

GURNARD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Gurnard Parish Council held at Gurnard Village Hall in Westbrook Lane, Gurnard on Wednesday 13 September 2017 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: **Councillors** Harrison (Chair), Bugden, Fuller, Jacobs, McKean and Nolan.

There were 3 members of the public present. One asked a question about the Japanese Knotweed along Baring Road by the Dottens Farm development site. Councillor Fuller has already investigated this with Island Roads who are aware of the problem and have advised that action is being taken. He will continue to monitor the situation and if it is not treated satisfactorily, he will raise this as a future agenda item.

PSCO Howard sent a written report which was circulated to members. There were nine reported crimes during August compared to eleven last year. The current priorities are: - Dealing with offenses relating to the night time economy, Domestic Violence and Youth anti-social behaviour vulnerability. Councillor Bugden provided some information about the Neighbourhood Watch meeting that she recently attended. It was raised that the clerk requests that the Police try to attend the Parish Council meetings on a quarterly basis.

6601 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence received as all councillors were present.

6602 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Fuller declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a member of the Isle of Wight Council. Councillor Harrison declared a non-pecuniary interest that is a staff member of the Isle of Wight Council.

Councillors Bugden, Jacobs and Harrison declared non-pecuniary interests in that they live close to the site of Cockleton Meadow.

b. Dispensation requests

No written dispensation requests were received.

6603 MINUTES

It was:

RESOLVED:

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2017 were read and approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6604 PLANNING

a) There were two planning applications to consider. It was:

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council raises no objections to planning applications numbered P/01034/17 – 3 Albert Road and P/00808/17 – land fronting Place Road.

b) There were six planning decisions received.

6605 REPORTS

a. Parish Council Chairman

The Parish Chairman advised that he has a new role within the Isle of Wight Fire Service and that for the next three months will have less time to devote to the Parish Council.

b. Parish Clerk

The Clerk provided a written report which was circulated ahead of the meeting which updated councillors on various projects within the village. A member of the public requested that the clerk's report is available on the website for residents to read. It was agreed that the clerk's report will be published with the minutes of each full council meeting.

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c. IW Councillor

Councillor Fuller circulated a copy of his report which covered his activities in the past month. He wished to highlight that he is in discussions with the developers on Place Road who are wishing to change some of the development from housing to small scale bungalows. This will necessitate a new planning application which will be brought to the Parish Council for comments in due course.

d. The minutes of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils meeting held on 20/07/17 were received and noted.

e. The minutes of the Local Access Forum meeting held on 06/07/17 were received and noted. Councillor Fuller highlighted a problem with the Forestry Commission and Horse riders which is being discussed. The coastal footpath process is being delayed due to the recent elections, although talks are progressing between Natural England and some landowners.

6606 FINANCE

- a) The clerk presented the cheque and electronic payments for approval.
- b) The External Auditors report was presented, together with a request for their fee.
- c) The clerk presented a report regarding her attendance at the Regional Training seminar
- d) The clerk presented the annual Parish Council Insurance renewal paperwork which will cost £437.43 for this year. The figures had been checked by the clerk, and no other quotations were required as the Parish Council previously agreed a three year contract.

RESOLVED

- (i) **That £8851.39 cheque and electronic payments are approved.**
- (ii) **That the Auditors report and minor issues are noted, with a payment of £360.00 agreed**
- (ii) **That the clerk should attend the Regional Training conference on 01/11/17 and that the fee of £69.00 plus travel is paid from reserves.**
- (iv) **That the Insurance renewal of £637.43 is accepted and payment agreed.**

6607 CASUAL VACANCY

Following the May elections, there are still three vacancies of the Parish Council. One application had been received from Mrs. Jean Bartrum who attended the meeting and was available for questions from councillors. It was

RESOLVED:

- (i) **That Mrs. Jean Bartrum is invited to become a Gurnard Parish Councillor and she moved from the Public Gallery onto the councillor tables to take part in the remainder of the meeting.**
- (ii) **That the Declaration of Acceptance from Mrs. Jean Bartrum is signed in front of the clerk as Responsible Officer.**

6608 COCKLETON MEADOW

The clerk presented a report from the Chairman of the Friends of Cockleton Meadow (Mr. Martin Bilson). Some photographs were also shown and Martin read out some comments he had received by Email. Much discussion took place about the lack of a football pitch for sporting activities. It was agreed to check the lease wording to confirm that the activities currently taking place within the site are adequate to abide by the covenant on the land. There were also discussions about the BBQ pit. This cannot be used by anyone except The Green Gym who have their own insurance and risk assessments until agreed by the Parish Council insurers. One request has been received by the clerk, which was refused until all the controls are in place and agreed by councillors. Councillors also questioned the need for bonfires on the site. Martin explained that this was the only safe way to remove a lot of the hedge trimmings (in particular blackthorn which is dangerous to dogs). Bonfires are only used twice per year following a Green Gym visit. A letter has been constructed advising residents, the Fire Brigade are informed and is it will be manned until extinguished. Councillor Fuller advised that Environmental Health will only take action if bonfires are light more than twice per month, and so

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twice per year is acceptable. All these controls were acceptable to councillors. As the management of the site has now transferred from the Open Spaces Project Working Group to the Friends of Cockleton Meadow, an update to this effect needs to be added to the Parish Council website. Martin and his volunteers were thanked for all their hard work on the site.

6609 TOILETS ON THE GREEN

The clerk presented a short report advising councillors of only one small incident which had occurred at the toilet block since the decision to leave the block unlocked at night. A quotation was also circulated to provide protection to the guttering which has been damaged twice recently. An update regarding the water supply to the tap was also circulated from the Isle of Wight Council. It was:

RESOLVED: That

- (i) **The toilet block remains unlocked for another three month's trial period.**
- (ii) **That due to the cost, alternative quotations to reduce further damage to the guttering are requested and that the services of a local handyman are investigated for this type of work.**
- (ii) **That the clerk continues to work with the Isle of Wight Council to achieve a separate water meter for the tap before the Freehold to the block is accepted.**

6610 REVIEWS

The Environmental and Biodiversity Policy was reviewed. It was:

RESOLVED: That no changes are required to the Environmental and Biodiversity Policy this year.

6611 BENCH ON TUTTONS HILL

It was agreed to re-visit a request for a bench on Tuttons Hill this month. Although a survey was advertised, no further comments have been received. It was:

RESOLVED: That as only one resident has requested a bench for Tuttons Hill, and that it will cost £2,500.00 no further action is taken.

6612 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The clerk presented a short report regarding the Parish Council's attendance at this year's Remembrance Service at All Saints Church on Sunday 12 November. It was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Harrison lays a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council, which is paid for by the Parish Council at a cost of £40.00.

6613 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS

The clerk presented two consultations for councillors to discuss. It was:

RESOLVED:

- (i) **The Parish Council requires the Isle of Wight Council to continue to provide Council Tax Relief to working families on a low income at a rate of 80%.**
- (ii) **That the Parish Council continues to endorse the Policies of the Gurnard Neighbourhood Plan for all their Planning policies.**

6614 GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

The clerk circulated a letter advising at the existing contractor has ceased trading. An alternative quotation had been sought. It was:

RESOLVED: That a local handyman is asked to provide one more cut on the grass at Gurnard Heights this season and that alternative quotations for the contract for next summer are sourced locally.

6615 RISK ASSEMENT FOR THE PLAY AREA ON THE GREEN

A site visit was held on 27 July 2017 with Councillors Fuller and Nolan, the clerk and Lee Mathews from the Isle of Wight Council attended. The crash barrier suggested by Councillor Nolan has been discarded by the Isle of Wight Council who provided three options:

- 1 Bollards along the kerb stones - No firm costings have been provided but a sum of £3,000 has been suggested for the work
- 2 The removal of the parking bays.

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3 Do nothing.

It was:

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Parish Council supports option one to provide safety bollards to protect the play area and Green users.
- (ii) That the Parish Council does not support option two to remove the existing parking bays as parked cars provides a barrier for speeding vehicles or cars parked opposite rolling into the area.
- (iii) That the Parish Council would not support option three to do nothing particularly in light of previous serious incidents.

6616 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

No new items for future agendas were raised as many existing items require further investigation.

Meeting closed at 8.51 pm

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Chairman

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Clerk's Report – September 2017

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Defibrillator training

This was held on Tuesday 25 July 2017 at 9.30am in the Garden Room at All Saints Church. A total of 17 people took part with representatives of most of the regular hirers of the village hall, another two staff members from Gurnard Press and the Gurnard in Bloom team.

Disabled Audit of the Village

During the site visit on 27 July 2017, the disabled audit was also discussed. Lee has passed the recommendation to Bill Murphy who is overseeing the Island Roads contract on behalf of the IW Council, as most of the items highlighted are within the highways network. Of these, some items are within the contract and some are not. A full Health and Safety audit is being carried out across the Island, and Bill will report via email to the Parish Council once decisions are made for Gurnard.

Conservation Area status for the Shore Path/Shore Road area

As tasked, I contacted the IW Council requesting advice as to the process of applying for conservation status. This is the response received from the IW Council –

“I have discussed this request with my manager and unfortunately, given the Councils limited resources and current policy priorities (which are to deliver the Area Action Plans and supplementary planning documents that are required as a result of the Island Plan Core Strategy), we are not currently in the position to be able to move forward with the assessment of new conservation areas.

Despite this I have included Historic England's guidance note on conservation area designation [here](#) which provides details on the appraisal of new areas. To be honest, when you look at the criteria for designation, I'm not convinced that the area would warrant this type of designation anyway. I'm sorry that this may be a disappointing response. “

Neighbourhood Plan

A resounding “YES” vote by residents was received for the Neighbourhood Plan. Although some voted NO, the overwhelming majority supported the project. This is the culmination of 5.5 years of hard work by the dedicated volunteers of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group which consisted of two councillors and local residents. This was the final piece in the legal process, resulting in the Plan being “Made” by the Isle of Wight Council on Monday 11 September 2017. Any planning applications within the Parish of Gurnard will now be measured against the Neighbourhood Plan, the Island Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework. Well done to all concerned.

Miscellaneous correspondence

The hard copy correspondence which has been received is listed below – all other electronic correspondence has been forwarded to councillors by email.

- 1 One copy of the Good Councillor guide to Finance and Transparency
- 2 J Parker's Autumn 2017 catalogue
- 3 Solent News – summer 2017 edition
- 4 Island Business – July/August edition
- 5 CPRE – Summer 2017 edition
- 6 Half yearly update from Lloyds Bank
- 7 Sales leaflet from Viking Office Supplies
- 8 Clerks and Councils Direct – September 2017 edition

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