

St Helens Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held at St Helens Sports pavilion on the 13th October 2014 at 7pm.

In attendance.

Chair: Carole Parker

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

6 members of the public and 4 Island Roads representatives.

112/2014 Apologies for absence

Claire Russell

113/2014 Declarations of Interest

Mr Campbell declared a personal interest in item 9 as he is on the Sports Association Committee that run the car boot sales on the West Green.

114/2014 To receive a presentation from Island Roads representatives about the forthcoming works to the Duver Road Bridge.

Mrs Parker welcomed Kieron Blamey as his team from Island Roads.

Mr Blamey explained that there have been long standing issues with the stability of the Duver Road bridge and that works are due to commence in November to stabilise the structure.

Island Roads plan to install 45 piles at a depth of 11 metres and fill the void with foam concrete. To enable them to undertake the work they will need to close the road for approximately 6 weeks. Traffic will be diverted through Nodes Point holiday camp and go over the Old Church Green to the bottom of Duver Hill.

Island Roads promised to protect the Old Church Green with a temporary surface and restore to its original condition after work is complete. They have also promised to replace the tatty rubbish bins with new on completion of the works.

The planned diversion through Nodes Point will have restrictions. No artic lorries will be able to use the route. He confirmed that Duver Road would be closed for approximately 6 weeks from early December, but will be re-opened over the Christmas holidays.

Mr Blamey invited questions from the public.

Mr Anderson asked how they planned to go across the Old Church Green without digging or damage?

Mr Blamey explained that a temporary surface would be laid, and that he had agreed with the Parish Council to repair any damage caused and to install two new rubbish bins, to replace the tatty bins already on site.

Mr Williams asked whether any feasibility studies had been undertaken with regard to re-routing the road over the field opposite Fakenham Farm.

Mr Blamey said this would have to be raised with the Isle of Wight Council as they had been instructed to repair the existing carriageway.

Mr Dyer asked what provisions are being made for pedestrians?

The pavement has been extended a little and all signs will be replaced with new.

Mr Squibb asked if speed bumps have been considered to slow traffic?

Mr Blamey said that they are looking into traffic calming but speed bumps are unlikely to be installed.

Mr Bacon said that he believed some form of traffic calming was required.

Mr Campbell asked what plans are in place to improve drainage as the bottom floods regularly and smells of sewerage?

Island Roads representatives explained that the pumping station is overloaded and that they were looking into it. They suspect some houses may be connected to it in error and Island Roads are carrying out investigations. They will clear out the culvert and surface drains.

Mr Cleaver asked whether there would be a weight restriction on the bridge after completion of works?

Mr Blamey confirmed there would be no restriction.

Mr Blamey kindly offered to answer a few questions regarding highway matters not related to Duver Road.

Mr Campbell reported that the cottage opposite the Post Office had suffered from surface water run off since the resurfacing of Upper Green Road a few months ago. He explained in heavy rain the water runs straight down the hill and floods their garage. Resurfacing had brought the level of the road up to the height of the drop kerb so there was no edging diverting the water towards the drain.

The kerbstones on the green were also mentioned and lorry kerbstones were requested.

Mr Thomson reported that a disabled bay on Upper Green Road had been put in front of the wrong house after resurfacing.

Mr Blamey promised to pass these concerns on to the appropriate people at Island Roads.

Mrs Parker thanked the Island Roads team for attending.

115/2014 Public Forum.

Mr Anderson reported that the area of shrubbery at the top of Latimer Road needed some attention, as it still hadn't been cut back.

The Clerk reported that the work should have been done at the end of September and that she will chase the matter up.

Mr Williams raised that Mr Boulter from the Isle of Wight Council stated at the September meeting that he did not know of any schemes for rehousing people from the mainland in affordable housing on the Isle of Wight. Mr Williams said he had undertaken some research and that there was a

scheme (Places for People) operated by some London Boroughs rehousing people over 60 to the Isle of Wight. He believes that the affordable housing stock should not be used for non-islanders.

Mr Williams also made a point in relation to the damage on West Green, he believed the sports association should pay as they profit from the car boot sales.

Mr Cole asked whether the waste tarmac from Duver Road could be used to sure up the Gaggen End footpath as it is very muddy and slippery?

Clerk will ask.

The reseeding work at the exit and entrance points of West Green has been done but not well, the ground has not been levelled and damage not repaired.

116/2014 To agree the minutes of the meetings held on the 8th September 2014.

Cllr Bacon proposed that the minutes be approved as true and correct.

2nd Mr Thomson.

RESOLVED – minutes signed as true and correct.

117/2014 To discuss the Big Tree Plant.

The Clerk explained that there was currently a scheme donating free native trees to be planted on the Island. The trees come at no cost but would need planting.

Mr Thomson offered to undertake this is the Council voted to take some trees.

The Clerk explained that she had already asked the IW Council if one tree could be used to replace the fallen tree on the football Green and that the IW Council were happy with this.

The Clerk also explained that the trees would be available around mid-November but would need to be planted by December 31st.

Mrs Parker proposed that 6 trees be requested.

2nd Cllr Bacon.

RESOLVED

118/2014 To receive a report on Co-option

The Clerk reported that 2 applications had been received for co-option from Mrs Ryan and Mr Anderson.

- **Appoint a co-option committee**

Mr Thomson, Mr Cleaver, Mr Campbell and Mr Earnshaw volunteered to sit on the committee.

- **To set a date for co-option interviews**

It was agreed to ask the candidates for a suitable date, but that Tuesday and Thursday evening were not suitable.

119/2014 To discuss the Best Kept Village award.

The Clerk explained that the Village had won two awards in the recent Best Kept Village awards and that they had received £150 prize money and £175 in Hursts Vouchers.

She asked Councillors to make suggestions as to how the money could be spent.

Suggestions included:

- A shelter on the beach
- An additional sign to go under the existing Village signs advertising St Helens as the Best Kept Village award winner.
- Improving the planting at the top of Duver Hill.

It was agreed to look into suggestions and discuss again in November.

120/2014 To discuss the damage to West Green exit and entrance points.

Mrs Parker explained that damage had been caused over the summer to west Green due to it being used as a car park for the car boot sales and that the maintenance of West Green was not the responsibility of the parish council and she believed that it was a matter for the IW Council and the Sports Association to rectify. She would like to the IW Council to fix it to a high standard and then insist the sports association maintain those standards as part of their license.

It was agreed to write to the IW Council asking them to repair the ruts on the Green, level and re-turf and to consider inserting a clause in the license insisting the car boot sale rotates between the Greens, giving respite to residents and allowing the ground to recover.

121/2014 To receive external auditors report.

The Clerk reported that there was a minor fault in the audit report that one section was undated and the auditor had recommended the parish council ensure all sections are dated in future returns.

Mr Campbell proposed that the parish council approve the external auditors report and accept their recommendation.

2nd Cllr Bacon

RESOLVED.

122/2014 To discuss the Parish Plan.

- **To decide on committee structure**

It was agreed that working parties would be set up to manage parts of the parish plan and that each party would be headed up by a Councillor or volunteer.

The working parties agreed are as follows

- Youth- Cllr Bacon
- Transport – Mr Cleaver

- Open Spaces – Mr Campbell
- Mr Earnshaw – Planning built environment
- Community Planning – Mr Thomson
- Economy – Mrs Parker
- Older people – Mr Anderson

It was agreed to book the community centre on a Saturday and invite members of the public to attend. The heads of working parties agreed to write terms of reference for their committees and lead research, planning and organise their section of the plan.

123/2014 Clerk’s report.

The Clerk reported that no provider stepped forward to bid to provide Youth Services within the Village. However, the parish council have been offered the opportunity to join in with provision at Brading.

Brading Town Trust are offering a comprehensive service for young people opening 4 nights a week providing a wide range of services.

I have spoken to the providers in Brading and feel the Parish Council could use the £1000 set aside in the budget to provide a mini bus service to Brading Youth Centre once or twice a week.

They have a great programme of events and a large sports hall, they have all the equipment in place for many activities including but not limited to, football, badminton, dodgeball, archery, free pool, 2 brand new computers (homework given the priority), games consoles a programme of educational and pastoral events i.e. anti- bullying, drug and alcohol advice, far more than we could have hoped to provide standing alone. If Councillors agree I am happy to get quotes for a mini bus service. The cost per child for the youth club is £0.50p.

The Post Office is due for a refit and the services offered will be changing slightly. It will be closed for approximately 2 weeks whilst the refit work is taking place.

The Clerk has reported the overhanging tree near the vine and the issues with footpaths. IW Council inspectors have visited the locations and don’t feel they are a danger to the public so no action will be taken.

124/2014 Financial report – To receive report and to approve any payments due.

The Clerk confirmed that the bank account had been reconciled and that the balance stood at £31162.87.

Invoices for payment.

Chq 718	BDO LLP	£120	External audit fees.
Chq719	Lisa Dyer	£45	Office and broadband fees.
Chq720	St Helens Community centre	£63	Hall hire.
Chq721	Harbourside Plumbing & Heating	£25	Fixing overflow (toilets).
S/O	Mrs S A Chester	£606.67	Toilet cleaning.
S/O	Martin Rivers	£240.00	Landscaping.

Mr Thomson proposed all payments are approved.
2nd Mr Campbell.

RESOLVED – All payments are approved as per report.

125/2014 Councillor's reports and any items to be included on future agendas.

Mr Thomson asked whether there had been any news regarding the provision of discretionary services i.e grass cutting and beach cleaning from the Isle of Wight council.

The Clerk replied that the cut-off date for parish councils to agree to pay for services was the 14th October so there would be no news for a while.

Mr Campbell reported that he had received complaints from local people regarding the number of discarded cigarette ends outside The Vine. Mrs Parker agreed to ask the landlord to ensure they were cleared up.

Cllr Bacon reported that the Village of Angels Christmas Art exhibition was going ahead again this year.

Mr Earnshaw reported that in April 2012 he had reported the confusing numbering on Downsview Road and agreement had been reached with the Isle of Wight Council to install new signs. The new signs had still not been installed. The Clerk agreed to chase up with Island Roads.

Meeting closed 8.36pm