



Newport Parish Council ANNUAL REPORT 2016 / 2017



General Information

PARISH COUNCILLORS:

Lois Prior (Chairman)
Jane Perry (V/Chairman)
Mary Craven
Tony Coburn
Debbie Dixcey
Roger Dixcey
John Hobart
Richard Hollis
Julie Jones-Evans
Geoff Lumley
Terry Martin
Matthew Price
Shirley Smart
Peter Whiteman

CONTACT:

(stood down May 2017)
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OFFICERS:

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

Website - www.newportwight.org.uk
Facebook - www.facebook.com/newportwight
Twitter – www.twitter.com/newportiwpc

Chairman's Report April 2016 / March 2017

Being the Chairman of Newport Parish Council, the island's principle town, has been a great honour and something which years ago I would never have dreamt I would be doing. All I can say is that it has been a real eye opener. From presenting cups at the rowing regatta to giving the freedom of Newport to our resident historian, Bill Shepard, it has certainly been different.

For me the most important task was laying the poppy wreath at the war memorial in St Thomas Square on remembrance Sunday. While standing there among the crowd, I thought about those men and women who failed to return as well as those who came back broken and injured. I had a conversation with an ex-serviceman who felt irate that the wreath was carried to the war memorial by a member of the uniform services but laid by a civilian (such as myself). I can understand his feelings, but I also know that as well as those in the armed services who went to war and never returned, there were families left behind, mothers and fathers who waited months to hear if their sons were still alive, children whose daddies never returned. It is those people I felt I was there to represent, the families and friends of the people who fell, laying a wreath on their behalf in the town that they lived and grew up in.

Over the last couple of years as central government funding to the Isle of Wight Council has been cut, the undertaking of many local services has been taken on by Town and Parish Councils up and down the country, ensuring that these vital services are not lost to the local people. I have lost track of how many public buildings and open spaces Newport Parish Council has taken on, but it is reassuring to know that these have not been lost. Not everything was saved; the South Street toilets were recently closed as the cost of keeping them open without the reassurance of long term sustainability (the area is earmarked for redevelopment) resulted in the Parish Council withdrawing their financial and practical support. It is hoped that the new Parish Council after the elections will invest in significant refurbishment of the remaining toilets in the town centre.

So, as well as toilets, what else has Newport Parish Council achieved? Here is some of the list: Allotments, planters, parks, Victoria Recreation Ground and Club House, Christmas Lights switch on and event, Fireworks event, Bloomin' Green, Clatterford field and changing rooms, Church Litten shelter and memorial, emergency warden scheme, Simeon Green maintenance and war memorial, Planning and Licensing consultation and of course dog bins. There are many more items I could list here, but I haven't the space. None of these things could be achieved without the hard work of the staff, particularly our invaluable clerk, Maxine, as well as the fourteen men and women who make up the Parish Council who give their time freely and who receive no payments whatsoever for their services. I would like to thank them all, particularly those who head up services and committees.

As a lasting legacy to my time as the Chairman, I have been given a small grant to set up a local history trail with a difference for Newport, helping to put it firmly on the tourist map. My vision is to select areas of the town, such as the Church Litten block, and enable people, primarily through their smart phones, to access some pretty amazing stuff, from 'then and now' pictures to hearing stories from the people who lived and worked there, so watch this space. And so I sign off as Chairman as well as a Councillor, having decided not to stand at this year's elections, to those who are elected, I say 'do your best'. It is amazing what can be achieved by a group of committed individuals with the community at their heart.

Lois Prior, Chairman Newport PC

Parish Council Accounts

The table below follows the receipts and payments for 2016/17 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 2017/18 is £296,298 which equates to £19.97 per household at Band D for the year or 38p per week.

Any questions regarding the accounts can be directed to me by telephone at the parish office on 559119 or email clerk@newportwight.org.uk

Maxine Yule, Clerk and Responsible Financial officer

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2017		
31 March 2016		Current year ended 31st March 2017
RECEIPTS		£
156,035	<i>Precept</i>	284,395
37,545	<i>Grants</i>	11,903
17,751	<i>Repayments and contributions to works</i>	3,583
7,349	<i>Allotments</i>	7,930
5,710	<i>Ticket sales and stalls from events</i>	7,744
600	<i>Recreation Ground Use</i>	1,422
11,197	<i>VAT Refund</i>	20,224
386	<i>Bank Interest</i>	662
236,573	TOTAL INCOME	337,863
PAYMENTS		£
78,376	<i>General Administration incl. salaries, training and audit</i>	77,567
2,907	<i>Communications</i>	3,173
26,874	<i>Maintenance of Dog Bins, Xmas Lights, and Summer Flowers</i>	6,387
12,321	<i>Allotments</i>	13,742
89,010	<i>Projects</i>	85,023
0	<i>Toilets</i>	56,381
0	<i>Devolved Services – recreation grounds, Environment Officer etc</i>	62,641
4,933	<i>Meeting Room Hire and Parish Office</i>	5,444
13,088	<i>Donations to Community Activities</i>	17,663
1,913	<i>Elections</i>	0
229,422	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	328,021
YEAR END TOTALS		£
196,684	<i>Balance at 1st April 2016</i>	203,835
236,573	<i>Add total receipts</i>	337,863
229,422	<i>Deduct total payments</i>	328,021
203,835	BALANCE AT 31ST MARCH 2017	213,677

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. The Devolved Services Committee meet once a month on the third Tuesday.

Parish Councillor Attendance at Meetings

Of the 11 scheduled full council meetings held between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2017

Parish Councillor attendance was as follows:

CURRENT COUNCILLORS:

Tony Coburn - 10

Roger Dixcey - 6

Julie Jones-Evans – 11

Jane Perry – 9

Shirley Smart - 7

Mary Craven – 10

John Hobart – 11

Geoff Lumley - 10

Lois Prior – 9

Peter Whiteman - 11

Debbie Dixcey – 8

Richard Hollis – 7

Terry Martin – 11

Matthew Price - 10

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