
THE SENTINEL



**Newsletter of
Bembridge and St
Helens Harbour
Association**

No. 49 February 2014

**Annual General Meeting
Thursday 13 March 2014, 7pm, Bembridge Village Hall
refreshments
PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY NOW!!**

Chairman's Letter

Dear Member,

Since its inauguration in 1989 our Association has always been prepared to take on challenges and stand up for the interests of the Bembridge and St Helens communities. Members can feel proud of what has been achieved. However, all organisations need invigorating periodically and this is the challenge we now face.

Members debated the organisation's future at the AGM last year and decided that BASHHA still performed a valuable function encompassing a wider field than some other organisations. Recently the Committee made positive proposals necessitating changes to the Constitution and the Committee. These will be presented to members for discussion and approval at the forthcoming AGM on Thursday 13th March.

This Sentinel contains mostly essential business. Sentinel 50, **our 25th Anniversary issue**, will follow in a couple of months and we hope you will find it full of interest.

For many people the suffering caused by incessant rain and flooding has been uppermost in their minds. Janet Shuter and I attended a meeting organised by Brading Town Council recently concerning **Eastern Yar Flooding**. (see overleaf)

Happily, there is also good news to report.. On 23rd October 2013 the amended Application to register a **Village Green on Bembridge Point**, submitted in 2001 by Mary Chappell and supported by witness forms from residents, was granted by the Appeals Committee of IWC. The land is owned by the Bembridge Harbour Authority but Village Green status for a limited area now ensures access in perpetuity for Bembridge residents and visitors.

A celebratory Relaunch of the **Bembridge Trail** from Bembridge to Newport and the successful **Bembridge Point Tidy Up Project**, took place on 25th October. Supported by the Bembridge Village Partnership, BASHHA members played major roles in these two complementary projects.

The upgrading and refurbishment of the Station Road public toilets by Bembridge Parish Council is great cause for celebration among residents and visitors alike and a welcome boost for tourism.

We are planning a **Beach Clean** for the spring: look out for notices nearer the time.

BASHHA has celebrated its 10th and 20th Anniversaries. Now we are heading for the 25th – under new leadership. We have benefitted from the wisdom, expertise, experience and commitment of so many members, for which we are most grateful. BASHHA has provided members with a means of communicating concerns, current issues and perceived threats and the opportunity for active participation.

It has been a privilege to follow in the wake of John Steane our Founder Chairman and lead the Association for 18 years. I have so many highlights to remember and sincerely thank the Officers and Committee and all Members for their friendship and wonderful support. I am delighted that Janet Shuter will become our new Chairman and wish her, the new Officers and Committee success and fulfilment in the future.

*Yours sincerely,
Barbara Clough, Chairman*

Annual General Meeting 2014: AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Chairman's Report
5. Amendments to BASHHA constitution (see opposite)
6. Membership subscriptions 2013-14
7. Election of Officers
proposed by BASHHA committee:
Chairman: **Janet Shuter**
Vice-Chairman **Helen Hunt**
Secretary: **Robert Barnes**
Treasurer: **Christine Grant**
8. Election of Committee

refreshments to follow

Amendments to BASHHA constitution.

The whole new constitution is printed on pp3-4. Last year's AGM was barely quorate, and unavoidable absences resulted in a non-quorate committee meeting. Existing rules make the formation of sub-committees next to impossible. Clause 8f was directed at the disposal of real property, plant etc.

Clause 4d – General Meetings quorum reduced to 15 [from 30].

Clause 5e – Officers may [not “shall”] be ex-officio members ...

Clause 6a – removed limit [one quarter of the number of elected Committee members] on co-opted non-voting .

Clause 7a – reduced minimum meetings to 2 [from 4];
Clause 7b: reduced quorum to 3 [from 7].

Clause 8f disposal of assets: Whole clause replaced by simple appropriate wording.

Clause 9 – removed timing constraint “not earlier than three months following the AGM”

Clause 10 – added “or community or environmental organisations” after “such charitable”

Clause 11 – removed “adult”.

EASTERN YAR FLOODING

Brading TC assembled representatives of Environment Agency, Southern Water, IWC, Island Roads and RSPB to answer questions from the public. The following is not a full report, just some of the issues.

Administration: Under new legislation, IWC has been designated **Flood Authority**; can require info from other agencies; make overall plans; carry out investigations. This is good, but of course it is more work and expense to fund with limited budget. IWC has begun investigation. Government is offering emergency flood relief, but a Flood Authority has to meet a financial threshold before it will be allowed to compete for a share of the fund, with **no guarantee of getting anything at all.**

River maintenance: No dredging has been carried out by EA for some years. Audience pointed out lower E Yar is shallower than used to be. EA insists dredging could have little or no effect, which the audience did not believe.

Riparian owners are responsible for maintenance to centre of river. However, three farmers at the meeting said they had been warned not to remove trees growing in the river, or accumulated silt, and all said they had been told that doing so might result in prosecutions. Where the Yar is close to the railway line, concrete posts, sleepers and other debris lie in the river. RSPB now owns much of the seaward bank and land towards Yaverland/ Morton Common, but was not aware of the problem. Audience suggested creating a depression in this land to take runoff.

There are “pinch points” reducing flow at Alverstone Bridge (where silt & other accumulations make matters

worse, and overspill ponds have disappeared or become detached) and at Yarbridge, where there is also said to be debris.

Raised water level: RSPB has been raising Brading Marshes water level in summer to increase wetland for waterfowl. Sluices (which can only be opened for 3 hours either side of low tide) were only fully opened when overflow anticipated. Audience members asserted that in that case the now waterlogged soil of former dry areas would have no capacity to take up floodwaters.

Low priority. EA said cost-benefit analysis resulted in low priority for Eastern Yar flooding; no preventive works, only provision of flood boards & sandbags to householders. The big priority was preventing sea incursion at Embankment Road. Nothing was said about the wind/ wave protective effect of harbour sandbanks.

In **Nicholas Close** near Yarbridge (Brading) floods and backed-up sewage [Brading sewage works flooded] made some homes uninhabitable and all unsaleable. Sandbags hard to obtain & too heavy for older people to place. Brading TC in process of setting up emergency response group to assist householders, & seeks volunteers to help.

What is apparent from all this is failure in joined-up thinking, and failure to consider the lower Eastern Yar as a single entity. A way forward seems to be to get people together to do a thorough inspection and find a way to sort out river bed maintenance and overspill mitigation, by improving ability of Brading Marshes soil to take it up. More in our next issue!

– Janet Shuter

BEMBRIDGE & ST HELENS HARBOUR ASSOCIATION: CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE

The Association shall be called “BEMBRIDGE & ST HELENS HARBOUR ASSOCIATION” (the Association).

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Aims and Objectives of the Association are:

- (a) To collate information regarding Bembridge Harbour Isle of Wight, (the Harbour) and the surrounding areas and reflect the informed and independent views of local residents, visitors and Harbour users.
- (b) To propose, facilitate and update the long-term policy for the Harbour and surrounding areas including, but not limited to: dredging, funding, maintenance, management and ownership.
- (c) To encourage a balance between the natural environment of the Harbour and its commercial, environmental and recreational uses.
- (d) To encourage within statutory and other appropriate authorities positive initiatives which improve the appearance and use of the Harbour and surrounding areas and are compatible with the agreed structure policies and views of the community.
- (e) To encourage the community to cooperate effectively in response to any proposals concerning the Harbour or the surrounding areas.
- (f) To perform all such lawful acts, matters and deeds as may be deemed necessary and desirable by the Association for the furtherance of the foregoing Aims and Objectives.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

- (a) Membership shall be open to any person on the payment of the requisite subscription. However, the Committee shall be empowered to suspend or terminate the membership of anyone who, after due warning, fails to observe the spirit of the Aims and Objectives of the Association.
- (b) Subscriptions and terms of Membership shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

4. GENERAL MEETINGS

- (a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in the month of March in each year and every duly paid-up member of the Association shall receive not less than fourteen days’ notice of such meeting.
- (b) General Meetings may be convened by the Honorary Secretary at any time on receipt by the Committee of a request signed by not less than ten fully paid up adult members or at the discretion of the Committee. Notice shall state the particular business to be considered at such meeting.
- (c) At the Annual General Meeting and General Meetings

every member of the Association present including the Chairman, shall have one vote and in the case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. Minutes thereof shall be prepared by and kept by the Honorary Secretary.

(d) No Annual General or General Meeting shall be competent to decide any matter or transact any business unless a minimum of fifteen, or one half of the members of the Association, whichever is the lesser, are present.

5. COMMITTEE

- (a) The Association shall be managed by a Committee (the Committee) comprising a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer (the Officers) and such members as may be deemed necessary at an Annual General Meeting, but the number of members of the committee shall not exceed twenty-five.
- (b) The Committee shall be authorised to carry out all executive functions of the Association in furtherance of the Aims and Objectives expressed in Clause 2.
- (c) The Committee shall have the power to deal with all matters not covered in this Constitution and take such action as it shall, in its discretion, think fit, provided that such matters are reported to and ratified at the subsequent General Meeting.
- (d) A new Committee and Officers shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting of the Association but retiring Committee members and Officers shall be eligible for re-election.
- (e) The Committee shall be entitled to appoint one or more sub-committees and/ or groups and the Officers may be ex-officio members of any such sub-committee and/ or group.
- (f) Powers shall be vested in the Officers to act in an emergency. The full committee is to be duly informed of any action taken at the subsequent Committee meeting.

6. CO-OPTION

- (a) The Committee may co-opt persons outside the Association for advisory and liaison purposes. Such persons may not vote in Committee deliberations.
- (b) The Committee may also co-opt persons who are members of the Association. Such persons may vote in Committee deliberations.

7. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- (a) The Committee shall meet at least twice a year and additionally as required, such meetings being convened by the Honorary Secretary upon giving each member of the Committee at least seven days’ notice. The Committee shall be chaired by the Chairman, or in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairman, or by such member of the present Committee present as shall be agreed to take the Chair.

(b) The quorum of the whole Committee shall be three voting members of the Committee. Minutes shall be taken by and kept by the Honorary Secretary.

(c) Each voting member of the Committee shall have one vote and in the case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

8. MONIES AND ASSETS

(a) All sums of money received shall be handed over to the Honorary Treasurer who shall pay the same into a bank account in the name of the Association. Cheques shall be signed by the Honorary Treasurer plus the Chairman or one other designated member of the Committee.

(b) At no time shall the Association be allowed to incur any debt of more than five hundred pounds unless such debt shall be specifically approved by a majority of the Association's members attending a General Meeting or Annual General Meeting.

(c) The Financial Year of the Association shall end on the 31st day of December every year and as soon as convenient thereafter, the Honorary Treasurer shall prepare a set of accounts for that financial year. These accounts shall be duly audited and submitted for approval at the subsequent Annual General Meeting.

(d) The Honorary Treasurer shall, at the direction of the Committee, invest in the name of the Association any monies not required for immediate purposes thereof in any securities or accounts in which money may by law be invested with power from time to time to transpose such investment.

(e) Any materials, properties, reports, services or other assets purchased by the Association or the Committee shall be vested in the Association, but no single item valued in excess of fifty pounds shall be purchased by any Committee member on behalf of the Association

without prior authorisation of the Committee or the Treasurer and Chairman.

(f) No assets or monies may be disposed of [except for the purchase of goods or services or the reimbursement of expenses, or donations of up to £100 as agreed by the committee] without the consent of a General Meeting.

9. AMENDMENTS

(a) The clauses of this constitution may be amended only at an Annual General Meeting or a General Meeting called for this purpose. Any amendments must be supported by at least two thirds of the members present and voting.

(b) Any dispute regarding the interpretation of any clause of this constitution or any other complaint should be referred in writing to the Honorary Secretary for consideration by the Committee, whose decision shall be final.

10. DISSOLUTION

If it shall be decided by a Resolution passed by a three-fourths majority of the members of the Association who are present and voting in person at a General Meeting convened in accordance with the provisions of Clause 4 hereof and of which the requisite notice has been given, that it is expedient and desirable to discontinue the work of the Association any money or property belonging thereto after payment of all expenses or liabilities properly incurred, shall be distributed amongst such charitable or community or environmental organisations as the members of the Association present at such a meeting, with the approval of any relevant Legal Authority, may determine.

11 A copy of this Constitution shall be made available to each fully paid-up member.

Bembridge & St Helens Harbour Association 2014 Membership Application/Renewal

I/We wish to apply for/ renew membership of the Association and enclose a remittance as follows:

Ordinary membership	Annual	£5	Life	£50
Family membership		£6		£60
Reduced membership		£4		£40

Donation

Name(s).....

Address.....

..... telephone.....

Email.....

Signature..... date.....

I should like to receive the Sentinel by email..... YES..... NO.....

Please send cheques to Christine Grant, BASHHA Hon Treasurer, 3 King's Close, Bembridge PO35 5NX.

Personal information supplied by you will be treated in confidence and will not be supplied to any third party