Dear Residents

The recent meeting of the Parish Council saw Chairman Joe Robertson stand down from the Chairmanship after 2 successful years, during which time the Parish undertook extensive renovation work on the Duver Toilets, maintained the Greens and other areas in the village, helped fund community events, as well as organising a range of WW1 commemorative events.

In his report to the Annual Parish Meeting, Cllr Robertson thanked all residents for contacting him during his term of office, he thanked fellow Councillors for their efforts – including Cllr Coleman for his work on substantive Parish Projects, such as the Duver, Cllr Tutton for his work on the Parking Strategy and Island Plan, and Cllrs Duckett and Hind for work on planning and environmental projects, in particular developing regular meetings with the National trust given the importance of the Duver and surrounding land to the Parish.

Cllr Robertson thanked the clerk for his support, and wished his successor, Cllr John Coleman good luck taking forward the Parish’s ambitious agenda – Cllr Coleman’s deputy will be Cllt Joost Spit, who is also leading on the Heritage Trail project.

Members are very mindful of on-going Planning pressures in the Village, continuing to highlight the need to provide appropriate infra-structure if developments go ahead: the earlier discussions and planning submission made by the Parish regarding Guildford Park proposals continue, and the Parish have prepared further comments should a proposal, even in outline, be taken forward.

Following the renovation of the Duver Toilets, work continues to improve the amenity, with a dog lead hook provided, in addition to the provision of an external tap, and improved lighting – further additions are being considered (such as a defibrillator).

The Parish have also supported the mechanical cleaning of the Beach, with regard to improving the condition of the sand, benefitting residents and visitors, alongside larger recycling bins, improvements to the surface of the Car Park, and other developments with partner agencies.

Support is also being given to users of the Greens, and members are particularly encouraged to see extensive youth cricket being played – encouraging increasing numbers of local young people to participate in grass roots sport.

Work is still progressing regarding Station Road Toilets, subject to public consultation by the IW Council, but awaiting a decision from Defra about future use – the site has extensive health and safety issues, as well as attracting anti-social behaviour recently.

In setting out its budget for 2019/20, the Parish have highlighted the need to maintain funding of key projects (such as Public Toilets at the Duver, Grounds Maintenance, and support of local events), and to develop new initiatives, such as the Defibrillator, and protection of the Greens.

Members recognised the increasing pressures faced by Rural areas on the Island, and continue to look for innovative solutions to the challenges – working with local stakeholders to maximise available resources and encourage community engagement.

Best regards

St Helens Parish Council