

GURNARD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Gurnard Electors held at the Village Hall in Worsley Road, Gurnard on Thursday 28 April 2016 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Harrison (Chair), Bugden, Fuller, McKean, Nolan and Spencer, and 1 member of the public.

Councillor Harrison opened the evening by welcoming those who had attended.

Councillor Harrison then gave a presentation in his role as Community Safety Officer for the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service. The presentation started with a PowerPoint presentation which advised of the history of the project that he is now working on. The Isle of Wight has a higher than average over 65 year old population, many of whom are isolated and lonely and require services but do not know how to access them. By agencies working together, an improvement to many people's lives can be achieved. For many years, Firefighters have carried out a home visit and installed smoke alarms free of charge. This service has been extended to include a full home safety check including checking for potential slip and trip hazards and possible electrical faults. In conjunction with the My Life a Full Life project, with the homeowner's permission a referral can be made for additional services provided by other agencies. By working with the Red Cross, the firefighter can provide free ferrules for the bottom of walking sticks which can prevent falls in the home. Although firefighters will encourage the use of carbon monoxide detectors, there is no funding stream to provide them. They will also fit child proof locks to a cupboard where poisons are stored, as the Isle of Wight has a higher than average problem with child poisoning. To prevent chimney fires, the advice is to have chimneys swept before and after each winter season and more frequently if wet wood (unseasoned) or rubbish is burnt.

Statistics predict that people will be living to 150 years old in the near future, and it is important that we look after the aging populations and keep them safe and well in a happy environment - which is usually their own home.

Following refreshments, the main meeting started.

Apologies were received from Councillors Jacobs and McNeill plus PSCO Howard.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 16 April 2015 were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Harrison then gave a Chairman's Report which highlighted the achievements of the Parish Council including being responsible for many services previously provided by the Isle of Wight Council, and detailed the challenges which lie ahead. There is an ever growing workload for both the councillors and the clerk which can only be achieved by everyone working together.

The Parish Clerk circulated copies of the audited accounts and was available for questions. The main item is the continuing reduction in administration costs. No questions were asked.

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Councillor Bugden then provided a verbal report on the Neighbourhood Watch for Gurnard. She attends monthly meetings at Cowes Police Station but generally Gurnard is a relatively safe place to live with a low crime rate. She wanted to highlight that there have been some opportunist crimes where doors or windows have been left unlocked to both homes and cars. Also that keys should not be hung close to a door where they can be removed.

PSCO Howard sent an annual report which was circulated. He provided an update to the team and advised that Police and Community Together priorities are to reduce:-

- 1) Speeding in Victoria Road/Mill Hill Road junction
- 2) Incidents at Cowes Enterprise College
- 3) Burglaries other than from dwellings.

Councillor Fuller provided copies of his Annual Report which he has delivered to all households over the last few weeks. He advised that although many of the services previously provided by the IW Council are now being passed to Town and Parish Council, his own personal workload has not decreased. No questions were asked.

A Parish Award was presented to Mrs Liz Jackson. Councillor Harrison read out a citation prepared in advance - Liz joined Gurnard Primary School as Head teacher in 1995. She was a very popular and well respected Head teacher for 20 years until her retirement in 2015. During that time she encouraged and supported many of the children in the village to become the successful adults many of them now are. Gurnard Primary School was consistently rated as one of the best primary schools on the Island during this time. She was also involved in the successful transition of Gurnard Primary School from Hilton Road to their present site on Baring Road. Liz was also involved with the Parish Council in preparing the Parish Plan. She was also an active member of the Projects Group, and was a key player in the development of the play area on the village green.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

CHAIRMAN