



BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk to the Council,
5 Foreland Road, Bembridge, Isle of Wight, PO35 5XN
Tel: 01983 874160 Email: clerk@bembridgepc.org.uk

Minutes of the Full Council meeting on Wednesday 20th December 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr L White (Chair), Cllr M Groom, Cllr J Lake, Cllr P Kenny, Cllr S Noyes, Cllr S Philipsborn, Cllr G Stoddart-Stones, Cllr M Sullivan.

Officers: Julia Shorrocks (Clerk)

Public Forum: There were no members of the public present.

148/23 Apologies for Absence – Apologies were received from Cllr C Adams, Cllr H Brabazon, Cllr I Davies, Cllr M Humphray and it was:

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from Cllrs Adams, Brabazon, Davies & Humphray.

149/23 Declarations of Interest – Cllr J Lake declared an interest in item 11.1

150/23 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Council

The minutes were reviewed, and it was:

RESOLVED – that Council agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2023.

151/23 Chair's Announcements

A vote of Thanks to Jim Robinson and his team for the wonderful, spectacular display of lights in the village.

Star Competition – this has been judged and the winners notified. The village looked fantastic with some lovely displays. Award ceremony for the winners will be held on 6th January at the Bembridge Friendship Circle coffee morning.

HNS – this is complete. There has been an amazing return rate of 500 hard copies from 1840 delivered and some online responses. All the hard copies were on the original forms. Community Action IoW will do the analysis. The forms are being handed over tomorrow and the online results will be retrieved and added in, in the new year.

152/23 Finance

152/23/1 The bank reconciliation and cash balances to 30th November 2023 were reviewed, and it was:

RESOLVED: to receive the bank reconciliation and cash balances to 30th November 2023

152/23/2 The schedule of payments to 30th November 2023 were reviewed, and it was:

RESOLVED: to approve the schedule of payments being Payments £24,935.36, receipts

£3,073.33

152/23/3 The interim internal audit report was reviewed, and it was:

RESOLVED: to action the recommendations in the report.

153/23 Reports from other Authorities

Cllr J Robertson sent a written report.

The application for 130 homes on the field between the High Street, Mill Road and Steyne Road has been made. I have met with a number of residents and Build a Better Bembridge in order to support those wishing to make objections.

There is a plan to bring the draft Island Planning Strategy to full council in January for a vote. I am working to get this pulled from the agenda. Planning Officers have confirmed that this plan would be a new plan and could not be added into the current dIPS. Passing the current dIPS would bring both the Steyne Road fields into the Bembridge settlement boundary and delay making a case for exceptional circumstances for several years. If I cannot get it removed, I will vote against it and encourage others to do the same.

Flooding: I've spoken to Council and Environment Agency about the amount of time that Morton Road between Brading and Sandown has been closed recently. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust which manages much of the land upstream is supposed to be undertaking remedial work so I have emailed them to ask what this entails.

I'm pressing the Isle of Wight Council to commit to leading the project to alleviate flooding in Station Road. A number of stakeholders have committed to funding.

In January Councillor Liz White, and I will be visiting houseboat owners to discuss speeding along Embankment Road.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year and thank you for all the work you do for the Village. Bembridge is fortunate to have such a supportive and proactive Parish Council.

154/23 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

There were no reports from Council representatives attending outside bodies' meetings.

155/23 Parish Office Opening and Closing

8.1 Council discussed the closure of the office over the Christmas and New Year period, and it was:

RESOLVED: That the office will close on Friday 22nd at 12.30 pm and reopen on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 at 9.30 am.

8.2 To note the opening hours going forward will be 9.30 – 12.30 pm Tues – Fri. **Noted**

156/23 Planning Consultant

The Planning and Environment committee made a recommendation to Council, and it was:

RESOLVED: To instruct a planning consultant to write the BPC's submission for application 23/01920/FUL at a cost of £1500 taken from professional fees.

157/23 Confidential Matters:

Council **RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the following items, the press and public be excluded under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

158/23 Cleaning

158/23/1 **RESOLVED:** Council agreed the renewal process for the toilet cleaning contract.

158/23/2 **RESOLVED:** Council agreed to a cleaning contract for the office.

159/23 Grounds Maintenance contract

RESOLVED: Council agreed the renewal process for the grounds' maintenance contract for Steyne Park.

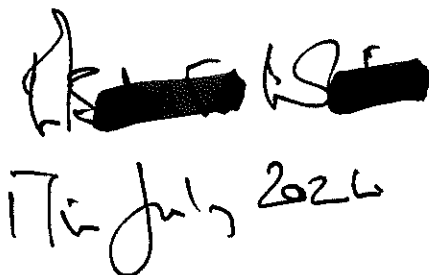
160/23 Staffing

RESOLVED: Council agreed the recommendation from the staffing committee.

161/23 Solicitors

RESOLVED: To defer.

Meeting closed 8pm

Handwritten signature and date: 17th July 2024