

**GURNARD PARISH COUNCIL  
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT  
28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2009**

a. Parish Council Meetings

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting the Parish Council has met formally for a total of 11 full Council meetings. It has continued to act on behalf of the local community on many wide and varied issues, and also responds as a Stakeholder Consultee for the IW Council, Central Government and other Bodies on several wider local government issues.

The Planning Committee has also met regularly during the year, on 9 occasions in fact, in order to respond to planning and licensing applications within the deadlines set by Development Control and Licensing. A total of 56 planning applications have been considered and commented upon during the year, which amounts to a reduction on last year of 11.1%. The Parish Council has recently been invited to attend Planning Inspectorate appeal inspections.

The Community Projects Committee, which started work in December 2006, has met 6 times since the last APM – twice as frequently as 2008, and continues to work through the Parish Plan Action Plan.

The Parish Council thanks Ward Councillor Sir John Hobart for his support and the regular reporting on events at County Hall as they affect Gurnard, and the Parish Council wishes him well as he moves on to pastures new after the June elections. The Parish Council is especially grateful to Sir John for his sterling work replacing the Southern Vectis bus service with a Wight Bus service, that some have said is even better than the previous service provision.

A strong and positive relationship has also been maintained with the Cowes Safer Neighbourhood Officers (Police) and the IW Council's Neighbourhoods and Environment Officers (Rural Area Managers), and the Parish Council is indebted to Police Constable Mark Thomas and his colleagues and Grahame Deacon and Jacqui Darby for their enthusiasm shown by attendance at Parish Council meetings to give reports.

b. Gurnard-in-Bloom Jubilee Fund

This organisation continues to serve the Village well and I'm quite sure everyone can see the fruit of their labours. The Parish Council is hugely grateful to the small band of people who create such colour in the Village, and it has been a pleasure to continue to support their work. The Parish Council managed to secure a further £1000 grant under the "One Million Blooms" funding umbrella which is being used to complement the existing planting schemes in Worsley Road, and to extend the spring bulb planting.

c. Waste Management

A wheelie bin has been supplied for the tourist season for the past 4 years, and is in place again now on the Esplanade and will remain there until the autumn half term holiday. There are 14 dog bins in the village, 9 of which the Parish Council funded. It was hoped to take part in the En Cams "Big Tidy Up" campaign last month, but there was not enough response to the appeal for help in the Village to make it work.

d. IW Walking Festival

Last year Gurnard led a walk under our Walk Coordinator Jo Moore, and the route as from the Outlook Café on the Marsh to Thorness and back. Gurnard doesn't feature in the 2009 programme, but there are plans for Gurnard to host a walk again in 2010.

e. Parish Councillors, Committee Members & Youth Advisors

1 Councillor stood down in September 2008 and the seat was filled through calling a by-election which was uncontested, and Mrs Elaine Butler from Hilton Road was welcomed into the fold. Parish elections take place on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009 when all Councillors have to stand down - **nominations packs for candidates are available this evening if anyone wants to stand!** Various training has been undertaken by both Councillors and the Parish Clerk which included a Parish Master Class exercise, code of conduct, health and safety, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid, bid writing and 2

conferences. There have been Parish Council representatives on the IW Assn of Local Councils, Cowes Youth Club Management Committee, Island Waste Advisory Group, Marsh Road Residents Association, the IW Parish Task Group, the May Queen Committee and the IW County Training Partnership during the year, and all of these have involved outside meetings and other activities from time to time. One Parish Councillor also serves as a Parish Tree Warden alongside Richard Bolwell. Attendance by Parish Councillors at Full Council meetings has averaged 89%, an improvement of 15% when compared with last year. The Community Projects Committee is up to full strength again, with Vicky Spencer and Cathy Marriott coming on board during the year. With effect from July 2008 the Parish Council has benefited from the input to 2 committees and 1 working party from a total of 6 youth advisors - 4 from Cowes High School and 2 from Solent Middle School.

f. Grants

The Grants programme runs during March and April, and the Parish Council approved grants totalling £950 on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009. Full details of all grants paid last year (2008) are in the financial statement.

g. Grass Cutting.

In addition to the verge cutting undertaken by the IW Council, the Parish Council has continued to fund the maintenance of the grassed areas at Pond Green and Gurnard Heights. The local contractor appointed in 2008 continues for this year. Some major shrub and tree pruning work was also undertaken during the year at Pond Green.

h. Website

The website has continued to be regularly updated, and is increasingly being used by both residents and people from outside the Village as well as some from many Countries across the world – there are between 300 and 350 visits per month!

i. Traffic Management Plan

The Parish Council's Traffic Management Plan Working Party which consists of 10 members, only 3 of which are Councillors, has met 5 times in total during the past year. Issues dealt with during the year include speeding, signage, parking & school run traffic problems, and it has also carried out a residents' survey exercise in Hilton Road.

j. Village Hall

The Parish Council continues to be indebted to the Hall Management Committee for all its hard work, and of course there was the first and very successful AGM in 2008. The Parish Council has granted a total of £8000 to its work in the past 2 years, and is hoping to draw down some external funding to support it again this year - 2 Parish Councillors serve on the committee.

k. No Cold Calling Zones

The No Cold Calling Zone was officially launched in 2007, and this covers the whole of the Village. Signs at all entrances to the Village warn rogue traders or door-to-door salesmen of the fact, and the few problems that have occurred have been reported to Trading Standards.

l. Projects

The main project has been the Play Area on the Village Green, and all the preparatory work is now completed. Several funding applications have been submitted to move this forward, and about £12000 has been raised so far. 2 promising further applications are lodged at the moment and we await the result.

Some tree planting has taken place, both new and replacement trees, and negotiations are on-going as to how the Parish Council can partner with the IW Council on the toilet block management to improve things there.

External funding to the tune of £2500 was drawn down to support an older person's project in the Village, and the money has been shared between the group that started meeting this year at Bucklers View and also the Fish Project, which will soon be operational to the rear of All Saints Church.

The Parish Council has decided to create a Gurnard Community Association and register it as a charity. This will primarily be used to draw down funding for projects that the Parish Council is unable to apply for, whereas voluntary groups can. Trustees/Committee members will be needed for this, so if this interests you please do make contact with the Parish Clerk.

- m. May Queen  
The Parish Council decided last year to try and offer more support to this Village event, in addition to the funding support it has given over many years. A Councillor now forms part of the May Queen committee and it is hoped, provided the community proves to be behind it, to help grow this fantastic event that is envied by many Island communities.
- n. Statement of Accounts 2008/2009:

<b>RECEIPTS</b>		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Balance b/fwd	14718.59	General Administration	1257.91
Precept	25000.00	Staffing	15680.15
VAT	1259.43	Hall hire	40.00
Dividends	79.14	Insurance	570.15
Interest	624.45	Chairman's Allowance	84.08
Grants	18055.52	Subscriptions	490.12
Garden bags	50.00	Audit	407.75
Inland Revenue	100.00	Waste bin emptying	3051.94
Assets	1.00	Garden & Dog Bags	268.24
		Data Protection Notification	35.00
		Advertising	0.00
		Training/conference	426.00
		IT & Office	524.91
		Grass cutting	225.00
		Street furniture/signs	235.75
		Buildings fund	4000.00
		Contingency (Pond Green)	536.98
		Village Grants	1450.00
		Community & Blooms Projects	3500.00
		Playground (Planning)	85.00
		Petty Cash	190.00
		Tree Planting	500.00
		Total expenditure	33558.98
		<b>ADD</b>	
		Halifax a/c balance	22864.44
Total receipts	46169.54	HSBC Business a/c	1730.73
Balance b/fwd	14718.59	HSBC current a/c	1733.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>59888.13</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>59888.13</b>