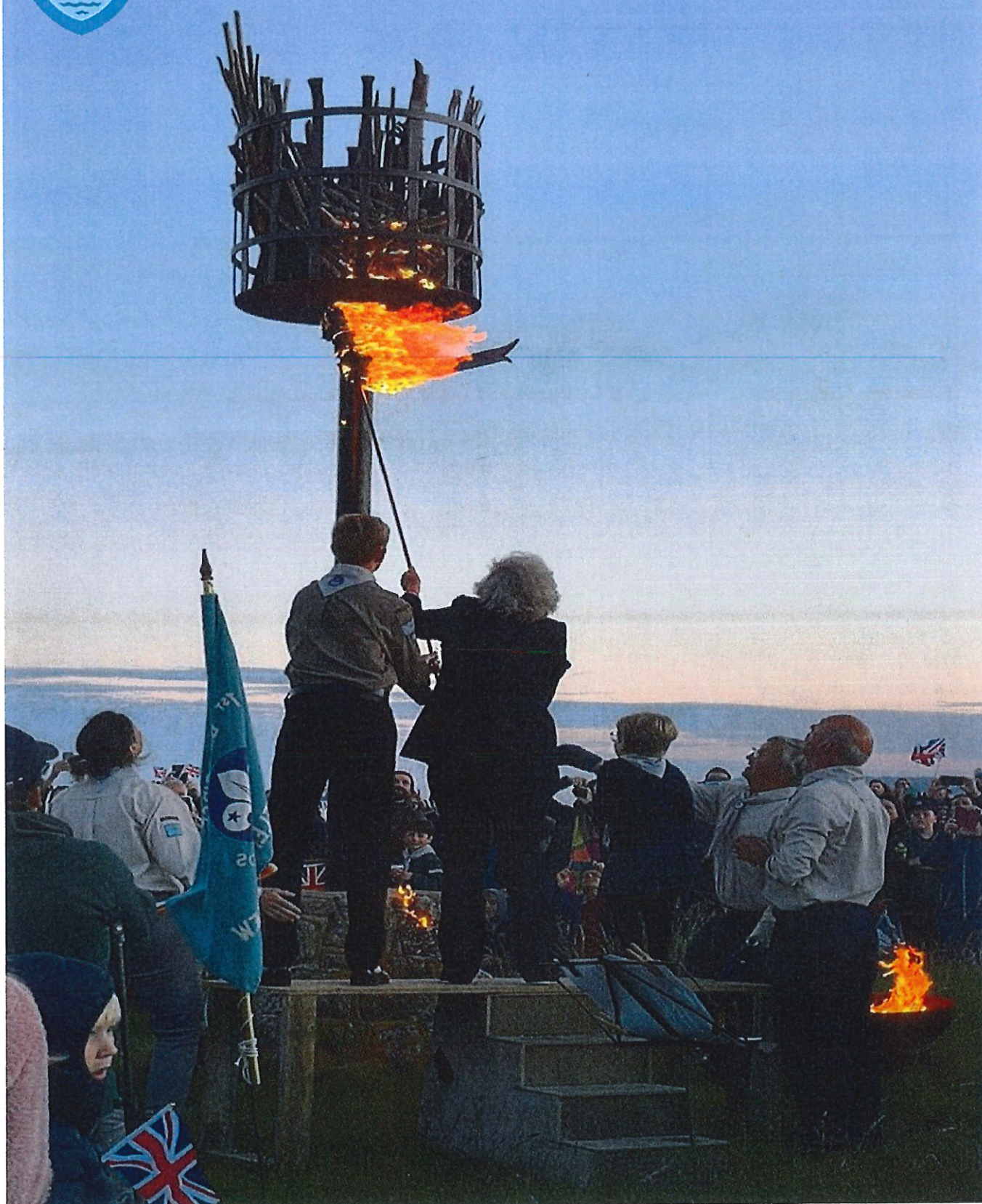


BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

April 2022 – March 2023
ANNUAL REPORT



4th June 2022 - Mrs Caroline Peel DL, lighting the Platinum Jubilee Beacon on Culver Down, assisted by Bembridge Scouts



Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Parish Council's Annual Report for 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023.

I apologise for the fact that the Council did not produce a report last year, owing to staff shortages in the office. This report contains a snapshot of village activities for the report period, some of which are truly unique and once in a lifetime events. Photographs serve as a reminder. The report also contains details of the Council finances and your Councillors.

The year saw some changes in the office, Jackie moved on after 11 years, Mark took early retirement, while Daryl also moved on after 5 years as a Parish Lengthsman. BPC thanked them all and wished them success in the future.

Marion joined the office team for 6 months as Assistant Clerk, but she too moved on. The Council was delighted to welcome Mark, Responsible Financial Officer, Steve, Lengthsman & finally Julia as Clerk.

I am pleased to report that the External Auditor, PK Littlejohn, finally signed off the accounts for the year 18/19, which had been the subject of a complaint. As a result the accounts for years 19/20, 20/21 and 21/22 were also agreed. The Parish Council can now move forward towards regaining Quality Status. Accounts for the year 22/23 can be found later in this report.

As a result of staff changes the Council agreed to undertake a Health and Safety Audit of all procedures. Recommendations were implemented which included providing improved working conditions for the Lengthsmen.

In June the village joined together for a weekend of events to celebrate The Platinum Jubilee of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The weekend was packed with activities co-ordinated by the Parish Council, with the aim of including all ages in the fun. Events included, Street Fair, Beacon Lighting, Flower Festival in Holy Trinity Church, open garden at Tyne Hall, and Heritage & Friendship Circle Coffee mornings. The Bembridge WIs united to make 'commemorative goodie' bags for all residents in the various Care Homes, complete with a card made by children at the Primary School.

Bembridge then featured twice on the BBC's coverage of the weekend.

In response to the cost of living crisis, Cllr Sarah Noyes got together all interested organisations and set up a group 'Winter Warmers', with the aim to provide a space for people to go for warmth and a cup of tea. The group continues to evolve to meet a need in the village and is supported by IOW Living Well team and Aspire.

During the year a new website was designed to make all village information more accessible to residents. www.bembridgepc.org.uk

Bembridge was successful at the IOW Best Kept Village Awards 2022, winning not only the Best Kept Extra Large Village Award but also the Best Kept War Memorial Garden, thanks to the wonderful efforts of the Community Gardeners, assisted by the Lengthsmen in mowing and hedging.

Cllr Liz White
Chair of Council 2021 to 2023

This report contains information about the Council's finances for this period and all the essential but more importantly fun things that have taken place in the Village during that time.

So please join us for a quick trip through the last year.



Jubilee

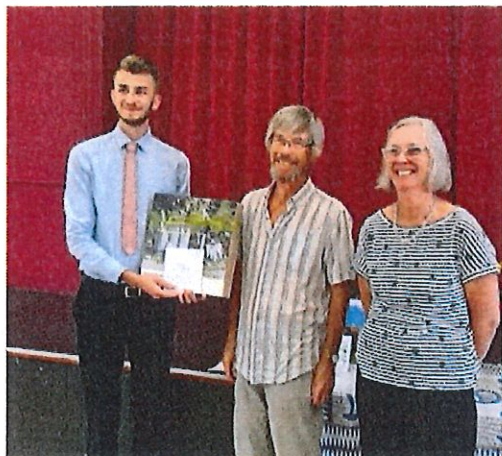
It was a momentous year with the amazing celebrations of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, closely followed by her sad passing and then the accession to the Throne of King Charles III. The Parish Council co-ordinated a memorable weekend with something for everyone.

Special mention goes to the Community Gardeners who adorned the Village in red, white and blue.

Awards

The dedication of the Community Gardeners was recognised when Bembridge won the

Best Kept Extra Large Village
and the
Best Kept Memorial Garden.



Bembridge in Bloom

There are many amazing gardeners who strive to add to the vibrancy of the Village by keeping their gardens looking amazing all the year round. The winners were awarded their trophies and awards in the Village Hall in August.

Winners

1st Mrs P Harding
2nd Mr P Myatt

Accession of King Charles III

Raising the flag for The King

Photographed left to right

*Cllr Marianne Sullivan,
Cllr Joe Robertson,
Mrs Caroline Peel DL,
Cllr Liz White,
Cllr Martin Groom*





Community Chest

The Village is blessed with a large number of voluntary organisations and the Parish Council has a small pot of money which can be allocated to non-profit organisations.

Our successful bidders in 2022 were:

Windmills Pre-School, Bembridge Primary School PTA, Bembridge Youth & Adult Football, Bembridge Scouts, 2nd Bembridge Rainbows, Community Gardeners, Community Library, The Bembridge Heritage Society & Isle of Wight Defibrillators.

Remembrance Sunday

Photographed left to right

*Mr Jonathan Peel
Mrs Caroline Peel DL
Revd Steve Daucherty
Cllr Martin Groom
Cllr Liz White
Mrs Sarah Nainby-Luxmore
Dr Jonathan Nainby-Luxmore DL*



Christmas Star Competition

After a long winter, the Christmas lights brought cheer to the shortest days of the year. Not only in the Memorial Gardens, (thanks, as ever, to Jim Robinson and his team) but also to the residents and businesses all over the Village.

Winners

Charity/Group
RNLI Guild

Business Category
Lucy Jones Hair

Joint Winners of Home Category
*Pat & Doug Pollington
Ellie & Don Fraser*



Litter Picks



The monthly litter picks are organised by Cllr Groom and take place around the tides. Everyone is welcome to join in and it is enormously satisfying to return to the collection points at the Harbour View and Lane End to see what a difference this incentive makes. Many thanks to the Harbour View Café for free refreshments at the end.



Resilience

Bembridge has not had a local fire service for some years, and the fire station had been mothballed. Thanks to Cllr Adams, we now have a small First Response Vehicle, which only requires a crew of 2 – 4 people. It should therefore be easier to operate the vehicle. Efforts to recruit more crew to man the new ERV are on hold awaiting results on revised ways of working for 'on call firefighters'.



In addition, funding from SSEN has enabled the purchase of emergency equipment, including a pump (for flood emergencies), a generator, emergency lights and flood bags. The fire station has been repurposed as an emergency hub and is being used by the food bank, Emergency 1st Responders and the flood response group.

The Swings

Following the annual safety inspection of the play equipment in Steyne Park, the swings had to be removed, as they were unsafe and rotten below ground. The Parish Council immediately started to take steps to replace them. This took rather longer than desired but new swings were in place for the summer of 2023.



Have Your Say Day



This was held over two days in the autumn, and it was gratifying that the feedback from parishioners indicated that the Parish Council was concentrating its energies into the areas that concerned residents, to wit: planning, traffic management, flooding and the environment.

Photographed left to right

Cllrs Ian Davies, Joe Robertson and Chris Adams.

Isle of Wight Councillor Cllr Joe Robertson Annual Report to Bembridge Parish Council 2023



This time last year we were waiting for the planning application on the field between Steyne Road and Hillway Road to go before the Planning Committee. A year later and we are still waiting, although working closely with the residents and community group and Build a Better Bembridge to resist this application, together with a forthcoming application on the field the other side of Steyne Road

The Section 19 Flood Report published early in 2022 is being used to make a case for improving drainage infrastructure in the Village. A plan has been drawn up for Station Road, with plans to follow for Lane End and Hillway Road and I have met with Southern Water on several occasions, including during a visit to the sewage treatment plant in Sandown, putting pressure on them to bring forward their plans for Bembridge, including a roll out of free water butts which have reportedly been successful in Havenstreet.

I continue to be a member of three Committees. The Appointments and Employment Committee successfully interviewed for a new Chief Executive at the end of 2022. I have been holding the Council's Cabinet to account as a member of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, including scrutinising the decision to keep the Floating Bridge settlement agreement secret and the decision to spend £1.3 million on upgrades to County Hall. I have also been trying to get more NHS dentistry on the Island, together with colleagues on Health and Adult Social Care Committee.

I continue to work closely with the Chair and Clerk of the Parish Council to get things done more effectively.

Achievements in 2022

Completion of a Section 19 Flood Report

As a result of the flooding in the village in June & July 2021, Bembridge was one of three villages on the island to be selected by the Isle of Wight Council to be the subject of a Flood Report. The report has highlighted areas in the village prone to flooding and provides an essential document to seek redress for these areas, from Island Roads, Southern Water and other agencies.

Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plan

Bembridge took advantage of some grant funding from The Department of Transport which was being match funded by the IOW Council, combined with Brading Town Council and St Helens Parish Council to commission a report by People Power into a safer walking and cycling in the area.

Both these independent reports have now been adopted by the IOW Council, so can be used in the future when determining planning applications and seeking grant funding to make improvements to the village infrastructure, improving road safety, improved provision for pedestrians and cyclists and to discourage use of cars by providing safer alternatives

LIST OF COUNCILLORS 2022 - 2023

Bembridge North

Cllr Chris Adams
Cllr Martin Groom
Cllr Paul Kenny
Cllr Rosamond Poncia
Cllr Graham Stoddard-Stones
Cllr Liz White

Bembridge South

Cllr Harriet Brabazon
Cllr Ian Davis
Cllr Josh Lake
Cllr Liz Mitchell
Cllr Sarah Noyes
Cllr Marianne Sullivan

FINANCES

CURRENT ASSETS	
Debtors	£ 310.71
Prepayments	£1,844.36
VAT Recoverable	£2,097.59
Cash in hand	£185,255.40
Total Assets	£189,508.06

CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Creditors	£6,209.30
Net Assets	£183,298.76

REPRESENTED BY	
General Fund Balance	£106,823.05
Earmarked Reserves	£18,642.47
Capital Reserves	£57,833.24

The end of year Internal Auditor's Report can be found on website

www.bembridgepc.org.uk/your-council/financial-information

Funding Grants & Awards

Date			Paid	Received
06/05	Isle of Wight Council	Funding		£1,200
21/05	Bembridge FC	Sponsorship	£400.00	
21/05	Bembridge Youth FC	Sponsorship	£400.00	
21/05	Bembridge Cricket Club	Sponsorship	£400.00	
21/05	Bembridge Friendship Circle	Donation	£2000.00	
25/05	Bembridge Heritage	Donation (Jubilee)		£20.00
31/08	Brading Haven Yacht Club	Donation (Jubilee)		£100.00
08/09	St Helens PC	Donation (Jubilee)		£150.00
21/09	SSEN	Resilience Grant		£4,803.63
16/11	IOW Food Bank (Min 128/22)	Small Grant	£200.00	
17/11	Bembridge Heritage	Community Chest	£300.00	
17/11	Bembridge Community Gardeners	Community Chest	£59.16	
17/11	Bembridge Youth FC	Community Chest	£279.80	
17/11	Friends of Bembridge Primary	Community Chest	£292.99	
23/11	Royal British Legion	Donation	£50.00	
05/12	Bembridge Rainbows	Community Chest	£100.00	
05/12	Windmills Pre School	Community Chest	£200.00	
05/12	Community Library	Community Chest	£298.00	
05/12	Bembridge FC	Community Chest	£69.50	
05/12	IOW Defibrillators	Community Chest	£200.00	
12/12	Bembridge Scouts	Community Chest	£200.55	
04/03	Victim Support (Min 37/230)	Small Grant	£100.00	
24/03	Dementia Afternoon Tea (Min 37/23)	Small Grant	£130.00	
	Total		£5,680.00	£6,272.63

The Parish Council Office
5 Foreland Road, Bembridge,
PO35 5XN

Website:
www.bembridgepc.org.uk

Email:
clerk@bembridgepc.org.uk

Tel: 01983 874160

Opening Hours:
Tuesday to Friday 9.30 – 12.30

The Council's work would not be possible without the collaboration and co-operation of the many excellent voluntary groups and businesses in the Village. We would like to thank the Community Gardeners, Men in Sheds, the Primary School, Community Library, the Village Hall Management Committee, BYCC, the Scouts & Rainbows, the WIs, the Houseboat Association, the non-council members of the various working groups, the Village shops, Build a Better Bembridge, the care homes and everyone who makes Bembridge such a vibrant and thriving community.



**A Civility & Respect
Pledge Council**