



BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk to the Council,
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Minutes of Bembridge Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 20th July 2022, Bembridge Village Hall

Present: Cllr L White (Chair), Cllr P Kenny, Cllr A de Trey, Cllr H Brabazon. Cllr I Davis, Cllr J Lake, Cllr M Sullivan, Cllr L Mitchell, Cllr M Groom, Cllr R Poncia, Cllr S Noyes and Mrs M Evans (Clerk)

Public: 3 members of the public

A member of the public asked questions about sharing the services of the lengthsman with neighbouring parishes, the provision of a minibus service to Tesco, the Council's vexatious policy and confidential item 12 on the agenda which he believed may relate to him. The Chair assured the member of the public that the confidential agenda item 12 did not relate to him and provided responses to some of the questions put forward stating that others would be addressed under "Chair's Announcements".

1. 081/22 Chair's Announcements

To receive the Chair's announcements.

RECEIVED.

BPC has accepted the resignation of Daryl Hunt as Lengthsman (supervisor). Daryl leaves the Council next week. We thank him for all the work he has done over the last 9 years and wish him well in his new job. BPC agreed at its Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 6th July to try to replace Daryl and adverts have already been placed.

BPC has also accepted the request from the Clerk, Mark Pink, to take early retirement. Mark will leave the Council at the end of August but because of holiday entitlements his last working day will be 5th August. I and other councillors respect Mark's decision, wish him well and thank him for all he has done to support the Council during an extremely difficult time, both locally and nationally. Arrangements will be made for a formal presentation to thank him before he leaves.

BPC has agreed that a formal arrangement will be made with Mark, going forward, to oversee the training that the Council promised to provide for its new Assistant Clerk, Marion Evans, to assist her to complete the work necessary to satisfy the CILCA requirements to become a qualified clerk.

Statement of Intent

Bembridge Parish Councillors have all signed up to the Code of Conduct and are mindful of the Nolan Principles at all times.

BPC lost a long-term clerk at the beginning of February. Jacqui had been with the Council for 12 years and there was nothing she did not know about all things Bembridge. It was not until 1st June that an Assistant Clerk was appointed therefore for four months the officer time available was halved and this put a huge burden on the remaining Clerk.

This has been a difficult few months and now with the resignation of Mark there will be a period when the officer time is halved again. BPC will do its utmost to support its Assistant Clerk until a further appointment can be made. In the meantime, it will endeavour to fulfil all its legal obligations in a timely manner, e.g.,

posting of agendas, responding to planning applications. The Council is aware that the Annual Report is a couple of months late, but it is hoped this will be ready for distribution by mid-August. This is a sin of omission rather than commission and the Council would hope that residents will be understanding.

Tesco Minibus

Mr Steane wrote to the Clerk, in a letter received on 7th June requesting the Parish Council assist in funding a project to use the Friendship Circle minibus for a regular run to Tesco.

The production of an agenda is the responsibility of the Clerk, often in consultation with the Chair. It is the Clerk's decision what items are placed on the agenda. No single councillor can request an item be placed on an agenda. If Mr Steane had wanted this item on the agenda, he knows he should have approached other councillors. Mr Steane's proposal did not include enough details for it to be considered. His proposal was requesting £70 per month or £840 per year. This sum is not in this year's budget.

BPC already donates £2000 per year to the Friendship Circle towards the cost of running the bus which covers their insurance costs.

BPC has a small grants scheme in its budget of £1200, with up to £150 available for each applicant. Mr Steane has in the past argued that there should be an element of match funding to secure these grants. To qualify for a grant of £150, groups are required to fill in an application form, include bank statements and copies of the group's constitution. Mr Steane was proposing that BPC should allocate a significant sum without any of these details.

Mr Steane last week posted on the Bembridge Community Noticeboard Facebook page, a letter of objection and complaint that he has written to me entitled 'Dishonesty' in which he falsely accuses the Clerk. This letter was defamatory, and BPC stands by its Clerk. The item is being investigated and this process has unfortunately exceeded the 20-day response requirement under the Council's Complaints Policy due to bereavement, illness and holidays and will be dealt with as soon as possible.

IWBRUG - Isle of Wight Bus and Rail Users Group

This group has finally restarted and the IWALC Chair is the representative to this group. Diana Conyers contacted the Clerk to ask if BPC had any matters to raise. The Clerk requested that she raise the reinstatement of the bus that Tesco used to provide to transport residents of Bembridge and St Helens to Tesco, or that Southern Vectis be approached to try and make a small alteration to the No. 8 bus route. All councillors were circulated with a response from that meeting. It is an entirely proper course of action for the Clerk to take this action and it does not require a resolution from Full Council to raise a matter with IWBRUG through IWALC.

2. 082/22 Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Adams – All in favour

3. 083/22 Declarations of Interest

083/22/01 To receive declarations of pecuniary or other interests relating to items on agenda
None were received.

083/22/02 To consider requests and grant dispensations if appropriate
None were received.

4. 084/22 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 15th June 2022

To receive for approval minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 15th June 2022

RESOLVED: Approved minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 15th June 2022

8 For

3 Abstentions

5. **085/22 Finance**

085/22/01 To receive bank reconciliation and cash balances to 30th June 2022

RECEIVED. Appendix A

085/22/02 To approve schedule of payments to 30th June 2022

Proposed Cllr Groom, Seconded Cllr Brabazon

RESOLVED: Approved schedule of payments to 30th June 2022, £ 13,151.83, and £1,133.78 Receipts
All in favour

085/22/03 To receive the Q1 2022/23 budget

RECEIVED. Appendix B

6. **086/22 Reports, Policies and Procedures**

086/22/01 To receive the Clerks Report and Update

RECEIVED Appendix C

The Chair informed the meeting that the quotes have not yet been received from Sovereign Playgrounds. The Chair informed the meeting that it will not be possible to replace the swings for the summer season due to supply and resourcing issues being experienced by suppliers. The replacement swings and other proposals for Steyne Park will be discussed at the Neighbourhoods and Environment meeting on 28th July 2022.

086/22/02 To receive Isle of Wight Councillors Report

RECEIVED. Appendix D

The Chair noted that she and Cllr Robertson are meeting with Cllr Fuller and members of the Isle of Wight Planning Department to discuss the Island Planning Strategy items specifically relating to Bembridge.

086/22/03 To receive reports from Committees/Groups

RECEIVED.

Cllr Brabazon informed the meeting that she, Cllr Kenny, Cllr Mitchell, and Cllr Adams had attended a concert at Bembridge Primary School. The concert had been arranged by the school as a thank you for the grant monies received through Dragons Den which had been used to purchase musical instruments for the school. Representatives from Men in Sheds had also been invited to the concert to thank them for the work they had done to help the children with their school garden. Cllr Brabazon stated that the concert had been thoroughly delightful and has written a letter of thanks to the school.

086/22/04 To receive reports from Outside Bodies

RECEIVED. Appendix E

Cllr Adams was not able to attend the meeting in person but submitted a report for consideration by councillors. Cllr Kenny informed the meeting that further volunteers are needed to come forward to crew the appliance.

7. **087/22 Community Assets**

To agree to renominate Bembridge Library as an asset of Community Value.

Proposed Cllr Poncia, Seconded Cllr Mitchell

RESOLVED. Agreed to renominate Bembridge Library as an asset of community value.

All in favour

The Chair also noted that the Clerk had approached IWC to enquire whether the land at Love Lane could be considered as an asset of community value but unfortunately it did not meet the required criteria.

8. [088/22 Steyne Park – Additional Defibrillator](#)

To agree to accept the offer made by IOW Defibrillators along with Premier League Grassroots football to site a public access defibrillator at Steyne Park free of charge.

Proposed Cllr Sullivan, Seconded Cllr Mitchell

RESOLVED. Agreed that offer should be accepted.

All in favour.

9. [089/22 Traffic Regulation Order No 1 2022](#)

To review the traffic regulation order and agree response.

RECEIVED

The traffic order was issued as a correction. Noted but no response required.

10. [090/22 Exclusion of Public and Press](#)

To resolve that in accordance with **s.1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960**, the press and public will be excluded from the following items, having due regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

RESOLVED. Members of the public left the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Sullivan, Seconded Cllr Groom

10 For 1 Against

The Chair read out Section 6 of the Protocol for the recording or reporting of Council and Committee Meetings. The Chair asked those present to turn off their mobile phones and present them to Cllr Groom who would secure them in another room. Cllr Lake declined to handover his phone citing data protection concerns if his phone was left unattended and he left the meeting.

11. [091/22 Staffing](#)

12. [092/22 Procedural](#)

[Date of Next Meeting](#) – 21st September 2022, 7.00pm

Meeting ended: 08.20

SIGNED:

DATED: