

St Helens Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held at 7pm on 18th January 2016 at St Helens Sports pavilion.

In attendance:

Chair: Mr J Earnshaw

Councillors: Cllr Bacon, Mr Campbell, Mrs Parker, Mr Robertson, Mr Thomson, Mrs Yates.

Clerk: Mrs Dyer

9 Members of the public.

1/2016 Apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Miss Ryan – her mother is unwell.

2/2016 Declaration of interest.

None received.

3/2016 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2016.

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

2nd Mrs Yates.

RESOLVED – minutes signed as true and correct.

4/2016 Public Forum

A member of the public asked why the cricket poles had still not been removed from the cricket green months after the end of the season?

The clerk said she had contacted the cricket club and was told by Mr Millington that the club had decided not to remove them this season as the hole caps had been damaged by lawn mowers. She then contacted the IW Council to ask them to enforce the agreement that the poles are removed at the end of the season. Mr Matthews from the council had promised to take action.

A member of the public reported concerns over the possible bankruptcy of the Isle of Wight Council and whether the parish council were taking any action to protect the village green. He insisted that the parish council should be ready to act if needed as the Village Green is important to local people.

The Chairman said that this was very difficult to answer as no one knew what would happen if the IW Council ceased to exist.

A member of the public asked whether the parish council could request that the start time of the car boot sale be put back to 9am.

The Chair said they could request the start time be put back to 9am.

5/2016 Emergency Plan

i. To discuss and adopt village emergency plan.

Mr Thomson reported that some practice sessions are planned to ensure the plan works correctly.

Mrs Parker proposed the plan be adopted.

2nd Cllr Bacon.

RESOLVED – Emergency plan adopted.

ii. To discuss the purchase of first aid kits for the emergency plan.

Mr Campbell proposed that 2 large disaster kits be purchased for both of the reception centres as detailed on the plan and 4 smaller mobile kits for the mobile first aiders.

Disaster kits $64.80 \times 2 = 129.60$

Smaller responder kits $34.95 \times 4 = 139.80$

= 269.40

2nd Cllr Bacon

RESOLVED.

6/2016 To discuss and approve amendments to the parish council financial regulations.

The Clerk reported that the wording in one part of the parish council's financial regulations was ambiguous and needed clarification. She recommended the wording be changed from

1. CONTRACTS

a, Supply of goods, materials or contract for work.

| | | |
|------|-----------------|--|
| I. | £500 – 2500 | 2 written quotations |
| II. | £2500 -15000 | 3 written quotations |
| III. | £15000 - 138000 | as per formal tender |
| IV. | over £138000 | In accordance to EU procurement rules and advice |

should be sought at this level.

to...

1. CONTRACTS

a, Supply of goods, materials or contract for work.

| | | |
|------|-----------------|--|
| I. | £500 – 2500 | A minimum of 2 written quotations requested |
| II. | £2500 -15000 | A minimum3 written quotations requested |
| III. | £15000 - 138000 | as per formal tender |
| IV. | over £138000 | In accordance to EU procurement rules and advice |

should be sought at this level.

Mr Campbell proposed the amendments be approved as recommended by the Clerk.

2nd Mr Thomson.

RESOLVED

7/2016 To review landscaping quotes and appoint landscaping contractor for 2016/17.

The Clerk reported that she had invited further quotes and had now received 3 quotes for the amalgamated landscaping contract for Councillors to consider.

The Landscape Group £2960 +VAT

John O'Connor £4389+ VAT

Brightstone Landscaping £8060 + VAT

The clerk recommend The Landscape Groups quote be approved.

Mrs Yates proposed the Landscape Groups quote be approved and that they are appointed as the contractor for landscaping in the parish for 2016/17.

2nd Mr Campbell.

RESOLVED.

8/2016 Discretionary services. To receive update on meeting with IOW Council and discuss the way forward.

The Clerk reported that the meeting with County Hall regarding the closure of the toilet block on the Duver was slightly disappointing. Mrs Parker and she had met with Simon Dennis who had been tasked with devolving the public toilets to Town and Parish Councils. Unfortunately he did not have the authority to agree the parish council receiving any income from existing concessions such as the beach huts or car park income. We will have to negotiate these with the Council departments receiving the income. He thought there may be a problem with receiving any car park income as this was already tied up in a deal with Island Roads and the email response received from Alex Minns regarding beach hut income was not overly favourable. Mr Minns stated that he is prepared to talk to the parish council about it but made it clear in his email that this is about making savings as a result of austerity measures and that income is budgeted for. If existing income is passed over they will not make the savings they need to make so it may not be possible. The Clerk has requested another meeting with all relevant parties present to discuss more fully.

Relevant points from the meeting at County Hall were reported:

- The Council consider that all buildings are in a fit for purpose state. They will not undertake any extra maintenance/ repair work before handover.
- They are happy to have a tenancy at will in the interim period before the freehold is handed over.
- They are happy for us to redevelop the site as long as some public toilet provision remains and subject to normal planning consents etc...
- If toilets aren't handed over they will be shut on the 31st March this year.
- They are happy for town and parish council to set their own operating hours i.e. if we only wish to operate during holiday season etc...
- Happy for us to continue with their cleaning contract or appoint our own.
- If parish council do not take on toilet provision the building will be sold.

Mr Thomson commented that it would be bonkers for the parish council to take over the freehold of the toilet block. The toilets are in a poor state and this would put the parish council at financial risk.

Mr Earnshaw remarked that the toilets benefit those using the beach and boosts tourism as people will not visit anywhere without facilities.

Mr Bacon said that the parish council's objection seems to be paying for the toilets not keeping them open. Should explore other avenues of funding such as asking local businesses. He also suggested deferring the decision until more information regarding concessions has been received.

Mr Thomson asked that toilet provision for the village including the toilet block on the green be put on the next agenda.

9/2016 To confirm dates for upcoming parish council meetings and committee meetings.

The Clerk suggested that the February meeting be delayed a week as further meeting was being sort with County Hall re the devolution of the toilets and the annual budget could not be finalised until that meeting had been held.

It was agreed the February meeting be delayed until Monday 15th February 2016 and then the normal meeting schedule (2nd Monday of the month) be resumed.

RESOLVED - Full council Monday 15th then back to normal.

14th March, 11th Apr, 9th May, 13th June, 11th July, 12th Sep, 10th Oct, 14th Nov, 12th Dec.

10/2016 Clerk's report

The Clerk reported:

Mr Wade has resigned from the community centre committee a replacement will need to be found. The precept request will need to be submitted by 17th Feb 2016.

She has received a request from the primary school PTA for the parish council to contribute towards a cup for an Outstanding Pupil award.

He has chased Island Roads about the algae on Station Rd hopefully a salt bag now in place to stop the area icing over.

The water board will ensure the damage to the Old Church Green is repaired once the weather improves as the ground is too soggy at the moment.

Next month's council meeting agenda will mainly regard the budget, she requested that Councillors requests for the next agenda relate to the budget and finances unless urgent. All other items can be put forward for discussion later on in the year. The Clerk would like parish plan documents for typing up to present to council at the March meeting to enable the council to start with public consultation.

11/2016 Finance report

The Clerk reported that the account had been reconciled and that the balance stands at £29873.65
Finances due

£124.26 Island roads Christmas lighting connection.

£15.30 Mrs Parker Mileage (meeting at County Hall).

Mr Campbell proposed all payments be approved as per report.

2nd Mr Thomson

RESOLVED – All payments approved as per report.

12/2016 Exclusion of press and public – Staff pensions.

Confidential discussion regarding staff pensions – no decision reached. Deferred to future agenda.

Meeting closed 8.22pm.