

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, but only on 5 occasions in fact (10 meetings the year before), in order to respond to planning and licensing applications within the deadlines set by Development Control and Licensing. Up to the end of March a total of only 30 planning applications have been considered and commented upon during the year, which amounts to a reduction on last year of 44.4% (24 less applications). The Parish Council has continued to attend selected Planning Inspectorate appeal site inspections.

The Community Projects Committee, which started work in December 2006, has met 4 times since the last APM and continues to work through the Parish Plan Action Plan.

The Parish Council thanks Ward Councillor Paul Fuller for his support and the regular reporting on events at County Hall as they affect Gurnard during his 2nd year in office, and is particularly grateful for his obvious enthusiasm for the role he undertakes in our community.

A strong and positive relationship has also been maintained with the Cowes Safer Neighbourhood Officers (Police) and the IW Council's Neighbourhoods and Environment Officer, and the Parish Council is indebted to Police Constable Mark Thomas and PCSO Steve Oatley for their enthusiasm shown by attendance at Parish Council meetings to give reports. The Environment & Neighbourhood Officer (Neil Perry) is not able to attend meetings but there is regular communication

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 has provided financial and other support during the year. The team continues to be concerned and frustrated by what they see as prolific parking on grass verges especially by contractors working in the Village, which undermines their work. The Team has also worked with the Police recently, provided work for vandal youth offenders on the various planted schemes

c. Waste Management

A wheelie bin has been supplied for the tourist season for the past 6 years, and is in place again now on the Esplanade and will remain there until the autumn half term holiday. There are 16 dog bins in the village, 11 of which the Parish Council funded and continues to service. The Parish Council declined to take part in the Beachwatch litter pick and survey exercise in September 2010, but in its place is now running a series of 3 local litter picks in the Village in March, June and October. The next clean-up campaign is planned for Saturday 25th June – meeting at Woodvale Pumping Station at 10am if you can help.

- d. IW Walking Festival
Gurnard featured in the 2010 walks programme and, thanks to our Walk Coordinator Jo Moore, there is another walk included in the 2011 programme that will take place on Sunday 8th May starting from the Little Gloster on the Marsh at 2pm walking the 3½ miles to Thorness and back. There is also a 1 mile story walk in the morning, setting off from the Watersedge Restaurant at 10.30am.
- e. Parish Councillors, Committee Members & Youth Advisors
The next full Parish elections take place in May 2013, but since the last APM there have been 2 seats that have become available due to resignations (Ben Hollis & Elaine Butler). One was filled by co-option as an election were not demanded, but there is still one vacancy for which cooption applications will be received until 30th April. New to the Parish Council since the last APM is Daniel Whitehouse. Some chairmanship training has been undertaken by Councillors this year. There are or 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 May Queen Committee and the Cowes, Northwood & Gurnard Community Transport Forum, 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 from April 2010 to March 2011 managed 100% for 2 meetings during the year, and averaged at 76% for Full Council meetings, which is a drop from 82% last year and 89% the year before. Membership of the Community Projects Committee has remained full for the whole year. The Parish Council has benefitted from the input of some Youth Advisors on committees, working groups and Full Council meetings since the scheme was 1st launched in 2008. Originally there were 6, with 2 coming from Solent Middle and 4 from Cowes & Medina High Schools. The Parish Council is very grateful to efforts of Hannah Tew (who we lose in September – University), Harry Collier, Zoe Divers and Mark Adair.
- f. Grants
The Grants programme runs during March and April, and the Parish Council approved grants totalling £575 on 12th April 2011. Full details of all grants paid last year (2010) 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 2009 & 2010 continues for this year. Some major shrub and tree pruning work was also undertaken during the year again 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 – Hits are fairly steady at between 300 and 500 visits per month, which is about the same as last year. The forum is still not used much.
- i. Traffic Management Plan
The Parish Council's Traffic Management Plan Working Party which consists of 10 members including 3 Councillors, has met 3 times in total during the past year with the next meeting scheduled for next month. Issues dealt with during the year include speeding, school buses, Highways and general safety problems.
- j. Village Hall
The Parish Council continues to be indebted to the Hall Management Committee for all its hard work. The Parish Council has supported the work there both in kind and financially this past year. Improvements continued under the excellent and enthusiastic leadership of Carolyn Sibley.

k. Projects

The main project this past year was completing the Play Area on the Village Green, and this involved the installations of 4 memorial seats and the completion of a usage survey for the funders, which our Youth Advisors assisted with.

The initial work undertaken last year to consider what to do with the primary school site after the school moves to the Solent Middle site has been taken over from a residents group by the Community Projects Committee. No hard commitments have been made as consultation with the Village did not produce a mandate, but an expression of interest has been submitted in the fields, orchard and swimming pool should the site become the subject of an asset transfer.

The Parish Council's Gurnard Community Association has continued to function, albeit in a low key mode. The committee has met just twice during the past year, one meeting of which was the AGM. This will primarily be used to draw down funding for projects that the Parish Council is unable to apply for, but where voluntary groups can. The committee is once again up to full strength..

The Parish Council worked alongside the Sailing Club on a project to reintroduce the Gurnard Regatta last year, and this 1st such event for some years now took place on 14th August and was a real success – there is a full account of the day on the news section of the Parish Council's website. The event is being repeated with a couple of additional attractions this year, and this is set for Saturday 20th August from 12.30pm to 4.30pm. If anyone wants to help out with anything on the day do contact the Parish Clerk.

In spite of about 5 years of work, the Parish Council's efforts to have the footpath behind the houses in Gurnard Heights formally adopted by the IW Council came to nothing – the project fell victim to the financial cuts, but Rights of Way has said it will give some basic maintenance to it.

The Parish Council continues to work with the IW Council on the monitoring of the Public Toilet Block. Councillors complete an inspection report on cleanliness twice a week and a 3rd weekly inspection is carried out on the fabric.

The Parish Noticeboard had a complete overhaul during the summer which was very necessary due to a bad leak.

The Parish Council will be working towards the reaccreditation of its Quality Council status later this year.

The latest project is community transport. With the demise of the Wightbus scheme, the Parish Council has been working with Northwood Parish Council and Cowes Town Council on creating a replacement service to run from 1/9/11. The partnership working has been very positive, but there is still much to do. If anyone wishes to volunteer to assist by becoming a volunteer driver, please do contact the Parish Clerk.

l. May Queen

One Councillor continues to serve on the May Queen committee and the Parish Council will be attending the fete officially for the 3rd time on 2nd May and this year's event will be used to consult and inform on 2 issues, so do come along and say hello.

m. Affordable Housing

This project has marked time this past year, and in fact it could also have regressed in that the Rural Housing Enabler post has been withdrawn. The project is on the back burner, waiting for better times or proper Government funding for land purchases.

- n. Victorian Water Fountain at Woodvale
This time last year refurbishment work was on-going, but it was finally completed last summer and looks great. The Parish Council assisted by providing about 30% of the cost.

0. Statement of Accounts 2010/2011:

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURE	
		Gurnard Festival	411.87
Precept	32000.00	Staffing & associated costs	17913.28
VAT	1117.92	Hall hire	54.00
Dividends	0.00	Insurance	613.58
Interest	32.91	Chairman's Allowance	59.31
Donations (seats)	1499.00	Subscriptions	519.45
Garden bags	52.00	Audit	726.25
Sponsorship (Regatta)	93.00	Waste bin emptying	3250.79
Dog bin emptying (Cowes TC)	72.00	Garden & Dog Bags	331.55
		Data Protection Notification	35.00
		Members' Allowances	0.00
		Training/conference	419.50
		IT & Office	1010.23
		Grass cutting etc	248.00
		Street furniture/signs	581.63
		Buildings fund	0.00
		Contingency (CRB's + plaque)	87.00
		Village Grants + Hall	1300.00
		Playground maintenance	1500.00
		Playground equipment	7790.14
		Petty Cash	200.00
		Water Fountain refurbishment	1500.00
		Total expenditure	38551.58
		ADD	
		HSBC Savings a/c	22691.60
Total receipts	34866.83	HSBC Gratuity a/c	2883.93
Balance b/fwd	31272.01	HSBC current a/c	2036.73
		Less uncashed cheque	-25.00
Total	66138.84	Total	66138.84
RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURE	

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