

# St Helens Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at St Helens Sports Pavilion.

## **In attendance:**

**Chair:** Mrs Parker

**Councillors:** Mr Bacon, Mr Campbell, Mr Earnshaw, Miss Ryan.

**Clerk:** Mrs Dyer.

## **140/2014 To receive and approve the recommendation from the Co-option committee.**

Following the co-option interviews, the co-option committee's agreed recommendation for Co-option to the parish council is Miss Nancy Ryan.

Mr Earnshaw proposed that Miss Ryan being co-opted to the parish council.

2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Parker.

**RESOLVED** – Miss Ryan co-opted.

- **To receive the declaration of acceptance of office.**

Miss Ryan signed the acceptance of office.

## **141/2014 Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Mr Thomson (holiday) and Mrs Russell (working).

## **142/2014 Declarations of interests.**

None received.

## **143/2014 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2014.**

Mr Campbell proposed the minutes be signed as true and correct.

2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Bacon.

**RESOLVED** – Minutes signed as true and correct.

## **144/2014. Public Forum.**

Mr Anderson raised that he thought that the public forum should be later on the agenda to give the public a chance to comment about discussions.

Mrs Parker said that the public forum was the opportunity for the public to comment on items on the agenda.

Mr Anderson raised the issue of the maintenance of the area around the bench at the top of Latimer Rd. He thought the area was poorly maintained.

Mrs Parker promised the parish council would keep an eye on the area.

The issue of parking in Broomlands Close was also raised as many of the dinner ladies and auxiliary staff are parking there and causing congestion. Can they please be asked if they could park all staff within school grounds?

Mr Dyer asked if the Standing Orders had ever been updated?

The Clerk reported they had last been updated in 2011.

Mr Williams would like the area of the Parish Plan to be called Heritage and Open Spaces not just "Open Spaces". He also reported that he had received a 67 page history project from a University student which may be of interest to Councillors if they wish to read it.

Concerns were expressed over the National Trust's lack of maintenance to the Old Golf Links, they are regularly letting parts of the area flood and this is killing some of the wild flowers.

Mr Wade asked if there was a map available with the measurements of the Green? The Clerk promised to look in the files and see if one existed.

**145/2015 To receive requests for items to be included for discussion in setting the 2015/16 budget.**

The Clerk asked Councillors for any items they would like included in the draft budget options for the next financial year.

Councillors thought it may be wise to draft a budget with a larger contingency to budget for any discretionary services which may be withdrawn.

The Clerk confirmed that she had received no information regarding the level of service we should expect in 2015/16 and that she would chase up this information as to how the discretionary services cuts are to impact on the Village.

**146/2014 To discuss locations for planting trees donated by the "Big Tree Plant".**

Councillors agreed that 5 of the trees should be planted on the Old Church Green as it was likely that only half would grow successfully in the difficult conditions.

3 by the hedge bordering Nodes Point

1 screening the Southern Water pumping station and 1 Oak in the existing tree ring in the centre of the Green.

It was thought that they would bring welcome shade in the summer.

1 should be planted to replace the fallen tree by the Car Park in the Village.

Councillors agreed to research which trees would be best to be planted where and let the Clerk know which trees to plant where by email.

**147/2014 Clerk's report.**

The Clerk reported that the Village plan would be on the agenda in January and that Councillors responsible for each section of the plan would need to give a brief report regarding the recent Open day. The Clerk asked that they have these prepared for the January meeting.

The next meeting would be on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

The clerk reported that David Cleaver had resigned from the Parish Council.

She also reported that the new bank account was in the process of being set up now that all the paperwork had been submitted. The account should be up and running shortly.

She reported that the vandalised supports on the information board from the Old Church Green had been repaired but there was a small crack to the screen that remained. The Clerk will store the board over the Winter and arrange to have it put back in the spring. New bolts would have to be purchased as the vandals had bent the existing ones by jumping on the board.

**148/2014      Financial report – To receive report and approve any payments due.**

Chq 727	£81.67	Southern Electric	Electricity Bill Toilets
S/O	£606.67	Easycleaners	Toilet cleaning
Chq 724	£400	Pete Gaskin	Christmas trees
Chq 723	£181.56	Lisa Dyer	Refund for Christmas lights/stationary.
Chq 726	£33.95	Lisa Dyer	Refund for ink cartridges.
Chq 725	£48	Lisa Dyer	Refund for bi-annual report printing.

Cllr Bacon proposed that all payments be approved.

2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Campbell

**RESOLVED** – All payments approved for payment as per report.

**149/2014      Councillor's report and items to be included in future agenda.**

Mr Earnshaw asked if the Best Kept Village Awards should now be displayed at another location.

Mrs Parker agreed to ask the pub if they wished to display them for the moment.

Mr Earnshaw also asked about the missing signs on Downsview Rd. The Clerk promised to chase with the Island Roads District Steward.

Miss Ryan reported that some members of the public had expressed some concerns over the "Fallen Angel" on West Green as it looks very lifelike and is a distraction to motorists.

Cllr Bacon reported that he would like to get the renovation of the Youth Club building up and running and to do that a new committee needs to be formed. He would particularly welcome people with finance or building experience. He reported that Brading had formed a charitable trust to run their Youth Club and that they would like to work with St Helens to get the Youth Club up and running again.

Mr Campbell reported that Alex Minns had not been in contact with the Sports Association about the reseeded of the Greens.

It was agreed to put appointing an IWALC rep on the January agenda.

**150/2014      Planning – 1&2 Yarborough Cottages, Upper Green Rd, St Helens.**

**Proposed rear two storey extension.**

The Clerk explained that following Mr Cleaver's resignation planning would be undertaken by full council until a new planning committee had been appointed.

Cllr Bacon declared an interest and excused himself from the rest of the meeting.

Councillors agreed that they had no comment on the application.

**Meeting closed 8.01pm**