

TOTLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Full Council** meeting of **TOTLAND PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Monday 9th March 2026** at **6:15 PM**, at Totland Village Hall, The Broadway, Totland.

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr G Wyre

Vice-Chairman : Mrs J Cave

Councillors : Cllr V Fennell, Cllr C Jarman, Cllr C Johnson, Cllr C M Pipe, Cllr E Smith

Officers : Mrs H Gibbs

* Attended remotely

189/25 PUBLIC FORUM

There will be up to 15 minutes available for members of the public to speak, in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure, copies of which are available at meetings or on the website.

At the Chairman's discretion, members of the public may be invited to speak on specific items during the meeting, but this is not a given.

Please note that Parish Council meetings are not public meetings, however, members of the public have a statutory right to attend meetings of the council as observers only. Public have no legal right to speak unless the Parish Council Chairman authorises them to do so.

Neither Councillors or the Clerk are under pressure to respond immediately to comments made during the public participation other than those which relate to items on the Agenda. Members of the public do not have a right to force items onto the Council Agenda.

None.

190/25 APOLOGIES

To receive and accept apologies for non-attendance.

Councillor Blamire, apologies were accepted.

191/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in an item of business on the agenda no later than when the item is reached.

Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest.

You must withdraw from the room when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.

None.

192/25 MINUTES AND UPDATES

*To receive for approval minutes of the Parish Council meeting (s) as below:
Full Council Monday 9th February 2026 - **RESOLVED**.*

The minutes were accepted and approved as a true record of the meeting and the Chairman signed the minutes. Proposed Councillor Jarman, seconded Councillor Johnson all agreed.

Updates from previous minutes:

Four Lenovo tablets have been purchased, three set up and using tonight

The signs will be reinstalled on a dry day - Turf Walk and Stokes Green.

New path also investigating surface - works will commence shortly.

Colwell public toilet windows - being repaired later this month

New smart meters in Colwell public toilets - Totland cancelled and credit to account received.

Bulbs have been planted around the War Memorial, more will be added.

193/25 FINANCE AND GRANTS

To approve payments to 9th March 2026

APPROVED and **RESOLVED** to make payments by banks transfer/cheque/direct debit/debit card as below:

£24.04	Amazon - stationery
£50.00	ALCC - subscription
£400.62	Biffa Waste Services - January & February 2026 bin empties
£2289.94	Brighstone Landscaping - January & February 2026 grass cutting/maintenance
£23.00	Mr M Pipe - Councillor expenses
£516.00	Curry's - Tablet purchase x 4
£1212.00	EMRC - Architectural and Quantity Surveying Services Village Hall
£464.53	Everflow - Water utilities
£24.00	High Glass - Window cleaning
£729.00	ICS - Public toilet cleaning
£295.64	Isle of Wight Council - Council tax
£237.60	R & R Containers - hire
£121.24	Ricoh - Photocopier rental
£99.49	Vinyl Banners - Car Boot 2026 banners
£32.06	Wight Computers - subscription
£93.60	Wightfibre - Telephone/Internet service

Price increase for: Wight Fibre from 1st April, parish office and village hall - total 140.40/year

Dog Bin Widdick Chine - 4% increase being £15.46 year (£270.00)

Councillors agreed to pay £70,000 being the final payment of the Village Hall purchase by the end of this month.

194/25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS, DECISIONS, APPEALS & TREE WORKS

a. To consider Planning Applications

[Lawful Development Certificate for demolition of conservatory and proposed single storey side extension](#)

Green Close Westlands Totland Bay Isle Of Wight PO39 0DJ

Ref. No: 26/00151/CLPUD | Received: Tue 03 Feb 2026 | Validated: Mon 09 Feb 2026

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Comments: No objection

b. To receive Planning Decisions

Reference 25/01807/HOU

Address Alum Bay Cottage, Alum Bay Old Road, PO39 0JA

Proposal Demolition of existing extension; proposed single storey and first floor extensions; alterations to fenestration; proposed outbuilding and replacement shed.

Decision GRANTED – 10th February 2026

Reference 25/01798/HOU

Address 6 Meadow Barn Close, Totland PO39 0DF

Proposal Proposed single storey extension on rear elevation

Decision GRANTED – 26th February 2026

- c. To receive Tree Work Applications - None
- d. To receive Tree Work Decisions- None
- e. To note Appeals - None
- f. Enforcement - None

195/25 **REPORTS**

To receive reports as follows:

a. Isle of Wight Councillor for Totland & Colwell - Councillor Chris Jarman

A. IWC Committee issues with a local impact:

Full Council

I expended significant time since November up until the Full Council meeting of 25Feb2026 on the IWC 2026-2027 budget. The IWC financial position is desperate with rising costs and demand driven largely by our demographic base and Island premium due to transport and isolation from the North Island.

Our evidence based submissions to Government for additional funding in recognition of the above were again ignored and followed the £100m of cuts imposed over the past decade. The 3 years of further cuts announced by Government at the end of December 2025 and confirmed at the end of January 2026 resulted in extreme proposals in an attempt to deliver a structurally balanced budget.

Even accepting most of the draconian cuts and using significant reserves, the £23m deficit could not be resolved and collectively it was agreed a submission to Government for a loan would be sent covering £13m with following years predicted at £40m and £65m. These would be compounded on top of each other their respective 20 year terms and with repayments of roughly 5% interest plus 5% of capital added to the deficit each year. There was no proposed mechanism to return to structural balance.

The initial proposals included significant local impacts including removal of on-street free parking periods, extension of paid parking zones, addition of new paid parking at Fort Victoria etc, closure of toilets at Fort Victoria and a multitude of savings covering staff positions, pension contributions, Adult Social Care and Children's Services/Education.

The loan submission was accepted by Government noting the need to implement all available savings and the ongoing structural imbalance. It was also noted that many of the savings proposed for 2026-2027 were one-off and others involving the use of reserves could not be repeated and reduced both resilience and opportunities to invest to save such as social rent housing. No solution was offered by Government to the predicament in this or future years.

Multiple 'fine-tuning' discussions followed in February up to and including at the Full Council budget meeting on 25Feb2026. Changes removed the threat of removal of free parking periods and some issues relating to other charges. During the Full Council meeting, last minute changes were made to consolidate suggestions. At the last minute, in the chamber, my push for clear retention of the status quo (toilets and free parking) at Fort Victoria as added as a single item printed in an addendum – perhaps pedantic but critical for the tourist foot-fall and the site and the viability of their businesses.

All three West Wight local Councillors then supported the amended budget.

This is far from the end of the budget work. Although passed, it depends on costs being held within the budget envelope and delivery of substantial and challenging cost savings from ASC, Waste Services and others.

Economy, Regeneration, Transport and Infrastructure Committee (ERTI)

As a member of this committee I participated in the informal discussions on cost reductions and revenue generation. The committee has been greatly stymied by the budget matters and minimal regeneration possible.

Policy Finance and Resources Committee

The focus has remained very much on financial matters, scale of savings, deliverability of savings and on the local impact of them. Particular regard has been paid to the care sector.

Audit and Governance

Cllr Spink is the chair of this committee and the focus has also been on finances, particularly the IWC annual accounts. As such, both I and Cllr Cameron have discussed the agenda items in detail and I attended their recent meetings.

For the 3rd year the external auditors refused to provide a clean report and found it necessary to submit a qualified opinion. Their report to A&G contained several pages of unresolved items ranging from a few thousand £ to others circa £1m. The auditors noted they had run out of time dealing with the matter and were now finished. The 151 Director of Finance noted that historical issues were no longer to be pursued. The committee expressed concerns but voted to submit the accounts with the qualified opinion on the accounting deadline of last Friday. That vote passed by only 1 with the Chair voting against approval of the accounts and submission.

Isle of Wight Pension Fund

Our opportunity to make submissions to Government regarding their requirement of us to move to one of their approved local government pools was not passed. We are well aware that all options other than ACCESS which we are with are sub-optimal with the prospect of higher costs, transfer fees and greatly reduced control of the investments. Nevertheless the government mandate to switch required us to confirm our move to their approved Central Pool as of 1st April 2026.

We are advised by our external advisors that the costs involved remain undefined but that compliance of funds being under the direction of Central Pool by 21 April 2026 is challenged by the sale of our investments in some portfolios expected to take 2+ years, particularly in property and fixed assets.

Floating Bridge Working Group

I am a member of this new working group providing specific input on costs and procurement.

Children's, Education and Skills Committee

I was appointed to this additional committee by Full Council on 25 Feb 2026.

B - Local Issues

My weekly ward surgeries continue each Thursday starting at 09:00.

I have continued to support various local and international charities since the New Year from my Councillor allowance including IW Prostate Cancer, IW Homes for Ukraine including sponsorship of an additional mother (who has received her permission to travel in the last days and will be staying at our property).

I delivered the prizes of a substantial hamper, a dual air fryer and a pressure cooker to local businesses following their awards at the late night opening events in December. The prizes were donated by the three West Wight local Councillors.

I have continued to support residents suffering from ASB by a small number of local Youths including intervention with the chief constable, our IW Inspector and local police force. Further events have occurred in Camp Road, Victor Road, Broadway, Hurst Point, Colwell and Martine Close. These have included multiple broken windows at the homes of vulnerable older people, front doors kicked-in, theft from shops (including on Broadway), use of racially abusive language and threats, threats of use of weapons/claimed weapons – sticks and knives, and the recording/videoing of their victims during the abuse. Multiple 101 reports were filed by the victims and the local police have been given names, statements and CCTV recordings. The police would like to attend the next available Freshwater PC meeting and the next Totland PC meeting to provide an update.

b. Open Spaces

Badger tunnel collapse on Turf Walk - Clerk to speak with Paul Creer for options.

Hand rail down to Pier to be secured and the sign post also going back in the ground.

The canopy on the Turf Walk tree has been removed by an unknown person. This tree will need to be checked to ensure the balance of the tree remains safe.

c. Clerk

Training for the new hall booking system which will commence online 1st April

Currently preparing for end of year accounts.

I have been meeting potential users of the hall.

Clearing the meeting room for the Archive Group to move in.

Water usage at Totland Beach toilets is large no leaks have been confirmed. Look at removing the urinals or turning off and using the toilets only. GW will look at this and in the meantime monthly meter readings to be taken.

The back of the hall clearance will start this week now the weather has improved.

d. Memorial Hall

In addition to works already discussed: broken window, foyer painting, drainpipes quotes have been received for emergency exit door replacements. Once the Hall manager has confirmed the details the quotations will come back to Parish Council for agreement.

e. West Wight Heritage Group

The meeting room is being cleared.

f. Annual Isle of Wight Marine Plastic Meeting - Wednesday February 11th 2026

Cllrs Johnson and Pipe attended an event in Bembridge organised by Planet Aware (TPC grant fund this organisation). Parish Councils from around the Island's coast were represented as was IOWCC. There were a range of presentations dealing with various pollution problems but focusing mainly on the ingress of plastics into the sea.

The two main concerns were:

1. Nurdles
2. Cigarette Butts

1. Nurdles - the level of small plastic "nurdles" which are a main resource in the production of injection moulded plastic goods and which are transported in shipping containers. When shipping containers are lost overboard (not an unusual occurrence) they break open spilling their contents of millions of these small plastic beads which are then easily carried by currents and end up on the seabed, on beaches and inside marine life who ingest them.

2. Cigarette Butts - The main concern was the high number of cigarette butts which contain non-biodegradable plastics and are littered and ultimately find their way into the sea. These create problems in themselves in the same way as nurdles but with the additional issue of carrying toxins from having been used to filter cigarette smoke. The statistics for both were quite alarming. The event was extremely informative and interesting. In terms of what we can take away from it in a practical way, there are several options.

- Nurdle surveys, there is a way of logging the findings, and Nurdle Hunts (similar to a litter pick)
- Tackle Cigarette Butt littering

We would probably need to focus on the cigarette butt filters. A combination of bins for safe disposal and public awareness of the fact that they contain plastics are the logical outcomes.

'Litter Free Dorset', who spoke at the event, has had a successful campaign, they provide a range of resources on their website and were willing to provide advice.

The Council may wish to consider how signage might help, whether more bins are needed on or near beaches, possibly wider as butts find their way into water courses and into the sea, and whether those bins need to be equipped with a means of extinguishing the cigarette since a lot of littering stems from dropping and stepping on the butt or pushing it into the sand or earth.

Councillors thank Councillor Pipe and Johnson for this report. The Clerk will contact Island Roads and ask if they could fit cigarette stubbers to the top of the bins to help. Once the posters have been produced these will also be displayed with our litter in bin posters.

g. Criminal Damage/Harassment around the Village.

Councillor Jarman speaking with the Inspector who has agreed to speak with Totland Councillors.

196/25 VILLAGE HALL

a. To receive the updated plan from EMRC for the extension, with the view to approve for planning.

Councillor Wyre has produced a plan for Councillors to consider. After discussion the plan will be tweaked and this will be taken to the meeting with EMRC for further discussion. It was also agreed to meet with Curtain Up once the plans have been agreed.

7.45pm - Councillor Fennell left the meeting.

b. Bookings: several enquiries received and bookings for parties received.

Craft Market went well and this was the second one.

Other regular bookings, Tuesday Dog Training 1 hour and Sunday mornings 2 hours, Wednesday Table Tennis 2 hours, Friday Tai Chi 1.5 hours.

Community: The Real Junk Food project and craft time.

c. Registering for Premises Licence

The premises is not currently on the ratable listing, this is ongoing and Councillors will be kept updated.

d. Music Licence has been withdrawn as not seen as a charity, waiting for further information.

197/25 CORRESPONDENCE

To receive correspondence and agree responses as required.

None.

198/25 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No decisions can be made under this item, however, Councillors can bring any matters up at this point that do not appear on the Agenda.

If a decision is to be made this will be added to the next Agenda.

None

Meeting closed 19:55

Signed Chairman

Date