

AGM  
Totland Parish Council 30<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Totland Parish Council met on 19 occasions, and attendances of your councillors has been as follows.

Cllr Carol Bryan	19
Cllr John Howe	16
Cllr Vince Fennell	16
Cllr Val Cooke	13
Cllr John Honeychurch	13
Cllr David Eccles	11
Cllr David Filby	5
Cllr Alistair Jones	5

It has been a very busy year. In June we had the local elections and lost Brian Hinton from the Parish Council. Brian has kindly agreed to continue as Honorary Archivist and I would like to thank him for his many years of service as a councillor. David Eccles was elected to an otherwise unchanged council and I was honoured to be elected as Chairman of the Parish Council.

Congratulations also to Cllr John Howe, who was elected as the Ward Councillor for Totland on the Isle of Wight Council.

In December, we said goodbye to our Clerk, Val Gallard and our Responsible Financial Officer, Susannah Jennings. I would like to thank them both for their service to the parish.

Helen Gibbs joined us in January as our new Clerk and RFO. Helen has settled in well and is gradually getting to know you.

We have recently suffered a reduction in the amenities grant from the IW Council and expect further cuts in IWC funding during the coming year. How this will impact on local services is still unclear. However, in view of the general economic climate, we decided to freeze the council precept this year. This means that we will have to be very careful with council expenditure and may not be able to fund projects or offer financial support where we have in the past. We shall also be looking at ways to raise funds.

In August, we were awarded funding of £2,000 by the IW Rural Community Council to enable us to purchase three computers and

workstations and set up an IT suite for use by residents. This has proved very successful and we were subsequently granted further funding by the RCC for training courses. These training courses are free of charge and proving very popular. This is a community based initiative for all ages and interested residents are encouraged to book through the parish office.

We recently started work on the Village Design Statement and if you would like to be involved, contact Cllr David Eccles via the parish office.

Totland Parish Council was allocated £11,000 under the “Help for Heroes” project, funded through the West Wight Landscape Partnership. The whole amount is being spent on essential repairs and maintenance to the Totland War Memorial and work is almost complete.

Unfortunately, due to the severe weather this winter coupled with badger setts and moles undermining the Turf Walk, there has been a large cliff fall. In the interests of safety, we will shortly have to move the fence back about 1.5 metres from the cliff edge, effectively reducing the width of the Turf Walk.

Congratulations to Alma Harvey, for yet another successful Art on the Turf Walk in August. This really does put Totland on the map.

We are extremely fortunate to have many willing volunteers. I would like to say thank you to Rachel Bradley and her helpers for all their hard work in keeping Totland blooming throughout the year. Also, my thanks to Mick Pragnell and Pete Sexton for once again erecting the Christmas tree and Lights, free of charge.

I would also like to thank the local Police and the Environmental Neighbourhood Officers (Bob Nelson and Neil Perry) for their hard work in keeping our parish safe, clean and relatively crime free.

Lastly but not least, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for all their hard work and support. I have found it quite a challenge these past few months and it has been made easier in the knowledge, that I have their help when needed.

Thank you all very much.

Carol Bryan