

GURNARD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Gurnard Electors held at the Village Hall in Worsley Road, Gurnard on Thursday 24th April 2014 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Javid (Chair), IW Councillor Fuller, Kevin Burton (Speaker) Rebecca Tuck (Speaker), Cllrs Budgen, Jacobs, McKean, Nolan and Spencer, Wilf (Youth Adviser), 4 electors and the Parish Clerk.

Cllr Javid started the evening by welcoming those who had attended, and introducing the speaker.

1. PRESENTATION: ISLAND ROADS – KEVIN BURTON & REBECCA TUCK

Kevin started the evening by providing an overview and scope of the contract which started in April 2013. All work is determined by the contract, so any additional new work has to be agreed by the Isle of Wight Council and prices agreed. To start there is a 7 year investment programme to bring the highway network up to standard as the Isle of Wight was deemed by central government to have the worse roads in the country. The resurfacing programme made a slow start due to the lack of Asphalt, but with the new plant at St George's Down going live next month, this will really speed up the programme.

Several questions were asked, starting with the upgrading of the street lights. There is one area in Albert Road that now has a dark patch as the new lights are not as bright as the previous ones. This will be taken back to the monthly meeting with the Isle of Wight Council for discussion.

Shore Road – Southern Gas is there again today. Kevin explained that Island Roads gives three months' notice of resurfacing roads to all the utilities and tries to work with them to limit the amount of times the area is worked on. To this end, there is a meeting with Southern Water on 01/06/14 to try and improve the situation.

Redundant signage – there are still two signs notifying drivers of the school in Hilton Road which has been closed for two years. Kevin advised that there is a survey being carried out at the moment to check the condition and necessity for all signage on the Island and this will be resolved soon.

Woodvale Road footpath – it was reported that raw sewerage was seen last week. The District Steward will be asked to investigate this problem.

Bus Shelters – the ones at the Park and Ride at Somerton are constantly being vandalised. At least six panes of glass need replacing at the moment. Kevin will go and investigate on his way home and Island Roads will consider replacing some panels with metal or polycarbonate if appropriate.

Waste Bins – there is not one provided at the Park and Ride – this will be taken to the joint meeting with Isle of Wight Council.

Cockleton Lane – in times of heavy rain, the water drains from the fields and floods the road, which can then freeze. Kevin advised that this is the responsibility of the land owner, who can be forced to provide drainage if necessary.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Harrison, McNeil, Mrs Pat Clayton (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator), PSCO Derek Howard and Environment Officer Neil Perry.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting held on 30th April 2013, were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Sean Harrison had given his apologies for not being able to attend this evening, but his deputy Cllr Javaid presented the report.

Some of the topics and issues that the Parish Council have dealt with this year include:-

The biggest topic for the year has been the planning application for an additional 99 homes off Place Road, later revised to 90. The council has received a lot of comments from members of the public and has objected to both the original and revised proposals.

The other major topic is the potential loss of services which will no longer be funded by IW Council due to major budget issues – these may have to be funded by the Parish Council. At the May Queen event, the Parish Council will be carrying out their first consultation with the electors to start discussing which services are the most important for the parish council to provide. The services currently at risk are:

Beach cleaning, slipway cleaning, the provision of the toilet facilities on the green and the grass cutting of the green. Funds to provide these services will have to be raised by the precept or using reserves currently being kept for other projects.

The Parish Council has welcomed two Youth Advisers during this year, who attend all meetings and are hoping to provide agenda items raised by the students of Cowes Enterprise College.

Only eight candidates stood for election in May 2013, so one vacancy was advertised for co-operation to the council. Cllr Vicky Spencer was co-opted in December 2013.

In January this year, after nearly 14 years Clerk Rusty Adams decided to retire, so advertisements were placed in the IW County Press for a replacement. Several applications were received and four candidates were selected for interview. Mrs Sue Waters was duly appointed, who started on 1st April 2014. She will only be working for 20 hours per week. She can be contacted on 07743 656480 or gurnardparishcouncil@gmail.com.

The Chairman has received an invitation to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party in May. The National Association of Local Councils invited four representatives from the Island Branch to attend. Names were drawn at the IWALC meeting in April and Cllr Harrison was successful. He will be attending with his wife.

After several complaints about motorists speeding through Rew Street, a "speedwatch" exercise has been carried out which involved volunteers and the local PSCO's . Cockleton Lane is also causing problems, and volunteers are currently being trained to carry out a similar exercise there, although additional volunteers are required.

The council is still considering quotes for the Open Spaces project and sourcing funding streams. A meeting was held this week with the Isle of Wight Council to further discuss the project as the new administration may have different ideas for the playing field and orchard.

A request that the Housing Needs survey is adopted by IWC Council, which shows the need for only an additional 19 new homes over the next five years.

Following a request for additional facilities for the Green, another two picnic tables were purchased and installed.

Councillors have carried out another two successful Litter picks last Autumn and this Spring. Unfortunately, litter will be severely marked by the judges for the Best Kept Village Award, so can everyone please be vigilant and ensure that the Village does not have a visible litter problem. If there are any areas causing continual concern, please advise the Parish Clerk. Following last year's judging,

it was commented that the village map is out of date – this project is being undertaken by the students from Cowes Enterprise College.

Following complaints from Residents the council agreed to fund an additional wheelie bin for the Green to help with the rubbish problem for the summer months.

The council is working with the Isle of Wight Council to try and keep Footpaths CS16 and 17 open until they are unsafe.

There was another successful Gurnard Regatta last summer, where the clerk handed out the prizes. The council also participated in the Annual wreath laying ceremony for Remembrance Sunday where Cllr Fuller represented the council.

The Neighbourhood Plan is still a major on-going project with members of the Steering Group meeting regularly throughout the year. A Consultant has now been engaged to collate all the information collected by the various focus groups with an aim to completing the Plan by early next year.

The Grants panel met earlier this year and will be awarding financial grants to the following organisations at the Parish Meeting in June:-

All Saints Parish Church

Gurnard Primary School

Northwood and Gurnard WWI Memorial Group

Gurnard Scout and Guide Hall

Finally, please remember that this is your village and your council. If you have any queries or problems, please contact the Parish Clerk, or you are welcome to attend any of the meetings which are advertised on the notice board and Bryan's Newsagents.

6. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Parish Clerk presented a summary of the accounts to 31/03/14, where had been prepared by the previous clerk. These accounts had been approved by the council following internal audit, but are subject to external audit.

An opportunity to raise questions was given:- one question was raised about the large increase in administration costs from 2012/13 to 2013/14. This was due to the previous clerk undertaking various project work. The new clerk has reduced hours and at the moment no project work is being undertaken.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mrs Pat Clayton was unable to attend and but sent a verbal report. This has been a very quiet year with no crimes to report to the local police. She has previously announced her intention to "stand down" so a replacement co-ordinator is required. A box of resources is available and Pat is happy to talk to anyone who may be interested in this voluntary role, please call her on 296072 to find out any further information. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested in the role.

8. ANNUAL SUMMARY FROM THE SAFER COMMUNITIES OFFICER

PSCO Howard had given his apologies but he sent a written report which was circulated.

Team Members.

Inspector Samantha Dunlop

Sgt Gary Knight

PC Justin Pringle

PC Martin Egerton

PCSO Derek Howard

PCSO Steve Anker

PC Mark Byrne East Cowes

PCSO Lisa Paul East Cowes

Full profile and pictures of the team can be viewed on the Hampshire Constabulary website via the following link:

<http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/my-neighbourhood/eastern/isle-of-wight/west-wight/cowes-castle-east-and-west/>

Crime Update.

Crime levels continue to fall.

Total crimes, year to date have reduced by 7%, from 74 (2012-2013) crimes down to 69 (2013-2014) reported crimes. These figures include the parish of Northwood. For police reporting and recording purposes, both Gurnard and Northwood fall in the same geographical region.

Beat Surgeries/ Public engagement.

We have been holding regular beat surgeries at Cowes Police station since the beginning of December 2013, giving members of the public the opportunity to come and speak to us re any community issues they may have. Attendance during this trial period has been fairly low. As of June 2014, the beat surgeries will reduce to once a month, being the 2nd Thursday of every month.

School Presentations.

PCSO Derek Howard has giving Internet/cyber safety presentations around the community to local schools. The presentation has been rolled out across Hampshire during the past two years and is ongoing every new school year, aimed at year group 5 & 6. The presentation is designed to raise awareness of risk situations and potential dangers that young people may face in their everyday lives while communicating online.

Speedwatch Scheme.

We now have 10 volunteers from the local community trained to operate the speedwatch equipment. Areas of operation so far are Pallance Road & Church Road / Lower Church Road. We will be expanding the scheme out to the wider Cowes area in due course. We are always looking to recruit more volunteers and if any members of the public are interested please contact PCSO Derek Howard at Cowes Police Station or via 101 for more information.

9. ANNUAL SUMMARY FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOODS & ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

Neil Perry had given his apologies but sent a written report which was circulated.

He provided a list of phoned in jobs for Gurnard area over the last 12mths:-

Toilets 5, Dog Fouling 3, Waste 4, Fly tipping 3, Graffiti 1, Litter 1, Park Issue 1, Beach 3

Other jobs include damage to toilets on numerous occasions: Including holes being drilled through cubicle walls in the gents.

Graffiti (telephone numbers in gents.) Meetings on site with Rusty to agree on the right areas for the (now in place) picnic tables.

Damage has always been reported to Property Services and graffiti removed by myself.

Area of stream/dinghy park this has been reported and is in hand to be replaced.

I am pleased to say Gurnard is one of my better areas.

Graffiti around the area seems to have ceased at present.

10. ANNUAL SUMMARY FROM IW COUNCILLOR – PAUL FULLER

Paul Fuller has delivered his annual report to all homes in Gurnard he made himself available for questions, but none were asked.

11. OPEN SESSION

An opportunity was given for anyone present to ask questions, but none were asked.

Meeting closed at 9 pm.

CHAIRMAN