

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Totland Parish Council
Held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 28th March 2023
In the Church Hall, The Broadway

Present

Councillors: Jan Cave (Chairman), Gareth Wyre (Vice-Chairman), John Howe, Vince Fennell and Steve Blamire.
 Helen Gibbs (Clerk & RFO)
 5 signed in members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor Hilary Benns - accepted

Guest Speaker: Community Connector – Unable to attend.

1	<p><u>To receive and accept minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting 2021/2022</u> The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were accepted as read. Proposed Councillor Fennell, seconded Councillor Blamire.</p>																														
2	<p><u>To receive the report of the Parish Council for 2022/2023 from the Chairman</u> The Parish council met 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 online and face to face as follows: Full Council & Extra meetings x 14 meetings Planning x 1 separate meetings And attendance of your Councillors has been as follows:-</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Councillor</th> <th style="text-align: left;">No. of Meetings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Hilary Benns</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steve Blamire</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan Cave (Chairman)</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vince Fennell</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Howe</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Jarman – co-opted 10/1/22</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Helen Wood</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gareth Wyre</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mike Locke – resigned 10/21</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I have been proud to serve as the Chairman of Totland Parish Council over the last 12 months and it has been another good year. This report will highlight some of the projects Totland Parish Council has been involved in and delivered over the last year.</p> <p>Thank you all for attending this year’s annual meeting and your involvement with Totland. After two very difficult years we were, last year, able to continue in a more positive way.</p> <p>Firstly, I would like to thank my Councillors for their extremely hard work again this year and on behalf of us all and the community I would like to show our appreciation to our Clerk, Helen, for her, over and above, continued commitment, enthusiasm, and support to us all.</p> <p><u>Community Grants</u> awarded for this year were as follows: We continue to support these groups as they are important to the Community.</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>West Wight Sports & Community Centre</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£10,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West Wight Community Connector</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£5,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSA Blood Testing</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West Wight Nursery</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£5,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Churches Together Youth Project</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,000.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Councillor	No. of Meetings	Hilary Benns	11	Steve Blamire	8	Jan Cave (Chairman)	14	Vince Fennell	11	John Howe	7	Chris Jarman – co-opted 10/1/22	3	Helen Wood	11	Gareth Wyre	10	Mike Locke – resigned 10/21	3	West Wight Sports & Community Centre	£10,000.00	West Wight Community Connector	£5,000.00	PSA Blood Testing	£500.00	West Wight Nursery	£5,000.00	Churches Together Youth Project	£1,000.00
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Warm Spaces

Working with the Memorial Hall and Friday Market we wanted to help those in our community who needed some support because of the difficulties in the cost of living. We therefore set up the Warm Spaces Hub to provide Coffee/Tea and Biscuits in the warmth of the Small Hall every Friday morning throughout January and February.

Car Boots 2022

Car Boots on Colwell Common have been running for several years now and this has help support various clubs in our area. These groups have always been very thankful for this opportunity and in 2023 we will have new groups involved.

Groups for 2022 were: West Wight Men in Sheds, 1st Freshwater & Totland Scout Group, West Wight Nursery, West Wight Youth Football Club, West Wight Heritage Group and St Saviours PTA.

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair on Colwell Common was again a huge success with many stalls coming along to support. We also thank the musicians who came along and entertained us all for the afternoon/early evening. The fire pit is always a success with the carol singing led by Richard and Hazel Britton.

Church Hall – This is taking a little longer than anticipated but is moving forward.

Public Toilets

The Council have plans to upgrade the Colwell toilets but there has been some hold ups with this. We hope to move forward after the 2023 summer. We were successful with a grant application which will contribute to new toilets on the Recreation Ground these will include Changing Places facilities and during 2024/2025 Totland beach toilets will need to be thought about further as this site is more difficult.

The Mosaic project is finished, and these have been installed around the Totland beach toilets. Thank you to all the volunteers who came along every Tuesday afternoon to work on this amazing pieces.

Recreation Ground

The play area was vandalised many times during the year with graffiti and smashed glass. We cleared as quickly as we could, and users helped us by also clearing. The playbuilder (wooden play equipment) has been closed for several months as major works are required, these works will commence in April 2023.

Open Spaces

Our grass cutting contract finishes on 31st March 2022 and Councillors have agreed to change contractors. We also have a new contractor to carry out works in Turvills Field.

The trees on Colwell Common are doing well and we have replaced those that have been damaged.

The Queens Jubilee took place in June with Beacon lighting in three areas. These Beacons were designed and made by students of the Isle of Wight College and this was led by Councillor Jarman. They looked fantastic and we hope to display these around the village. We provided all the Care Homes with an English Cream Tea for the residents which was very much enjoyed. Sadly, just 3 months later the country said a final goodbye to HM Queen Elizabeth II after 70 years service. The Parish Office hosted a book of Condolence where residents could pay their respects and spend a moment of quiet reflection.

Picnic Benches from the Welcome back fund have been installed on the Recreation Ground and Colwell Common.

Planters are managed by our volunteers and we thank you for your time.

St Saviours school children of Year 5 and 6 were again given baubles to decorate and to hang on the Cokes Green Christmas Tree and they do a wonderful job, all are different and beautiful.

Plans are in hand for the Bike Park to enable safe fun cycling. A planning application will be submitted during April 2023 for this facility.

The Buoys at Widdick Chine remain successful and we will continue with this for the foreseeable future.

During the summer large litter bins have been provided at Totland and Colwell beaches. Sadly, more bins are not resolving the litter problem, please take your rubbish home with you if possible. A reminder that these bins are for beach rubbish and not business or household rubbish.

Jan Cave, Chairman of Totland Parish Council 2022-2023

3 To receive the report for the 2021/2022 Parish Open Space Committee

The mole problem we have had over the years is now under control with Vectashield Pest Control monitoring Turf Walk, Stokes Green and the Recreation Ground regularly to keep on top of this. All grounds have started to look good again.

Welcome Back Fund benches have been installed around the Parish and many are enjoying them.

From 1st April 2023 Brighstone Landscapes will be our new contractor and we look forward to working with them.

Volunteers

We are very thankful to our volunteer gardeners who help look after the troughs and planters around the village. If anyone would like to help, even if it is to look after 1 trough, please contact the Clerk.

The area behind the War Memorial needs a lot of work and we are currently asking for help with this. Sadly, if we cannot find somebody to continue with this we may need to remove and grass seed the area.

Weston Field

This has been very well used again this year mainly for youth football training and matches. The pitch itself has been commended as one of the best and we thank Councillor Steve Blamire for his input into this.

Widdick Chine

Buoys have been well received and these will continue for the foreseeable future. The Marine Unit from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police are aware of these buoys and monitor the antisocial use of boat users coming into this space.

Stokes Green and Turf Walk

During June the tree works to Stokes Green were approved and work commenced. This area needed some general maintenance to allow healthy growth.

Recreation Ground

- The Recreation Ground play equipment had been vandalised by graffiti over the year and the occasional smashed glass, this is distressing, and we arrange to have this cleared regularly. Thanks to the general public using the facilities who help with this. The play equipment will be undergoing some repairs and maintenance during April and will be ready for the summer.
- The Cycle Track, dog agility area and toilets for the Recreation Ground are moving forward after a good response to all the Open Events we held.
- Urgent Tree works were required in the Recreation Ground and several dead trees were removed with others being made safe.
- Talks have started with the West Wight Youth Football Club to use the pitch again for training and possible matches. Funding will be sourced to bring this pitch up to the FA rules.

One Horse Field

Councillors met with Gift to Nature who help maintain One Horse Field and it was agreed to replace the old information boards. The designs have been agreed and these should be installed shortly. There had been problems in this area, especially the look-out point, with young people trying to make dens. We have cleared this area and will continue to do so whilst trying to talk with them. The summer months are dangerous with them lighting fires and we want to ensure this area is safe.

Turvills Field

This field has now been taken out of the general contract and we are working with Gift to Nature. The area received some tree maintenance under the instruction of the AONB representative. Some residents were upset with works carried out and once explained to them why this settled down. We are now working with Gift to Nature on this area and a management plan is starting to come together. The meadow was cut late, should have been October, but Gift to Nature cut this during February and already this has improved.

Colwell Common

- Two metal benches have been installed on the Common by the bus stop, these are part of the Happy to Chat benches.
- The Car boots went well last year, and the Parish Council received just over £900.00 towards the maintenance of the Common. These will continue for 2023 with new groups being involved.
- Wooden posts were installed along the ditch of Colwell Common as vehicles had been parking very close to this area.
- Colwell remains a very popular beach area for local people and tourists. The Council have agreed to not close off the Common to restrict parking during the summer months. Councillors appreciate this area has been busier over the last few years and felt if those cars started to park on the roads around Colwell/Totland this would cause many more problems for residents.
- Trees have been replaced and residents around the Common have kept a watch over them whilst also watering them. Thank you all for helping with this.

4. To receive report for the Memorial Hall Joint Committee –

Councillor Wyre

October 2022 - Hall Use

Since All Covid Restrictions were lifted in Feb 2022 the Hall usage has returned to pre covid levels. This means that we are fully booked for most of the time and can only accommodate one off bookings.

We increased our Hall Hire Fees from April 2022 by approximately 15%. This was our first price increase since 2014. We remain competitive price wise with other local venues and if you consider the facilities we offer, we are the best value. There has been no negative feedback regarding the increase.

In December 2021 we held our Pensioners Annual Xmas Dinner for the residents of Freshwater & Totland. This was attended by 80+ people. Thank you to Cllr Jan Cave for organising it and to all the volunteers who turned up on the day and helped make it a success. A special thank you to Adrian Bolton and his team at the Waterfront Bar & Restaurant for providing the catering and to Peter Alexander, Shide Xmas Trees/Thompson Garden Centre for once again providing the Xmas tree in the main hall. The next one is on Tuesday 6th December. Again Adrian Bolton & The Waterfront are doing the catering. Volunteers to help serve and clear up are welcome.

On June 3rd we had Radio 4's "Any Questions" Programme Broadcasting Live from the Main Hall. This was a successful event and I would like to thank Hilary & Alan Benns for their hard work in arranging it.

Also on that day The Memorial Hall provided the bar at FPC,s Jubilee event held on The Jubilee field in Freshwater. This generated an income of £2316.95. I would like to thank the volunteers who helped throughout the day in making it a success.

Building & Maintenance

This last year we have had maintenance work done on the rear (North) side of the building. This included work to the rainwater channel and drain, plus cleaning out of cavity wall and repointing. This should remedy the damp problem in the dressing rooms. Repointing of east wall on the extension was also carried out.

The intended next phase of building maintenance will be the repointing of the east main hall wall. This should be the last major building maintenance project needed to complete the recommendations made in the Condition Survey carried out 2017 by ERMC Architecture. We have received two quotes for this work and will be submitting our recommendations to Totland Parish Council & Freshwater Parish Council for their approval.

I would like to thank the Staff, my fellow Councillors and our Volunteers for their continued support and hard work for the Memorial Hall. A special thank you to Alan Benns for his continued work on the sound and lighting equipment.

October 2022 to March 2023

Hall Use

The Hall has remained fully booked and we can only accommodate one off bookings. We have several private functions, including Wedding Receptions, booked over the coming months.

In December 2022 we held our Pensioners Annual Xmas Dinner for the residents of Freshwater & Totland. This was attended by about 85 people. Thank you to Cllr Jan Cave for organising it and to all the volunteers who turned up on the day and helped make it a

success. A special thank you to Adrian Bolton and his team at the Waterfront Bar & Restaurant for providing the catering.

In February we had a Wrestling event in the main hall, this was so successful that the organisers wish to book the venue again.

Friday mornings during January & February the Small Hall was made available as a warm hub for local residents to come in for a chat, a free hot beverage & biscuit and a read of the daily papers. My thanks to Totland Parish Council for helping to organise this and funding the drinks, biscuits and papers, Totland Parish Councillors & Adam Tucker for being there to offer help and advice if required, and special thanks to Anne for giving her time from Friday Market Cafe to run it.

Building & Maintenance

The intended next phase of building maintenance is the repointing of the east main hall wall. A Builder has been appointed and the work will be completed as soon as is practicable to do so. This should be the last major building maintenance project needed to complete the recommendations made in the Condition Survey carried out 2017 by ERMC Architecture.

After some heavy rain there has been some damp ingress by the stairs, this is suspected to be caused by the valley/gutter being blocked where the (new) extension joins the original building. This is being investigated.

Income & Expenditure to Date

Annual Accounts for the year 2021/2022 were provided to both Parishes in October 2022, this years accounts will be provided when they are signed off, usually around October when we have our AGM. As an update on current status our YTD figures(10months) show Income of £63242.04 with an expenditure of £62603.76 showing a Nett Profit of £638.28. Our main concern is the large increase in the price of utilities. Our Gas has increased by 374%, our Electricity by 175% since Oct 2021.

Staffing & Volunteers

In December we said goodbye to two members of staff, Ray, half of our caretaking team, & Sophie our Bar Manager for many years. We wish them well in their retirement. Both the caretaking & the Bar Management positions have been filled.

I would like to thank the Staff, my fellow Councillors and our Volunteers for their continued support and hard work for the Memorial Hall. A special thank you to Alan Benns for his continued work on the sound and lighting equipment.

Cllr Gareth Wyre
Chairman Memorial Hall Arts & Leisure Company

5. To receive the report for the 2020/2021 West Wight Sport & Community Centre.

No report.

6. Questions at the discretion of the Chairperson

Q: From the previous year a question regarding the tip opening for users who do not have online access.

A: You can book by ringing the Isle of Wight Council. Clerk will add details to the Parish Office window.

Q: Thank Council for the works on Turvills Field and the buoys at Widdick Chine. Residents also want to help with Turvills Field whether this be raising money for bird boxes or working in the field.

A: Clerk asked all who were interested to contact Green Gym who run a volunteering group to help look after open spaces in the Community.

Q: Will there be a consultation regarding the Management Plan for Turvills Field.

A: Information will be shared with residents for them to make comment. If there is a need for a further consultation, we will make that decision at such time.

Q: Where can we find all the information ie. Minutes and Agendas.

A: All are online with the Agendas displayed on the Parish noticeboard, which is in the window at the Parish Office.

The Chairman thanked all for coming and closed the meeting at 7.00pm.