



Ordinary meeting, 12 June 2017, 7.00pm at St Helens Community Centre

Present: Councillors: M Anderson, J Coleman, V Duckett [later], J Robertson, I Thomson,
M Murwill [IWC]
Clerk: P Baxter;
Public: Nine.

Minutes

Action

039/17/18 Apologies-

There were none.

040/17/18 Declarations of interests and requests for dispensation-

Cllrs Coleman, Thomson and Robertson declared their membership of the Brading Haven Yacht Club as a non-prejudicial interest in the grants item.

041/17/18 Minutes-

Cllr Anderson proposed, seconded Cllr Coleman, that the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 8 May 2017 be approved.

Resolved – Unanimous.

042/17/18 Public participation-

Ms McVarish made herself available for points of clarification in the grants application item; Mr Dyer made representations on residential criteria for making grants, also noting that the Brading Haven Yacht Club premises are not in the parish.

043/17/18 Ward Councillors' reports

Cllr Murwill advised that his attendance would in future alternate with that of Cllr Tyndall and reported that the IW Council is exploring options for the provision of public toilets across the island, is revising the rules for vehicles towing trailers to public tips to measure length as the whole rig, and is exploring a scheme to collect garden refuse directly from households. Upon questioning, Cllr Murwill undertook to make further enquiries regarding the future of the Duver beach huts and the potential for erecting parking control notices around areas of The Greens, and confirmed that he is still making enquiries on the future of the public toilets. Cllr Murwill requested that an action log be created that can record matters raised with the two Ward Members in order that ongoing issues for reporting can be monitored. The Clerk undertook to prepare and circulate.

PB

044/17/18 Report from representative to IWALC

Cllr Anderson reported on his recent attendance at an IWALC Executive Committee meeting, noting that concern had been expressed for the future stability and repairs to Military Road in parts, and on the possibility of 20mph speed limits becoming more common in villages, about which further information on how to apply was due. It was **agreed** that Cllr Anderson and the Clerk would attend a forthcoming informal introductory session on the work of IWALC, to be attended by the Leader of IW Council on 15 June.

PB
MA

045/17/18 Grants Policy

The Clerk presented a draft Grants Policy for consideration, noting that Section B would only operate with the General Power of Competence. Cllr Coleman proposed, seconded Cllr Thomson, that the policy be adopted as presented.

Resolved- Unanimous.

[Cllr Duckett arrived at 7.30pm, no interests declared]

046/17/18 Bursary scheme partnership with Brading Haven Yacht Club

Cllr Thomson suggested that the Brading Haven Yacht Club might, if asked, develop and manage a scheme that encourages young persons (under 18) with no previous experience or club membership to be introduced to RYA structured sailing as cadets of the Club, and that a per capita amount might be provided by this Council to Club funds in bursary support. Cllr Coleman undertook to accompany the Clerk to visit the Club by invitation, with a view to recommending the scheme. Cllr Duckett proposed, seconded Cllr Thomson, that the Clerk approach the Club with a view to recommending the scheme.

PB
JC

Resolved - Unanimous

047/17/18 Grant applications

The Clerk reported receipt of a number of grant applications, presented in date order:

- a) *Age UK (Isle of Wight) Good Neighbour Scheme*. Cllr Duckett proposed, seconded Cllr Coleman, that a grant be made.

Resolved - (3/2) Carried.

Cllr Robertson proposed, seconded Cllr Coleman, that the grant value be £109.62 being the cost of inducting one volunteer, and that the grant be 'Restricted Funds' only for use in the St Helens GNS scheme.

Resolved – (4/0) 1 abstention. Carried.

- b) *Victim Support*. Cllr Duckett proposed, seconded Cllr Anderson, that no grant be made.

Resolved – Unanimous.

- c) *Ms McVarish and Harry*. A young person's individual grant request to support sailing progression. Cllr Thomson proposed, seconded Cllr Anderson, that half the requested amount be offered.

Resolved – (2/3) Not carried.

Cllr Robertson proposed, seconded Cllr Duckett, that no grant be made.

Resolved – (3/2) Carried. Cllr Murwill undertook to enquire whether IW Council offered similar grant schemes. Mr Thorpe (Bembridge Harbour Company) offered to meet Ms McVarish and Harry to discuss a young persons' work experience scheme at the Harbour.

- d) *A Richards*. A young person's individual grant request to support sailing. Cllr Robertson proposed, seconded Cllr Anderson, that as the applicant was resident outside the parish, and the young person appeared to already be engaged in sailing, the request be ruled outside the agreed grant policy criteria.

Resolved – Unanimous.

The Council noted two further expressions of interest in receiving grants for young peoples' sport and sailing respectively. The Clerk undertook to respond to all applicants and enquiries so far received, and to provide to them a copy of the new Grants Policy.

MM

PB

048/17/18 Grounds Maintenance Agreement for Village Greens

The Clerk presented a draft revision to the existing Agreement, noting the areas of amendment that include defining the range of Minor works that the Parish Council could undertake if supported by an increase in the current annual grant contribution from IW Council. The Clerk undertook to enquire how much income the IW Council receives from hiring the greens as amenity land. Cllr Robertson proposed, seconded Cllr Anderson, that the content of the draft Agreement be agreed except for the suggested contribution amount, to which the Clerk should be authorised to negotiate an increase.

Resolved- (4/0) 1 abstention. Carried. Cllr Murwill requested that he be copied into emails with IW Council officers on this matter.

PB

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049/17/18 Environment Officer Scheme

The Clerk presented the details of an IW Council scheme to 'buy-in' to a range of services provided locally by IW Council Environment Officers, at a weekly cost to this Council. Cllr Robertson proposed, seconded Cllr Thomson, that the proposal be declined.

Resolved – Unanimous.

050/17/18 Latimer Road Garden Scheme

The Clerk presented two quotations sought by Cllrs Thomson and Duckett on behalf of the Council for horticultural improvements to the garden area, supported in part by an anticipated donation from the St Helens Horticultural Society and the award proceeds from last year's Best Kept Village competition. A quotation through the Bembridge Lengthsmen Partnership Scheme for preparatory groundworks necessary for one of the quotes was also received. Cllr Duckett proposed, seconded Cllr Coleman, that the Coastal Gardener scheme be accepted, and that an Order be confirmed with Bembridge Parish Council for the groundworks, provided the Lengthsmen can be made available.

Resolved – (4/1) Carried.

PB

051/17/18 Old Church Green hire conditions

- a) The Clerk reported on the origins of the current hire conditions, and the nature of the advice given to applicants in judging the contribution expected to be made to local 'good causes' in lieu of a commercial fee. Concern was raised that the Green could be used for activities that are not commensurate with the heritage of the site as a past churchyard, or its current tranquil setting. The Council **agreed** that the conditions should be amended to limit the use of the Old Church Green to private events, arranged by persons with strong residential links to St Helens, that are commensurate with the site's heritage, and for a financial contribution that is defined, which reflects the quality of the beach-side location and is comparable to those charged by IW Council for amenity land. The Clerk undertook to research and draft revisions to the current hire conditions for approval by the Council at a later meeting.
- b) The Clerk reported receipt of an 'in principle' request for hire of the Old Church Green for a post-wedding party in September, with the applicant believed resident in Sandown. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would clarify the details and be given the authority to accept or decline the 'in principle' request on the basis of the preceding criteria, with an acceptance subject to full written particulars being received for consideration by the Council.

PB

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052/17/18 Planning application received

The Council considered the following application, noting the location within the Conservation Area and relevant comment in the Village Design Statement as Supplementary Planning Guidance:

P/00522/17 2 Yarborough Cottages, Upper Green Road, St. Helens, PO33 1XB Proposed vehicle access and hardstanding.

Cllr Anderson proposed, seconded Cllr Robertson, that no objection be made.

Resolved – (4/0) 1 Abstention. Carried.

053/17/18 Planning decisions notified

The Clerk reported receipt of a notice of refusal for Application P/00355/17 42 Station Road, St Helens which was **noted**.

054/17/18 Highways issues

- a) Consideration of on-street parking issues was deferred to a later meeting for further observations to be made by Members;
- b) Cllr Thomson proposed, seconded Cllr Robertson, that enquiries be made of Island Roads regarding the placement of a traffic mirror on the street lamp pole at the blind corner junction of Eddington Road and Duver Road to assist pedestrians seeking to cross from Eddington Road. The Clerk undertook to make enquiries, bringing a further report for decision to a later meeting.
Resolved – Unanimous.
- c) Cllr Thomson reported concerns received from a resident for the safety and visual amenity issues raised by the number of advertising boards in the verge on Eddington Road. Cllr Robertson proposed, seconded Cllr Thomson, that Island Roads and Planning Enforcement of IW Council be notified of the concerns, for their further attention.

ALL

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Resolved- Unanimous.

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055/17/18 Nelsons Quay lighting columns

The Clerk reported on Island Roads estimated costs of approximately £2,500 for the re-instatement of the lighting columns, and options for taking the units into the licensed control of the Parish Council, these costs not including additional risks of underground duct works that may be required. The Clerk confirmed that it would be the likely intention of the IW Council as owners to remove the columns from service permanently. Cllr Robertson proposed, seconded Cllr Thomson, that the costs are too expensive, when considering that the columns are not this Council's property and that this Council should withdraw from further work on the issue.

Resolved – Unanimous.

056/17/18 Request to install memorial bench

The Clerk reported receipt of a request to provide and install a memorial bench in the beach area. It was **agreed** that the applicant should be directed to IW Council as owners of the space.

057/17/18 Finance-

- a) The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) presented the quarterly cashbook reconciliation to the bank account, which was **noted**.
- b) The RFO presented the following invoices for authorisation which were **agreed**:

| Chq No | Payee | Amount £ |
|--------|---|----------|
| 300098 | Idverde (gravel supply) | 78.00 |
| 300099 | Ventnor Town Council (Wallgate contract) | 482.40 |
| 300100 | DARES (toilet blockage) | 90.00 |
| 300101 | Biffa (Beach bin) | 257.06 |
| 300102 | M Anderson (mileage IWALC) | 13.26 |
| 300103 | P Baxter (website, Office allowance, postage) | 57.13 |
| 300104 | Community Action IW (payroll) | 788.60 |
| 300105 | SSE (toilets electricity supply) | 240.96 |
| 300106 | Open Spaces Society (Subs) | 45.00 |

- c) At the RFO's suggestion, Cllr Robertson proposed, seconded Cllr Coleman, that a Standing Order and a Direct Debit be established for the payroll and website subscription respectively.
Resolved – Unanimous.

058/17/18 Correspondence received

- a) The Council received a response from the Bembridge Harbour Trust concerning the Council's resignation from the Trust, which was **noted**.
- b) The Council **noted** copy correspondence from Ms Sherwood, addressed to IW Council concerning the cleaning of the beach. The Clerk undertook to respond.

059/17/18 Maintenance

- a) The Clerk reported insurers' consent to the Council proceeding with the replacement of the damaged bench on The Green, at their expense. Cllr Thomson and the Clerk undertook to investigate a suitable product, which might be sourced from HMP Isle of Wight.
- b) The Clerk reported that IW Council had now issued a Works Order for the repair of the Vine Road car park street light.
- c) Cllr Thomson explained that during a tour with the Clerk a range of maintenance issues had been identified in the parish. Cllr Robertson proposed, seconded Cllr Coleman, that quotations for the painting of the Memorial Shelter and the bollards and chains at Duver Road by the Bembridge Lengthsmen be accepted.
Resolved – Unanimous.
The removal of the picnic benches through voluntary effort was **agreed**. It was also **agreed** that the proposed removal of the tree guard be set aside, pending proposals for the re-planting of a tree within it at a later date.
- d) Cllr Thomson proposed that a group of volunteers be assembled within a managed scheme that may tend to horticulture in the public realm and other small maintenance tasks. The Clerk confirmed that by managing participation and offering some direction, with appropriate records retained, the Council's insurance policy provides protection for volunteers in these circumstances. The scheme was **agreed** under the stewardship of Cllr Thomson, Lead Member for Maintenance.
- e) Cllr Robertson proposed, seconded Cllr Coleman, that a further one tonne load of 20mm gravel be placed around the anchor at Nelsons Quay.
Resolved – (4/0) 1 Abstention. Carried.

060/17/18 Notice Board

- The Clerk reported that the Community Centre Management Committee had invited the Council to place a Notice Board in the foyer of the Centre. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would pursue the matter and purchase a suitable board.

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061/17/18 Member matters-

- a) No questions deposited.
- b) Cllr Coleman requested that the future provision of public toilets be placed on the next agenda.

062/17/18 Annual Parish Meeting, 2017-

No matters were brought forward from the meeting.

063/17/18 Key Messages

The Chairman undertook to circulate by email the key messages to be taken from the meeting for inclusion in an article for the parish magazine

JR

064/17/18 Date of next meeting-

The date of the next meeting, scheduled for 10 July 2017 was confirmed. It was **agreed** to cancel the planned Members Training Seminar due on 19 June.

Meeting closed at 10.00pm

Signed (Chairman) 10 July 2017