

St Helens Parish Council

Ordinary meeting, 12th February 2018, 7.00pm at St Helens Community Centre

Paper A



Present: Councillors: M Anderson, J Coleman, V Duckett, C Hind, J Robertson, J Spit,

I Thomson;

Clerk: R Priest

Public: Eight

Minutes

Action

170/17/18 Apologies-

Apologies received from Cllr Murwill.

171/17/18 Declarations of interests and requests for dispensation-

All members declared an interest in Agenda item 178/17/18 Finance, as residents of St Helens and Council Tax payers, and a dispensation was agreed and duly recorded.

172/17/18 Minutes-

Cllr Robertson referred to the minutes and Cllr Duckett proposed, seconded Cllr Coleman, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2018 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Resolved – Unanimous.

173/17/18 Chairman's Announcement-

Cllr Robertson welcomed the new clerk, Richard Priest, to the Council and thanked him for the preparation of the Agenda and supporting papers. The Clerk thanked members for their welcome, for P Baxter for his induction, and was looking forward to meeting members and working on specific issues.

174/17/18 Public participation-

Mr B Williams noted that there was a possibility of work being undertaken on the Village Green Common, and would this involve the Secretary of State, given the legal status of the Green. The Chairman clarified that this matter would be discussed under Member Matters and that the proposal was from the Isle of Wight Council and it would be their responsibility to ensure appropriate permissions are sought. Members of the public asked questions on the budget for Christmas Trees, and it was clarified that, due to requests from residents, provision was being made for additional lights at Nelson Quay, and the details of any proposal would be discussed at a future meeting.

175/17/18 Report of Isle of Wight Ward Councillor-

Cllr B Tyndall highlighted the financial situation face by the Isle of Wight Council, and the forthcoming budget which included cuts in the order of £8 Million, with further cuts being required to set a lawful and balanced budget in future years. Cllr Tyndall also noted the possibility of the IW Council developing a policy regarding Parking in St Helen's and understood their had been some local discussions, and Cllr Tutton noted that he would cover this under Member Matters.

176/17/18 Report of the Personnel Panel-

a/ Cllr Robertson reported on the work of the Personnel Panel, which included Cllr Coleman and Cllr Duckett; and that 21 applications had been received for the post of Clerk, and that 4 candidates had been interviewed, with R Priest being appointed. Cllr Robertson thanked his colleagues for their support during the process and P Baxter, the outgoing clerk for his work.

All

- b/ Cllr Robertson explained the background to the development of the Dignity at Work Policy, and the guidance received from Mrs Miles at IW Council, as well as the responsibility the Parish Council has to all current and future employees of the Parish Council. Cllr Robertson proposed, Cllr Thomson seconded.

Resolved – Unanimous

177/17/18 Draft Corporate Plan 2018-20-

Cllr Robertson explained the background to the plan, and stages of consultation, and thank all members and residents that contributed to its development. Members noted that, subject to financial considerations, projects would be taken forward as appropriate. Cllr Coleman proposed and Cllr Tutton seconded.

Resolved - Unanimous

178/17/18 Finance-

- a/ Members received the draft budget and discussed the increase in provision for Christmas Trees and Lighting, and Cllr Thomson asked for clarification on the background to the increased provision. Members noted requests from Nelson Quay on possible lighting for Christmas 2018, to provide a welcome entrance to that part of the village, and members also noted that even though provision was made this may not result in all provision being committed. Cllr Thomson also raised questions regarding the provision for due diligence for public toilets, and members noted earlier public consultation, the offer of £1k capital support per toilet from IW Council, and the offer of support from 2 businesses at the Duver. Members also noted the £3k provision for possible water bills resulting from outstanding issues with IW Council; £1k for village green repairs linked to a one-off grant received from IW Council; and the reduction in the Council Tax Support Grant. Cllr Coleman also noted the Contingency Reserve and that, in supporting the proposed budget, he also supported no increase to the precept. Cllr Hind proposed and Cllr Coleman seconded.

Resolved – (7/1) Carried

- b/ All members declared an interest in this item, as local residents and Council Tax payers, and this was duly noted and dispensation approved. Cllr Hind proposed no increase in the precept, which was seconded by Cllr Coleman.

Resolved – Unanimous

- c/ Cllr Robertson explained the need for addition bank signatories, with Cllr Tutton and Cllr Hind nominated. Proposed by Cllr Anderson and seconded by Cllr Duckett.

Resolved – Unanimous

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

Chq No	Payee	Amount £
300148	Newsquest (IWCP Adverts – Clerk)	96.48
300149	St Helens Community Centre Hire	65.00
300150	P Baxter (minute 166/17/18)	527.20

179/17/18 Planning applications received- the Council considered the following applications:

- a/ Application P/01327/17 Sands Cottage, The Diggings, St Helens. PO33 1UP. Cllr Hind noted that neighbours to the site had not raised any concerns. Cllr Hind proposed no objections be made and this was seconded by Cllr Duckett.

Resolved - Unanimous

- b/ Application P/01576/17 Vernon House, Duver Road, St Helens. PO33 1XY. Cllr Robertson proposed, seconded Cllr Anderson, that no objection be made.

Resolved – Unanimous

- c/ Application P/00059/18 Boundary Oaks, Carpenters Road, St Helens. PO33 1YG. Cllr Duckett proposed, seconded Cllr Coleman, that no objection be made.

Resolved - Unanimous

180/17/18 Notifications received from Planning Authority -

Cllr Robertson outlined application P/01409/17 19 Lower Green Road, St Helens. PO33 1YG, and members noted the decision of the Planning Authority.

181/17/18 Maintenance –

Cllr Duckett noted the damage to National Trust Footpath and that contact had been made with the Trust regarding planned shoring up of footpath and installation of a bench, and other concerns regarding brambles and undergrowth had also been raised with Trust, and members support Cllr Duckett continuing dialogue with Trust. Cllr Hind noted possible removal of barrier on footpath, near to school, and it was agreed to monitor situation and raise with Island Roads, if and when a site meeting could be arranged.

Cllr Duckett noted that, following discussion with Mr L Matthews of IWC regarding ongoing damage to the surface of the Village Green, the IWC proposed installation of 3 Bollards to protect the Green and reduce damage. Cllr Anderson asked if the proposal would prevent emergency service access to the Green, and also noted the Car Park was part of the Green, and would want to ensure any proposal ensured access for wheelchair users. Cllr Thomson asked for a named vote on the proposal to contribute £175 to the IW Council project.

Resolved (6/2) In favour of contributing £175 to IWC – Cllr Coleman, Cllr Duckett, Cllr Hind, Cllr Robertson, Cllr Spit and Cllr Tutton. Against Cllr Thomson and Cllr Anderson.

RP

182/17/18 Member Matters-

a/ No further matters had been received by the clerk by 11th February.

b/ Cllr Robertson welcomed Gill Lloyd, local resident to the meeting, and thanked her for volunteering to join the local My Life A Full Life Board, and report back, as appropriate, to the Parish Council. Cllr Robertson Proposed, and Cllr Hind seconded.

Resolved – Unanimous

c/ Cllr Anderson and Cllr Thomson highlighted the condition of the information panel in the garden near the Castle on Duver Road, and that it was beyond repair, and needed reinstallation if possible. Members discussed different options to provide new information panel, and it was agreed that the clerk, would liaise with appropriate agencies to identify a way forward, which could include possible grant application.

Members also agreed to look into other local solutions, including working with Prison.

Resolved – It was agreed this would be on next agenda

d/ Cllr Robertson thanked members for expressing interest in ‘lead member’ responsibilities, taking items of interest forward and reporting back to the Parish Council. It was proposed, by Cllr Robertson and seconded by Cllr Coleman that the following structure be agreed:

Cllr Duckett	Village Green & Planning
Cllr Colman	Toilets & 3 rd Party Communications
Cllr Spit	Finance & IT
Cllr Tutton	Parking & Highways
Cllr Anderson	IWALC Representation
Cllr Hind	Beaches, Heritage & Environment

Resolved – Unanimous

Cllr Thomson also noted that he was standing down from his role regarding maintenance and emergency planning, and Cllr Robertson and members thanked Cllr Thomson for his contribution and agreed that these areas of interest be discussed as agenda items, at future meetings if appropriate.

e/ Cllr Tutton outlined the meetings he had had, with the Clerk, and representatives from IW Council regarding Parking around the Village and, in particular, in respect of the Green. IW Council were preparing a draft paper, for consideration at the March meeting if possible, for a high-level options report, which would identify the possible ways forward and enable an informed debate.

f/ Cllr Coleman reported on recent meeting with IW Council, including Cllr Tyndall, regarding the concerns with the Car Boot Sale in St Helens. He reported that the IW Council informed that meeting that The Car Boot needed to consider moving to Smallbrook Stadium or introducing Marshalling and Health & Safety Controls to address the issues, and the organisers added that there was an option of moving to a local farm. Members would continue to monitor this matter.

g/ Cllr Coleman noted that there was a meeting of the St Helen's Carnival Committee on Saturday 17th February 2018, to try and generate additional volunteers, at the Pavilion, and all are welcome to attend.

183/17/18 Key Messages

Cllr Tutton had volunteered to prepare a key messages statement for local media, and members agreed the key messages from meeting were that there would be no increase in Parish Precept and the need for volunteers for the Carnival Committee.

184/17/18 Date of next meeting-

The date of the next meeting was confirmed for 12 March 2018.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed (Chairman) 12 March 2018