

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
TOTLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Wednesday 13 February 2008 in
The Council Offices, Winchester House, The Broadway, Totland

Present: Councillors; Mr J Howe (Chairman), Mr J Honeychurch (Vice-chairman) Mrs C Bryan, Mr V Fennell, Mrs V Cooke, Mr A Jones, Mr D Filby and Mrs S Jennings (RFO).

Mr Bob Nelson our Town Centre Manager and five members of the public.

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Councillor B Hinton MBE (prior commitment) and Councillor George Cameron (sick).

121/08 Memorial Hall, Freshwater

Councillor John Howe welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Councillor Mrs Linda Barnes to give her presentation of the new extension plans for the Memorial Hall, Freshwater. Linda gave apologies for Councillor Val Ottway who was unable to attend.

Council were informed that MHALC had obtained £40,000 funding for this extension, of which they had already received £20,000. The architect's fees had been £737.50 and it was anticipated that the build would cost approximately £1,000 per square metre and four plans were accepted. After looking at the drawings and design layout Linda explained what the various new rooms would be used for one of which, it was suggested, would be used for the Freshwater Parish Clerk on the upper floor. John Howe suggested the new ground floor room would be far more suitable and accessible for the public who visit the Clerk.

The project was approved by the Totland Parish Council, proposed: Councillor J Howe, seconded: Councillor C Bryan and agreed.

122/08 Public Question Time

A question from the floor was raised regarding Education, with priority on improving standards. The Parish Council were asked what their views were and also Councillor Cameron's.

An in-depth discussion ensued. Please see Item 139/08 - Isle of Wight Education Reform for our comments.

Mr Chris Jarman raised the question of not having any Allotments in Totland. Councillor Howe answered that people living in Totland had allotments in Freshwater and that there were still some people from Totland on the waiting list.

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Mr Jarman said he had some land in Totland that could possibly be used but he had no knowledge of the Rules and Regulations regarding the setting up of an Allotment.

Councillor Howe suggested that the Parish Clerk arrange with Mr Jarman to go and visit the Freshwater Clerk, Sally Woods, for advice.

Mr Jarman asked if we had archiving facilities (as he had some documents relevant to Totland) and if they were properly catalogued. Councillor Howe replied we had a first class archiving system, which goes back to before the First World War, and that Councillor Brian Hinton was our Archivist.

123/08 Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

124/08 Planning Matters

To consider the following planning applications:-

i) Location: Sea Winds, The Broadway, Totland Bay

Proposal: Demolition of a bungalow and a collection of single storey chalets and garages and the construction of 10 apartments with car parking and communal facilities.

- 1. No need for this development, current new build flats in Totland are unoccupied.*
- 2. Over development of site, too high density.*
- 3. Access/egress traffic flow risk; Junction with 3 major roads already over stretched with recent development, with approval for 50 additional properties down the road.*
- 4. Inadequate parking; already not enough space for residents to park, health and safety risk, area already at full capacity. Bungalows at present are only used as holiday homes.*
- 5. Drainage (both soil and rain) insufficient. Major comment from Southern Water should not be ignored.*

ii) Location: Little Hayes Residential Home, Totland Bay.

Proposal: Change of use of 4 domestic flats (Orchard Court) to additional residential care accommodation; single/two storey extension to link block to existing home and form ten additional bedrooms (revised scheme).

Council had no comment regarding this application.

125/08 To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 9th January 2008.

These were confirmed as a true record. Prop. Councillor C Bryan, seconded Councillor V Fennell and unanimously agreed.

126/08 To receive the report from George Cameron.

Due to Councillor Cameron being ill and still awaiting surgery he sent in the following report:

- 1 **Crew Week** As we have CREW week next week 18-22 February, it was suggested that councillors volunteer for a surgery on site at Moa Place. If councillors could make up a roster and forward it either to Simon Dennis or me I would be grateful.
- 2 **Hamilton Lodge** The owner of Hamilton Lodge has now given notice of intend to demolish. This gives a six-week period before the Council can enforce. It looks like it is moving forward now.
- 3 **Speed Limits** The new speed reactive sign is now installed in Colwell Road to reduce traffic speed into Totland from the Yarmouth side. Although the sign is not in Totland itself, the benefit is that traffic slows down when entering the ward. 20 mph speed limit is now in operation in Weston Road, Hurst Hill and St Saviours Roads. Speed reactive signs will also be installed in those areas.
- 4 **Abandoned Cars** I have had a few complaints about cars being abandoned or not taxed. Some of these have been dealt with and removed. If anyone knows of any more of these, could they contact me to deal with it?
- 5 **Bus Times** Some bus times have been altered, especially early morning services. I have followed these up and await the outcome at the moment. The issue here is that early users don't get to work in time.
- 6 **5 A Side Football** The 5 a side football posts are almost ready to be installed and I have asked Mr Neobald to supply a quote to the Parish Council to consider and in turn forward it to me as there might be funding available for the installation from the Council. The running costs have to be clarified and it is for the Parish Council to decide this issue and let me know.
- 7 **Chief Executive** On the 16 January, I had a visit and walk about with Joe Duckworth, Chief Executive of the Council. This proved to be very positive especially our visit to the Pier Café to discuss the toilet situation and also the recreation ground and the beach huts and toilets in Colwell. I will receive an update on actions taken forward on these issues.

127/08 To receive a report from Mr Rob Nelson, Town Manager

Mr Bob Nelson produced an excellent report as follows:

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Dog Fouling

I have requested for further patrols by the dog wardens to tackle the areas of noticeable dog fouling. Local residents have also helped me to identify hotspot areas. The wardens have agreed to carry out additional early and late patrols of these problem areas. Several of the dog waste bins are to be replaced during C.R.E.W. (Crime Reduction Environmental Week) and additional dog waste bag dispensers will be added. I have noticed however, a significant decrease in dog fouling. The I.W.C.C. is due to carry out a media exercise to highlight the problems associated to dog fouling.

Litter & Street Cleansing

Litter is still evident in the Totland Recreation Ground and the access road to the bowls club. However, I have noticed a decrease in litter generally. It is obvious that more litter is dropped during the weekends mainly by youths. I have requested that a new litter bin is sited near the disused public toilets and bowls club as this is where youths congregate and an additional bin outside the toilets at Colwell Bay to cope with the holiday volume. Any open-type litter bins are due to be replaced after April.

The street cleansing department have carried out additional cleaning in area of litter deposits at my request, and I am very pleased with the response times.

C.R.E.W. – 18th to 22nd February.

Various activities are planned by the Police, Trading Standards Department and Dog Wardens, to be carried out in both Totland and Freshwater. These will include the test purchasing of alcohol and tobacco to minors, traffic speeding, anti-social behaviour, littering, and dog fouling all with a visible Police presence.

The Probation Service Unpaid Work Team will also be carrying out various projects during the week, i.e. the repainting of the footbridge and handrails at Totland Pier. They will also continue to clear and revamp the T1 footpath at Colwell Bay.

The Rainer Wessex Youth Offending Team will be undertaking the litter picking and beach clearance exercises on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st February.

The Community Support Officer will be in attendance throughout the week and will hold a drop-in centre based in a trailer in Moa Place, Freshwater and an additional call-in centre has been arranged for Thursday 21st 2pm – 4pm based in the Totland Parish Offices, where members of the public can meet officers from all agencies.

Freshwater Youth Centre is holding a 5-a-side football competition on Monday 18th February at 7pm at the M.U.G.A. pitch and a pool & snooker competition on the Tuesday. Safer Neighbourhoods have provided the cups & medals for prizes and indeed all of the materials needed for the planned projects during C.R.E.W. The event promises to be very productive with so many agencies giving their support.

Summary

The revetment footpath from Colwell to Totland Pier is now a designated

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footpath and cycling is not permitted. Signs are due to be installed at both ends.

I have contacted highways on behalf of the residents of Church Hill, Alum Bay, to request the existing 40m.p.h. speed limit is reduced to 30m.p.h. extending from the Broadway roundabout past the area of residential houses. I have been informed that speed measuring devices will be installed along this section of highway to ascertain the average speed of vehicles.

C.C.T.V. is to be installed in the Totland Recreation Grounds facing the Bowls Club and lane. I am still pursuing the demolition of the concrete beach huts at Colwell Bay and the disused toilet block at the Recreation Grounds.

I have assisted the Youth Centre Manager – Alison Blake – in submitting a bid of £2616.49 via the IOW Partnership Tactical and Co-ordinating Group (T.T.C.G.) for equipment and improvements to the Centre. Our aim is to target the 15 to 18 year olds to encourage the youth of West Wight to re-engage with the Youth Club, to reduce the anti-social behaviour and congregating on the streets. If our bid is successful we would like to offer more modern electronic and sports equipment.

Youths, alcohol, anti-social behaviour and vehicle speeding is still an ongoing problem and measures are in place to tackle these problems. The Police and Safer Neighbourhoods will be intercepting bus routes from Newport to West Wight and Southern Vectis have agreed to use the buses fitted with C.C.T.V. on these routes. There will be increased activity looking at alcohol that is being purchased by adults for the youths.

I recently attended the Totland Residents Meeting and found this is a useful source of information i.e. concerns and public feeling of the residents.

As from the 1st April, I will be empowered to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (F.P.N.'s) for dog fouling, littering, domestic and commercial waste, and fly posting.

I have also been busy over this last month undertaking training and continuing to report defects to street furniture and highways. I am regularly patrolling both villages and I am enjoying meeting the residents, business people and visitors. I am pleased with the continued support from my colleagues, the Police, Dog Wardens, Parish Councils and the community and I am sure that we are progressing in the right directions to make Totland a safe, clean, proud place to be in.

Councillor V Fennell proposed a vote of thanks for the good work carried out by Bob, seconded by Councillor C Bryan and agreed.

128/08 To report on matters relating to Open Spaces

Councillor J Howe reported that the tender for the Grass Cutting and

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Maintenance Contract was advertised in the County Press on 18 January 2008 with a closing date of 29 February 2008 at 12 noon. Six specifications had been sent out.

129/08 To Receive the Report of the Turf Walk Regeneration Sub-Committee

There was no report.

130/08 To receive quotation for small planting works along The Broadway

Councillor J Howe read out the quotation from Brighstone Landscaping for work on the corner of Madeira Road in the sum of £120 and the triangle at The Broadway/The Mall in the sum of £45.00 + Vat. Councillor Howe informed Council that there was still £500 left from the "One Million Blooms Project" which could be used. Proposed Councillor V Fennell, seconded Councillor A Jones and unanimously agreed.

131/08 To report on matters arising from the agenda - for information only

Councillor J Howe pointed out the following articles on the table for Councillors information.

- 1 IOW Council Bulletin – 21 January 2008.*
- 2 IOW Council and Real World Trust re: Weston Manor – letter of thanks for arranging and chairing the Public Meetings.*
- 3 Consultation on Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England.*

132/08 Memorial Hall Arts & Leisure Company

Councillor A Jones had nothing to add to the presentation given earlier by Councillor Linda Barnes except to say that the fire safety at the hall was satisfactory.

133/08 Report from Councillor V Fennell re: Isle of Wight Parish & Town Councils.

Councillor Fennell reported that it had been a good meeting and had included an in-depth discussion on the Isle of Wight Council's proposals for education reform on the Island. Members resolved that because the proposals were of such great consequence, a special general meeting has been arranged for Monday 18 February in the Council Chamber at County Hall. Councillor J Howe asked Councillor V Fennell to make Totland Parish Councils feelings known. Councillor C Bryan said she would like to attend this meeting also.

134/08 Memorial Hall Social Evening – Donation

The Memorial Hall Social Evening had been an excellent "get together" and Council agreed to send a donation of £50 towards the event together with their thanks. Proposed: Councillor J Honeychurch, seconded Councillor A Jones.

135/08 Structural Engineers Report on the wall at Stokes Green (copy attached). Councillor J Howe referred to the Report given to every Member of

the Council. However, he said he was waiting for the Water Board to put cameras through the drains to ascertain whether there were cracks and leaks in the pipes, bearing in mind we have had many complaints of leaking sewage. Mr Bob Nelson said he too had been monitoring this and had discovered that the sewage pipe is only 6" in diameter, which he feels is far too small.

Until this has been carried out by the Water Board nothing can be done on the wall or the bank itself. However, Bob had got the Probation Service to take the loose bricks, removed from the wall, up to the shed on the Turf Walk for safe keeping ready for when the wall is rebuilt.

Mr Chris Jarman pointed out that this sewer problem should be taken into account with the Planning Department, as the Water Board very rarely object to a planning application. It was agreed to keep documenting this fact.

136/08 Contract Procedures

A copy of Contract Procedures up to £10,000, £10,000 to £75,000 and £75,000 up was given to every member of the Council.

137/08 Taking forward and implementation of the Parish Plan.

It was agreed that the following Councillors will head up the following committees to take forward the Parish Plan:

CHURCH HALL including Youth Club.	JOHN HONEYCHURCH
RECREATION GROUND AND TOILETS including facilities for the young.	JOHN HOWE
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH including dog fouling.	VINCE FENNELL
TRANSPORT	DAVID FILBY
PLANNING AND HOUSING	CAROL BRYAN
NHS AND DENTAL	ALASTAIR JONES
SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT	BRIAN HINTON
FOOTPATHS, TREES AND PLANTS AND FAUNA IN TOTLAND	VAL COOKE

138/08 Short Mat Bowling Club - Donation

Council agreed a donation of £50 towards the cost of the hall for the Short Mat Bowling Club Open Charity Tournament on Sunday March 30 at the Memorial Hall, Freshwater. The Charity chosen is Motor Neurone. Proposed: Councillor V

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Fennell, seconded Councillor A Jones and unanimously agreed.

139/08 IWALC – Isle of Wight Education Reform

It was agreed that we, as a Parish Council, support local residents and strongly oppose the closure of any Primary Schools. It was proposed that we write to Councillor George Cameron and say that we require him to support us in our objection to the closure of the primary schools and ask for his support in keeping these schools open and to explore other options. Proposed: Councillor C Bryan, seconded: Councillor V Fennell and unanimously agreed.

140/08 To agree Newsletter editions and costs in the Beacon

The following agreement was reached:

11 Monthly Newsletter editorials: (1/3rd of a page 320 words) £50 + VAT per entry.

1 Leaflet delivery for Newsletter with Annual Report (1450 leaflets) £101.50 + VAT.

Proposed: Councillor V Fennell, seconded: Councillor A Jones and unanimously agreed.

141/08 Freshwater MUGA and Skateboard Park - expenses

Having circulated copies of the Expenses for the MUGA and Skateboard Park it was agreed that Totland Parish Council would share the costs with Freshwater Parish Council on a 50/50 basis providing the Committee was set up with the same number of Councillors from both Parishes. Any other Committee members to be by agreement with both Parish Councils.

142/08 Accounts: To Consider the Payment of the Accounts (listed below)

Payments:

Waitrose.com	£ 18.99	Monthly broadband charge.
Mrs V Gallard	£702.26	Salary
Inland Revenue	£174.55	Tax and NI.
Petty Cash	£ 30.00	
IOW County Press	£ 40.22	Grass cutting tender advert.
Emerald Construction	£117.50	Removing loose bricks (safety) at wall opposite Totland Pier.
Audit Commission	£334.88	Fixed fee for audit.
Cllr V. Fennell	£ 30.96	Expenses
IW Beacon	£ 76.38	Newsletter editorial in Feb Edition.
Cllr J. Howe	£ 10.36	Expenses
Mrs P Howe (Newsletter)	£ 20.00	Celebratory Lunch {As per Mins dated 11 July 2007 - Item 200/07}.
Mrs V Gallard (CiLCA)	£ 20.00	

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There were no questions and Council resolved to pay these accounts. Proposed Councillor V Fennell, seconded Councillor C Bryan and unanimously agreed.

143/08 Correspondence

- 1 Email from Hannah Birks re: missing fish sculpture at Totland Bay.
- 2 Email from IOWCC re: beach cleaning and public convenience cleaning contracts – *Councillor J Howe said he would ask Stuart Love to meet with him at the Totland Toilets and also present him with a copy of our Parish Plan which identified the Toilets in Totland as a “high priority”.*
- 3 Email from John Holsburt giving his suggestions for the use of land if Weston School is closed. *Councillor C Bryan replied that all our energy must go in to keeping this school open.*
- 4 Email from John Holsburt re: funding for items on the Parish Plan – *Council thanked John for looking into this on their behalf and as soon as “Quality Status” is obtained funding will be immediately sought.*
- 5 Letter from Andrew Turner MP regarding Ferry fares fair. *It was agreed to write to Mr Turner formally supporting the Ferry fares fair campaign. Proposed: Councillor V Fennell, seconded: Councillor A Jones and unanimously agreed.*
- 6 Letter from IOWC re: Interim Consultation on Integrated Risk Management Plan 2007-2008. *A copy was passed to each Member of the Council.*
- 7 Letter of reply from Mr Stuart Love IOWC re: Yarmouth Bridge – *claiming that the bridge was quickly rectified in less than one hour and that the fault was in no way associated with the chain failure.*
- 8 Letter from Sarah Mitchell IOWC re: Weston Manor
- 9 Letter from Councillor D Pugh, Leader of the Council, re: public conveniences – Totland Pier. *Councillor Pugh said the Council currently provides 71 public conveniences across the Island of which 25 identified as being least used are closed during winter. The closures are necessary to align with current budgets and to minimise any external costs resulting from acts of vandalism or frozen pipes. He said arrangements had been made to open all closed toilets on 17 March, in advance of Good Friday. They would normally open on the 1st May.*
- 10 Email from Sue Chilton re: Community Chest Award Scheme. *Council agreed to apply for a grant to put fencing around the children’s playground area in Totland Recreation Ground, to prevent dog fouling and also for safety reasons. Two estimates had been received. Proposed Councillor V Fennell, seconded: Councillor A Jones and unanimously agreed.*
- 11 Yarmouth Bridge – Letter from Mr Andrew Turner MP offering assistance.

144/08 Questions and Information Time at Chairman’s Discretion

Councillor Val Cooke was not happy with Mr Loves letter re: Yarmouth Bridge. She said that at the Elected Councillors Advisory Committee on 23rd January

2008 it was suggested that because of the recent breakdown and the importance of emergency vehicle access the Chairman and Chief Executive should push further for repairs to be done to the Bridge. It was decided to request a meeting with Highways to discuss repairs, barriers, lights, signs and the contract.

She said a meeting was held between Chris Lisher (Chief Executive) and Malcolm Smith (Highways) and it was agreed that repairs to the Bridge would be late February. Gates and signs not until April. The Operating Contract now has to go to open tender after 3 years of negotiations due to the new Procurement Committee and the contract being over £50,000. Notice has since been given that the Bridge will be repaired along with annual maintenance from 16th to 29th February with some road closures.*

Councillor C Bryan said she would like to record her thanks to Mr Chris Jarman, Mr Mike Hinton, Mr David Webster and Councillor John Howe for all their hard work and the effort put in on Weston Manor.

Mr Chris Jarman informed Council that he would be chauffeuring two people from English Heritage around the West Wight at the end of next week and would like to invite a member of the Parish Council to join him. Councillor John Howe said he would be delighted to accept this invite.

A reminder was given that The Annual Parish Meeting of The Parish of Totland will be held in The Church Hall, Totland Bay, on Thursday 3rd April 2008 at 7.30pm.

Councillor Howe closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.

Footnote:

*The day after our Parish Council Meeting Councillor Cooke reported that during a conversation Chris Lisher (Chief Exec) reported his latest concerns regarding the Bridge:

- 1) It is necessary to have a contract for the works to begin on 16th Feb otherwise work cannot begin.
- 2) There is no money in the IWC budget to repair the signs and barriers and no commitment from the IWC to do so until 2008/9 financial year.

Mr Lisher (Chief Exec) would be contacting ECAC's chairman.