

**Annual Parish Meeting
Chairmans Report
Tuesday 14th May 2019 @ 6.30pm**

The Parish council met 15 times from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 as follows:

Full Council & Extra Ordinary x 12 meetings

Finance x 1 meetings

Planning x 2 separate meetings

And attendance of your Councillors has been as follows:-

Councillor	No. of Meetings
Hilary Benns	15
Steve Blamire	11
Jan Cave (Vice Chairman)	13
Vince Fennell (Chairman)	15
David Filby	8
John Howe	13
Helen Wood	10
Gareth Wyre	15

Councillor Vince Fennell was elected as Chairman by fellow Councillors at the May meeting last year and he has once again enjoyed this year working with his fellow Councillors and the Clerk. At last weeks Annual meeting of the Parish Council Councillor Jan Cave was voted in as your new Chairman with Councillor Gareth Wyre as Vice Chairman.

Community Mosaic Project

By now, we hope you have seen the mosaics that had been fitted into the public toilet windows during March, after the general up keep and maintenance that took place. These mosaics have really lifted this old building and all Councillors are very proud of the volunteers in our Community, who have come along each week, to work on these panels. There are still four more panels to complete and we are hoping these will be finished by the end of November this year. The group meet every Tuesday between 2pm – 4pm and if you would like to be involved please come along.

Public Toilets

The Totland Beach public toilets were closed for just over a week during March in order that the up keep and maintenance could take place. Works are carried out each year to ensure this building remains in its best condition as this building is over 50 years old. The Parish Council continues to leave these toilets open all year round therefore, they need to be kept up together and this week was seen to be the quietest time before the holiday season begins. We are sorry if this causes a problem, but I would like to assure you this was absolutely necessary.

Colwell Common

The Parish Council took on the maintenance responsibility from the Isle of Wight Council in 2017 for 30 years. To help with these costs Councillors agreed to hold Car Boot sales on a Saturday morning. The first year we worked with the 1st Freshwater/Totland Scout Group and these were popular and so 2018 Councillors agreed to run two each month and brought in West Wight Nursery. These remained popular, but confusion over which Saturday a Car Boot was being held became apparent. This year, 2019 Councillors agreed to run every Saturday and also help four different groups with fund raising. The container was felt to be the best security for holding equipment to run events on the Common and although last year we had some graffiti, minimal problems have occurred. Councillors have planted around the container during the early spring and they are already growing and bushing out.

A full survey had been carried out to the upper part of the Common and a cutting plan has been actioned. The orchids, some of which are rare, will be allowed to grow and be enjoyed by many before they are cut late summer.

Police Beat Surgeries

These continued last year, however, no new dates have been agreed for this year. The Clerk is working with the Police to continue with these.

Newsletters

We continue to keep in touch with monthly reports which are published with the Freshwater, Totland & Yarmouth Island Magazine available in the Parish Office and we continue to make these available on our website. Our Facebook page has grown over the year and more people have liked the page which we keep them updated regularly. We also have a number of other pages, the Colwell Common Car Boot and Community Mosaic project.

Community Support

Councillors agreed that Totland would continue to financially support the West Wight Sports and Community Centre for the foreseeable future. We also supported West Wight Churches Together by agreeing a one off grant for £1000.00 which will help them continue to support our youth. The previous Chairman, Councillor Vince Fennell, had also donated play sand for the West Wight Nursery from his Chairman Allowance.

West Wight Community Parade/Carnival

The West Wight Community Parade took place eventually after the initial date in July was cancelled due to bad weather. The committee worked hard, and the Parade went ahead on Sunday 2nd September. Preparation for this year has started and the date will be released shortly. There is a lot of preparation for this and anybody can be involved, please contact the Clerk if you can help.

Art & Craft on Colwell Common

The Art & Craft returned to Colwell Common last year and the weather was not the best, however, the event went ahead. Again, much feedback was received and for 2019 this event will return to Turf Walk at the end of August, bank holiday Monday.

Men in Sheds

The changing rooms on the Recreation Ground was seen as a great place for Men in Sheds to meet and the Parish Council are working on a 10 year lease for them. We now have two groups with Totland Men in Sheds running on a Thursday at Turf Walk 2pm – 4pm and West Wight Men in Sheds on the Recreation Ground Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am – 2pm. They continue to support the community and will be working with the Parish Council to repair memorial benches and painting the outside office. Everybody is welcome at either or both sheds. No appointment is necessary just turn up – the kettle is always on.

Plastic Awareness Day

This took place on 2nd June outside the Totland Pier Café. This remains a very popular and important subject, and led by Councillor Wood we planned a Plastic Awareness Day. The day was very successful and we thank you all for supporting this especially the Pier Café who allow us the front of the café. The Parish Council would also like to thank the Waterfront, The Hut, Longbeach, Captains Cabin and the Highdown who supported this event and continue to have a no straw biodegradable straw policy.

Remembrance Sunday

The Royal British Legion West Wight Branch annual Service of Remembrance was held on Sunday 11th November in St James Church, Yarmouth and again this was very well attended. This year the service will be held in Freshwater.

Skate Park

The Skate Park at Moa Place which is looked after by both Totland and Freshwater Parish Councils continues to have maintenance carried out regularly. Vandalism has continued over the year with the fencing being cut and glass bottles being smashed. The caretaker does an amazing job by ensuring the park is kept clean and we will continue to notify the Police each time. The annual competition in August was called off initially due to bad weather but we were able to run during the following week.

Keeping Totland Blooming & Best Kept War Memorial

A huge thank you to Caryl, Anne, Annie and Verena and to all the volunteer planters for their continued support with the wonderful floral displays around Totland. We are in need of volunteers to help plant and or water these troughs, please speak to the Clerk if you can help.

Memorial Hall

Totland and Freshwater Parish Council own this hall, 1/3 to 2/3 and during February 2018 we notified you that Totland Parish Council commissioned a company to carry out a report on the condition of the Memorial Hall with a 5 year working plan to keep the building safe and usable. The main entrance was kept with the wooden doors and we arranged for them to be refurbished with the hinges and locks being replaced. Scaffolding was erected at the front of the building with repairs being carried out to the brickwork and the parapet walls. The fibre insulation was also removed from around the building and repointing carried out. There were also problems to the back of the building and the retainment of soil from the development behind. A builder cleared this area and constructed a retaining wall which will now stop future problems.

Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch at the Memorial Hall.

A Christmas lunch has been taking place for many years and we always manage to fill the room. Various members of the Community come along and help serve and carry out the washing up. All in all, this event is much appreciated by all who attend and everyone has a good time at what could be a very lonely month.

Appreciation Evening

Totland and Freshwater Parish Council worked together to hold an Appreciation Evening at the Memorial Hall during February. West Wight is a great area to live in and our communities work very well together. Both Councils wanted to thank the various people in our Communities and so arranged for this evening.

Christmas Market & Lantern Parade.

Our seconded year was just as good as our first and thank you to all who came along and supported this. We again had over 20 stalls inside the marquee and a couple outside. Huxley inspired us all with his magic tricks in the marquee and then kindly switched the Christmas tree lights on. The route for the Lantern Parade was changed, however, Councillors agreed this did not work as well and will revert back to leaving Moa Place for 2019. I would also like to thank Richard and Hazel Britton as they arranged the Carol Singers again around the fire pit. Everything about this event was fabulous and we will do this again this year and hope you support us with this.

Poo Watch

Following on from last years meeting residents were extremely upset with the amount of dog mess on our footpaths. They therefore met with residents and started the campaign of Poo Watch. We continue to receive complaints regarding the amount of dog poo in the area and irresponsible owners who do not pick up after their dogs. The point of this campaign is to encourage residents to report information, anonymously, to the Parish Council. Leaflets have been hand delivered through your door and this will give you the opportunity to help us catch these people who do not pick up after their dogs. Once completed these forms can be dropped back to the Parish Council Office and new forms can be collected.

West Wight Arts Association, the Parish Office continues to sell tickets for these events.

Foodbank, the Parish Council is working with in partnership with the Foodbank and has a basket in the office if you can help.

Finally, the Clerk in the Parish Office continues to be very busy with residents dropping in to discuss planning applications, report local problems and to express their concerns.

I would like to thank the Parish Clerk Helen Gibbs for all her work throughout the year and thank you also to Councillor John Howe our Isle of Wight Councillor for Totland.

Chairmans Report
Jan Cave