

# St Helens Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at St Helens Sports Pavilion.**

**115/2015 Meeting open and adjourned due to Clerk sickness.**

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**Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at St Helens Sports Pavilion.**

**116/2015 Apologies for absence.**

Joe Robertson sent his apologies.

**117/2015 Declarations of interest.**

Miss Ryan said she had a personal interest in the Village of Angels as she had taking over the organising of it this year.

**118/2015 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th September 2015.**

Mrs Parker proposed that the minutes be signed as true and correct.

2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Campbell

RESOLVED – Minutes signed as true and correct.

**119/2015 Public Forum.**

A member of the public asked what the parish had done in response to the survey conducted 18 months ago which highlighted that that villagers were most concerned about protecting the village greens.

The Clerk explained that the survey was the initial step in the development of the parish plan and that a sub group had been formed looking at the Green and the parish council look forward to seeing the detail of their proposals in the plan.

A member of the public asked whether the hire agreement for the wedding on Old Church Green stipulated that no cars should be on the Green?

The Clerk said she couldn't remember the exact detail of the agreement as it was written some time ago but that it does clearly stipulate that the Green should be left in the original state it was hired in. She has checked the day following the wedding and was happy that they had left the area in a good clean state.

A member of the public raised concerns about damage to the Green caused by cars parking on the grass near the car park and suggested that boulders be installed to stop any further damage.

The Clerk will contact the council and ask whether something can be done.

A member of the public reported that water was running near the top of Station Rd leaving the pavement slippery with algae.

Clerk to contact the Council and Island Roads to investigate.

A member of the public reported that a bungalow on West Green had laid a pipe across the road that discharged onto the village Green. He believed this to be illegal and a risk to public health and wanted the parish council to investigate the matter.

The Clerk said that the parish council had no powers over this issue but would report to the relevant department at County Hall for investigation and enforcement if necessary.

A member of the public asked about the Local Council Tax Support scheme and whether it affects people on income support.

Cllr Bacon explained that a formal consultation was taking place outlining a number of options and suggested that people comment on the consultation.

### **120/2015 Chairman's report.**

The Chair reported that the village had won prizes for the second year running in the Best Kept Village awards.

St Helens had been awarded "Best Kept large Village" and the "Best Kept Village Award".

He also reminded Councillors about the importance of reading the emails sent to them by the Clerk.

### **121/2015 To discuss plans for the Village of Angels Christmas event.**

Mr Earnshaw explained that he had been to the initial meeting last week and that a committee had been partly formed. He proffered an invitation for all Councillors to become involved and join the committee.

Miss Ryan explained that she was too unwell to make the meeting but that some plans had been finalised and agreed with the previous organiser.

She explained that in the past the monies raised had gone to St Helens Tots but this year it had been agreed that the monies raised would go into a pot and that any local groups could apply for funding. Monies are needed toward printing costs of maps and a leaflet to send round the village encouraging people to make/display an angel.

It was reported that a suggestion had been made to have the opening ceremony at the same time the Christmas lights were switched on. The Clerk said this may be difficult as the lights were connected by Island Roads and in previous years it had been difficult to get the timings correct. However, she would enquire.

The date of the 6<sup>th</sup> December was agreed for launching the Village of Angels.

Mr Thomson said he believed that some of the monies raised should have been held over to fund the start up costs for this year.

Mr Bacon agreed and suggested that the committee consider undertake some forward planning if this is to be an annual event to ensure start up costs are covered..

The Clerk was asked to investigate the possibility and costs of installing a tree stand on the football green and having one large tree in the centre of the village rather than two. Clerk to get costs and relevant permissions and report back to council.

**122/2015 To discuss changing the meeting venue.**

No proposal.

**123/2015 To approve costs for parish council stickers for signs and bins.**

Councillors expressed a desire to have “provided by St Helens Parish Council” on the bins and signs purchased by the parish council to inform local tax payers which bins and signs were the responsibility of the parish council.

Miss Ryan proposed that a £30 allowance be approved from the budget to purchase stickers to add to the signs and bins provided by the parish council.

2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Thomson

**RESOLVED**

**124/2015 To appoint a parish council representative to lay a wreath at the Remembrance service.**

**RESOLVED** – The Chairman, Mr Earnshaw, to lay the wreath at the Remembrance service.

**125/2015 To discuss the draft landscaping specification for grounds maintenance in 2016/17.**

The Clerk informed Councillors that the IW Council had agreed to undertake the required improvements to Broomlands Path, therefore, a specification was not needed for footpaths.

Cllr Bacon suggested that all contracts be restricted to one year as the IW Council had been successful in a tourism DEBID grant and they may be in a position to take over some of the grounds maintenance in future years.

Mr Campbell proposed that the Grounds maintenance and grass cutting contract specification and the Design and Planting contract specification be approved.

2<sup>nd</sup> Miss Ryan.

**RESOLVED** – Specifications approved. Clerk to request quotes from contractors.

**126/2015 IWC Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2016/17 Consultation.**

No comment.

**127/2015 Clerk’s report.**

The Clerk reported that the Biffa bin on Old Church Green had now been removed and that she had received some correspondence from local residents reporting that that they had found the bin had helped ease the rubbish problems suffered over previous summers and they hoped it would be installed again from May – September next year.

## 128/2015 Finance report and approval of payments.

Finances Due October 2015			
S/O	£666.96	Lisa Dyer	Wages
SO	£606.67	EasyCleaners	Toilet Cleaning
EP	£888.00	Landscape Group	Landscaping
EP	£240.00	Mr M Rivers	Landscaping
chq 051	£18.00	Biffa	Bin collection
Chq 052	£300.00	St Helens Sports Assoc	Defibrillator contribution
Chq 053	£84.00	St Helens Sports Assoc	Hall hire

Mrs Parker proposed that all invoices be approved for payment.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Bacon.

**RESOLVED** – All invoices approved for payment.

## 129/2015 Councillor reports.

Mr Thomson raised

- that the damage to Old Church Green hadn't been fixed yet. Can Nodes Point be chased to repair the damage?
- The IW Council have done a good job of reseeding the West green.
- Can the car boots be alternated annually between the football and West Green as the West Green needs a rest.
- Mr Hickman had counted 39 signs around the Old Church Green and the Duver - can we look into how many are actually needed and remove any unnecessary signs?

Mr Earnshaw reported water on the Village Green. Clerk to report to the IW Council parks department.

Miss Ryan reported that

- The banner on the railings at Broomlands Close is obscuring the view for drivers. Clerk to contact the school and ask for its removal.

Mr Campbell reported

- The National Trust Bridge at the bottom of Gaggen Path is unsafe and requires repair. Clerk to report to the National Trust.
- Can the parish council discuss installing a climbing frame in the play park?

Mr Bacon reported that

- He had spoken to the local PCSO to see if any restrictions could be put in Broomlands Close to restrict traffic at school drop off and pick up times? They are looking in to it.
- The head at the school feels the problems with speed and inconsiderate at Broomlands Close had improved recently since the PCSO's had been visiting.

**Meeting Closed at 9pm.**