



Clerk's Report 21st January 2026

Event/Project updates:

Annual Report:

The Annual Report has been printed (see copies available at meeting) and should be being delivered to 2309 addresses in Bembridge w/c 2nd February.

Christmas Star:

Councillor Noyes will be able to update further at agenda item 4.5.

The Scouts have been given a donation of £30 rather than a gift voucher for winning the Best Star, Best Home Frontage winner - Deborah Valvona was awarded a £30 voucher for Pomegranate in the High Street, Best Business Frontage - Weaver Bros were given a prize of a bottle of champagne, and Runner Up Star – Pat Pollington was awarded a special Yuletide candle from Sea Rooms with £10 of each sale going to the Earl Mountbatten Hospice.

Lengthsmen updates:

With the Christmas period it has obviously been a quiet month for the Lengthsmen, they have however managed to cut back hedges in both St Lukes and Lane End cemeteries.

We have received a complaint about the amount that has been cut back from the front of Lane End by a Mrs S Weedall. We have explained that our strategy with all hedges (and some had over the years been allowed to grow out of control) is to bring them back under control by administering a large first cut which can seem quite drastic. However, by doing such a vigorous cut back now and removing the brambles and litter that has gathered within them, the aim is that the hedge will swiftly grow back stronger and healthier, and ongoing maintenance will be much easier.

Matters arising from previous meeting:

106/25 – Island Plan Consultation

Following the Planning meeting held on 7th January a Bembridge Parish Council comment was entered into the formal consultation as follows:

- Housing Shortfall – BPC object to the number of houses required by the national government as this target fails to take into account the unique circumstances of the Island and the historical difficulties faced with regards to house building.
- Sustainability Appraisal - BPC strongly favour sustainability but fear that due to over complexity there will be a lack of evaluation and management moving forward.
- Policy C11 – BPC disagree with national guidance.



- Affordable Housing Viability – BPC feel that the division of the Island is arbitrary and these changes will lead to fewer affordable houses at the lower cost scale.
- Ancient Woodland Buffer - The BPC believe that the Buffer Zone should be at least 50m and extended to AONB SSSIs etc. 'National advice' only specifies a minimum of 15m, there is therefore no reason why the IoWC cannot maintain a buffer zone of 50m as recommended by Natural England. BPC strongly object to this proposed change.

Items on the Agenda:

Agenda item 6: Precept and Business Plan

A separate more detailed report will follow on the updated 3-year Business Plan, 2026/27 Budget and precept request.

Agenda item 7: Internal Audit

Please find attached with the papers the first Interim Internal Audit Report from our new Internal Auditors – Legra International Audit Services. It is a very precise and detailed report, with very sensible recommendations that I will set about putting in place before year end.

[The Full Council will need to note that they have reviewed the report and agree to implement recommendations.](#)

Agenda item 8: Climate and Nature Champion

The Environment & Neighbourhood Committee have been discussing the Parish Council Climate Action Plan. One of the first requirements of this plan is for the Council to identify a Councillor to be lead officer as Climate and Nature Champion. The Committee have nominated Cllr G Stoddart-Stones to take on this role.

[The Full Council should discuss the recommendation from the E & N Committee and agree a Councillor to be the Parish Council's Climate and Nature Champion.](#)

Agenda item 10: Staffing

As this agenda item will involve discussion regarding staff contracts and salaries this agenda item will need to be discussed in confidential session.

Thank you

Mark Rochell

Clerk to Bembridge Parish Council



Parish Council Office
5 Foreland Road, Bembridge
Isle of Wight, PO35 5XN
TEL: 01983 874160

Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 09.30 – 12.30