

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Gurnard Parish Council held at Gurnard Village Hall in Worsley Road, Gurnard on Thursday 13th November 2014 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Harrison (Chair), Bugden, Fuller, Jacobs, McKean, McNeil, Nolan and Spencer.
Also present Youth Adviser Wilf Armfield. **PUBLIC: 0**

PCSO Howard attended to provide a short verbal report. He started by apologising for his absence recently, which has been caused by the meeting clashing with the Beat Surgeries and shift patterns. The Beat Surgeries which have been provided on a Thursday have not been well attended, so will be ceasing at the end of the year. Crime figures for October for Northwood and Gurnard was 3 – the same as last year. PC Juliet Proctor who was brought to Cowes from Newport for the summer will be staying until the end of the year. The move of the Police Station to Cowes Enterprise College has now been delayed until February 2015. Cllr Bugden explained that she had taken over the voluntary post of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Gurnard but had not received any contact from the police. The clerk will provide the contact details again, to establish the link with the IW Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

6114 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Javaid who was unwell.

6115 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a. To receive declarations of pecuniary & non-pecuniary interests

Cllr P Fuller declared a non-pecuniary interest on the Open Spaces project as he is an IWC Councillor, he also declared a pecuniary interest in the item regarding Discretionary Services as he is a paid member of the IW Council, so withdrew for this item.

Cllrs Bugden, Harrison and Jacobs all declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Open Spaces project as they live close by.

Cllr Nolan declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item regarding Solent Lawns as he lives next door.

b. Dispensation requests

None received.

6116 MINUTES

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 19th October be approved as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.

6117 PLANNING, LICENSING AND TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

There were no planning applications to consider

a. The following planning decisions were received.

Application No: P/01051

Decision: Granted Plan Permission (24/10/14)

6118 TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS

a. Parish Council Chairman – nothing to report.

b. Clerks Report had been circulated to all members.

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- c. Cllr Fuller circulated his newsletter to members. He added that there are problems with the Community Bus due to lack of voluntary drivers. Southern Vectis advised that both the Saturday and Monday services are at risk of stopping due to lack of volunteer drivers. A meeting of representative councillors from Cowes, Northwood and Gurnard was held this week and discussions are on-going with Southern Vectis. There is a pot of money raised from voluntary contributions from users of the bus, which may have to be used to employ drivers to enable the service to continue. Once costs have been established, Cllr Fuller will report back to council, as there may be a need to top up the contributions from the precept. Cllr Nolan asked about the Community Bus stopping at Aldi. There is no official bus stop, but the bus has been re-routed to include the site and passengers can “hail and ride” anywhere on the route.
- d. The Minutes of the Village Hall Committee held on 2nd October 2014 had previously been circulated to members. Cllr Budgen added that the building work is causing problems with additional mud in the lane, and that a banksman is not being used for vehicles for vehicles leaving the site. Although this has been reported to the agent for the developers by the GVH Committee it was agreed that:
ACTION: A formal letter is written by the clerk advising the developer of the Health and Safety risks of not using a banksman, and that as leaseholders the Parish Council wishes to report his matter ahead of taking further action with the IW Council Planning Department.
- e. Minutes of the IWALC Meeting held on 16th October 2014 had been circulated to members.

6119 THE CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

The Isle of Wight Council Code of Conduct was amended earlier this year, to bring it in line with the Hampshire County Council one. All Town and Parishes have been requested to include the wording regarding personal interests.

RESOLVED: The Gurnard Parish Council Policy is amended to include the wording regarding personal interests to bring the wording in line with the Isle of Wight Council and published on the website.

6120 LITTER PICK

The litter pick rescheduled for Saturday 11th October was cancelled due to poor weather again. It was felt that due to the weather, the next litter pick will be scheduled for the spring. The clerk advised that she now has a list of volunteers who will be contacted ahead of the next scheduled event.

Cllr Fuller left the room for the following item at 6.45pm

6121 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A public consultation event was held on Thursday 16th October at the Village Hall to gain feedback on the Neighbourhood Plan, Discretionary Services and the Open Spaces project. Although numbers were low, the council received overwhelming support for the Open Spaces Project and the plan to take on Discretionary Services. This provides the council with a clear steer that residents wish all services to continue. Figures from IWALC had been circulated showing how other Town/Parish Councils were intending to contribute to the cost of discretionary services, and Cllr McNeil advised of the decisions made by Cowes Town Council last week. Therefore it was:

RESOLVED:

(i) Discretionary Services

a) That further information is requested from the IW Council regarding the difference in costs between their statutory service and the current contract before agreeing to make a contribution to the Beach Cleaning service.

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- b) That a contribution towards the Grounds Maintenance service is agreed for one year only, to enable the council to carry out a tendering process (possibly working with the adjacent councils of Cowes and Northwood) to take over the service themselves in the future.
- c) That if the toilet block is closed by IW Council (following the consultation on the Community Toilet initiative), the council will take on the service to ensure it remains open (again possibly working with Cowes Town Council)
- d) That although the Parish Council agreed to help fund the services of an Environment Officer for one year, this has not been built into the budget and if requested by IW Council would be debated again by the council in future years.

Cllr Fuller rejoined the meeting at 7.05pm

(ii) Open Spaces Project

A petition had been presented to the council by local residents supporting the idea that the council acquires the lease of the former Gurnard Primary School playing field and orchard. Of those attending the public meeting – 86% supported the project. On the night 21 people left contact details advising of their interest to join a working group to run the project. It was **RESOLVED: That Cllr Fuller sets up a working party to manage the project once the draft lease has been provided by IW Council.**

(iii) Neighbourhood Plan

The chairman (Bede Townsend) was unable to attend the meeting so the clerk advised of progress to date. The public consultation produced a total of 31 online completed surveys and 14 hard copies (although another two has been handed in today). Everyone agreed that it was a very difficult form to complete and this may have prevented residents from taking part. The consultant employed by the council has completed the analysis of the surveys and is in the process of producing a draft plan. At this stage, the question of site allocation (either for development or protection) is not being included in the plan but can be added at a later date once further discussion has taken place. The draft plan should be available to members at the December meeting.

6122 QUESTIONS REGARDING THE IW COUNCIL BUDGET TO BE PRESENTED AT THE IWALC MEETING

After some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council has no questions to be presented to the IW Council at the IWALC meeting.

6123 IW COUNCIL HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The Isle of Wight Council Planning Department has commissioned a consultant to carry out a new Housing Needs Survey. The annual requirement for Housing on the Isle of Wight has increased from 520 to 525, therefore no revisions are necessary.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report are noted and no comments are required.

6124 WORKING GROUPS

Both the Personnel and Financial Working Groups met during October. The Financial Working Group aims to produce a budget for members to discuss two weeks before the December meeting.

RESOLVED: The Minutes were received and noted.

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6125 SOLENT LAWNS TREE PRESERVATION ORDER – schedule of works

Cllr Nolan presented a verbal report on the work carried out recently as part of the 10 year plan which has been lodged with the IW Council Planning Department. Contact has been established with both the Tree Officer and the Tree Management Company who will provide regular updates on the work to the Parish Clerk.

6126 FINANCE

- a. The cheque payments were circulated. **RESOLVED: Approve all cheque payments.**
- b. To approve the petty cash payments. **RESOLVED: Petty cash payments of £17.63 were approved.**
- c. Concerns were raised that the GVHA is working under the auspices of the Parish Council but does not share Financial Policies/Regulations – in particular when employing a contractor.
RESOLVED: That the Parish Clerk writes to the GVHA requesting that they align their policy.

6127 ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTHS AGENDA

- a. To review the Polices – Child Protection, Complaints and Equality
- b. Review of Emergency Plan
- c. Budget for 2015/16
- d. Community Bus
- e. Open Spaces Project

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm.

CHAIRMAN