

Calbourne, Newtown & Porchfield Parish Council

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THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WAS HELD AT THE CALBOURNE RECREATION CENTRE, CALBOURNE, ISLE OF WIGHT AT 7.00PM ON THE 9th MAY 2016

4 local residents attended the Annual Parish Meeting

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Blackwood

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 11TH MAY 2015

Noted

3. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE PARISH CHAIRMAN

The Cllr Pike gave the following Annual report on behalf of the Parish Council:-

Calbourne Parish Council

Calbourne Parish Council has met on 10 occasions during this last year. We publicise our Council Meetings on the Parish Notice Boards in the Parishes within the legal time frame. Notices are also put up on our website. The Council acts on behalf of the local Community on many wide and varied issues. The Council responds as a Stakeholder Consultee for the Isle of Wight Council, Central Government and other Bodies.

The Council received resignations during the year of Councillor's Goldsmith, Dwight and Turner and Richard Methrick joined us this year as a co-opted Councillor. There are still 2 Councillor Vacancies in the Calbourne Ward and we would welcome expressions of interest from anyone interested in becoming a Co-opted Councillor.

The Council also received the resignation of our Clerk Vincent Thompson who has retired to the mainland. I wish to place on record our thanks to him for all the work he has done for our Council over the years and wish him well in his retirement.

Councillor Hutchinson as the Isle of Wight Councillor attends our Council Meetings and ensures we receive regularly reports on events at County Hall as they affect Calbourne, Newtown, Porchfield and our surrounding area. He is very supportive of the Council and pursues problems we raise with him.

The Council would like to place on record a thank you to the committee who manage the Porchfield and Newtown Village and also for all the hard work they put into keeping our Village Hall going.

Parish Councillors.

- Our Councillors continue to be the eyes and ears of the community and deal with many problems on behalf of the residents. They also bring forward local problems to the Parish Meetings.
- Our Councillors were instrumental at getting the Sportsman's Rest listed as a Community Asset with the support of the community.
- They give their time freely and do not get paid for being a Parish Councillor.
- Our Councillors represent our Community on various outside bodies including the National Trust and the Flood Defence Forum, Porchfield and Newtown Village Hall and West Wight Partnership.

Parish Council Meetings

The Localism Bill has meant that the Council's throughout the country have to be more open and transparent hence you will find there will be an increasing use of the Councils website as more information will be being put on it. The Council has also updated its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. The Council has continued to bring to the notice of the Isle of Wight

Council problems that have arisen in Calbourne Parish throughout the year.

The Council has dealt with many matters including the following:-

- The loss of the 35 Southern Vectis bus which was caused by the Isle of Wight Council withdrawing its bus subsidy due to the savings they have to make this year. It has caused problems for our residents. Councillors have had numerous meetings with Southern Vectis and other bodies as well as exploring many options of alternative transport but to no avail. They have conducted a bus survey but only had 25 questionnaires returned.
- Concerns were raised with Island Roads about the state of pot-holes throughout the villages and also the lack of signs and speed of traffic. The Council has requested a schedule of works that are due to be undertaken in the parish.
- The Council has given a grant of £100 to support the start-up of a baby and toddler group in Porchfield.
- The Council has been offered a bench from a local resident to be sited in Calbourne Village and also an offer to maintain the bench.
- The Council has been consulted on various matters including the Isle of Wight Council Budget.
- The Council invited Paul Savill the local link officer for My Life a Full Life to attend a Council Meeting and give us a presentation on a new way of working together towards building a sustainable Health and Social Care Service on the Island.

Parish Council Planning Consultation.

The Isle of Wight Council has asked the Parish Council for their views on 16 Planning Applications during the year. The Parish Council have a Statutory Right to be consulted and they responded with their comments on the submitted planning applications.

4. TO RECEIVE A SUMMARY OF THE ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported on the Council's 2015-16 Finances. She reported that the Council has brought forward a Balance of £8,862.39 at the year ending 2014-2015. The receipts received during this year was £22,749.77. (This included the balance brought forward). The payments made during this period was £12,295.73 giving a balance to be brought forward of £10,454.04

5. TO RECEIVE OBSERVATIONS FROM LOCAL MEMBER OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL.

West Wight Ward Report to Calbourne Parish by Cllr Hutchinson

"West Wight Ward is the largest on the Island and covers 14 separate communities from Yarmouth in the west to Mark's Corner and Thorness Bay in the east, within the parishes of Calbourne, Shalfleet and Yarmouth. This report covers the work I do as an Island County Councillor and within the ward.

I said in last year's report that financially it had been a difficult year. This last year, culminating in the setting of the new rate from 1st April, has been even more difficult. Finding savings for what is now the 6th year running with each saving more difficult to achieve than the last, has brought the Council to the point where it has had to rely on Town and Parish Council picking up some of the cost, especially for things like toilets and grass cutting, but also with substantial contributions towards other facilities used by local residents, like the sports centre.

We are also relying heavily on charities and volunteers to help support many services. The costs of Adult Social Care continue to grow, and because this Island has a very substantial proportion of frail elderly people, the annual increase in cost substantially exceeds even the additional 2% Council tax that was agreed by government to pay for it.

Despite this devolution of service, the loss of government grant is such that we are already considering whether we will actually be able to set a legal rate next year. Discretionary services are already cut to the bone and we may be in a position that we are not able to fund the growing demand for statutory services.

I have spoken on numerous occasions with our MP, Andrew Turner about financial issues and hope personally to meet the Secretary of State next month to press our case for improved funding, or at the least removal of some of the regulations that strait-jacket us into doing things in ways which are not always the most efficient.

The reducing number of GP's has also caused very substantial difficulties and the Council, together with the NHS and the Clinical Commissioning Group (responsible for GP's) is working closely together to integrate services in an attempt to mitigate the loss.

As well as Isle of Wight Full Council meetings I continue to serve on the Appeals Committee, Employment Committee, Scrutiny Committee and Pensions Committee. For the last year I have also served as Chairman of the Audit Committee and was pleased to receive an "unqualified" (that is to say fault free) report from the independent district auditors on how the Council accounts for and manages its money.

I am also a member of several cross-party groups on Budget and Policy, Strategy and Communications and Workforce Planning. This latter has been particularly important as we wrestle with ways of plugging the gaps through loss of staff, by retraining and by changing structures. Just last month we had to declare a further 80 redundancies and we will have to find ways of continuing the work those staff did, without overburdening those remaining. As it becomes more difficult to get answers from staff, and things now move at glacial speed, Councillors including myself are finding that residents are turning to us more and more frequently in order to get things sorted. This in itself places additional pressures on Ward Councillors.

Locally, I continue to serve on the Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee and the Yarmouth Flood Defence Working Group.

To keep in touch with issues in the ward, I attend and report to the meetings of the Town Council and the two Parish Councils and attend local social events as often as I can, though much less frequently than I would like.

I write a regular monthly column for the Yarmouth and Freshwater Magazine, which always carries my contact details and an invitation to contact me if there are issues I can help with. Those details are also printed each month in the local Parish magazines.

I'm pleased that during the year I have been able to assist many individual residents and businesses with a range of issues, from planning to housing, to highways, social care and education.

I have quarterly meetings with the Chief Executive and senior staff of Wightlink and Red Funnel and support the initiatives to create regular dialogue between them and customers."

6. OPEN SESSION FOR THE ELECTORATE OF CALBOURNE

No items raised.

7. "JUST A MINUTE" – to provide representatives of local organisations time to tell those present of their activities during the past year and future plans.

No activities reported on.

Signed

Chairman

Date