



A 6x6 grid of 36 small photographs showcasing various community events, people, and local scenes in Bembridge. The images include: a couple kissing; a man in a naval uniform; a man in a red jacket playing a saxophone; a large outdoor meal; a man in a blue shirt giving a thumbs up; a man in a suit speaking at a podium; a horse with a red flower; the Bembridge town crest; a man in a beret; a person wearing a 'PLASTIC FREE' t-shirt; a man in a white suit speaking; a ladybug; two men holding an award; a field of purple lavender; a man in a blue shirt smiling; and a group of people sitting at a picnic table under a red umbrella.

bembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

2025

Finances

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025

Current Assets:

Prepayments	£1,891.82
VAT Recoverable	£3,185.61
Cash in Hand	£256,439.78

Represented by:

General Fund	£118,707.67
Capital Reserve	£57,833.24
Earmarked Reserve	£79,000.00

Current Liabilities:

Creditors	(£5,976.30)
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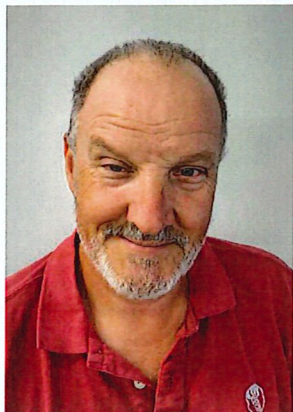
NET ASSETS	£255,540.91	TOTAL RESERVES	£255,540.91
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For a more detailed financial analysis and the most up to date figures, please see the Parish Council three-year Business Plan available online at www.bembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk or pick up a hard copy from the parish Office

Grants, Sponsorship and Awards in 2025

Organisation	Description	Paid (£)
Ryde Town Council	Help Centre	£300.00
Bembridge Street Fair	Insurance	£313.35
Bembridge Street Fair	First Aid	£400.32
Armed Forces Day	Contribution	£125.00
Bembridge Fort Trust	Contribution	£35.00
Harbour Farm Group	Community Grant	£300.00
Pop's Wood	Community Grant	£200.00
Brading Gig Rowers	Community Grant	£400.00
2nd Bembridge Brownies	Community Grant	£150.00
Right at Home Community Christmas	Community Grant	£250.00
Bembridge Heritage	Community Grant	£200.00
Bembridge Friendship Circle	Community Bus Contribution	£2,000.00
IW Youth Trust	Contribution	£500.00
Bembridge & Vectis FC	Sponsorship	£512.00
Bembridge Youth FC	Sponsorship	£470.00

Message from the Chair – Cllr Martin Groom



Any organisation is only as good as those who work for it, and we are fortunate in Bembridge to have such a wonderful team of both full-time staff and volunteers who make the village such a great place to live and work. For many in the village and especially for some who work for the Parish Council, 2025 has been especially challenging, and I wish them a happier and healthier 2026.

The Lengthsman have been especially busy over the past twelve months, alongside their usual maintenance roles, they have laid a new path and ramp around the village hall, new bike racks, benches and signage that all helps to make Bembridge such a welcoming place to both residents and villagers alike.

In 2025 we entered the South and Southeast In Bloom awards for the first time and were extremely pleased to win a silver for best kept village and silver gilt for the war memorial gardens. Which was a great result for our first year. I must say a special thank you to The Community gardeners, Debbie Glover and Mark Rochell, along with Warners Holidays for supplying so many fabulous plants this year. As well as of course, all the volunteers who help keep Bembridge looking so beautiful.

This year also saw both the VE Day and VJ Day celebrations which was both a time for reflection and celebration. The “street party”, in the village hall was such a special event and something I will never forget, which was only possible due to the hard work of so many in our community.

The Remembrance Day commemorations in November grow each year, I think this year helped by good weather, saw almost 400 attend and is always such a poignant time to remember the fallen of the village who gave so much for us to live in the community we do today.

This is my first year as Chair of The Parish Council so as a final note can I thank each and every one of you for all the help and assistance that has been given to me in the past twelve months and made it such a pleasure. I know I have had an easier ride than some of my predecessors.

Happy 2026 to you all.



Message from the Clerk – Mr Mark Rochell



2025 has been a year of highs, but also, sadly, a few lows too, with both our ex-chair, Liz White, and my colleague in the Parish Office, Debbie Glover, both having to endure their own individual health battles in 2025. All our best wishes go out to them both and we hope that their recovery continues at pace in 2026.

The Parish Council began the year with fantastic news that it had regained its Silver Accreditation from the National Association of Local Councils' 'Local Council Awards Scheme'. After a somewhat unstable period within the Parish Council administration, we hope that this signifies to all that we have now returned to a solid foundation. We have high hopes that in 2026 we may even be able to improve on the shade of award.

On the subject of turning Silver to Gold, we were also incredibly proud to achieve Silver for the Parish and Silver Gilt for the War Memorial Gardens in the South and Southeast in Bloom awards 2025. This was our first year entering these nationally recognised awards and so our success was very unexpected. We hope that it helps to galvanise the village to pull together again next year and put in even more effort to get the village blooming. Analysing the results and the feedback from the judges shows that an improvement upon our results next year is certainly within reach.

In Bembridge we are lucky to have such a strong community spirit, and this was in evidence yet again in 2025 at the many village events throughout the year. Highlights of all such events can be seen throughout this report. Thanks to everyone involved, especially Debbie, for all her hard work organising the VE Day events, and to Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel for providing entertainment at the VE Day event and also providing such invaluable help and support from their Head Gardener Andrew Bennett for all our 'Bloom' events.

Looking to 2026 and beyond, our new Steyne Park Regeneration Committee have been working with various partners on a new 'vision' for Steyne Park. You'll find further details about the exciting plans in this report but look out for more on the Parish Council website and facebook page in 2026. You can also find Parish Council news and announcements posted in the office window, Forelands Road, or just pop in if you'd like to chat about what we've been up to.

Finally, I'm sure you'd all like to join me in congratulating our Lengthsman, Pete Beeney, who in 2025 has racked up a full TWENTY years of service to the Parish. That's a whole lot of grass and hedge cutting! Well done, Pete, and thank you!!



Awards and Recognition

Local Council Awards Scheme



In 2025 one of the proudest achievements for the Parish Council has been to regain our **Silver Quality Council Accreditation**. This level of recognition from the National Association of Local Councils is not only a seal of approval for all that the Council do, but also a signifier of excellence to potential funding partners making it easier for us to attract partners for future projects.

Chair of NALC Mr Keith Stevens commented upon confirmation of the award -

'Receiving the Silver Award is an excellent achievement showing that your local parish council achieves good practices in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Furthermore, this award shows that your council has gone above and beyond the legal obligations; you lead your community and continuously seek opportunities to improve and develop even further. Therefore, the council is to be congratulated immensely.'

And as our previous Chair, Liz White pointed out in her Chair's report last year, above all else

'Bembridge deserves a council with quality council status'.



Plastic Free Bembridge

The Parish Council have been supporting a local action group - Plastic Free Bembridge - to raise awareness of the problems of single use plastic. Together we have been working towards, and this year managed to achieve, accreditation from Surfers Against Sewage as the first 'Plastic Free Community' on the Island. It's an incredible achievement, but obviously only the first step. There is still a long way to go before we can truly be plastic free. If you would like to know more about the group's work and get involved, please email plasticfreebembridge@gmail.com



South and Southeast in Bloom Awards

For the first time 2025 saw Bembridge enter the South and Southeast in Bloom Awards which form part of the Royal Horticultural Society's 'In Bloom' awards. The South & Southeast in Bloom campaign is the largest horticultural campaign in the region involving 100's of communities each year, so we were very much seeing this first year as a learning experience. We were pleasantly surprised therefore to find out that we had been awarded a Silver for Parish in Bloom and a Silver Gilt for the War Memorial Gardens. An amazing result and a testament to all the hard work that the Parish Council, its Lengthsmen, and all of the local volunteers do to keep Bembridge looking so good. The judging panel commented, "There is no doubt that the love care and dedication given by the volunteers benefits the wider village community, it's visitors and residents alike, for which they should be applauded"

Parish Council Events

VE Day Celebrations

2025 marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day, and in recognition of this momentous occasion the village came out in force to celebrate.

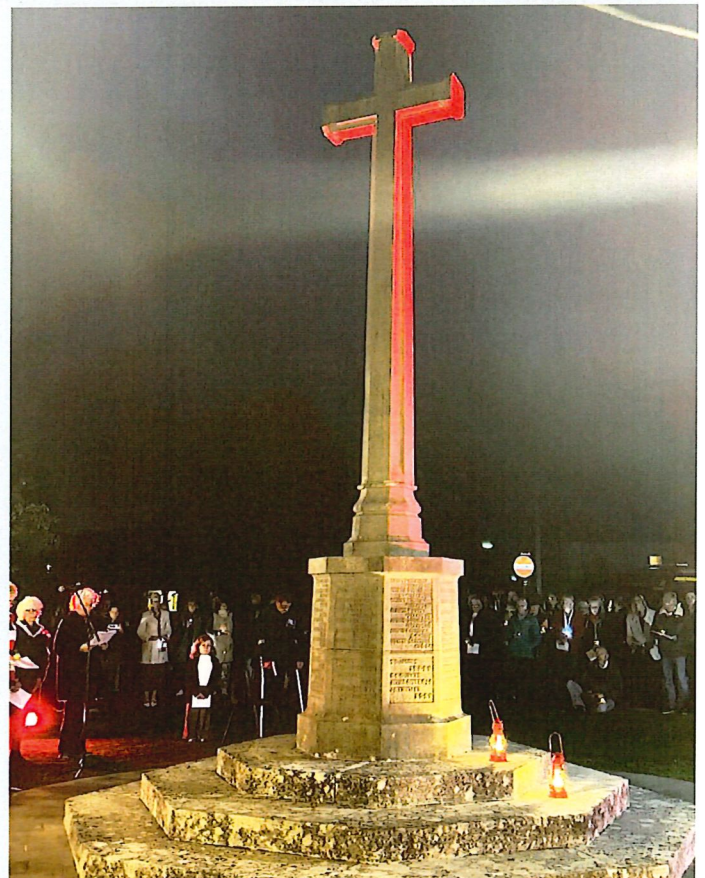


The day began with a ceremony in the War Memorial Gardens and the raising of the special VE Day 80 flag.

Followed by an afternoon tea party in the Village Hall, with wartime style entertainment provided by the 'ents' team at Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel.



Finally, the village gathered one more time at the War Memorial Gardens for a sing along with the Bembridge Singers followed by a very moving memorial ceremony.





Community Groups Day

Bembridge is blessed with so many fantastic community groups. The Parish Council hold the annual Community Groups Day in the Village Hall to give an opportunity for groups to meet with the public and talk about what they do, and maybe, if they are lucky, end the day with a few more volunteers/ members signed up.



Bembridge in Bloom – sponsored by Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel

The annual Bembridge in Bloom 2025 competition goes from strength to strength (we saw a 100% increase in entries this year).

Winners were announced at the Horticultural Society Summer Show on August 16th. Congratulations to all.



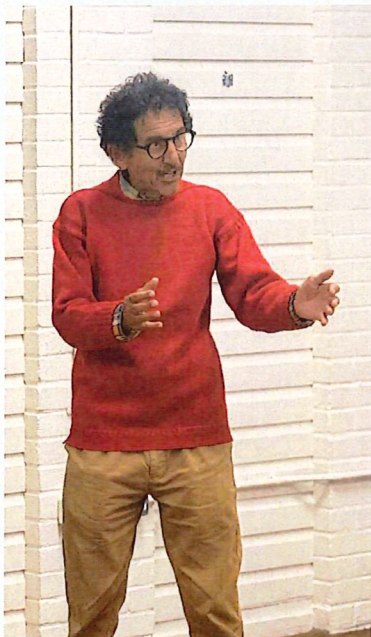
Bike Marking Events – with PCSO Steve Hull

In conjunction with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team and our local PCSO Steve Hull, the Parish Council organised two free bike marking events in Steyne Park with bikes marked and registered to the national database.



Community Grant Awards

The Parish Council always enjoys highlighting and promoting the work of local volunteer groups. On 10th October the annual Community Grant Awards were held at the BYCC. Local groups were encouraged to attend and 'pitch' to our panel of judges. Not only is this event an opportunity to hand out small grants but it's also a chance to come together and celebrate the vital work of these amazing groups.



Winners on the night were

- Bembridge Heritage Society
- Harbour Farm Nature Group
- 2nd Bembridge Brownies
- Pop's Wood Nature Reserve
- Brading Haven Gig Rowers
- Right at Home Community Christmas



Remembrance Ceremonies



Bembridge Parish Council raise flags for special days throughout the year, such as

- Commonwealth Day
- St George's Day
- Armed Forces Day and
- Merchant Navy Day
- In addition to VE Day,

and with thanks to Rev Steve Daughtery of Holy Trinity Church, this year ceremonies were also held to mark the

- 80th anniversary of VJ Day and
- the annual Remembrance Day commemorations.

Congratulations to the village for ensuring that both events were so well attended.





Christmas Star Competition

We love to see the village sparkling at Christmas and every year we run the Christmas Star competition.

This year was another twinkling success...



Best Home: Heathfield Rd

Best Star: Scout Hut

Best Business: Weaver Bros



We hope you spotted our winners proudly bringing the Christmas cheer to the village.

There were so many great illuminations – the winners are chosen from those who actually entered the competition – please remember to enter in 2026 for a chance for your property to 'win'!



Steyne Park Regeneration

In a survey in late 2024 – the BPC asked parishioners what they liked about Steyne Park, and what improvements they would like to see...

This year the Council set up the Steyne Park Regeneration Committee to take the feedback gained from this survey and create a holistic plan for Steyne Park.

Below is our 'vision' so far.



- A** New Multi Use Games Area for sports such as Basketball, Pickleball and Futsal
- B** New 3G all-weather 9 x 9 football pitch
- C** Improved and expanded play area suitable for all ages
- D** A perimeter pathway around both fields to ensure that the park is accessible to all. Wide enough to accommodate walkers, joggers, buggies & vehicles for the disabled. Also to include 'trim-trail' exercise points alongside the path
- E** Extra planting & landscaping around the park to increase visual appeal and provide areas of shade & seating
- F** The demolition of existing changing rooms and the building of new updated provision with added accessibility and new public toilets
- G** Use any space from the demolition of toilet block and/or changing rooms to increase parking provision
- H** Provide a new updated skate park/pump track

The below are a few examples of what is being thought about ...



Basketball / Pickleball Court



3G All Weather Pitch



Improved Play Equipment for all ages and accesible to all

Perimeter Path with Trim Trail



"All of the above depends upon our success at obtaining funding, and of course, will only be achieved in phases. We want to bring the community with us and so further consultation to prove demand & need is key".

*Cllr Harriet Brabazon
Chair of Steyne Park
Regeneration Committee*

In 2026 we will begin further consultation including a new survey, a website, Facebook page and consultation events held around the village. Your feedback will be essential to ensure our plans provide what Bembridge residents and our neighbours in East Wight need and want".

You can find the survey by putting this link in your browser:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SteynePark>

or by scanning this QR code



More things to look out for in 2026



Resilience and Bembridge Fire Station

Resilience Group

"The Parish Council Resilience Group continues to go from strength to strength with the group now recognised by the IoW Emergency management team as a competent and valued member of the voluntary sector on the island which may be called upon to assist at any local or island wide emergency e.g: extreme weather events, power outage etc.

The group have again this year supported and assisted at Bembridge events i.e. the Village Street Fair, BYCC Soup Runs and provided marshalling at the various memorial events.

The group have recently undertaken Emergency first aid training and taken part in two multi agency flooding exercises with a further large exercise planned for Summer 2026.

We continue our campaign to retain the Fire Station, despite its official closure, as a community asset as a base for the Resilience Group and Community first responders, in addition to a training facility for our ongoing community CPR and defib training sessions.

We hope for a favourable decision from the Fire and Rescue Service in February".

Cllr Chris Adams BPC Resilience Lead

Monthly Beach and Village Litter Picks



The monthly beach and village litter picks will continue in 2026 on the following dates:

Saturday 7th February

Saturday 7th March

Saturday 11th April

Saturday 9th May

Saturday 6th June

Saturday 4th July

Saturday 8th August

Saturday 5th September

Saturday 3rd October

Saturday 14th November
(Village litter pick)

As always, equipment will be provided.

Meet either at
the Point or
Lane End (RNLI)
at 10:00am



Parish Lengthsmen

The Parish Lengthsmen have had another busy year staying on top of grass and hedge cutting and general maintenance of Parish Council land and property.

Highlights of the year have been:

- the installation of new entrance signage at Steyne Park
- the construction of new accessible access at the rear of the Village Hall
- new planting in Lane End cemetery
- new bike racks in the High Street
- and taking on the responsibility for installing the village Christmas decorations



Message from District Councillor – Cllr Joe Robertson

It has been a privilege to serve as your local Councillor for Bembridge. I am particularly grateful for the support which I have received since becoming MP for Isle of Wight East last year.

Isle of Wight Council elections were due to take place in May of this year, but the Government delayed them so that it could sort out its proposal for a Mayor for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. There is some doubt whether the Council elections will take place next year, however by May 2026 I will have served as your Councillor for 5 years and I think it is only right that residents of Bembridge get a say about who represents them at County Hall. If the Government cancel elections again, I will step down and trigger a by-election. I will not be a candidate.

More generally, I have concerns about the proposed Mayoral deal and the impact which it will have on Islanders. The name 'Isle of Wight' will disappear from the Mayor's title with the area titled 'Hampshire and Solent'. The Mayor will be able to put their own charge on Council Tax bills; and the Mayor will not have powers over cross-Solent transport, despite having oversight of railways, bus services and roads.

Throughout the year, I have continued to follow up concerns on behalf of local residents, including retaining Bembridge Fire Station for public use, flooding and highways, and, most recently, I successfully stopped the proposed closure of Embankment Road during December. Southern Water will undertake the much needed sewage and drainage works near the junction with Station Road in January instead. I have also attended events in the Village, including joining a "nurdle" hunt (collecting small plastic beads from the beach) with Planet Aware and visiting the RNLI open day.

It has been a pleasure to represent you at County Hall for the past five years and I wish my successor all the best. I would also like to thank the Parish Council and Chair Martin Groom who continue to work hard for the Village. Very Happy Christmas to you and your family and all good wishes for 2026!



Dates for your Diary – Meetings for the first quarter of 2026

Upcoming Parish Council meetings in the first quarter of 2026:

Tue 6 January	11:00	Environment & Neighbourhood Committee	Village Hall
Wed 7 January	18:00	Planning Committee	Village Hall
Wed 21 January	18:00	Planning Committee	Village Hall
	19:00	FULL COUNCIL	Village Hall
Tue 27 January	11:00	Finance & Governance Committee	Parish Office
Wed 4 February	18:00	Planning Committee	Village Hall
	19:00	Steyne Park Regeneration Committee	Village Hall
Wed 18 February	18:00	Planning Committee	Village Hall
	19:00	FULL COUNCIL	Village Hall
Tue 25 February	11:00	Finance & Governance Committee	Parish Office
Tue 3 March	11:00	Environment & Neighbourhood Committee	Village Hall
Wed 4 March	18:00	Planning Committee	Village Hall
Wed 18 March	18:00	Planning Committee	Village Hall
	19:00	FULL COUNCIL	Village Hall
Tue 24 March	11:00	Finance & Governance Committee	Parish Office

Please note all meetings are subject to change. Please check the Parish noticeboard at the Village Hall, the Parish Office window and the Parish Council website for latest meeting dates and agendas.

Members of the public have a right to attend these meetings.

An opportunity to speak on items on the agenda in accordance with Standing Orders is provided in a public forum at the beginning of the meeting.

bembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk



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

Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 09.30 – 12.30