

Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 3rd April 2014

John Honeychurch, Chairman

The year started with the resignation for various reasons of all but three of the eight elected members. The remaining members, John Howe, Vince Fennell and myself met and after checking Standing Orders decided that the quorum, being three members, we could proceed with the co-option of two members and then to hold an election to elect three more members to bring the numbers up to eight. We then asked the Clerk to arrange a Council Meeting to enable the Council to make the arrangement for co-options and holding an election.

We co-opted Colin Bradley and David Filby and as the result of an election Adrian Bolton, Dave Bryan and Jan Cave made up the number of council members to eight. I thank our Clerk, Helen Gibbs, and all our Council members for their efforts to bring the council back into full working order.

The biggest problem in our parish is the state of the sea wall followed by the state of the pier and the railings from the pier to The Waterfront Restaurant.

Dealing with the Railings first – the Isle of Wight Council have indicated that they will repair/renew the damaged sections of the sea wall railings.

Discussions are ongoing with the owners of the pier to establish their plans for the repair work and for their long term plans for the future of the pier.

The damaged seawall has been surveyed and along with other areas of cliff falls and subsidence is the subject of long term strategy discussions on what to do and how to pay for it. It is evident that the scale of the necessary remedial work is beyond the money available to the Isle of Wight Council and that Government of European Union funds will be necessary if anything is to be done. We look forward in hope and anticipation. Without further knowledge we can only wait, hope and pray that something will be done to re-establish a much loved walk from Totland to Colwell.

We live in a very beautiful area and we as a council will strive our hardest with its upkeep, notwithstanding weather and budgetary restraints.

Despite all the problems and challenges your council is in good cheer and look forward to a satisfactory resolution of all the challenges we face.

Thank you, John Honeychurch.