

St Helens Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr Jonathan Bacon Clerk: Jacky Matthews



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MINUTES OF MEETING OF ST HELENS PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 8th January 2024 at 7pm at St Helens Pavilion

Chaired by Cllr JB,
Attended by: Cllrs: SE,PJ,MC,AB,GG,CH,
Clerk JM
Public 6 members present

124-23/24 APOLOGIES

Cllr SP sent apologies.

125-23/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Refer: 102-22/23 12.12.22 Declarations & interests from Cllr JB & Cllr PJ as members of the IOW Council and St Helens PC.

126-23/24 MINUTES

To approve & sign the minutes of the PC meeting held on Monday 11th December 2023 .

Signed by Chair Cllr JB

Proposed Cllr JB Seconded Cllr MC all agreed

127-23/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 1.General Issues (15 minutes)
- 2.On Matters below (15 minutes)

A query was raised regarding the Caravans and the Duver area.
Excess noise from cars & scooters in the area during the evening. Young people sitting on seats at Baywatch smoking weed. Happening around 5pm.
A large amount of litter has been reported, in the same area.
Does The Baywatch Cafe have CCTV? Aware of bench misuse?
Residents can log the incidents on the telephone number 101 as a disturbance.
If there is a drug issue it should be as a routine patrol.
PC to log report.

Fields Lane Holiday Park - Decision for Acoustic fencing has been deferred. Should have been done by 23rd December 23 but has been deferred until 31st January 2024. Any reason why? Please could this be investigated.

128-23/24 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Caravans on the Duver - awaiting update from IOWC - ongoing legal proceedings regarding the lease. An update is requested. A directions hearing was due to happen on the 18.12.23, sets times, dates pre a formal hearing - Cllr JB waiting to hear the outcome.

The Council cannot break the lease, but will insist on more vigorous terms regarding action on repairs.

Gaggen Edge - due to meet with the National Trust within the next two weeks. More involved plan for work. Plan to install a quick fix to enable the path accessible

Issue affecting the NT - holes initial discussion as to who was responsible. who is responsible - Church Tower IOWC, Church Green PC, Sea Wall, The NT have been informed . When NT wish to meet please circulate to other Cllrs and welcome to attend.

Station Road Block - still waiting for transfer of the block but no news as yet.

Rogue Traders in the Villages - cutting hedges - Cllr JB asked for further details. Please be aware.

129-23/24 CLERK'S REPORT

NT waiting for dates

Greengym - planned to work in the West Green Area - copping some Hazel.

Village Halls Week March 18th - 24th - Any ideas to celebrate? Please get in contact.

Warm Hub starts on Wednesday afternoon in the Community Centre, from 1.30pm.

130-23/24 THE GREENS

A sample of the Greens tender was shown and asked Councillors to give comments - Areas require numbers to correspond with the list of requests & details and on a map.

Divide the work into separate contracts and have separate arrangements for individual areas.

The requirements then put out to plenty of contractors

Any suggested contractors. Please forward to the Clerk.

Put a request out on St Helens Noticeboard - local businesses.

A meeting with a representative from the IOW College to discuss wild flowers for the designated area. The area will require some work to get the ground prepared. The idea is to work with the School children and make it a community project. A rough estimate of the sizing has been worked.

A question raised: Management of the area who would oversee the area?

A further question was raised & discussion took place, suggesting employing a Grounds person and providing the equipment - What the salary would be and the implements of providing the equipment, costs of employing someone, insurance, covering holidays, sick days.

An idea of the costs to work out.

A list of equipment costs/hiring equipment.

Number of hours to be worked.

131-23/24 FINANCE & DATA PROTECTION

End of December balance & bank statement shown, - (the Statement hadn't arrived by post pre the meeting so will have to be signed at the next meeting.)

Monthly Income & Expense report shared with Cllrs.
Authorise Payment of Accounts.

St Helens PC Financial items paid month - end of December 2023

Inv Date	To Whom	Amount	Date of payment	Method of Payment
20.11.23	St Helens Community Centre	133.00	4.12.23	
25.11.23	Greentiles - Thompson's Christmas Tree inc del	325.00	4.12.23	BACS
9.11.23	Business Stream Water - Pavilion	76.90	4.12.23	BACS
	s/o to: COMMUNITY ACTIONISL	1227.48	11.12.23	S/O
4.12.23	E.on Next Elec	110.60	13.12.23	BACS
4.12.23	E.on Next Gas	64.09	13.12.23	BACS
23.11.23	Island Pest Control	£192.00	13.12.23	BACS
29.11.23	J Matthews Busy Bee - items for star on tree	26.87	13.12.23	BACS
27.11.23	J Matthews Spinnaker Chandlery - varnish & brushes	23.00	13.12.23	
4.12.23	Direct Debit (1:1 Internet Ltd)	11.99	20.12.23	DD
7.12.23	Corona energy	36.15	20.12.23	DD
	S/O S Chester	600.00	28.12.23	S/O
	Bank Charge	18.00	31.12.23	
		£2845.08		
Income		0.00		
To Pay				
20.12.23	I D Verde (Oct - Dec)	1016.40		
2.1.24	E.on Next Elec	95.51		
4.1.24	E.on Next Gas	58.42		
	J Matthews - Expenses			
19.11.23	B&Q - Toilet Seat - Pavilion Toilet	47.00		
20.12.23	Poundland - Diary - Pavilion	3.00		

Bank Statement 31.12.23

Proposed: Cllr GG seconded Cllr PJ , all agreed.

End of November			£39,404.80
Income December	£0.00		
Expenses December		£2845.08	
End of November			£36,559.72

NALC (National Association Local Council) pay scale award for the Clerk - agreed in November and backdated to April 1st. Equates to £1 per hour.

Formally agreed by all Cllr JB & Cllr SE

132-23/24 2024 - 2025 BUDGET

Budget figures

It is time to set the budget & precept for next year.

Discussing in principle rundown the current reserve in order to keep the precept low.

Views mixed - mindful of the unknown costs, grass cutting and waste collection.

Suggested to have a certain level for reserves.

NALC have said there will be another salary increase for the year 24/25.

Inform 1% increase of Band D Parish - approx £

Discussion on various items on the budget form, and annual expenses.

St Helens Precept Doc draft 1: Councillors were invited to look through the document, the Clerk explained the various sections.

Some items to be considered and to be included in an updated document.

It must be noted that the running of the Pavilion this year has been mainly from reserves.

A detailed income & expense sheet of the Pavilion to be prepared and shared with the Councillors.

At this stage if the Councillors have any points to raise, these should be noted to the Clerk, in readiness for the next PC meeting. Updated documents will be emailed to the Councillors to check before the next meeting.

To note:

Noticeboards - one on the Pavilion has been discussed with Men in Sheds

Clerk reported that the noticeboard on the side of the Post Office - the struts and a lock was broken when the current clerk took over. Recently the seal has gone and so water is seeping through. Estimates for replacement board is about £750.00

Men's WC - question regarding the plumbing of the Urinals - this was questioned by a plumber who had dealt with a blockage issue. Clerk to investigate and get a quote.

The Precept budget must be finally agreed at our February meeting, ready to submit.

133-23/24 APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

23/01977/HOU 2, The Mews, Station Rd, St Helens PO33 1FW

Totally agree - this is a front single storey extension - no ground for any objections.

134-23/24 NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

None received

135-23/24 PARISH COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

BHAG -Cllr CH talked about Marine Flares - at present they have to be taken to the mainland for disposal - there is a plan to organise this option on the Island.

IWALC - Nothing to report for St Helens.

136-23/24 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

Nothing to add.

137-23/24 OPEN QUESTION TIME

Grass cutting -

Suggested the Field Lane Holiday Camp help out as they wish to be more integrated into the village could they be persuaded to help out with grass cutting. Use of their grass cutting equipment. Any contact point?

Parish Council Reserves - Recommended level of reserve is to have between 3 - 12 months of the budget.

Is an increase in the precept relevant with holding the reserve? Should the reserves be used for the budget?

A further request - to hold a reserve - very easy to spend and not easy to build back up again.

A reminder the Community Fridge is a food waste project - open to all, to reduce the amount of food waste from Supermarkets / local growers - not requiring food vouchers. It is good to see that the food taken is no longer

Grass cutting - employing someone - PC used to have a handyman, perhaps employing a person to carry out the grass cutting, plumbing and other maintenance jobs.

138-23/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

PC Meeting - Monday 12th February 2024 7pm at the Pavilion

Meeting concluded at 8:01 pm

Signed:..... Date.....