

St Helens Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 14th October 2013 at 7.30pm at St Helens Sports Pavilion.

In attendance:

Chair: Mrs Carole Parker

Councillors: Cllr Bacon, Mr Campbell, Mr Cleaver, Mr Earnshaw, Mrs Shaw and Mr Thomson.

Clerk: Mrs Dyer

106/2013. Apologies for Absence.

None received.

107/2013 Declarations of Interest.

None received.

108/2013 A presentation and demonstration by NHS First Responders regarding the provision of defibrillators.

The Parish Council welcomed local St Helens NHS volunteer First Responder Nigel Dove and his colleague Carl from Bembridge.

They explained to the Parish Council the benefits of the First Responder scheme and how reaching people quickly can greatly improve outcomes for heart patients. They also explained that at present they only held one defibrillator between the two villages. They appealed to the Parish Council for funding towards the purchase of a second defibrillator, each machine costs around £900. The Council suggested that Bembridge Parish Council be approached to fund half of the cost with St Helens Parish Council potentially meeting the cost of the other half.

Clerk to put on the next agenda for voting upon.

109/2013 To confirm the minutes of the meetings on the 2nd September 2013 and 30th September 2013.

Cllr Bacon proposed that the minutes of the meeting of 2nd September 2013 be approved as true and correct.

2nd Mr Campbell.

RESOLVED

Mr Cleaver proposed that the minutes of the meeting of 30th September 2013 be approved as true and correct.

2nd Mrs Shaw.

RESOLVED.

110/2013 Public Forum.

Mr Williams reported concerns regarding

- The cricket poles not being taken down at the end of the season.
- The entrance to the Car Boot sale needs reseeding.
- The car parking charges throughout the winter on the seafront.

Mr Cole reported concerns that there were still early arrivals at the Car Boot sale every Sunday, he would prefer a later start.

111/2013 To discuss Christmas Decorations for the Village including

- “Village of Angels” Christmas artwork proposals from local artists.

It was agreed that the order of the agenda was changed to allow time for Leigh Jackman to speak as she had family commitments.

Mrs Jackman reported plans to decorate the Village for Christmas with art works by local artists and the community.

The plans are to decorate the village with environmentally friendly artworks which can be sold after Christmas to raise money for the local preschool. The art would be lit with either solar or low energy bulbs and be made with low cost natural materials. The hope is to get the whole village involved whether it be by donating garden space to house the art or making something to display.

They hope to get coverage from the local and national press and get the village on the Southern Vectis “Christmas Lights” tour.

Mrs Jackman reported that help with the cost of lighting would be appreciated.

Cllr Bacon proposed that £200 be donated towards the cost of lighting.

2nd Mr Cleaver

RESOLVED.

112/2013 To discuss conducting a Housing Needs Survey.

Cllr Bacon reported that the Housing Needs Survey for the Village was completed a many years ago and should be updated to be considered relevant by the planning department.

He proposed that the Parish Council undertake an up to date Housing needs survey.

2nd Mrs Parker.

RESOLVED

113/2013 To discuss proposals for Dog Orders on St Helens beach.

The Clerk reported that following the meeting in September she had contacted the legal department at the IW Council requesting that the IW Council consult on a Dog ban as well as a dog on lead order for St Helens beach.

She reported that the Council would not consult on both options unless there was clear evidence suggesting that a dog ban was preferred, as they had already consulted twice on the issue of a dog ban for St Helens beach and the over whelming response was that it would not be welcome.

The Clerk had asked for confirmation of what evidence would be required as the Parish Council had limited funds for consultation and wanted to be clear about what constituted evidence that would persuade the Council to consult on a dog ban as well as a dog on a lead order.

The IW Council have promised to get back to her with further guidance.

114/2013 To receive a report the Chair regarding the meeting with the IW Council regarding the management of the Greens.

Please see below copy of the Chair’s report.

Report on the meeting with IOW council to discuss the green - 13/9/13

The legalities of the various options discussed at our last meeting were examined.

1] *Introduction of a parking order:-*

It was decided that to try to establish a parking order to cover all of the greens would not be practical in view of the large number of signs which would be required by law so that the terms of the parking order could be enforced. This option was therefore dismissed.

2] *Enforcement of current bye laws:-*

As current bye laws already provide for the removal of vehicles parked illegally on the green it was agreed that these bye laws should now be strictly enforced.

Copies of the bye laws are to be prominently displayed and a joint letter from IOW council and the parish council is to be prepared and sent out to households bordering the green stating that vehicles illegally parked in contravention of the bye laws will be removed.

The situation is to be monitored to establish which vehicles are involved and the dates and times they are illegally parked.

Persistent “offenders” will receive notification that if their vehicles are not removed from the green they will be towed away in accordance with the Bye Laws. If they do not take any notice then those vehicles will be towed away. It was felt that this action may not prove necessary but if it did and vehicles were towed away then the message would soon hit home.

The “No Parking on the Green” sign is to be moved from its current location on West Green to the strip of green in front of the Well House.

3] Possible extension of car park

It is clear that there is not enough car-parking space in the village. The extension of the car park on the green would mean that a formal application would have to be made to the Secretary of State and this may compromise the retention of the existing car park.

Also discussed was the possibility of purchasing land on which to create a new car park and this idea was very popular but bearing in mind the high cost of land in St Helens it seems an unlikely prospect at the present time.

115/2013 To discuss the purchase of a Remembrance Day Wreath.

Cllr Bacon proposed that a wreath be purchased from the British Legion at the cost of £50.

2nd Mr Thomson.

RESOLVED

Mrs Parker offered to lay the Wreath at the Remembrance Sunday service.

116/2013 To discuss the purchase of Christmas trees and lighting.

Mr Thomson proposed that the budget be increased to £400 to allow for the purchasing of larger Christmas trees.

2nd Mrs Shaw

RESOLVED.

117/2013 Clerk’s Report.

The Clerk reported that following visits from the Police the family camping on the Old Church Green had returned to the mainland.

118/2013 Financial Report – To receive report and approve any payments due.

The clerk reported that the account had been reconciled and that the balance stands at £24725.07. Please find attached budget summary and account reconciliation.

Finances due October 2013.

Chq671	Martin Rivers	Erecting benches/materials.	£109.00
Chq672	BDOLLP	External audit fees	£120.00
Chq673	Carole Parker	Mileage	£54.60
Chq674	Southern Electric	Electricity toilets	£54.68
SO	Lisa Dyer	Wages	£640.63
SO	Martin Rivers	Grass Cutting/landscaping	£240.00
SO	EasyCleaners	Toilet cleaning	£606.67

Cllr Bacon proposed that all payments be approved as per report.

2nd Mr Campbell

RESOLVED

119/2013 Councillor's reports and items to be included on future agenda.

Councillors reported the following concerns:

- New Street lights are not as bright and have "Dark Spots" may be a concern for safety.
- People have been driving up The Diggings in contravention to the No Entry traffic order.
- Can we invite the Police to attend meeting and give an update on local issues? * Action: Clerk to invite.
- Dog bin is still attached to tree near the car park, children are playing on the tree which is a risk to health.
- Posts still haven't been removed from outside the Pavilion.
- Kerb stone on the lower side of the football green by the garage has come loose again.

Meeting closed 9.28pm.