



BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk to the Council,
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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st December 2022 at 7pm in the Bembridge Village Hall

Members Present

Cllr L White (Chairman), Cllr P Kenny (Vice-Chairman), Cllr C Adams, Cllr H Brabazon, Cllr I Davis, Cllr M Groom, Cllr J Lake, Cllr L Mitchell, Cllr R Poncia, Cllr M Sullivan

Also Present: Julia Shorrocks (Clerk to the Council), Mark Rochell (RFO for the Council)

Public: 5 members of the public

Public Questions

Q. A question about electric bikes on the footpaths which were now being called cycleways in the LCWIP.

A. We will respond after the meeting to this as it is not on the agenda

Q. A question regarding the Grievance policy on the website.

A. We will respond after the meeting to this as it is not on the agenda.

136/22 To receive and accept apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr S Noyes and it was:

RESOLVED: That the Council ACCEPTS the apologies for absence from Cllr Sarah Noyes

137/22 To receive and record any declarations of interest: None given

138/22 To receive and accept the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16th November 2022

Members reviewed the minutes, and it was:

RESOLVED: That the Council AGREES the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16th November 2022

The chairman signed the minutes

139/22 To receive the Chair's announcements: Cllr L White thanked Lisa Dyer (Clerk to Ryde Town Council) for acting as locum clerk whilst the Council were without a clerk of their own. She also wanted to thank her for agreeing to mentor the new clerk and the help/advice that she has already given in this role.

Cllr L White formally welcomed new clerk Julia Shorrocks. It has been a turbulent year and it is a relief for the Council to have Julia and Mark Rochell (RFO) in post.

Finally she wanted to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Happy Peaceful New Year

140/22 To co-opt a new Councillor as per the Staffing Committee's recommendation: With the resignation of Cllr De Trey and no election requested the Council were able to co-opt. Cllr H Brabazon gave a brief summary of Graham Stoddart-Stones skills including his prowess with IT, his business acumen and his previous experience as a Parish Councillor.

And it was:

RESOLVED: that the Council co-opt Graham Stoddart- Stones to the roll of Councillor for Bembridge Parish Council as per the Staffing Committee's recommendation

Graham Stoddart-Stones signed his declaration of office.

141.1/22 To receive bank reconciliation and cash balances to 9th December 2022

141.2/22 To approve schedule of payments to 9th December 2022

And it was:

RESOLVED: That the Council AGREES the bank reconciliation and the schedule of payments

141.3/22 To consider proposals received to replace the website

With the co-option of Cllr G Stoddart-Stones it was felt that the website proposals should be looked at again with his expert knowledge

And it was

RESOLVED: To DEFER the consideration of the proposals to replace the website until the next Council meeting in January 2023

142.1/22 To receive Isle of Wight's Councillor's report:

The Chairman thanked Cllr J Robertson for all he has done for Bembridge Village and for his representing us so well.

Cllr J Robertson congratulated Cllr G Stoddart-Stones before giving a few updates.

Planning and MP Bob Seeley have been successful in getting amendments to the levelling up bill. It should mean that housing targets will no longer be mandatory, just advisory. However this does not change planning law.

He thanked residents and the Parish Council for voicing their objections to the planning application for the Hillway Site.

Surface of roads is very poor, but IR informed him they do not resurface roads anymore; they will mend potholes. He has escalated this to the Chief Exec who agreed this was not helpful.

There is a budget meeting in February but the budget will be very stretched. The Council must deliver their Statutory services first. However we should try to get some money in the pot for Bembridge in relation to flooding & LCWIP. Suggestion to have a meeting with Chris Jarmen, Chairman and himself in New Year to discuss and prioritise what is important to Bembridge. Cllr L White also requested if she and Cllr J Robertson could arrange a meeting with Southern Water.

143/22 To receive reports from Council representatives attending outside bodies' meetings:

Cllr Groom – beach cleans – thanked everyone who undertook the beach cleans. Half a tonne of rubbish had been collected. No beach clean in January 2023 as a specialist team were doing a microscopic plastic clean.

Cllr C Adams – resilience – grant monies had bought various bits of equipment which was stored at the fire station. Still £3000 left for next year. Some PPE equipment issued, rest stored for the new year. St Helen's keen to see risk assessment and emergency plan with a view to collaborating. Outstanding is some publicity for SSSEN.

144/22 Members considered the minutes of the following committees

144.1/22 BEN Committee – No recommendations for Council

144.2/22 Finance and Staffing committee – No recommendations not included elsewhere on the agenda

RESOLVED: That the Council RECEIVES the minutes of the following committees:

i) **BEN (24th November 2022)**

ii) **Finance & Staffing (11th October 2022)**

145/22 King Charles III's Coronation:

Members felt it was important to do something. They discussed ways to celebrate including a possible street party and/or use of Steyne Park.

RESOLVED: That the Council AGREED that Cllr L Mitchell would approach BYCC to see if they would like to organise, jointly with the Council, a celebration in the park area and that any ideas would be put on the agenda for the BEN committee meeting in January 2023

146/22 Consultation Day:

Cllr L White offered special thanks to Cllr C Adams, Cllr H Brabazon and Cllr S Noyes for the work they did on the displays. The event was well attended with a big turn-out even though it was so late in the year. Aim for next year to organise in September – better weather and lighter evenings.

A spreadsheet was circulated and tabled to everyone as a guide on the views expressed and how frequently.

Roads were discussed. Cllr L White already spoken to Ian Millington, safety officer from IR, about school area and LCWIP. We should draw up a priority list and speak to Cllr J Robertson to lobby IoW Council on our behalf and maybe get us some match funding.

Cllr P Kenny highlighted the issues facing all villages over traffic and commented on Lane End and the school areas in particular. Felt we really needed to sort the issues in these areas.

People were very engaged. This is reflective of what people in the village think. Council will update people about results of the consultation, what has been decided and achieved, where we are with longer term ideas and ask what else they would like.

It would be good to get a wider age range involved and this will be looked at in the New Year. Also in the New Year Council will set a date for next year.

147/22 Publications:

Members felt they needed to communicate better. Some usual publications have not had articles recently due to lack of staff. The Bembridge Parish News and IWALC bulletin have had contributions but this doesn't cover everyone. The Beacon cost £950 for just 2 articles which was felt not good use of money in the current climate. The annual report was not produced this year but there will be one next year. Current free publications include IWALC Bulletin, Island Magazine, Bembridge Parish News & the E-newsletter.

And it was:

RESOLVED: To continue with all 4. The clerk to co-ordinate information and Councillors to contribute with their specialist knowledge.

148/22 Reorganisation:

Members wish to be more efficient with their meetings and reduce the frequency. The commitment to produce all the papers very high. Lisa Dyer (Clerk to Ryde Town Council) made some suggestions. Cllr I Davis felt it was a good idea to look at this. Cllr H Brabazon felt committees could be streamlined and working groups were a good way to get things done as expertise could be called upon. Good papers ensure Council can make better decisions based on accurate information. Cllr C Adams felt we should move with the times and definitely review what we have at present. Cllr P Kenny was in favour of working groups. Cllr L Mitchell felt that working groups helped stop good ideas disappearing. Councillors J. Lake, M. Sullivan and G. Stoddart-Stones all agreed saying it was a good idea and sounded sensible. Cllr M Groom said the Council should not get stuck into the mindset that 'this is the way we have always done it'. There are lots of ways to do things. Cllr R Poncia approved of the ideas suggested. And it was:

RESOLVED: Council agrees to

- i) Adopt the Terms of Reference**
- ii) The membership of Cllr Graham Stoddart-Stones, Cllr C Adams and Cllr H Brabazon**
- iii) Vote in a chair at the first meeting in the New Year**

149/22. Office Hours:

149.1/22 RESOLVED: Council AGREES the new office hours of 9.30 – 2.00pm Wed – Fri inclusive

**149.2/22 RESOLVED: Council AGREES the office will be closed from Fri 23rd December 2022 until
Tues 3rd Jan 2023**

150/22 Members noted the email from Bob Seely MP regarding house building.

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm