

Annual Parish Meeting
Chairman's Report Thursday 29th March 2012

Totland Parish Council met on 17 occasions, and attendances of your councillors has been as follows:

Cllr Carol Bryan Chairman	17
Cllr David Bryan	17
Cllr John Howe	15
Cllr John Honeychurch	13
Cllr Val Cooke	13
Cllr David Eccles	13
Cllr Vince Fennell	11
Cllr Alistair Jones	4
Cllr Caryl Starr (co opted in December)	4

Once again the council has had a very busy year. In June the new Play builder equipment was finally installed on the recreation ground, and the children love it and it's always being used.

In August we had several dog patrols in Totland, in the hope this would encourage some dog owners to clear up after their dog, it is quite clear that we still have a long way to go but we will keep trying. Also in August another very successful Art on the Turf Walk took place, I would like to thank Alma Harvey for all her hard work in organising this popular event, be assured this is not an easy event to organise. I would also like to thank the WI for the wonderful refreshments.

Sadly in September Alistair Jones passed away, Alistair worked hard for the community and was a great inspiration to the council.

Once again Totland won the Best Kept War Memorial for the 2nd year running, I am extremely proud of this. Last week Cllr Vince Fennell and myself painted the railings and surrounding areas of the war memorial, in order that it looks its best for the queens diamond jubilee.

Also in September last year we had a 50th Anniversary Parade through Totland and Freshwater, and a weekend of entertainment, to commemorate the joint ownership of the Memorial Hall by the 2 parish councils, Totland and Freshwater. I would like to thank all those people who gave their time and effort free of charge, which indeed made it quite a memorable occasion.

I was extremely proud to lay a wreath on behalf of the council at the remembrance parade last November, which was of course held in Totland.

In December Cllr John Howe reinstated the lantern parade through Totland, this was a huge success and I thank John very much for that.

Also in December Caryl Starr was co opted onto the council, and already is making an excellent contribution.

I would like to thank Rachel Bradley and all the helpers for keeping Totland in bloom throughout the year, I'm sure you would agree it looked lovely. This year Cllr Caryl Starr together with Rachel and the helpers will be planting everything red white and blue, to commemorate the queens diamond jubilee. The team will also do various displays to mark the Olympic torch coming through Totland.

Fytbus (the community bus) had a very successful launch in January with MP Norman Baker and pupils from Weston School, let us hope this success will continue.

In January the IoWCouncil was informed without any notice that Fountains Group plc who operated the cleaning contract for the public toilets went into administration, this meant public toilets would not be cleaned with immediate effect. In order to keep both Totland and Colwell toilets open I did clean them a couple of times, however the toilets at Totland were vandalised and subsequently closed down for a few days.

A new contract was set up initially for 6 months, but meant only 1 block of toilets would be cleaned and open. Cllr Dave Bryan suggested to the IOW council that they clean the toilets on alternate days therefore both blocks of toilets could remain open, this was agreed and both blocks of toilets remained open.

February saw the start of the new refuse service, after a few teething problems, the new service seems to be cleaner and more efficient, lets hope this continues.

In February I also attended the funeral of David Baggett, a former clerk to the council.

I have tried to make this report as short as possible, however, as I said it has been a very busy year, I would like to thank the Parish Clerk Helen Gibbs for all her work throughout the year, my thanks also to Colin, Helens husband, who helps out whenever we ask him.

My thanks to Cllr John Howe IOW Cllr for Totland.

We as a council have achieved a lot this year, and are already working on next year, but, most important to me is to have a good council working with you and supporting you, I can honestly say I have the best, so thank you to all my fellow councillors for their help and support over the past year and I look forward to another busy year and working with you all.

THANK YOU.

Carol Bryan, Chairman.