

# St Helens Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at St Helens Sports Pavilion.

**In attendance: Mr Bacon, Mr Campbell, Mr Earnshaw, Miss Ryan and Mr Thomson.**

**Chair: Mrs Parker**

**Clerk: Mrs Dyer**

**5 members of the public.**

## **01/2015 Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Mrs Russell who had work commitments.

## **02/2015 Declarations of interests.**

None declared.

## **03/2015 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2014.**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2014.

Mr Campbell proposed that the minutes be approved as true and correct.

2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Earnshaw

## **RESOLVED – minutes signed as true and correct.**

Mr Thomson expressed a wish that the minutes should be more detailed.

## **04/2015 Public Forum.**

Mr Anderson asked whether the discretionary services cuts meant grass cutting?

The Clerk stated that grass cutting was not the only service.

Mr Anderson asked which discretionary services provided by the IW Council St Helens benefits from? The Clerk replied that discretionary services cover many areas including beach cleaning, dog wardens, environment officers and public toilet provision within the village.

Mr Bacon said a letter should be coming out to all parish council's advising them of the cuts and what would be affected in each area.

A member of the public asked about the newsletter that had been delivered in the village. It stated that the parish council represented the village on Remembrance Day. He asked what form the representation took?

Mrs Parker stated that she laid a wreath at the Remembrance Day service on behalf of the village.

A member of the public thanked the parish council for publishing the newsletter and said he found it informative.

The Clerk replied that she did not have a map of the Green with exact measurements on as requested by Mr Wade but did have a few scale maps that may be helpful. Mr Bacon offered to get copies of the official maps from County Hall.

## **05/2015 To receive reports on Parish Plan Open Day and discuss way forward.**

### **Mrs Parker – Economy.**

Mrs Parker reported that a questionnaire had been developed regarding the importance of certain sections of the economy to the village.

Mr Bacon said that he felt the beach should be included in the questionnaire as it was vital for visitors.

Mr Thomson also added that there was no mention of the importance of provision public conveniences, which are also important to visitors.

Mrs Parker agreed and said she would add these to the questionnaire. (Please see attached).

### **Mr Earnshaw – Housing.**

Mr Earnshaw stated that we unsure how successful or beneficial the day was as there were few visitors. However, the few that he spoke to had mentioned the lack of larger houses within the village. The Clerk said that this point had been raised before at other public events.

### **Mrs Dyer – Traffic, Transport, footpaths and Highways.**

Mrs Dyer reported that she had taken over this section of the plan since Mr Cleaver's resignation.

20 suggestions were put forward to local people. These suggestions came from issues highlighted in our 2011 Traffic and Transport Survey. In an attempt to understand which issues are most important locally visitors to the open day were asked whether they agreed, disagreed or were indifferent to the suggestions.

Out of the 20 proposals put forward only 6 had a wholly positive outcome.

In order of popularity.

1<sup>st</sup> Improving pedestrian and cycle access to Laundry Lane.

= 2<sup>nd</sup> Pedestrian crossing between the play park and Upper Green Rd (near school).

= 2<sup>nd</sup> Creation of cycle track from to St Helens to Bembridge and Brading along Laundry Lane.

3<sup>rd</sup> Provision of kerbing around the Greens to stop any further erosion.

= 4<sup>th</sup> Improving footpath, cycle and bridle path network. \*

= 4<sup>th</sup> Double yellow lines at the bottom of Latimer Rd on the bend.

All other suggestions had either a neutral or negative response.

Therefore she suggested, considering the limited resources available, that the 6 suggestions above form the basis for the Parish Plan highways future plan for public consultation.

\*Please see attached draft plan for footpaths/cycle paths.

### **Mr Campbell – Open Spaces**

Mr Campbell reported that most of the visitors on the day had one overriding interest and that was to protect the Green as it is. With no further alterations or erosion.

### **Mr Bacon – Youth Provision**

Mr Bacon reported that visitors had undertaken a questionnaire with the most popular suggestion being to re-open the youth club.

He also reported that respondents had also requested a skate park, and equipment for older children within the playground.

It was also suggested that the refurbished youth club should be a multi-use building providing for other activities such as sports or an indoor skate park.

### **Mr Anderson – Older people**

Mr Anderson reported that most visitors to the stall on the day were 70-80 years old.

Most still lived at home with their spouses.

Mr Anderson reported that the results from the questionnaires indicated the following:

- More opportunities for social interaction where needed.
- Warden assisted housing within the village is needed.
- Somewhere local to learn computing and internet skills was required.
- Bus service required improvement.
- The need for daytime activities.

### **Miss Ryan - Emergency planning volunteer recruitment.**

Miss Ryan reported that she had recruited volunteers to help in the event of an emergency and that she would pass on the names and contact details to Mr Thomson who is developing this part of the parish plan.

### **Mr Thomson – Emergency planning.**

Mr Thomson reported that although he was away at the time of the open day he had recruited a volunteer who had experience with emergency planning and had booked an appointment with Iain Lawrie (Resilience Co-ordinator) at the IW Council who is willing to help them formulate an emergency plan for the village.

### **06/2015 To appoint an IWALC representative.**

The Clerk explained that following Mr Cleaver's resignation the Parish Council were without an IWALC representative.

Mr Earnshaw reported that although he had done the role in the past and that he found it interesting he didn't have the spare time to fulfil the role at present.

Miss Ryan said that she may be interested in taking on the role but would require more information.

The Clerk agreed to ask an IWALC rep to contact Miss Ryan with some further information.

**07/2015 To appoint a planning committee.**

The Clerk informed Councillors that since Mr Cleaver's resignation the planning committee was short of members.

Mrs Parker asked if any Councillors wished to volunteer for the planning committee.

Mr Earnshaw, Mr Campbell, Mr Thomson and Miss Ryan all volunteered.

Mr Earnshaw proposed that himself, Mr Campbell, Mr Thomson and Miss Ryan all be appointed to the planning committee.

2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Parker

**RESOLVED.**

**08/2015 To discuss proposal for the future provision of public toilets in St Helens.**

Mr Thomson asked that the parish council explore the possibility of asking the Vine Inn to let the public use their toilets.

He believe that the parish council could make significant savings by closing the public toilets on the Green and paying the Vine a fee to allow the public to use their facilities. He stated that this already happened in Seaview where the Seaview Hotel provided public toilet facilities.

Mr Thomson believes that the building will require some maintenance work in the coming years, the costs of which would have to be paid by the parish council.

The Clerk stated concern about disabled access and the opening times of the Vine Inn as they open at Midday. She also stated concern over the storage of the items currently stored in the store room at the rear of the toilets.

Mr Bacon asked that the idea be explored with the Vine Inn, the Sports Association and the Isle of Wight Council as they were offering a scheme of this sort and may be able to be fund through that scheme.

Mrs Parker offered to approach the Vine Inn in the first instance to gauge whether they would be interested in offering this service.

Mr Bacon proposed that the proposal is further investigated and the findings reported back to the parish council.

2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Parker

**RESOLVED**

**09/2015 To approve Co-option notice.**

The Clerk reported that the parish council were now in the position to start the co-option process as no election had been called.

She asked that Councillors approve the notice to advertise co-option for the vacancy on the parish council.

Miss Ryan noted that the date was 2014 and not 2015 on the notice.

The Clerk said she would correct the date.

Mr Bacon proposed that the notice be approved with the date amended to 2015.

2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Campbell

## **RESOLVED**

### **10/2015 Clerk's report.**

The Clerk reported that Mr Gaskin, who installed the Christmas Trees, had reported that the installation fixing on the East Green was loose in the ground and had a degree of movement. It required cementing in. Mr Thomson promised to investigate.

The Clerk also reported that a bin lorry had been driving on the Green to collect rubbish from the waste bins. She had reported to Island Roads who had reprimanded the driver and promised to refrain from driving on the Green in future. They had also promised to investigate the damage and make reparations where necessary.

### **11/2015 Financial report – To receive report and approve any payments due.**

The Clerk reported that the bank reconciliation had been undertaken and that the balance as of the 29<sup>th</sup> December stood at £24644.07. The Clerk reported that the new bank account was open and the Lloyds account was in the process of being closed and funds transferred over. This may take a while as standing orders and direct debits needed to be transferred. As Mr Cleaver had left the parish council he was no longer a signatory and an opening float of £2500 had been transferred to the new account to enable payments to be made by the appointed signatories before the Lloyds account is closed.

#### **Payments Due January 2015**

Island Roads	Christmas Lighting	£108.00
Island Roads	Bin emptying	£340.20
Lisa Dyer	Office/Broadband (Oct/Dec)	£45
St Helens Parish Council	New account Float (pre closure)	£2500
St Helens Community Centre	Hall hire –parish plan open day	£18
Easycleaners	Toilet cleaning	£606.67

Mr Campbell proposed that all payments be approved as per report.

2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Parker

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

### **12/2015 Councillor's report and items to be included in future agenda.**

Mr Campbell reported that the potholes in Vine Road had been repaired and were loose again within days. He stated he believed they were a hazard to pedestrians as the road was poorly lit and the lack of pavement forces pedestrians to use the carriageway which has large holes in it. He believed that it would only be a matter of time before someone was injured.

Mr Bacon reported that he had now had copies of the 4 sets of Byelaws relating to the Green if Councillors or the Clerk would like a copies.

He also reported that he had been around the Youth Club building and were still trying to recruit members for a local committee to take over the running of the Youth Club. The committee needs more members and is hoping to attract people a chair and people with building or finance experience to help the committee move forward. Mrs Parker offered to join the committee.

Mr Bacon also reported that Duver Road will be closed for a further 3 weeks and work would continue until March. Island Roads have taken responsibility for the un-registered part of the road by the culvert and clearance work will be undertaken.

Mr Earnshaw reported that during a recent football match on the Green a player had suffered a broken leg. This wasn't during an official game and the pitch was waterlogged. Who decides on whether the pitch is playable?

The Clerk replied that she was unsure and that the pitch on the Green wasn't included in the weekly reports of pitches received from the IW Council. Mr Bacon added that as the Green was open to all for recreation it would be very difficult to put controls on when the pitch could be played on.

Mr Earnshaw also mentioned that there would be a revised planning application for the proposed developments on St Helens Duver. There is a public meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January in Bembridge to go through the proposals.

Mrs Parker added that there was also a BHAG meeting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January and representatives from the parish council have been asked to attend. Mr Thomson stated that he believed the parish council should not attend as they had an obligation to remain impartial.

Miss Ryan reported that she had been approached by a local fisherman regarding the recent installation of water turbines of the south coast of the Island. They had restricted fishing activity in the area and the restrictions had had an impact on local fisherman, particularly as the area the turbines are sited in is rich in crab. Mr Bacon said that in his role as local Councillor he was already looking into this and would be looking into this further.

Mr Thomson reported that he would be planting the donated trees before the end of the month.

He also reported that there was still no action on the drop kerb on Downsview Road. The Clerk suggested that this be added to the Highways section of the parish plan.

Mr Thomson also asked whether there could be list of Councillor attendances added to the parish newsletter.

**13/2015 Planning – TCP/01999/D - P/01506/14** Kenwood, Lower Green Road, St. Helens.  
Alterations extension at first floor level on south elevation to provide additional bedroom.

Mr Bacon declared an interest in planning matters as he is on the planning committee at the IW Council and left.

**No Comment**

**TCP/15102/A - P/01507/14** Rosemarie, Lower Green Road, St. Helens.

Extension at first floor level on south elevation to provide additional bedrooms

**No Comment.**

**Meeting closed at 8.40pm.**