



Isle of Wight Local Councils:

**A Profile of Local Town,
Parish & Community Councils**

Annex to IWALC Bulletin

April 2021

Introduction

This Annex provides some basic information on the 33 local parish, town and community councils on the Island. It includes both IWALC members (Part 1) and non-members (Part 2). It is designed to serve two main purposes: to facilitate residents' knowledge of and access to their local council and to provide a basis for comparative study.

The data

The information provided includes contact details, size of electorate, number of councillors and staff, total expenditure, local precept for a Band D property and time and place of the main council meetings.

The electorate figures have been taken from the 2020 Register of Electors. The rest of the data was provided by the council clerks. We would like to thank them for their cooperation in providing this information. The photos were taken from the IWALC website and the map showing council boundaries is an amended version of a 2012 Isle of Wight Council map -

(http://old-iwight.onthewight.com/council/facts_and_figures/images/TownandParishmap230312.pdf)

IWALC accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies in the information. However, if you find any errors or omissions, please let us know and we will amend the document accordingly.

Overview of the findings

The most striking point to emerge from the data is the variation between councils. The most obvious difference is, as one might expect, between rural and urban councils. The rural councils cover large areas but have much smaller populations than the urban ones and thus tend to have fewer councillors, employ less staff and spend less money. However, there are also significant variations within the two groups.

The number of registered voters has been used as an indicator of population. The average is 2852, but the numbers vary from 350 in Chillerton & Gatcombe and 500 in Chale and Rookley to nearly 19,000 in Newport & Carisbrooke and Ryde. Ten of the 33 councils (30%) have less than 1000 voters, 17 (52%) between 1000 and 5000, four (12%) between 5000 and 10,000 and two (6%) over 10,000.

The variation in the numbers of councillors is, however, much less. The range is from five in Chillerton & Gatcombe to 16 in Ryde. Consequently, there is an enormous variation in the number of electors per councillor. The average is 338, but the actual numbers range from 70 in Chillerton & Gatcombe to 1347 in Newport & Carisbrooke.

There is, as one might expect, also a significant difference in staffing levels. Of the 31 councils that provided this information, 21 (68%) employ only one member of staff, in most cases on a part-time basis. Another seven (23%) employ the full-time equivalent of between one and five, while the remaining three (Newport & Carisbrooke, Ventnor and Ryde) employ the full-time equivalent of 5.9, 9.0 and 13.0 staff respectively.

There are also significant differences in expenditure. The average total budgeted expenditure for the 2021/22 financial year for the 31 councils that provided this information is about £201,000. However, the amount varies from about £8,500 in Rookley and Shorwell to £702,000 in Newport & Carisbrooke and £1.3 million in Ryde. Eight (26%) of the 31 councils plan to spend less than £25,000, ten (32%) between £25,000 and £100,000, eight (26%) between £100,000 and £500,000 and five (16%) over £500,000.

However, these differences in expenditure cannot be explained simply by size. This becomes evident when one looks at the budgeted expenditure per registered voter. The average is £47 but the amount varies from £11 to £106. Furthermore, the highest spenders are not the largest councils; they are Freshwater (£106) and Ventnor (£103).

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Much more detailed analysis is needed to explain these variations in both total and per capita spending. However, significant factors are likely to be the range of services provided (including services provided directly and financial contributions to those provided by the Isle of Wight Council in the local area), support to local community organisations, and utilisation of borrowing powers. It is also important to note that in some cases the expenditure may be higher than usual due to special circumstances, such as one-off capital expenditure.

The last set of information relates to the precept. This is the amount of money that a council raises through the local council tax. Councils were asked how much a taxpayer in a 'Band D' property will have to pay in council tax in 2021/22. The information received suggests that the average amount is about £100 a year. However, since only 24 councils were able to answer this question and some of the answers need to be cross-checked, this figure should be treated with extreme caution.

Councils were also asked whether the precept for 2021/22 is higher than that for the previous year and, if so, by how much. Of the 31 councils that responded, 21 (68%) did not increase the precept at all and in four of these it was actually reduced. Among the remainder, the increase ranged from 0.2% to 10.8%. The average increase for all 31 councils is 1.5%. This is lower than the national average, which (according to a report published by NALC on 26 March) is 2.8%.

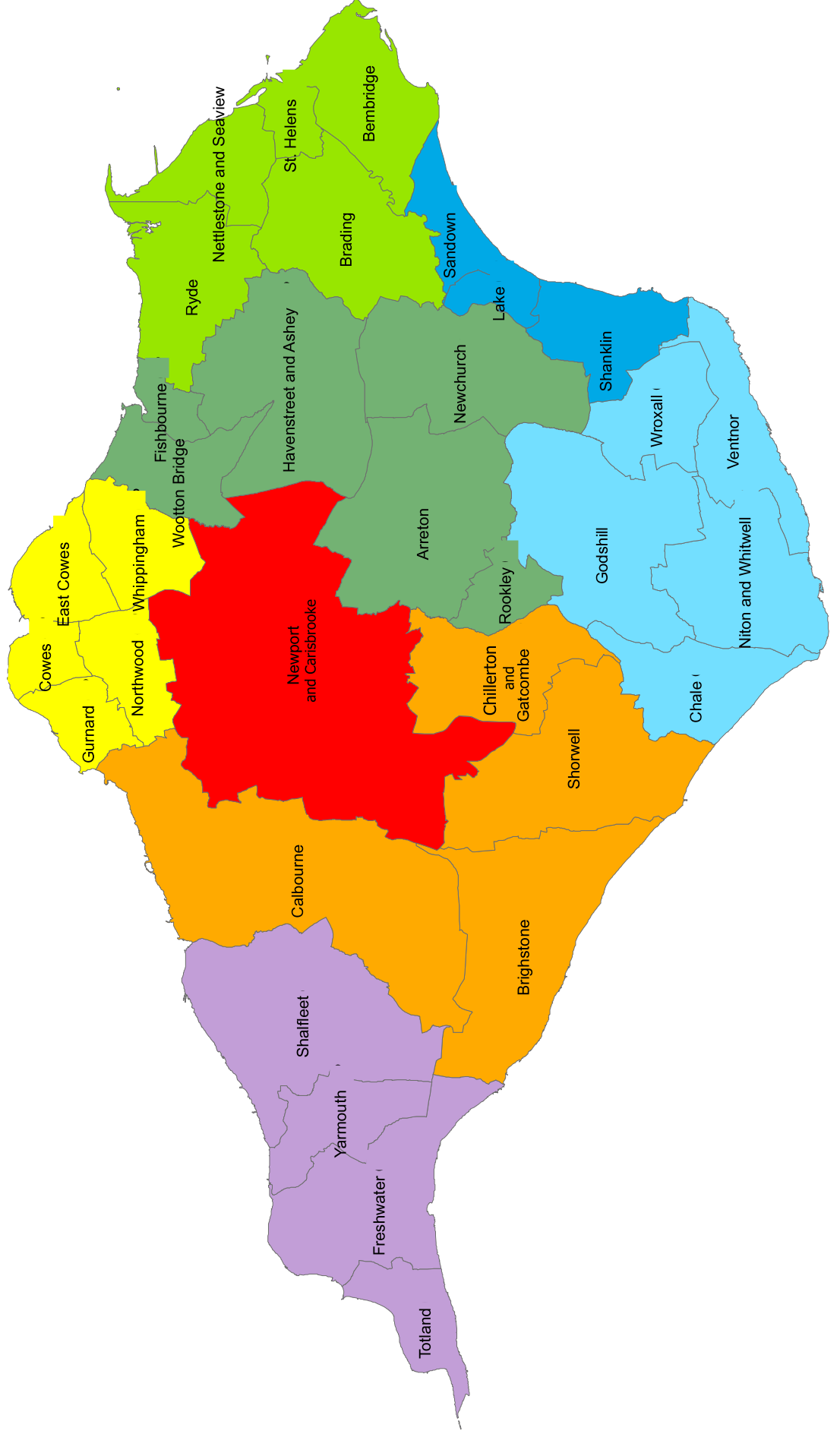
Some implications

More research is needed in order to get a full understanding of the extent and causes of the variations between local councils on the Island. However, it is possible to draw two initial conclusions from the information presented here. Firstly, the information emphasises the need for IWALC to take account of this diversity when planning its activities – and the challenges that this poses. And secondly, it indicates the potential that exists for councils to share their experiences and learn from each other. Hopefully these are issues that IWALC will consider after the elections.

Jill Webster

Editor

Isle of Wight Local Council Boundaries



Part One

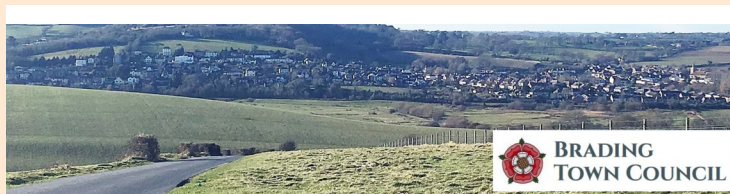
Arreton Parish Council

Website:	arreton.org.uk
Phone:	07587 008183
Email:	arretonpc@outlook.com
Electorate (no. of people eligible to vote):	817
No. of councillors:	8
No. of staff (full time equivalents):	0.245
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22:	£20,435
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22:	£27.46
Percentage increase in precept:	No increase
Council meetings:	2nd Monday in the month at 7pm in the Community Hall in Arreton.



Brading Town Council

Website:	www.bradingtowncouncil.org
Phone:	01983 401770
Email:	townclerk@brading.gov.uk
Electorate (no. of people eligible to vote):	1744
No. of councillors:	8
No. of staff (full time equivalents):	2
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22:	£89400
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22:	£102.32
Percentage increase in precept:	No increase
Council meetings:	1st Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Town Hall.



Brighstone Parish Council

Website:	www.brighstoneparish.org
Phone:	01983 741037
Email:	clerk@brighstoneparish.org
Electorate (no. of people eligible to vote):	1406
No. of councillors:	8
No. of staff (full time equivalents):	1
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22:	£38,202
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22:	n/a
Percentage increase in precept:	3.7% increase
Council meetings:	2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in Brighstone Methodist Church.



Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council



Website: www.chillertonandgatcombe.org
Phone: 01983 609850
Email: clerk@chillertonandgatcombe.org
Electorate (no. of people eligible to vote): 351
No. of councillors: 5
No. of staff (full time equivalents): 0.11
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £12,500
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: £66.20
Percentage increase in precept: No increase
Council meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Cowes Town Council



Website: www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk
Phone: 01983 209022
Email: townclerk@cowestowncouncil.org.uk
Electorate (no. of people eligible to vote): 8221
No. of councillors: 16
No. of staff (full time equivalents): 1.5
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £314,340
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: £74.54
Percentage increase in precept: No increase
Council meetings: 1st Thursday in the month at 7pm in The Library, Northwood House, Ward Avenue.

East Cowes Town Council



Website: www.eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk
Phone: 01983 299082
Email: clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk
Electorate (no. of people eligible to vote): 6302
No. of councillors: 8
No. of staff (full time equivalents): 3.4
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £390,283
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: £131.61
Percentage increase in precept: 2.1% increase
Council meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month at 6pm at East Cowes Town Hall.

Fishbourne Parish Council



Website: www.fishbourneiow.org.uk
Phone: 07815990019
Email: fishbournepc@btinternet.com

Electorate (no. of people eligible to vote): 649
No. of councillors: 6
No. of staff (full time equivalents): 0.27
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £17000
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: £40.23
Percentage increase in precept: No increase
Council meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club.

Freshwater Parish Council



Website: www.freshwater-parish.org.uk
Phone: 01983 752000
Email: clerk@freshwater-parish.org.uk

Electorate (no. of people eligible to vote): 4836
No. of councillors: 14
No. of staff (full time equivalents): 3.6
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £512,695
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: £111.46
Percentage increase in precept: 1% increase
Council meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month following planning meeting which starts at 6.45pm, in the Council Chamber, Memorial Hall, Freshwater,

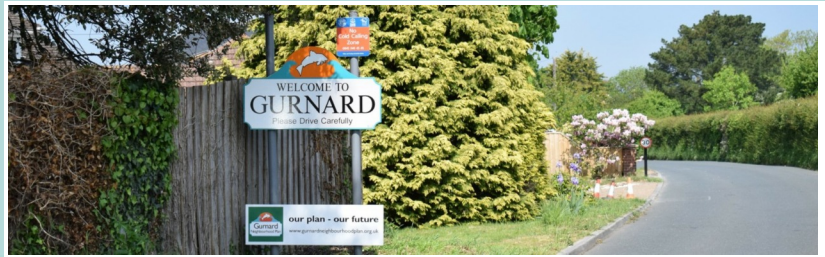
Godshill Parish Council



Website: godshill.org.uk
Phone: 01983 865024
Email: clerk@godshillpc.org.uk

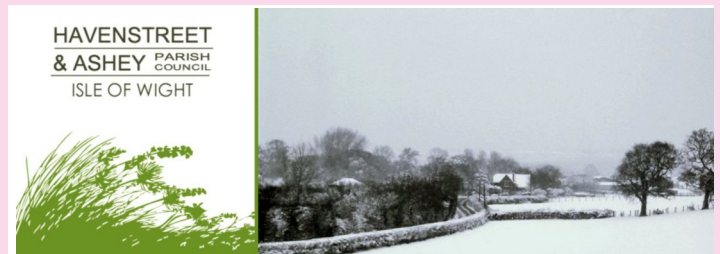
Electorate (no. of people eligible to vote): 1227
No. of councillors: 6
No. of staff (full time equivalents): 0.3
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £50,560
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: £70.39
Percentage increase in precept: No increase
Council meetings: 1st Monday of the month at 7.30pm in Godshill Methodist Church.

Gurnard Parish Council



Website: www.gurnardpc.co.uk
Phone: 07305 013718
Email: gurnardparishcouncil@gmail.com
Electorate (no. of people eligible to vote): 1642
No. of councillors: 9 (2 Vacant)
No. of staff (full time equivalents): 0.54 (FTE)
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £59,590
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: £67.61
Percentage increase in precept: 1%
Council meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6.30pm in Gurnard Village Hall

Havenstreet & Ashe Parish Council



Website: www.havenstreetandasheypc.co.uk
Phone: 01983 867450
Email: clerk@havenstreetandasheypc.co.uk
Electorate (no. of people eligible to vote): 721
No. of councillors: 6
No. of staff (full time equivalents): 0.2
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £14,617
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: £33.24
Percentage increase in precept: No increase
Council meetings: 1st Thursday of month in Havenstreet Community Centre.

Lake Parish Council



Website: www.lakeparishcouncil.org.uk
Phone: 01983 862810
Email: miketap@globalnet.co.uk
Electorate (no. of people eligible to vote): 4210
No. of councillors: 9
No. of staff (full time equivalents): 0.4 (FTE)
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £169,155
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: n/a
Percentage increase in precept: No increase
Council meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month. Location/time to be arranged.

Nettlestone & Seaview Parish Council



Website:	www.nettlestoneandseaview-pc.gov.uk
Phone:	07464 894216
Email:	clerk@nettlestoneandseaview-pc.gov.uk
Electorate (no. of people eligible to vote):	2455
No. of councillors:	10
No. of staff (full time equivalents):	1
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22:	£129,480
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22:	£54.15
Percentage increase in precept:	14%
Council meetings:	3rd Monday of the month at 7pm at St Peter's Church Hall (Seaview) and the Masonic Lodge (Seaview). Check website for details.

Newchurch Parish Council



Website:	newchurchparish.co.uk
Phone:	01983 865024
Email:	clerk@newchurchparish.co.uk
Electorate (no. of people eligible to vote):	2179
No. of councillors:	8
No. of staff (full time equivalents):	0.2
Budgeted Expenditure:	£65,250
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22:	£17.50
Percentage increase in precept:	0%
Council meetings:	3rd Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council



Website:	www.newportwight.org.uk
Phone:	01983 559119
Email:	clerk@newportwight.org.uk
Electorate (no. of number of people eligible to vote):	18864
No. of councillors:	14
No. of staff (full time equivalents):	5.9 FTE
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22:	£701, 830
Precept (Band D property) 2021/22:	£87.36
Percentage increase in precept:	Gross reduction of 2.4%
Council meetings:	2nd Monday of the month, starting at 18:45. Meetings rotate around various venues around in each ward.

Niton & Whitwell Parish Council



Website: www.nitonwhitwell.org.uk

Phone: TBA

Email: clerk@nitonwhitwell.org.uk

Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote) 1,846

No. of councillors (as from May 2021): 10

No. of staff (full time equivalents): 0.33

Budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £121,990

Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: £51.92

Percentage increase in precept: 0.2%

Council meetings: 4th Monday of the month at 7.15pm - venue alternates between Niton Library and Whitwell Village Hall.

Northwood Parish Council



Website: www.northwoodparishcouncil.org

Phone: 01983 290086

Email: clerk@northwoodparishcouncil.org

Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote): 1,927

No. of councillors (as from May 2021): 8

No. of staff (full time equivalents): 0.37%

Budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £21,358

Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: n/a

Percentage increase in precept: No increase

Council meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm in Northwood Primary School.

Rookley Parish Council



Website: www.rookley.org/rpc.php

Phone: 01983 862810

Email: miketap@globalnet.co.uk

Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote): 502

No. of councillors (as from May 2021): 7

No. of staff (full time equivalents): 0.2

Budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £8500

Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: n/a

Percentage increase in precept: 4% increase

Council meetings: 1st Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Ryde Town Council



Website: www.rydetowncouncil.gov.uk

Phone: 01983 811105

Email: reception@rydetowncouncil.gov.uk

Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote): 18705

No. of councillors (as from May 2021): 16

No. of staff (full time equivalents): 13 FTE

Budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £1.3 Million

Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: £149.56

Percentage increase in precept: 8.9%

Council meetings (full council only): 1st Monday of alternate months, 7pm, Methodist Church, Garfield Road. Committee meetings held more frequently; see website for details.

Shalfleet Parish Council



Shalfleet Parish Council

Website: www.shalfleetiow.org.uk

Phone: 01983 531491

Email: clerk@shalfleetiow.org.uk

Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote): 1403

No. of councillors: 6

No. of staff: 0.43

Budget expenditure for 2021/22: £68,700

Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: n/a

Percentage increase in precept: 0%

Council meetings: 2nd Wednesday in the month at 7.15 pm at Wellow, Newbridge or Shalfleet.

Shorwell Parish Council



Website: www.parish-council.com/Shorwell

Phone: 07957945828

Email: clerk@shorwellparishcouncil.org.uk

Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote): 598

No. of councillors (as from May 2021): 6

No. of staff (full time equivalents): <1

Budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £8400

Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: n/a

Percentage increase in precept: 0%

Council meetings: 1st Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm in Shorwell Village Hall.

St Helens Parish Council



Website:	www.sthelensiw.org.uk
Phone:	01983 867450
Email:	clerk@sthelensiw.org.uk
Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote):	1041
No. of councillors (as from May 2021):	8
No. of staff (full time equivalents):	0.3 (subject to review)
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22:	£45727
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22:	£58.35
Percentage increase in precept:	0%
Council meetings (full council only):	2nd Monday of month at 7pm at St Helens Community Centre.

Wootton Bridge Parish Council



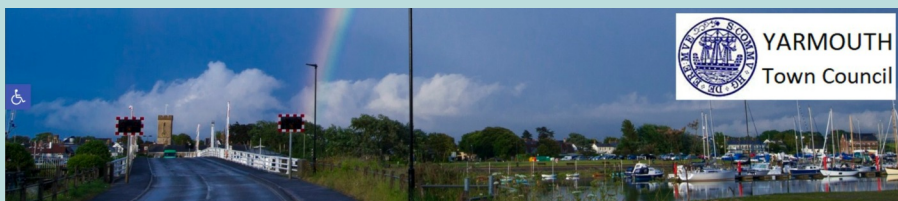
Website:	www.woottonbridge.org.uk
Phone:	01983 884555
Email:	clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk
Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote):	2850
No. of councillors (as from May 2021):	10
No. of staff (full time equivalents):	0.83
Total budgeted expenditure 2021/22:	£67797
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22:	£50.53
Percentage increase in precept:	0%
Council meetings:	3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the Old School, New Rd.

Wroxall Parish Council



Website:	www.wroxallparishcouncil.org.uk
Phone:	01983 862810
Email:	miketap@globalnet.co.uk
Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote):	1441
No. of councillors (as from May 2021):	8
No. of staff (full time equivalents):	0.2 FTE
Total budgeted expenditure 2021/22:	£21,054
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22:	n/a
Percentage increase in precept:	0.1% reduction
Council meetings:	2nd Monday in the month. Time/location to be confirmed.

Yarmouth Town Council



Website:	www.yarmouthtowncouncil.co.uk
Phone:	01983 527093/ 07714654331
Email:	ytc1135@gmail.com
Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote):	698
No. of councillors (as from May 2021):	8
No. of staff (full time equivalents):	1
Total budgeted expenditure 2021/22:	£69158
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22:	n/a
Percentage increase in precept:	0%
Council meetings:	1st Tuesday per month at 6:30pm in either CHOYD, Yarmouth Town Hall or Thorley Church

Part Two

Bembridge Parish Council



Website:	www.bembridgepc.org.uk
Phone:	01983 874160
Email:	clerk@bembridgepc.org.uk
Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote):	3200
No. of councillors (as from May 2021):	12
No. of staff (full time equivalents):	3.7
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22:	£204,452
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22:	n/a
Percentage increase in precept:	No rise
Council meetings:	Bi-Monthly on Tuesday or Wednesday at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Calbourne, Newtown & Porchfield Parish Council



Calbourne, Newtown and Porchfield Parish Council

Website:	www.calbourneparishcouncil.org.uk
Phone:	01983 852576
Email:	calbourneclerk@outlook.com
Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote):	672
No. of councillors:	6
Council meetings:	To be arranged

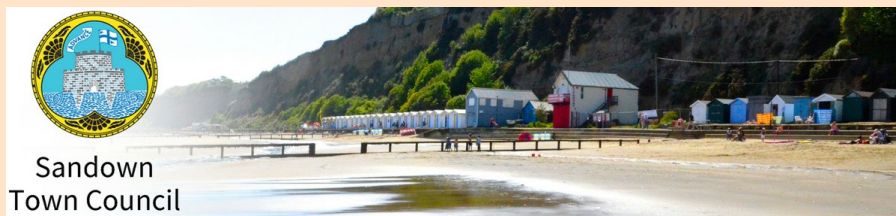
Chale Parish Council



Website: chale.org.uk
Phone: 07854 232216
Email: chaleparishcouncil@gmail.com
Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote):
507

No. of councillors (as from May 2021): 6
No. of staff (full time equivalents): 1
Budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £11,920
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: £45.12
Percentage increase in precept: 7.4%
Council meetings: 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm in the Women's Institute Hall.

Sandown Town Council



Website: www.sandowntowncouncil.gov.uk
Phone: 01983 408287
Email: clerks@sandowntowncouncil.gov.uk
Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote): 5581
No. of councillors (as from May 2021): 12
No. of staff (full time equivalents): 3
Total budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £538,158
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: £138.85
Percentage increase in precept: 0%
Council meetings: 3rd Monday of month at 7pm in the Broadway Centre. (Subject to review)

Shanklin Town Council



Website: www.shanklintowncouncil.co.uk
Phone: 01983 865101
Email: shanklintowncouncil@hotmail.com
Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote): 7568
No. of councillors (as from May 2021): 15
No. of staff (full time equivalents): 2.1
Total budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £507,000
Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22: £90.66
Percentage increase in precept: 10.8%
Council meetings: Usually 3rd or 4th Thursday of month at Falcon Cross Hall, Falcon Cross Road.

Totland Parish Council



TOTLAND
Parish Council

Website: www.totlandparishcouncil.org.uk

Phone: 01983 756028

Email: clerk@totlandparishcouncil.org.uk

Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote) 2475

No. of councillors (as from May 2021) 8

No. of staff (full time equivalents) 1

Budgeted expenditure 2021/22 £162846

Precept (£ p.a., Band D property) 2021/22 £104.08

Percentage increase in precept 0%

Council meetings (full council only) 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm at the Parish Office on The Broadway.

Ventnor Town Council



Website: ventnortowncouncil.org.uk

Phone: 01983 857840

Email: townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk

Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote): 4,717

No. of councillors (as from May 2021): 11

No. of staff (full time equivalents): 9

Budgeted expenditure 2021/22: £487,682

Precept (£ p.a., Band D property): 2021/22: £142.73

Percentage increase in precept: Minus 4.3%

Council meetings: 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm at Salisbury Gardens.

Whippingham Parish Council



Website: www.whippinghamparishcouncil.co.uk

Phone: 01983 852576

Email: whippinghamparishcouncil@gmail.com

Electorate (i.e. number of people eligible to vote): 773

No. of councillors: 6

Council meetings: To be arranged