



Chairman's Report April 2014/March 2015

I can confidently say that the past year has been unprecedented in our council as we moved to take on greater responsibility. The Isle of Wight Council through financial pressure chose to cease providing some non statutory services. This includes looking after some green spaces, flower beds, play areas, environment officer functions, beach cleaning and they are currently consulting over public toilet provision.

Cllr Craven and I began talks with the IW Council in January 2014, so we were better prepared than some other areas of the Island and had an early indication of what services we could potentially take over. The Parish had set funds aside at an early date to be able to provide a smooth transition. The Parish Council also had broad agreement about which services we felt would be most cherished by our residents (although there was a hot debate regarding the beach cleaning contribution!).

After a year of negotiation, from April Newport Parish Council will hold a 99 year lease for Newport Victoria Recreation Ground. To be able to save this valued community facility from closure has been most satisfying and we will be working with the clubs based here to improve the facilities for current and future sports and leisure users.

Also on April 1st the Parish Council is helping to provide a dedicated Environment Officer for Newport. The Council felt that keeping our public realm in good order was a priority for residents. We welcome Bob Nelson, an officer with a proven track record on getting things done in our community, who will be in Newport 4 days a week. All enquiries are still dealt with by the IW Council and Bob will be reporting to the Parish office on a weekly basis.

One of the best outcomes of our new found responsibility is how the Parish Council have pulled together. Our meetings regularly have unanimous decisions, including returning to be members of IW Association of Local Councils and the atmosphere is most supportive. From our start in 2008, we have now gained a new level of maturity, ably guided over these years by all our past chairmen and members.

Of course all of this would be impossible if not for the dedication and expertise of Maxine Yule, our Clerk and she deserves a medal for all her hard work. Our Technical Officer, Chris Hougham has also had a challenging year with 2 major planning applications of wind turbines in Parkhurst Forest and an out of town superstore, which he approached with his usual enthusiasm and technical ability. Congratulations also to Assistant Clerk, Laura Jones on the birth of her daughter and we look forward to her returning in the summer.

From a personal perspective, I have made more progress to completing the (epic) project for the Youth Shelters in Church Litten and the signage project to help declutter our streets. Rest assured I shall not be giving up on this despite the recent decision by the IW Council to not regulate the proliferation of A Boards. It may be that Newport will have to take control of the situation working with the IW Council to achieve this.

Julie Jones-Evans, Chairman Newport PC

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PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

The table below follows the receipts and payments for 2014/15 financial year; these are provisional accounts that have not been audited. Local electors will have the opportunity to question the auditor about them and full details of how this can be done will be posted on the parish council website. The Council Tax precept for 2015/16 is £173,922 which equates to £21.42 per household at Band D for the year or 42p per week. £13,502 has been ring fenced to fund devolved services transferred by the IW Council.

Any questions regarding the accounts can be directed to me by telephone at the parish office on 559119 or email maxyule@gmail.com

Maxine Yule, Clerk and Responsible Financial officer

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2014		
31 March 2014		Current Year end 31 st March 2015
RECEIPTS		£
131,128	Precept	273,473
7,000	Grants	4,927
162	Repayments	191
6,858	Allotments	6,704
0	Ticket sales and stalls from events	2,290
0	Parkhurst Dog Bins transfer	4,233
5,597	VAT Refund	8,344
716	Bank Interest	1,119
151,461	TOTAL INCOME	301,281
PAYMENTS		
65,891	General Administration incl. salaries, training and audit	73,116
0	Payments incurred due to previous payroll provider	16,769
1,814	Communications	1,923
21,980	Maintenance of Dog Bins, Xmas Lights, and Summer Flowers	23,950
13,930	Allotments	13,688
28,308	Projects	36,914
4,302	Meeting Room Hire and Parish Office	4,984
3,715	Donations to Community Activities	2,600
8,368	Elections	2,437
0	S137	0
148,308	TOTAL PAYMENTS	176,381
YEAR END TOTALS		
68,632	Balance at 1 April 14	71,784
151,461	Add total receipts	301,281
148,308	Deduct total payments	176,381
71,785	BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2015	196,684

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Website - www.newportwight.org.uk

Parish Councillors:

Contact:

Officers:

Julie Jones-Evans (Chairman)	521068
Lois Prior (V/Chairman)	07890115547
Mary Craven	521686
Tony Coburn	524076
Debbie Dixcey	526508
Roger Dixcey	526508
John Hobart	07717716663
Richard Hollis	200986
Geoff Lumley	521686
Terry Martin	07792519488
Jane Perry	559119
Matthew Price	07833537668
Shirley Smart	523793

Maxine Yule, Parish Clerk – 559119
Chris Hougham, Technical Officer - 525781
Alan Tombleson, Allotments - 07580032216
Laura Jones – Admin Assistant
Parish Office - 559119

MEETINGS

The full Parish Council meet on the second Monday of the month, in every month except August, when no meeting is held. We rotate the locations around the wards and start at 6.45pm. Members of the public are able to participate in meetings and there is 15 minutes public question time at the start of every meeting, where issues can be raised that are not on the agenda.

The Planning Committee meet once a fortnight on a Thursday at 6.30pm at the Riverside Centre. Members of the public and press are welcome at all meetings.

PARISH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Of the 11 scheduled full council meetings held between 1st April 14 and 31st March 15 Parish Councillor attendance was as follows:

Current Councillors:

Tony Coburn -10 Mary Craven - 11; Debbie Dixcey – 10;
Roger Dixcey -11; John Hobart – 10; Richard Hollis – 8;
Julie Jones-Evans - 10; Geoff Lumley - 8; Terry Martin – 11;
Jane Perry – 11; Lois Prior – 11; Matthew Price - 11;
Debbie Ridett - 4; Shirley Smart - 9;

Debbie Ridett resigned during February 2015 and the vacancy will be filled by an election.

Questions relating to this report can be addressed to any of your Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk.