the three-year Business Plan and budget for 2025/26.

Thank you,

Mark Rochell, Clerk/RFO Bembridge Parish Council.