

# St Helens Parish Council



Paper A

Ordinary meeting, 9 October 2017, 7.00pm at St Helens Community Centre

**Present: Councillors: M Anderson, J Coleman, V Duckett, C Hind, I Thomson,  
J Robertson, K Tutton, M Murwill [IWC];**

**Clerk: P Baxter;**

**Public: Fifteen.**

## Minutes

Action

### 102/17/18 Apologies-

There were none. The Clerk reported the resignation of Cllr Woodcock and explained the process now to be followed. It was **agreed** that the vacancy be advertised with IW Council Elections Manager to be informed.

PB

### 103/17/18 Declarations of interests and requests for dispensation-

There were none.

### 104/17/18 Minutes-

Cllr Hind proposed, seconded Cllr Coleman, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2017 be approved.

**Resolved – (6/0)** 1 Abstention (non-attendance). Carried.

### 105/17/18 Public participation-

Mr Williams made representations on sources of alternative funding for services at the Duver, and queried the retention of car park income by IW Council, and also made comment on the completeness and accuracy of some pages on the website. Mrs Thompson queried the groundworks ongoing at the rear of the Stonewood Gate site (the Clerk clarified the matter) and Mr Drewer(?) commented on vehicles parking on the Greens.

### 106/17/18 Ward Councillors' reports-

Cllr Murwill undertook to investigate the car park income suggestion of Mr Williams. The Floating Bridge continues to be investigated by engineers and an Inquiry continues; the Sandown school future is to be decided this month; the IW Council needs to find £7.5m savings or additional income to make a balanced budget for next year; The Duver toilets discussions are ongoing with local business but legal issues prevent further public comment. Cllr Murwill also suggested that the Parish Council consider taking over the management of the Village Greens.

### 107/17/18 Financial Statement to 30 September 2017

The Responsible Financial Officer presented a report on the Council's finances for the year to date and made specific observations on the management of Reserves. Cllr Tutton proposed, seconded Cllr Coleman, that a General Reserve be established within the accounts of £10,000.

**Resolved – Unanimous.**

### 108/17/18 External Audit Report 2016-17

The Responsible Financial Officer reported receipt of the satisfactory External Auditors report, accompanied by advice given to provide further detail in the Asset Register on dates of acquisition, disposals and locations of current assets. The Clerk undertook to make the appropriate adjustments for the next Register review at the end of this financial year.

PB

### 109/17/18 Public toilets consultation-

The Chairman signed the Notes of the public meeting held on 25 September, subject to an amendment being made to clarify the item noting the query, raised by Cllr Thomson, as to whether a Tenancy at Will arrangement could continue. The Clerk confirmed that Tenancies at Will are still possible should a decision be required to continue funding, as they may be required in the short-term whilst additional due diligence enquiries are made.

The Clerk reported that a number of responses had been received by email, letter, and online forms as well as hard-copy questionnaires. The Council considered additional steps to be taken to improve the raising of awareness of the opportunity to comment and **agreed** that Cllr Tutton would lodge an article with the County Press for publication. Cllr Tutton further proposed, seconded Cllr Robertson, that the Clerk be authorised to explore with potential Third Parties the provision of, and/or financial support towards, the public toilets with or without the existing facilities owned by the IW Council.

**Resolved- (5/1)** 1 abstention. Carried.

KT  
PB

### 110/17/18 Village Greens-

- a) The Clerk reported that discussions with IW Council officers were continuing on Greens issues such as parking. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would explore with a traffic/highways consultant whether there would be value in undertaking a professional consultancy review of current and possible future parking provision throughout St Helens, with a report back to the Council before commissioning such a study.
- b) Cllr Thomson withdrew his agenda Motion regarding use of Earmarked Reserves.

PB

### 111/17/18 Old Church Green

- a) The Clerk presented revised Conditions of Hire for the Green, noting the Hire Purpose now requires a recognition of the past heritage and tranquillity of the site.

**Resolved – (6/0)** 1 Abstention. Carried.

- b) Cllr Thomson proposed, seconded Cllr Anderson, that the Hire request for a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party be declined as unsuitable.

**Resolved – (4/2)** 1 Abstention. Carried.

- c) Cllr Robertson proposed, seconded Cllr Tutton, that the Clerk further explore with IW Council the nature of the Lease that appears to show the Parish Council as responsible for the maintenance and repair of the Tower.

**Resolved – Unanimous.**

PB

### 112/17/18 Planning applications received-

- a) The Council considered the following application:  
Application P/01055/17 Little Orchard, Eddington Road, St Helens PO33 1XS  
Cllr Hind proposed, seconded Cllr Thomson, that the Council object to that part of the application related to the removal of the front boundary wall, accessing Eddington Road in view of the impact on street-scene in the Conservation Area as evidenced in the Village Design Statement.

**Resolved – Unanimous.**

- b) There were no nominations to the IWALC Planning training course.

### 113/17/18 'My Life a Full Life' Forum

The Clerk explained the purpose of the Forum which was now seeking nominations from Parish Councils to attend its meetings. There were no nominations, pending confirmation to be received of a forthcoming meeting date which would be circulated by the Clerk when known.

PB

**114/17/18 Finance-**

The RFO presented the following invoices for authorisation which were **agreed**:

<b>Chq No</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
300120	Biffa (wheelie bin)	136.14
300121	BDO (external audit)	240.00
300122	The Coastal Gardener	415.00
300123	P Baxter (expenses)	125.75
300124	I Thomson (expenses)	8.62

**115/17/18 Maintenance-**

- a) The Clerk reported completion of the Latimer Road garden project and that Island Roads would shortly remove the redundant 'Victorian' street lamps from Nelsons Quay;
- b) The Clerk explained that two quotes had been received for the supply/installation, dressing and subsequent removal of a single Christmas tree in the centre of the village. Cllr Duckett proposed, seconded Cllr Robertson, that the quotation from Mr Gaskin be accepted, subject to permission from IW Council as landowner.  
**Resolved – (5/1) 1 Abstention. Carried.**

**116/17/18 Member matters-**

- a) No questions deposited.
- b) Cllr Coleman noted that the Rock Solid Youth Club had successfully launched, with 20 members and 15 regular attendees as a result of the 'seed money' grant made by the Parish Council. Cllr Coleman also reported that three young persons had taken advantage of the Brading Haven Yacht Club funded bursary scheme.
- c) The Car Boot Sale event was **agreed** as an item for the next agenda, following a planned management meeting on 6 November at County Hall.

**117/17/18 Key Messages-**

Cllr Tutton undertook to write a 'key messages' article for the parish magazine.

**118/17/18 Date of next meeting-**

The date of the next meeting, scheduled for 13 November 2017 was confirmed. The date of the Members' Corporate Planning Seminar to be held on 23 October was also confirmed.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

PB

KT

---

Signed ..... (Chairman) 13 November 2017