

St Helens Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 12th May 2014.

54/2014 To elect a Chair of the Council.

Mrs Shaw proposed that Mrs Parker remain as Chair.

2nd Mr Cleaver.

RESOLVED.

Mrs Parker duly signed the Acceptance of Office declaration.

55/2014 To elect a Vice – Chair.

Mr Campbell proposed that Mr Earnshaw remain as Vice- Chair.

2nd Mrs Shaw.

RESOLVED.

56/2014 To receive a report from the Police.

PC Renshaw sent his apologies as he is unwell and not at work.

57/2014 To appoint representatives to following committees.

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| Finance - | Cllr Bacon Mr Earnshaw Mrs Parker Mr Cleaver | Community Centre – | Mrs Page Mr Dyer Mr Wade |
| Planning - | Mr Thomson Mr Campbell Mr Earnshaw Mrs Shaw Mr Cleaver | Maintenance - | Mr Thomson Mr Campbell. |
| Village Fair- | Mrs Parker Mr Earnshaw | | |
| Sports and Carnival- | Cllr Bacon Mrs Shaw | | |

58/2014 To receive a report from the Chair on the business of the Parish Council for the last year.

Having been elected as Chair last May it was with some trepidation that I faced the prospect of stepping into the boots of Jonathan Bacon who stood down as Chairman but remains on the Parish Council. Jonathan's expertise and commitment to the promotion of local issues have been evident over the years he served as Chairman and I am sure everyone will wish him well in his new role at County Hall – he's a hard act to follow but I promise I will do my very best. Leaving the Parish Council last May was Abi Parsons – thank you Abi for all your hard work - and joining the Council we welcomed Ian Thompson who we are sure will be a valuable asset to the Council and to the community.

The Winter storms caused relatively few problems in St Helens and we were very lucky compared with other parts of the Island and indeed many areas in the south of the country. The refurbished seawall was however breached in a couple of places and the Duver was flooded for quite some time owing to the high winds and exceptional tides.

Both the Village Fayre and Sports & Carnival days proved a huge success last June and August respectively. The weather was brilliant for both events and villagers and visitors flocked to the greens to enjoy good, old-fashioned, family fun. Christmastime put St Helens on the map at last! The "Village of Angels" display by our local artists proved a great success and attracted much welcome publicity for the village and its local businesses.

There has been much-needed attention to various maintenance projects around the village. Old Church green has received a make-over with the removal of the broken post and chain edging and the strategic placing of rocks to discourage inappropriate parking. Some of the benches have been replaced and all have received the attention of brush and paint. The provision of extra waste bins will, hopefully, ensure that this area and the beachfront/car park area may be kept clean and tidy. The memorial shelter has received a coat of paint and will now be included on the street-cleaning round to keep it in good order. The re-cycling bins and air-ambulance bin have been removed from the car park in the village as they were found to be attracting increasing incidents of "fly-tipping" which was proving unsightly and unhygienic. This has had the beneficial bonus of creating a much-needed extra car parking space on the car park!

Parking on the green has been under discussion again. The IOW Council are to enforce the bye-laws which prohibit parking on the green and letters to that effect have been sent out to all residences which border the green.

New street lights have been installed throughout the village and whilst these are of a modern and unobtrusive design it has been reported that they have resulted in some "dark" areas. Potholes in our roads seem to be routinely filled but the repairs seem to be short-lived in some cases.

The Parish Council is to produce a bi-annual newsletter to keep residents informed of local issues. A copy of the first newsletter will be posted to all households in the village and will thereafter appear on the Parish Council website. Copies will be available from local shops, the Community Centre and at Parish Council meetings.

59/2014 To receive and approve the financial report from the Clerk.

Please see attached.

Mr Campbell proposed the accounts be approved.

2nd Mrs Shaw

RESOLVED.