

St Helens Parish Council

Minutes of the planning committee meeting held at 6.45pm on Monday the 14th December 2015 held at St Helens Sports Pavilion.

In attendance:

Chair: Mr Earnshaw

Councillors: Mr Campbell and Miss Ryan

Apologies: Mrs Yates and Mr Thomson.

141/2015 Application No: P/01294/15 **Alt Ref:** TCP/18329/G

Location: 10 Downs View Road, St. Helens, Isle of Wight, PO331YE.

Proposal: First floor extension to enlarge bedroom on rear elevation; alterations.

No Comment.

Minutes of the full council meeting held at 7pm on Monday 14th December 2015 held at St Helens Sports Pavilion.

In attendance:

Chair: Mr Earnshaw

Councillors: Cllr Bacon, Mr Campbell, Mrs Parker, Miss Ryan.

142/2015 Apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Mrs Yates –work commitments and Mr Thomson – Holiday.

143/2015 Declarations of interest.

None received.

144/2015 Minutes – To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th November 2015.

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

2nd Miss Ryan

RESOLVED – minutes signed as true and correct.

145/2015 Public forum.

A member of the public congratulated the parish council on the village Christmas Trees as he thought they looked great this year. He also thanked Cllr Ryan for her efforts with the Village of Angels.

A member of the public also raised why there are car parking charges on the seafront over the winter when other areas do not have charges during the winter period.

Cllr Bacon informed him that there was an Islandwide review of planning going on at the moment with the aim to make parking charges fairer across the Island. This should hopefully be complete within 6 months.

It was also raised that the cricket poles were still up and that the agreement with the cricket club was that they were removed at the end of the season. The Clerk agreed to contact the club and ask for their removal.

146/2015 Landscaping 2016 – to receive quotes, to discuss and plan future landscaping provision.

The Clerk explained that although she had requested quotes from 4 companies for the amalgamated grass cutting contract and despite reminders and assurances that that companies would quote she had only received 2 quotations. As the quotes were in excess of £2500 she had concerns that the parish council's financial regulations may not be adhered to as they do not stipulate whether 3 quotes should be requested or 3 quotes received and therefore wished to clarify this before appointing a contractor. Therefore if Councillor's wished to continue with grounds maintenance next year they may wish to hold off appointing a contractor for the work until the next meeting. As the Design and planting quotes were under the £2500 threshold only having 2 quotes did not affect the council's ability to approve and appoint a contractor for this work.

Cllr Bacon suggested that this is clarified by amending the Standing Orders at the next meeting. The Clerk reported that the quotes she had received were very reasonable and would cost less than the 2 separate contracts they had running in 2015/16.

Mr Campbell reported concerns that if the parish council do not agree to carry on the grass cutting for the next financial year it will have a detrimental effect on the village. He reported that the grass at Colwell bay was only being cut 3 times a year and looked like a hayfield he would not like the Green to go the same way.

Mr Campbell proposed that the parish council resolve to continue with the maintenance of the Village Greens, Old Church Green and other areas as stipulated in the amalgamated landscaping specification for 2016/17 but hold off appointing a contractor until the January meeting.

2nd Mr Earnshaw.

RESOLVED - To continue with grounds maintenance in 2016/17.

- **Design and planting specification**

The Clerk explained that from the 4 companies asked to quote 2 quotes had been received from John O'Connor and The Landscape group.

John O'Connor had quoted for 2 planting options at a cost of £1161 + VAT and £2218.60 +VAT.

The Landscape Group had provided a quote at £969 + VAT.

Mr Campbell proposed that the Council agree to undertake the improvement works at Nelson's Quay and that the Landscape Group's quote for the works be approved.

2nd Mrs Parker

RESOLVED – The Landscape Group be awarded the contract for the work at Nelson's Quay.

147/2015 Emergency plan – to discuss and adopt a Parish Emergency Plan.

Agreed to defer the item until the next meeting.

148/2015 To receive an update and discuss the response to devolution plans drawn up by the IOW Council and the effect this may on facilities in St Helens.

The Clerk explained that there are plans from the IW Council to devolve most local non-essential services over to town and parish councils as they do not have the funds to maintain them. They are also offering any concessions to town and parish council's to help fund these services, however, the Clerk was unsure what concessions if any would apply to the St Helens area. The toilet block on the seafront was at most risk from the plans.

Cllr Bacon confirmed that the beach huts on the seafront are a Council concession and the contract for them is due to expire in 2017.

Councillors expressed concerns over the possible closure of the toilets as they were important for locals and visitors alike it was felt that the Council should review toilet provision and consider their options once more information is received.

It was agreed that the Clerk and Miss Ryan request a meeting with the relevant officers at County Hall to discuss this further and report back to full council at the next meeting.

- **Planning enforcement.** As there is no statutory duty to have planning enforcement the service has been hit by budgetary cuts at the IW Council and is now not able to deliver the level of service they had previously. IWALC have devised an all Island plan to fund additional planning enforcement services. The quoted cost to St Helens is £351. Councillors felt that a planning enforcement service was important and that the Clerk should contact IWALC and ask to be included in any further discussions to enable a decision to be made at a later date.
- **Seaside Award Accreditation**

The Clerk explained that she had been contacted by the IW Council as they will no longer fund the Blue Flag and Seaside Award schemes on local beaches they have asked if parish and town councils wish to fund the awards locally. The cost for St Helens to retain its accreditation is £550 approx. The awards are a tool to promote tourism and assure holiday makers and locals of water quality and cleanliness standards.

Cllr Bacon declared an interest as he offers holiday accommodation.

Mrs Parker thought it was a lot of money for nothing.

Cllr Bacon felt that local businesses should be contacted and asked if they wish to fund the scheme.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to Nodes Pint, Mill Rd Holiday park, Field Lane Holiday park, Priory Hotel and the Baywatch café and ask if they wish to contribute towards maintaining the award.

149/2015 Projects Councillors would like to be included in the budget for 2016/17.

Mr Campbell asked that funding some new play equipment be researched and included in budgetary options.

Cllr Bacon asked that the parish council explore employing someone on a short term part time contract for a few hours a week to manage the Youth Club regeneration project and also wished the parish council to explore updating the play equipment at the play park.

150/2015 Clerks Report.

The Clerk delivered updates on the following:

Station Road Algae - Matt Shaw our District Steward has had the matter reassigned to him and he has promised to put a salt bag where the water hits the pavement to stop it freezing in the short term and ensure the algae is cleaned. He has also promised to work with the IW Council to ensure a long term solution.

Parish Devolution Workshop - 1st March 2016

The HIOW Devolution Partnership will host a devolution workshop for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight parish and town councils on **Tuesday 1st March 2016** between 2.30pm – 5pm, in Ashburton Hall, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester. Please register your interest if you wish to attend. IWALC maybe sending a delegation on behalf of the IOW but this is undecided as yet.

Emergency Plan supplies

The Clerk has ordered and received many of the supplies for the emergency plan. She has received an unofficial yes from the Vicar regarding keeping the emergency plan supplies at the community

centre, although he has to put this to the committee. Until we get a key and firm permission the box will need storing in the village. Any volunteers? Councillor Bacon offered to store in the short term.

Posts on Football Green

Although the IW Council are open to the idea of placing wooden bollards at the edge of the car park to stop cars parking on the Green, they have said they have no money to undertake the work. They are in principle ok with the idea but it would need to be funded by the parish council.

Alternating the car boots

The Clerk had spoken to Alex Minns with regard to the idea of alternating the car boot sales between the West Green and Football Green, he was not in favour of the idea as any repairs to the football pitch (to get it to match standard) are likely to be more expensive and was one of the reasons why it was moved to the West Green.

151/2015 Finance Report and payments due.

The Clerk reported a considerable underspend so far this financial year, this is partly due to the uncertainty of grass cutting costs at the time of the precept request and partly due to the slow progress of the parish plan. Her projections suggest that there may be opportunity to undertake some of the projects stipulated on the village plan such as new play equipment, the planting and redesign of Nelson’s Quay and posts on the football green amongst others. We have also seen an increase in the amount of vat reclaimable, grant funding, credit interest and prize money. All of which have left the parish council in a good financial position as we approach the end of the financial year.

She requested that Councillors can let her have a comprehensive list of the objects they would like funding for within their areas of the parish plan. She will try to incorporate these within the budget for next year either by utilising the underspend or by including in the budget she will also look for any grant/match funding opportunities available. She requested these requests are given to her as soon as possible.

She reported that the balance of the account stands at £32577.82 and has been reconciled.

| Finances Due December 2015 | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| S/O | 606.67 | Easycleaners | Toilet Cleaning |
| Alto | 44.49 | Charlies Direct | Christmas lights |
| EP | 39.00 | The Print Store | Newsletter |
| Alto | 16.26 | Post Office | Stamps |
| Chq057 | 450.00 | Mr P Gaskin | Christmas Trees |
| Chq058 | 10.00 | SLCC IOW | Training |
| EP | 90.00 | Mrs L M Dyer | Office Broadband 6 months |
| EP | 18.04 | Mrs L M Dyer | Mileage |
| Alto | 199.99 | Boards Direct | Emergency plans supplies |
| Alto | 963.84 | EVAQ8 Ltd | Emergency plans supplies |
| Chq059 | 250.00 | St Helens Church | Graveyard maintenance contribution |
| Chq060 | 88.04 | Southern Electric | Electricity Toilets |

Cllr Bacon proposed that all invoices be approved for payment as per report.

2nd Miss Ryan.

RESOLVED – All payments approved as per report.

152/2015 Councillor's reports.

Mrs Parker reported that cars are tearing up the Lower West Green by continually parking on the wet ground near the cottage on the corner. Clerk will contact Nigel Leppard (parks manager) and ask him to investigate.

Miss Ryan reported that the school had removed the banner that was obscuring the exit of Broomlands Close but the Montessori Playgroup had put one up shortly after which is having the same effect.

Miss Ryan also reported that Angela Thomas attended the defibrillator training offered by the Sports Association.

Cllr Bacon raised that the cricket posts had not been removed by the cricket club as requested. He also raised that he appreciated the efforts of everyone that had made or hosted an Angel for the Village of Angels event as they had made him smile and cheered the village up!

Cllr Earnshaw reported that he had seen a letter in the IW County Press regarding the IW Council now charging pubs and restaurants for having tables and chairs sited outside. Cllr Bacon said this was not a new initiative and that the Council were now catching up with their billing system and collecting more efficiently.

Meeting closed at 20.45pm

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