

# St Helens Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at St Helens Sports Pavilion.

## In attendance

**Chair:** John Earnshaw

**Councillors:** Mr Campbell, Mrs Parker, Mr Robertson, Miss Ryan, Mr Thomson and Mrs Yates.

**Clerk:** Lisa Dyer

11 Members of the public.

## 130/2015 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies from Councillor Bacon he is going away to the mainland on IW Council business.

## 131/2015 Declarations of Interest.

None received.

## 132/2015 Planning - TCP/11822/Y, P/00637/14.

The Duver Marina, Bembridge Harbour, The Duver, St. Helens, Isle Of Wight, PO331YB

Revised plans confirming the omission of a proposed dwelling house at The Old Boat House and 6 industrial units at Selwyn boatyard (Revised description; revised site area; updated ecology report).

The Chair altered the order of the agenda as many of the members of the public had come to hear this item.

Mr Earnshaw stated that he saw nothing in the revised application that would alter the parish council's objections that were submitted in the summer. He asked all Councillors whether they had a different view, they were all in agreement.

The Chair asked for comments from the public.

The Chair of the Bembridge Harbour Trust made the following points outlining the harbour trusts objections to the plans.

- There are no material improvements in the proposal, all policy objections stand.
- There is now less employment space: Employment buildings have been removed, resulting in a net loss of employment space rather than a gain and therefore loss of the job creation logic.
- The new proposed legal agreement restricts benefits. Analysis shows the gain if facilities offered is minimal and the supposed positive impact on the economy remains unexplained and unquantified.
- The terms of the agreement fail to ensure delivery. It fails to bind the land, and banks, and the companies involved critical to enforceability of this type of agreement.
- The Harbour Company itself is not assured of getting even these limited benefits, whilst dredging, pontoons, groynes, wharfs remain unaddressed.
- Profits of as much as £1,500,000 still remain unaccounted for, according to independent assessment, the Council's own advisers noted comments that support this view. This is the Harbours last land cashed in, facts must be accurately tied down as there is no other contingency left to deal with current and future problems.

The harbour trust would therefore urge the Parish to maintain its objection.

Mr Gully added that as a precaution the parish council ask the Planning authority that, if it were ultimately minded to grant consent, it should only do so when accurate figures are available so as to match harm and good, ensure that money does not leak out of the Harbour unintentionally, but is delivered into the harbour as real tangible benefit, for the betterment of the community, the local economy, the harbour and of course not forgetting the trading of applicants own Harbour Company.

Mrs Parker proposed that the decision to object to the plans taken in the summer withstands. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Campbell.

**RESOLVED**

**133/2015 Minutes – To agree the minutes of the meetings held on the 12th and the 26th October 2015.**

**Minute 121/2015** Miss Ryan raised that the date of the 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015 for the Village of Angels was not agreed as stated in the minutes. It was raised but not agreed upon.

**Minute 122/2015** Mr Thomson was unhappy with the minutes as he believed Mr Earnshaw made a proposal to change venue and was unhappy that the content of the discussion was omitted.

The Clerk stated that the minutes were a record of decisions made by the Council and not a verbatim account of everything said. Mr Earnshaw made no formal proposal and neither did any other Councillor. Therefore no proposal was recorded.

Mr Thomson said he would like his comments noted in the minutes for this meeting and the Clerk agreed. He also stated that he would not vote to agree minutes that he didn't believe were accurate.

Miss Ryan proposed that the minutes be approved with amendments to 121/2015 as discussed.

2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Campbell

**RESOLVED – Minutes agreed with amendments.**

**134/2015 Public Forum.**

A member of the public raised concerns over the parish council failing to ensure the Byelaws relating to the Green were adhered to. The Clerk stated that the parish council has no powers relating to the Green and that the IW Council were the only body permitted to take enforcement action with regard to the Village Green and any contravention of Byelaws.

He was unhappy that the parish council implied that the Byelaws relating to the Green don't apply until the parish plan comes into force.

Mr Earnshaw confirmed this wasn't the case and asked if there was any issue in particular that needed to be raised.

The member of the public raised concerns over the soakaway installed on West Green and asked what would happen if every property fronting the Green installed a soakaway discharging onto the Green?

The Clerk confirmed that the matter had been reported to the IW Council and they had investigated.

**135/2015 To receive update and agree on village Christmas decorations.**

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Alex Minns regarding whether the parish council could install a new tree anchor on the football green, he is open to discussion about this and has suggested we meet with Nigel Leppard on the Green to discuss siting etc... However, the parish council would be responsible for the cost. She did not believe there was enough time to get quotes in and start work before December but believed the parish council should explore the idea for future years.

The Clerk also reported that she had checked the Christmas lights and at present the parish council have one set of warm white lights that work and two sets of coloured lights with approx 50% of the bulbs working.

She had found a set of 960 lights on the internet for around half the price paid last year including postage they come to £44.49 from a company called Charlies Direct.

Quotes for Christmas Trees and Connection.

Connection only £124.26

Thompson trees £185 each including delivery + connection = £ 519.26 These would require installation and disposal by the parish council or by contractor at additional cost.

Mr P Gaskin has quoted £450 to include installation and disposal but the trees would require connection to the lighting circuit costing £124.26 by Island Roads. Total =£574.26

Island Roads had quoted for a complete service costing £900.12

Mr Thomson stated that the tree anchor on the East Green may require some enforcement with postcrete. He asked whether Councillors would be happy for him to purchase some postcrete with the vouchers won in the best kept village awards.

Miss Ryan proposed that Mr Gaskin is asked to supply the trees as quoted and that the vouchers be used to purchase some postcrete to reinforce the tree anchor.

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

**RESOLVED.**

#### **136/2015 To discuss painting the anchor at Nelson's Quay.**

The Clerk explained that Mr Thomson had contacted her suggesting that Councillors undertook the work to improve the appearance of the anchor at Nelson's Quay. He suggested that a group of Councillors and volunteers get together and strip and paint the anchor next spring.

Mr Robertson said he thought the anchor would require a complete overhaul as it is rusty and in a poor state.

Mr Thomson proposed that the parish council advertised for volunteers to undertake the improvement work with a team of councillors next spring.

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

**RESOLVED**

#### **137/2015 Approval of the bi-annual newsletter for printing.**

Mr Thomson stated that he thought the comments regarding beach cleaning and grass cutting were too political and should be amended. He would like the references to central government cuts removed.

Mr Campbell noted that his name had been misspelt and Mrs Yates noted that her telephone number was incorrect.

Mr Earnshaw proposed that the newsletter be approved for printing and distribution with the amendments outlined by Councillors.

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

**RESOLVED**

#### **138/2015 Clerk's report.**

The Clerk gave updates on the following:

### **Gaggen Path.**

The East Wight Landscape Partnership "Down to the Coast" scheme has been successful in its grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. They will be working with the National Trust to improve the public footpath known locally as the Gaggen Path, from Duver Road down onto the Duver. The project will commence next spring and the improvement work includes the resurfacing of the path and replacing the bridge over the creek inlet. This work will also enable pushchairs and the less mobile to more readily access the Duver without using the highway.

The National Trust are aware of the dangerous rails and have plans to rectify shortly.

They are also in discussion with Island Roads about fixing the rustic fencing at the top of Duver Hill

### **Soakaway pipe on West Green**

She has reported the pipe to Parks department, Island Roads and environmental health and has also spoken to DARE's the contractors installed the pipe.

The pipe was a replacement of an existing collapsed clay soakaway pipe, most if not all properties there have soakaways discharging onto the area by the horseshoe trail.

DARE's were told by the council (property services dept) that highways approval was needed which they applied for and received.

Both the parks department and the environmental health department have investigated and are happy with the works done although they will continue checks to ensure no "grey water" is being discharged and will take enforcement action if any is required.

### **Damage to Old Church Green**

Sign has been removed by Island Roads.

Nodes point have employed a contractor to undertake the repair work, the manager is going to speak to them and let us know when the work is scheduled for.

### **139/2015 Finance report and to approve payments due.**

The Clerk explained that she had a large amount of supplies to buy for the emergency plan and that money needed to be loaded to the prepaid credit card in order for her to make the necessary purchases. She suggested £2000 would be adequate to cover all of the supplies needed plus any other expenses such as ink and Christmas lights which needed to be ordered.

Royal British legion	Remembrance Day Wreath	Chq 054	£50
Biffa	Bin collection	Chq 055	£15.12
	2 invoices		<u>£33.12</u>
			£48.24 in total
Martin Rivers	Landscaping		£240.00
Transfer to alto card	Emergency plan supplies		£2000
Easy Cleaners	Toilet cleaning		£606.67

Mr Campbell proposed all invoices be approved for payment.

2<sup>nd</sup> Miss Ryan

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

### **140/2015 Councillor's reports.**

Mrs Yates asked whether there had been an update on the running water on Station Road as the road was very slippery for pedestrians and would only get worse when temperature drop. The Clerk will chase up Island Roads.

Miss Ryan reported that her email account may have been hacked and she could not access her emails at present. The Clerk promised to look into setting up a parishcouncil.net email address.

Miss Ryan reported that Broomlands Path had been closed by the council and enquired why? Mr Campbell said it was in the process of being resurfaced.

Miss Ryan also requested that only approved minutes be placed on the notice board as the village of angels launch date was wrong in the minutes and it had caused a bit of confusion locally. Councillors felt that draft minutes should be available but clearly marked as draft minutes.

Mr Campbell reported a loose metal utility cover near the post office it clangs very loudly when driven over and is causing a noise nuisance to local residents.

Mr Campbell also asked whether the Clerk had received a response from the parks department regarding alternating the car boot sale from West Green to the Football Green. Clerk to chase.

Mr Earnshaw reported that he had concerns over the soakaway and overflow pipes on West Green and felt the parish council should monitor this closely. Clerk to contact County Hall and ensure that they monitor the situation and take enforcement action if necessary.

**Meeting closed 8.15pm.**