

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Totland Parish Council
Held at 6.00pm on Monday 19th May 2025
In the Village Hall, The Broadway

Present

Councillors': Gareth Wyre (Chairman), Vince Fennell, Steve Blamire, Elaine Smith and Chris Jarman.
 Helen Gibbs (Clerk & RFO)
 3 members of the public, 2 Totland residents, 1 Freshwater resident

Apologies were received and accepted from Jan Cave.

1	<p><u>To receive and accept minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting 2023/2024</u> The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were accepted as read. Proposed Councillor Fennell, seconded Councillor Blamire.</p>																		
2	<p><u>To receive the report of the Parish Council for 2024/2025 from the Chairman</u> The Parish council met between 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 as follows: Full Council & Extra meetings x 10 meetings And attendance of your Councillors has been as follows:-</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Councillor</th> <th style="text-align: left;">No. of Meetings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Hilary Benns</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steve Blamire</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan Cave</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vince Fennell</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Howe</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Jarman</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gareth Wyre</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elaine Smith – co-opted February 2024</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Thank you all for attending this year's annual meeting and your involvement with Totland.</p> <p>It has been another very busy year for me serving as the Chairman to Totland Parish Council. This report will highlight the projects Totland Parish Council have been involved in and delivered over the last year.</p> <p>Totland & Colwell Seawall The Seawall was closed by the Isle of Wight Council back in 2023 due to voids opening up in several places making it unsafe, a large one at Colwell and two at Totland, Totland Parish Council continued to put pressure on Isle of Wight Council to rectify this. Then, in May 2024 a small landslip covered another area of the seawall making another area inaccessible. This landslip was cleared in June 2024 and the voids in Colwell were repaired by Isle of Wight Council so that the seawall was reopened between Totland & Colwell in time for the summer. The voids in Totland, preventing access to the beach area at Widdick Chine, were repaired by Marine Leisure and reopened December 2024.</p> <p>Groynes In December 2024 I attended a meeting along with Isle of Wight Council representatives for Coastal Defence, Rights of Way and Daryl on behalf of Marine Leisure to discuss the refurbishment of the Groynes in Totland Bay. It was agreed that the responsibility for this work was that of the landowners in Totland Bay i.e. Marine Leisure. Some finances have been raised, and it is hoped that work will commence on two of the groynes later this year.</p>	Councillor	No. of Meetings	Hilary Benns	10	Steve Blamire	7	Jan Cave	10	Vince Fennell	9	John Howe	1	Chris Jarman	7	Gareth Wyre	10	Elaine Smith – co-opted February 2024	3
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Car Boots 2024

Car Boots on Colwell Common continue to run and these support various charities/clubs in our area which we rotate each car boot. These groups have always been very thankful for this opportunity to raise additional funds.

Groups for 2024 were: West Wight Men in Sheds, 1st Freshwater & Totland Scout Group, West Wight Nursery, West Wight Youth Football Club and West Wight Heritage Group.

2025 – These Car Boots will continue, again benefitting West Wight Men in Sheds, West Wight Nursery, West Wight Youth Football Club, West Wight Heritage Group and 1st Freshwater & Totland Scout Group.

Christmas Fair 2024

This event on Colwell Common remains popular and we receive a large amount of interest for stalls; to try to accommodate this we hired a larger marquee. For the first time of running this event Isle of Wight Council decided that every stall holder would have to pay them for a licence to trade, we avoided this extra cost by fencing the area off and charging a small fee to enter. I would like to thank Men in Sheds for organising and collecting the gate money, all of which went to their Charity. I would like to thank the musicians who came along and entertained us all during the afternoon/early evening, Huxley the Magician and the Carol Singers around the fire pit led by Rowena Steady.

2025 – Friday 28th November is the date for this year's Christmas Fair.

The Church Hall

Finally, after many years, on the 20th March the Church Hall and grounds on The Broadway, Totland came into the ownership of Totland Parish Council. The Church Hall is now known as **Totland Village Hall**. Work will commence later this year to make the Hall safe and useable again for Totland Residents.

Budget 2024/2025

The local precept increased by 0% this year.

Councillors agreed to continue to support the West Wight Sports & Community Centre, Community Connector, West Wight Nursery, Totland Post Office and the Beach Buoys at Widdick Chine and Colwell.

Councillors held an open day on March 27th with the public being given a chance to have their say on Totland Parish Council's continued involvement with The Memorial Hall, Freshwater and the future use & development of Totland Village Hall.

Community Grants

We continue to support these groups as they are important to the Community.

Awards for this year were as follows:

West Wight Sports & Community Centre £11,000.00

West Wight Community Connector £5,000.00

West Wight Nursery £5,000.00

Totland Bay Post Office £7,500.00

The Post Office

We were informed by the Post Office that Totland Post Office would no longer receive collections unless they paid for this service, Totland Parish Council contributed an additional £500 so that this service would continue.

Public Toilets

Colwell public toilets were completed and opened in April 2024.

The Recreation Ground build will start later this year.

We have had a Feasibility Study conducted on the Totland Beach toilets to see if any reasonable adjustments can be made to this block to create an accessible

Toilet and update existing facilities. Due to the location and ground levels this will be an expensive undertaking and one for the long term.

Recreation Ground

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was carried out in November 2024. This was required by Isle of Wight Council regarding our planning application for a cycle track on the Recreation Ground.

Litter Bins and Tidy Totland

Litter - Over the past few years the Parish Council have added signs to the litter bins along the seafront and outside of the toilets, asking people to take their litter home. Unfortunately, some people continue to choose to leave their rubbish by already full bins. It should be noted it is likely a lot of these loose bags of rubbish end up in the sea. The truth is no matter how many bins are provided we cannot keep up with removing all the rubbish and keeping our community clean and tidy.

Keep Totland and Colwell Tidy has started again this year, and we encourage everyone to take their rubbish home with them. If you would like a poster for your own fence, please pick one up from the Parish Office.

A big thankyou to all those businesses and homeowners who participated in Keep Totland & Colwell Tidy.

Thank you to all the local people who carry out regular litter picks around Totland and Colwell. Councillors are very appreciative of all their hard work. You can help by disposing of your rubbish responsibly and leaving the area clean and tidy.

Defibrillators

In January the Defibrillators in Totland & Colwell were all inspected and serviced and if necessary, replaced with new ones.

In November Remembrance Sunday was held in Totland. We thank the Men in Sheds for putting the large lamp post poppies up and taking them down again each year. This year also saw the first appearance of our small Tommy’s placed on the roundabout.

St Saviours school children of Year 5 and 6 were again given baubles to decorate and to hang on the Cokes Green Christmas Tree, they do a fantastic job with all different designs.

The Buoys at Widdick Chine remain successful and we will continue with this for the foreseeable future.

Lastly, I would like to thank my Councillors for their extremely hard work again this year, and on behalf of us all and the community, I would like to show our appreciation to our Clerk, Helen, for her over and above, continued commitment, enthusiasm, and support to us all.

Gareth Wyre Chairman of Totland Parish Council 2024-2025

3 To receive the report for the 2024/2025 Parish Open Spaces

Volunteers

We remain very grateful to our volunteer gardeners who help look after the troughs and planters around the village. If anyone would like to help, even if it is to look after 1 trough, please contact the Clerk.

Turvills Field

During 2023 we commissioned Gift to Nature to produce a management plan and to take

on the ongoing management of the site and this has not been disappointing. There continue to be a number of improvements with the local conservation group, IoW Green Gym, working hard to improve the area for wildlife and continue to make this a quiet area.

One Horse Field

This area remains very well used and last year saw less vandalism especially around the look out area. We will continue to work with Gift to Nature to keep and improve this area.

Tree Works

We have had to undertake significant tree works over the past year, these have included a number of large elm trees around the Recreation Ground.

The trees planted around the perimeter of Colwell Common are established, and damaged or dead trees have been replaced. A huge thank you to the residents of Colwell Common for adopting and watering the trees during the hot, dry summer months.

We continue to trial the production of a small number of Corsican pine trees from seed with the long term aim of replacing many of these iconic trees that we have lost over the last few years.

Moles

The contractor remains vigilant and Turf Walk, Stokes Green and the Recreation Ground are under control.

Weston Field

We continue to retain this area and are hopeful that during 2025-2026 the Isle of Wight Council will grant us a lease for Weston Field. The West Wight Youth FC train and play their matches here and we continue to provide a high quality facility for the local youth teams.

Recreation Ground

The vandalism this year has been menacing. Several times attempts have been made to start fires using magazines and damage to the picnic tables have also resulted with repairs. This facility is for everyone, but the damage caused does take money away from projects.

Widdick Chine Swim Area

Bathers and beach users continue to enjoy the safe swim zone at Widdick Chine. This remains a very successful project to improve safety and amenity for beach users and will be continued to be deployed for 2025.

Memorial Benches continue to be the priority for repairs and maintenance, some have been removed due to the poor condition. The picnic benches from the Welcome Back fund have been well used although various damage has been caused to them over the year.

4. To receive report for the Memorial Hall Joint Committee

Hall Use

In September the Kerith Church moved their Sunday service to Newport as this was more central to its members. They still hold meetings twice a month in the Small Hall and continue to rent Office & Storage space from us. Apart from this the Hall has remained fully booked throughout the year meaning that we can only accommodate one off bookings.

	<p>In December 2023 we held our Pensioners Annual Xmas Dinner for the residents of Freshwater & Totland. This was attended by about 105 people. Thank you to Cllr Jan Cave for organising it and to all the Trustees, Staff & Volunteers who turned up on the day and helped make it a success. A special thank you to Adrian Bolton and his team at the Waterfront Bar & Restaurant for providing the catering. Thank you to Peter Alexander of Shide Trees for once again providing our Xmas Tree. Thank you to Cllr Hilary Benns for her sterling work on updating The Memorial Halls Policy & Procedure, and The Health & Safety Documentation.</p> <p>Building & Maintenance</p> <p>The only works carried out this year were the addition of a drain in the garden/patio area to alleviate flooding problems and the repairing of the concrete in that area to make it safe.</p> <p>The general upkeep and maintenance of the Hall is carried out as and when required.</p> <p>Staffing & Volunteers</p> <p>In December we said goodbye to Jim Phillips, the other half of our caretaking team, we wish him well in his retirement and thank him for his 26 years of service. That caretaking position was filled by Jim Richardson. Jim has proved to be a positive addition to the team.</p> <p>This summer we said goodbye to two members of staff, Nick and Simon Palmer. Nick & Simon shared half of the caretaking role.</p> <p>This vacancy has been filled by Peter Whitmore who is proving to be a valuable member of the team and works well alongside and with Jim.</p> <p>I would like to thank the Staff, my fellow Councillors and our Volunteers for their continued support and hard work for the Memorial Hall. A special thank you to Alan Benns for his continued work on the sound and lighting equipment.</p> <p>Cllr Gareth Wyre Chairman Memorial Hall Arts & Leisure Company</p>
5.	<p><u>To receive the report for the 2023/2024 West Wight Sport & Community Centre.</u> None</p>
6.	<p><u>Questions at the discretion of the Chairperson</u> None</p>

The Chairman thanked all for coming and closed the meeting at 6.20pm.