

St Helens Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held at 7pm on the 13th April 2015 at St Helens Sports Pavilion.

In attendance:

Chair: Mrs Carole Parker

Councillors: Cllr Bacon, Mr Campbell, Mr Earnshaw, Mr Robertson, Miss Ryan, Mr Thomson.

Clerk: Mrs Dyer

Four members of the public.

44/2015 Apologies for Absence.

None received.

45/2015 Declaration of Interests.

None received.

46/2015 To approve the minutes of the meetings on

I. 9th March 2015

Mr Thomson reported that he had concerns that some things that were said by Councillors at meetings were not recorded in the minutes. He thought that the Councillors should follow the rules of debate more closely and stop talking over each other as it is very difficult for the Clerk to keep track of the debate with everyone talking at once.

Mrs Parker confirmed that she had spoken to the Clerk about this and that they had agreed to try recording the meetings.

Mr Bacon and Miss Ryan offered use of their Dictaphones.

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

2nd Mr Bacon

6 For

1 against

RESOLVED – Minutes signed as true and correct.

II. 30th March 2015

Minute 43/2015 Mr Earnshaw reported that he said the maintenance of the greens was **not** of a good standard, not of a good standard as reported in the minutes.

The Clerk confirmed that it was her mistake and that not of a good standard had been written in the meeting notes.

Mr Campbell proposed the minutes be approved with the amendment above.

2nd Miss Ryan.

4 for

1 against

2 abstentions.

RESOLVED – Minutes be approved with amendment.

47/2015 Public Forum.

A member of the public thought that if the parish council take over the mowing of the Greens then they should be added to the Commons Register as part owners of the Green. As this would open up funding streams not available to the IW Council. This would give the parish council greater control of what happens on the Green.

A member of the public raised concerns that if the parish council became part owners of the Green they would have to take on a lot of liabilities, would need to employ a full time clerk and costs could escalate.

A member of the public reported that the IW Council do not insure the car boot sales, they have separate public liability insurance.

48/2015 To consider purchasing signs provided by the K9 anti- dog fouling campaign.

Mrs Parker explained that Jillie Wheeler had attended the March meeting and explained her K9 –Anti Fouling Campaign. The area specific signs were £10 each to purchase.

The Clerk and Miss Ryan agreed to tour the village to find suitable locations to place the signs.

Mr Bacon proposed that 10 anti-dog fouling signs are purchased.

2nd Mr Thomson

RESOLVED

49/2015 To receive updates and discuss the grass cutting service on St Helens Green.

I. To approve specification.

Mrs Parker proposed that the specification be approved with the amendment to the phrase in part 1 from

The Contractor shall cut the grass on 20 occasions per annum (schedule of times to be agreed) in all locations with reasonable care and skill expected of professional grass cutters **with the knowledge that St Helens Green is used for sports activities* and without damaging the existing surface.

The Contractor shall cut the grass on 20 occasions per annum (schedule of times to be agreed) in all locations with reasonable care and skill expected of professional grass cutters **to a standard suitable for the sports activities in appropriate areas* and without damaging the existing surface.

2nd Miss Ryan

RESOLVED approved with above amendments.

II. To approve draft contracts.

Cllr Bacon and Mr Robertson pointed out many phrases within the draft contract that would need amending to make it legally watertight. With both having a background in the legal profession they promised to suggest some amendments to the contract , liaise with the Clerk and bring back to Council for approval next month.

III. To approve contractor.

Mr Campbell proposed that The Landscape Group's quote for 20 cuts at the rate of £2960 + VAT per annum be accepted for the period 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016.

2nd Miss Ryan

RESOLVED

IV. To discuss IW Council contribution.

Mr Thomson proposed that the Parish Council write to the IW Council seeking assurance that their contribution towards the cost of grass cutting would be guaranteed in future years.

2nd Mrs Parker **RESOLVED**

50/2015 To discuss improving parish council communications and publicity.

Mr Thomson said that he thought the best way to improve communications was to have a larger notice board positioned centrally within the village. He reported that he had spoken to the owners of the Post Office who would be happy to host a notice board on the side of the Post Office building for a fee of £100 per annum. He would like to the Clerk to investigate the cost of notice boards and report back at the next meeting.

Councillors agreed it was a good idea and that contract would need to be drawn up which was agreeable to the parish council and the post office.

The Clerk said she would investigate the cost of boards and put on the next agenda.

51/2015 To discuss bench painting.

Mr Thomson reported that all of the village benches required painting and thought the best course of action was that every Councillor agreed to undertake the painting of one bench and that the parish council should advertise for volunteers to do any that remain.

He suggested using the Hurst Vouchers awarded to the parish council for winning the Best Kept Village award to purchase the equipment required.

52/2015 To appoint IWALC representative.

Mr Robertson said he would be willing to take on the role but would be unable to attend every meeting. Mr Earnshaw said he would be happy to attend meetings in Mr Robertson's absence.

RESOLVED – Mr Robertson appointed IWALC representative.

53/2015 Grant application. To approve Resilient Communities Fund – Central southern England Grant supplies list and application.

Councillors were concerned that there were too few wind up torches and lanterns on the list and suggested that quantity be raised from 10 to 20.

St. Helen's Parish Council. Emergency Planning Supplies.

Emergency Grab Bag with 50 Thermal Blankets	2no @£49.14p	= £98.28p
Reflective armband. First aider	6no @ £7.98p	= £47.88p
Emergency co ordinator	10no @£7.97p	= £79.70p
Hi Vis vest to EN471	10no @£2.70p	= £27.00p
Two Way radios. Midland G8E PMR 446	7no @£79.95	= £559.65p
Wind up torches. Silverline3led	20no @ £4.19p	= £ 83.80p
Compact wind up lantern LED code ME 158	20no @£9.18p	= £ 183.60p
Identity badges	50no @£3.50p	= £175.00p
plus design fee		= £ 30.00p
Lanyards	50no @£1.95p	= £97.50p
White boards 90cm x 60cm	4no @£50.34p	=£201.36p

Supplier. Create and Craft		
Graphite marker pens set code 289006	4no@ £15.99p	= £ 63.96p
Notebooks and pens. WH Smith		= £40.00p
	total	<hr/> £ 1687.73p

Mr Thomson proposed that the emergency supplies list be approved and that a grant application for £1687.73 is made to the SSE Resilient Communities Fund to cover the cost of supplies.

2nd Miss Ryan **RESOLVED**

54/2015 Clerk's report.

Annual parish meeting will be on the 11th May 2015. If possible could all Councillors give a report on where they have got to with their areas of the Parish plan.

The toilets on the Village Green had been blocked and DARE's had been called to clear the blockage at a cost of £60.

Update from Island Roads

Works to repair the fence on Duver Hill and repair works to Old Church Green should be going ahead shortly. New rubbish bins will be installed.

Island Roads planned to reseed the damaged area of the Old Church Green. The Clerk reported that she had asked for turf instead of seed as the area is unsightly and the summer season is fast approaching and a vow renewal is due to take place on Old Church Green in early May.

Downsview Rd - The parish council will need to either apply to the NIIR for the addition of these signs as they haven't been added to register. Individual numbering is outside the contract spec and will not be undertaken by Island Roads without addition to the network road improvement register. There are currently 1100 outstanding items on the register at the minute.

Fakenham Farm- The standing water will be investigated.

Vine Rd – Potholes will be filled on within 28 days

Kerbstones – job was put in months ago and nothing done. Old stones will be taken away new stones will be concreted in. The district Steward Matt Shaw has chased with relevant dept.

55/2015 Finance report – To receive report and approve any payments due.

Finance Report

Please see attached bank reconciliation.

The Clerk confirmed that the balance at the end of the financial year stood at £19900.66 with approximately £770 worth of cheques relating to the 2014/15 year outstanding. She reported that the bank accounts had been reconciled and confirmed that the Lloyds account was now closed.

She reported that she would present the full financial summary for 2014/15 at the May Parish meeting.

Schedule of payments.

St Helens Sports Association	Hall Hire Feb 14-Jan 15	£120.00	Chq 008
St Helens Sports Association	Hall Hire Feb/Mar 15	£24.00	Chq009
DARE's Ltd	Drain clearance toilets	£60.00	chq010
Martin Rivers	Landscaping Old Church Green	£240.00	EP
Easycleaners	Toilet cleaning	£606.67	SO
Southern Electric	Electricity toilets on Green	£82.37	Chq007
HMRC	National Insurance	£1.02	EP

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

2nd Mrs Parker –

RESOLVED all payments approved as per report.

56/2015. Councillor's reports.

Mr Campbell asked whether the purchase of a dog bin for the end of Broomlands Path could be put on the agenda? The Clerk said she would look into the costs of bin purchase and collection and put on future agenda.

Cllr Bacon reported that the bins on the Old Church Green and the beach had overflowed over the Easter break. Mr Thomson shared these concerns and said that the problem was caused due to lack of bin capacity. He thought the parish council should look into providing a large bin for the Summer season. The Clerk would look into costs and put on a future agenda.

Mr Earnshaw felt that a note should be put on the agenda encouraging the public to restrict their questions during the public forum to matters that are on the agenda. They should also be encouraged to submit questions in writing or contact Councillors before the meetings with queries so research can be undertaken and an answer given.

Mr Earnshaw also reported rubbish being left behind following Sports Fixtures on the Green.

Miss Ryan reported that she had received concerns from the landlord of The Vine Inn regarding the public using the toilet facilities in the pub as the toilets there are for customers only. He would like better signage indicating the location of the public toilets.

Miss Ryan also reported that there was a quantity of cigarette ends and broken glass on the path alongside the Vine from Upper Green Rd to Broomlands Close. Clerk to write to the owners of the Vine Inn asking them to ensure the litter is cleared.

Mr Thomson reported that following the IW Council cuts to the landscaping services around the village the residents of Nelson's Quay were happy to take on the maintenance of the triangle of land adjacent to their properties.

Mr Thomson also wanted it known that he was unhappy with any restrictions placed upon the public forum and thought that the format should remain as it is.

Meeting closed at 9.12pm