



Minutes of the meeting of the Gurnard Parish Council held at Gurnard Village Hall in Westbrook Lane, Gurnard on Thursday 13 October 2016 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: **Councillors** Harrison (Chair) Bugden, Fuller (7.55 pm), Jacobs, McKean, McNeill and Nolan

There were 5 Members of the Public present who asked no questions at this stage.

PCSO Derek Howard sent a written report which was circulated to members. There were 6 reported crimes in Gurnard last month, compared to 5 last year. The three community priorities remain the same.

Inspector Rob Abel, PSCO's Lisa Grey and Lisa Paul attended the meeting. They explained that although the crime figures have increased, this is in part due to a new form of reporting where incidents that involve more than one reportable crime were previously only reported as one (the most serious charge), but now all charges are reported. They assured councillors that crimes in Gurnard are of a low level nature, and that those occurring in September were mostly involving people who knew each other.

6458 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Doughty and Javid. Councillor Fuller will be late as he was attending an IW Council Executive Committee meeting first.

6459 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Harrison declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a paid employee of the Isle of Wight Council.

When Councillor Fuller arrived, he declared a pecuniary interest in that is a paid member of the Isle of Wight Council and Executive member for Public toilets – therefore he withdraw from the voting for minute number 6467.

b. Dispensation requests

No dispensation requests were received

6460 MINUTES

It was:

RESOLVED:

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2016 were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6461 PLANNING

a) There was one planning application to consider – P/01256/16 6 Solent Lawns. It was:

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council raises no objection to planning application no: P/01256/16.

b) There were no planning decisions.

6462 REPORTS

a. Parish Council Chairman

The Parish Chairman had nothing extra to report.

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- b. Parish Clerk
The Clerk provided a written report which was circulated ahead of the meeting.
- c. IW Councillor
Councillor Fuller circulated a copy of his report which covered his activities in the past month. He was not available for questions.
- d. The notes from the Open Spaces Project Working Group held on 13 September 2016 were received and noted.
- e. The minutes of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils meeting held on 15 September 2016 were received and noted.
- f. The minutes from the Gurnard Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting held on 5 October 2016 were received and noted. Councillor Nolan highlighted the issue raised from Bae Systems regarding a potential problem if the site identified as the forth site, which would have the least Landscape Impact if built on, would cause problem for the company with their radar testing. The Planning Consultant has prepared an amendment to the plan which members were happy with and will be drafting a letter to the company.

6463 FINANCE

- a) The clerk presented the cheque and electronic payments for approval.
- b) The clerk presented the quarterly Budget against Expenditure for approval.
- c) The clerk presented the half yearly Internal Audit report.
- d) Written and verbal recommendations from the Grants Panel were received.
- e) The response from the Treasurer of Gurnard Village Hall Association (GVHA) following receipt of their grant payment was circulated by the clerk and Councillor Budgen updated councillors on the discussion that took place at the GVHA AGM held the previous week. Councillors discussed that due to the good management of the hall, GVHA has a healthy bank balance but that other organisations using the hall do not pay rent. Councillors cannot re-visit the amount paid as it was resolved, but, if there was a particular project or problem identified by GVHA they could apply for a grant from the Parish Council
- f) The clerk advised that £10,000 had been transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account in order to pay invoices.

It was:

RESOLVED

- a) **That £13, 730.23 cheque and electronic payments are approved.**
- b) **That the quarterly Budget against Expenditure is approved.**
- c) **That the Internal Audit Report is approved.**
- d) **That grants are awarded to:**
 - (i) **Gurnard in Bloom – that due to there being no committee or separate bank account for the organisation, unfortunately, the application falls outside of the Grants Policy so no grant can be made. In view of the enthusiasm and commitment of Mrs. Lewis and in appreciation of the work that she has completed in providing the plants under the Gurnard sign and plants at the top of Church Road, that £100 is allocated from Contingencies to repay Mrs. Lewis upon receipt of paid invoices, to use to tidy up the existing beds and borders. Also, that if Gurnard in Bloom increases its membership and forms a committee, as outlined above, a future grant application would be welcomed.**
 - (ii) **The Elephant Club at All Saints Church - £200 to pay towards rental of the hall for the monthly memory club.**

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- (iii) **Gurnard Toddlers - that £100 is awarded providing that the organisation can confirm that their banking arrangements are in line with the Grant Policy, if not, that £100 is awarded from contingencies upon receipt of paid invoices until such arrangements are made.**

The Chairman thanked the Grants Panel for all their hard work.

- e) **That the £10,000 transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account is approved.**

6466 REVIEW OF POLICIES

It was

RESOLVED: The Debating and Voting Policy was reviewed and no amendments were required this year.

Councillor Fuller arrived at 7.55 pm.

6467 WASTE PROBLEMS ON THE GREEN

- a) The current contract for emptying the Biffa bin provided by the Parish Council is costing more than the agreed budgeted figure. At present, it is emptied once per month in the winter, twice per month in the summer, with weekly empties over the school summer holidays. Additional empties have also been made when the bin is overflowing. Much discussion took place regarding where the litter would go if the Biffa was removed.
- b) There are six litter bins on The Green which are emptied by the Grounds Maintenance contractor three times per week all year round. The Green is also litter picked by the contractor at the same time. This costs the Parish Council £1374.00 per annum. Following complaints this summer, the IW Council increased the emptying to daily during the school summer holidays at no additional cost to the Parish Council. It was

RESOLVED:

- (a) **That the current emptying schedule for the Biffa bin is confirmed for the 2017/18 season and the budget figure increased to £1,000 to accommodate this.**
- (b) **That no additional bins or empties are provided by the Parish Council on a regular basis, but in the event of overflowing bins, this should be reported to the Ward Councillor. The clerk will also contact IW Council to request an "out of hours" contact number for reporting when bins are overflowing and this number will be published on the website.**

6467 PUBLIC TOILETS

- a) The clerk advised that the two other councils who are now being asked to pay business rates for their toilets are now paying them whilst appealing to the Valuation office. Councillor Doughty has completed an appeal of behalf of the Parish Council, but advised that the rates should be paid, and if the appeal is successful, they will be repaid.
- b) The clerk presented notes from a meeting held with the chairman, vice chairman, ward councillor and an agent who advised of a potential planning application to develop the toilet block into a café with public toilets, plus conversion of the existing café to flats and some additional beach huts. A plan of the development was circulated, but this has already changed (reduced). There was much discussion about the Village Green status which covered most of the Village Green (excluding the Play Area which was built on the previous Putting Green). The officer at IW Council has not yet responded to the questions raised regarding the implications of the Village Green status. **The chairman stated that** at this stage, the Parish Council only has the Tenancy at Will for the toilet block, so is unable to respond to this proposal except to say that it appears to be a sensible solution to replace the existing poor quality toilet block at no

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cost to the Parish Council. The agent has advised that he would like to make a formal pre-planning application to the Parish Council ahead of the Planning meeting at the end of November.

- c) The quotation from the existing Toilet Cleaning Company for 2017/18 was received, at the same cost as this year. As several quotations were received last year and the chosen contractor was the most cost effective, only the one quotation was requested this year.
- d) The clerk presented a quotation for counting the number of users of the toilet block.
- e) The clerk presented a quotation for remedial work to reduce the risk to members of the public to contracting Legionella disease from the hot water supply in the toilet block following the concerns raised by the Legionella Assessment.

It was:

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the demand for Business Rates for the Toilet block on the Green is paid.**
- (b) That the Freehold of the toilet block is discussed as an agenda item next month.**
- (c) That the quotation from All Round Cleaners for the 2017/18 year is agreed at a cost of £2,221.28**
- (d) That the Parish Council does not pay for a counting system for the toilet block.**
- (e) That the clerk contacts the Environment Officer for advice regarding the Legionella risk, and act on the advice given, whilst obtaining a quotation to disconnect the hot water boiler which would eliminate the risk in the future. If the quotation is less than £200, the clerk can take the action to remove the hot water.**

6468 FOOTPATH AT GURNARD HEIGHTS

- a) The clerk circulated the paperwork received from the Rights of Way department at IW Council from 2010. This clearly states that the liability for the “modified” footpath – CS5a does not lie with either the Parish or IW Council. The IW Council was happy for the Parish Council to take on the liability by agreement with the landowner, but this has not taken place.
- b) The clerk had approached three contractors for a quotation to cut the hedge at Footpath CS5a. One had declined to quote, one had quoted and the other had not yet provided a quotation.

It was:

RESOLVED:

- a) That no liability is taken on by the Parish Council**
- b) That in view of the potential liability, the Parish Council does not accept the quotation for cutting back the undergrowth and overhanging trees and brambles on the footpath, but that the Ward Councillor requests that the Ramblers take on the project in a voluntary capacity.**

6469 SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL

The clerk presented a report regarding concerns raised since the withdrawal of the school crossing patrol outside Gurnard Primary School. The IW Council withdrew funding for the patrol, when it was proved unnecessary under the Road Crossing GB criteria which is a National standard. The Primary School was unable to take on the financial responsibility for the school crossing patrol as they had to reduce staff costs for both teaching and support staff which resulted in redundancies. Much discussion took place regarding the parking of cars outside the school which increases the risk to children crossing without a patrol. Councillor Fuller advised that he had previously obtained funding for a permanent crossing outside the school, but the proposal was not taken forward due to complaints from local residents. The IW Council has offered the post (subject to outside funding for two years) to the previous employee but to date no response has been reported. Part funding with Cowes Town Council was discussed, together with the PTA funding the second year. Subject to all the proposals being accepted by all parties, it was:

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RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Parish Council offers to part fund a School Crossing Patrol up to £1500 for one year only.
- (ii) That Cowes Town Council is asked to fund the remaining half for the first year as many children who live in Cowes attend the school.
- (iii) That the Parent Teacher Association is asked to fund the second year.

6470 RAILINGS ALONG THE COWES TO GURNARD ESPLANADE

The clerk presented a report from IW Council which quoted a potential cost of £60,309.00 for the maintenance work required on the railings from Cowes to Gurnard along the Esplanade. It has been confirmed that for Health and Safety reasons, the railings must remain in place. IW Council has the responsibility for the maintenance, but has restricted funds so has requested a contribution from both Gurnard Parish Council and Cowes Town Council. It was:

RESOLVED: That in view of the Parish Council already having raised the precept to take on services from the IW Council, they cannot commit any funding towards this project.

6471 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

The clerk presented a letter from the Chief Executive of the IW Council asking for comments from the Parish Council regarding 7 proposals they are suggesting to reduce the amount of Council Tax Relief that is offered to residents. Residents who are on low incomes, mostly working on zero hour contracts have raised concerns that they are being targeted for this reduction which they cannot afford.

Although any reduction in the relief would affect the Parish Council income (very slightly) it was:

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council understands the problem in the budget deficit for the IW Council but, feels that concessions should be made for low income working families.

6472 AGE FRIENDLY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Bugden has agreed to take on the responsibility of being the Age Friendly Councillor for the Parish Council. The chairman thanked her for taking on this additional role and for all her previous work in this area. It was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Bugden is appointed as the Age Friendly Councillor.

6473 NATIONAL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY

The clerk presented a strategy for 2017 – 2022 produced by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), which recognises the ever increasing role of Town and Parish councils. It was:

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council has nothing to add to the National Improvement Strategy.

6474 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- a) The future of the twice yearly Litter Picks.
- b) The Freehold for the toilet block on the Green.
- c) The Village Green status on The Green. (Councillor Fuller)
- d) How to assist the Gurnard In Bloom.
- e) The safety of the Play Area on The Green. (Councillor Nolan)
- f) Future Traffic Orders for the Village (Councillor Fuller)

Meeting closed at 9.22 pm

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Chairman