

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 13th October 2025, 7.30pm, at St Helens Community Centre

Chaired by Cllr J Bacon,

**Attended by: Cllrs: A Phillips, A Bradstock, C Garnett, B Hewitt,
Clerk JM**

11 Public members present

78-25/26 APOLOGIES

Received from Cllrs S Dyer, I Thomson, O Boelman

79-25/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Refer: 102-22/23 12.12.22 Declaration & interest from Cllr JBacon as a member of the IOWCouncil and St Helens PC.

None other.

80-25/26 MINUTES

Minutes from the PC meeting on Monday 8th September 2025 had been circulated.
The minutes were approved at the meeting and signed by Cllr JB.

Proposed Cllr Jacon Seconded Cllr BHewitt all agreed

81-25/26 SEAFRONT

Apologies from Mr Palmer, Duver Enterprises. - Please see the copy of the letter received and asked to be read out at the PC meeting.

Cllr CGarnett and a few Council members had a meeting with a representative from the National Trust. The lease that is being prepared between Duver Enterprises and the NTTrust raises concerns about access routes from NT land through to the Duver.

Concerns:

- Parking - there is no overnight parking allowed within the area of the Duver, so what is the plan for parking with the new pods/caravans?
- The design and height of the lodges/caravans - they will be placed 'in a dip' but what is the footprint with gardens, fencing and look, it will be good to see the designs.
- Drainage for sewage - a new/upgraded tank, and its position or is there mains drainage?
- The public benefits from the plans when they go ahead. At present the PC funds the public WCs - with new huts and a proposed busier footfall would a donation to the upkeep of running the Duver toilets be available?
- Utilities are present from the previous caravans - what are the plans for the new services - will any lines cross the NT land?
- The Planning application - NT has some power. Because of the long lease between the NT and Duver Enterprise (and the NT is a charity) - the decision has to go very senior before signing off. At the time of the meeting they had not seen any plans.

The New leases - between the NT & Duver Enterprises, and the lease between IOWC and Duver Enterprises - can the PC see the new leases? Cllr JBacon to enquire.

The NT lease is for the area where the caravan is at present. The other area is under the lease with the IOW Council. There is a maintenance clause within this new lease, there is to not be any further degradation of the buildings.

Welcome to PCSO Steve Hull - gave a brief outline of the various plans to integrate with the St Helens & local villages. Some anti-social behaviour issues were being addressed. There had been quite a party at Priory Bay during the summer which the police had attended. Some issues with drugs had arisen during the summer at Priory Bay, Seaview and at the Duver. Worth factoring in for next year to have a more frequent presence.

Abandoned cars were raised - PC S Hull was to investigate the vehicle that has been parked at West Green for over a year now.
Bike coding - there had been a session in Bembridge and very happy to run one in St Helens.

Keeping an eye on the railway carriage area was to be added to the list for the service to cover.

Thank you for all you do to the community - PSCO gave out a questionnaire to all in attendance and asked the replies to be returned to the Clerk.

82-25/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Speed checking - Are there any plans to hold speed monitoring sessions? (A Community Speed Watch) Brading TC has a speed monitoring device, but are using it at present. The Clerk to enquire about the cost of the tool in order to monitor the traffic speed within St Helens or could we borrow the device?

Please can the names of Councillors be on the minutes not just initials.

An enquiry about the results of the Village Consultation Plan - when will these be being published? They will be available as an article in What's On, on the PC Website and as a display in the foyer of the Community Centre, in due course.

83-25/26 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nothing to add

84-25/26 CLERK'S REPORT

A Tree Warden Scheme has been set up, mainly over West Wight - requesting for a local person to be a contact point of tree work activities. Criteria of job - love of trees, and a few hours to spare. This does not have to be a Cllr.

Advertise the position within the village. If you would like to know more please do contact the Clerk.

IOWC local tax support scheme - to go on fb and if anyone wishes to fill in the form - to give feedback.

IWALC's 'Meet the Funders Event' - Cllr CGarnett & the Clerk attended. A great day of information, leads and ideas covering the whole spectrum of grant funding.

Best Kept Village Award 2025 - There are 4 categories which the villages are divided into - St Helens comes within the Large Village Category, along with Shalfleet, Northwood, Niton, Whitwell, Rookley, Godshill, Seaview & Gurnard. Shalfleet are the winners 2025.

St Helens has won in the past, 2023, 2017, 2016 & 2015, winning Overall village winner in 2016. The Village is judged from 1st May and there is a criteria list, which I now have a copy which will be helpful to add to the annual maintenance plan and the Village Volunteer Day.

Scribefest Event - for Council Clerks - a day of interesting training on the many aspects of the Clerks job. Lots of items relevant to where St Helens is at the moment, with contact details so a helpful day

Games afternoon - these have started up again - all ages welcome. It is a chance for fun activity, a warm hub, some company and a cuppa.
The next two meetings are: Tuesday 14th October, and Tuesday 18th November 2pm - 4pm held in the Pavilion.

Litter pick - Green Gym are due to visit the Duver on Wednesday 12th November, 10am.
Any volunteers are very welcome to join.

85-25/26 VILLAGE CONSULTATION - follow up.

The PC held an informal meeting to review the results of the Consultation and to prioritise some of the items raised.

Actions:

Taking on the management of the greens, the Clerk to write to the IOWC to find out what responsibilities and costs are involved, acquiring and running the Greens.

Station Road toilet block - pursue to a conclusion. A site visit had been conducted but most of the PCouncil were unable to attend so another to be booked.

Youth Club - the general feeling was that this is not for the PC to take on but to assist - something to facilitate. To have a discussion with the Trustees.

Zebra crossing - safety and traffic calming. There are some technical issues regarding the vicinity requested for the crossing - close to road junctions, removing a number of parking spaces. Contact has been made with the IOWC - awaiting to see if the technical issues can be addressed.

An alternative idea is to have a lollipop person. What is involved? Clerk to research.

Cllr JBacon has raised the idea with the school Head and Governors.

Suggested a number of people to volunteer on a rota basis to fulfil the job. Training, Safety checks would all be required.

A dropped kerb at top of Downsview Road. Contact has been made with the IOWC to see if this is a possibility. The extra width of Footpath across the Green to be addressed in future.

86-25/26 VILLAGE ACTIVITY GROUP

Within the questionnaire activities within the village were suggested. There were a good number of responses of people to help.

Next to set up a task group; bringing a group of people together with reps from Community Centre, PC and the Village to look at the feasibility of each project and see how they can divide workload.

Would you be interested? There was a response of 33 people who have all been contacted, and from those 14 are willing to form the group. The aim is to start before Christmas - if you would like to join you are most welcome.

87-25/26 REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Service at St Helens Church at 10:45am, Sunday 9th November.

Cllr Bella Hewitt agreed to attend the service and lay the wreath on behalf of the PC.

88-25/26 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

To defer to the next meeting.

89-25/26 COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

Proposed project inside the Shelter. Stonewood Camp Charity have offered a donation of £500 to contribute to the installation of the art piece with a visual reference of the Stonewood Camp being included.

Cllr CGarnett has made contact with a company who create painted murals within the Community. They have sent a quote for the work of different stages beginning from £500 for the design fee - £2750 to create the piece.

Funding - possible various avenues. Involve the children somehow.

Suggested - a group who create mosaics and meet in Ventnor on Fridays - worth following up - Cllr BHewitt..

Any suggestions of offers and costs. Pursue grant funding - possibly try match funding raising at least £1250.00.

Various avenues to pursue. The theme: What people love about the village. See the tapestry in the Community Centre.

90-25/26 FINANCE & DATA PROTECTION

End of September account balances & bank statements shown, reconciled, agreed and signed by Cllr JBacon

Monthly Income & Expense report shared with Cllrs.

Authorise payments and expenses.

List of Village Assets with up to date info on condition/value - to be completed by November PC meeting.

Budget 26/27 - Initial suggestions with costs to be sent to the Clerk.

30.9.25 St Helens PC Financial Items paid month - end September 2025

Inv Date	To Whom	Amount	Date Paid	Payment
7.8.25	Business Stream - water Pavilion	108.06		BACS
7.8.25	BetaPak	155.88		BACS
12.8.25	BetaPak	155.88		BACS
29.5.25	ERMC IV00374	619.34		BACS
15.9.25	Corona Electricity - Duver	48.20		DD
10.9.25	Community Action	1461.87		S/O
19.8.25	Lake Cleaning & catering Supplies	14.18		BACS
19.8.25	Lake Cleaning & catering Supplies	46.62		BACS
19.8.25	Betapak	155.88		BACS
31.8.25	Onward Waste	1652.40		BACS
2.9.25	EDF Gas Pavilion	31.10		DD
2.9.25	EDF Electricity - Pavilion	71.41		DD
5.7.25	J Matthews - Tesco - Stationery	4.95		BACS
	J Matthews - G Tysoe & Son - Toilet plunger	4.29		BACS
30.8.25	J Matthews - Sainsburys - Toilet brushes	5.00		BACS
5.9.25	J Matthews - Booker - Toilet Rolls Pavilion	15.59		BACS
30.8.25	J Matthews - Tesco Stationery	1.50		BACS
5.8.25	IOWCouncil - Charge for uncontested elections	36.00		CHQ
4.9.25	IONOS - Web & email	16.20		DD
30.9.25	S Chester	625.00		S/O
30.9.25	Bank Fee	6.00		
		£5235.35		
Income				
17.9.25	P Hewson - Pavilion Hire	80.00		
		£80.00		
PAID				
11.9.25	BDO - External Auditors	252.00	3.10.25	
15.9.25	ERMC - IV00475	619.34	3.10.25	
To Pay				
8.8.25	Cllr AP - Richardsons Yacht Services - noticeboard materials	91.50		
23.8.25	Cllr AP - Spinnaker Yacht Chandlery - noticeboard materials	6.62		
4.9.25	Island Roads - Refuse contract	1478.40		
11.9.25	St Helens Community Centre - Septembers PC meeting	30.00		
30.9.25	The Haven Churches - Printing costs (Consultation part)	35.42		
30.9.25	ERMC - IV00508	619.34		
1.10.25	SLCC - Annual Membership	183.00		
2.10.25	EDF Gas Pavilion	28.55		
2.10.25	EDF Electricity - Pavilion	40.37		
4.10.25	IONOS - Web & email	16.20		
3.10.25	Community Action	1461.87		
6.10.25	EDF Electricity - Duver Toilets	54.38		
31.10.25	S Chester	625.00		
31.10.25	Bank Fee	6.00		
		£4674.65		

Bank Balances end of September 2025

Current Account End of August			£2271.42
Credits September	£ 80.00		
Transfer from Savings	£2960.00		
Transfer to Savings		£0.00	
Expenses September		£5235.35	
Current Account End of September			£ 76.07
Savings Account - End of August			£51,964.55
Transfers from Current Account	£0.00		
Transfers to Current Account - September		£2,500.00	
Credits - Interest	£300.78		
Savings Account End of September			£49,305.33
Current Account end of September			£76.07
Savings Account end of September			£49,305.33
Total funds end of September			£49,381.407

Proposed Cllr JBacon, Seconded Cllr CGarnett ,all agreed

Budget 26/27 - time to prepare the next budget - Clerk to confirm the date the precept has to be submitted to the IOWC

To include in the next meeting the proposed Village coordinator role

91-25/26 APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

25/01388/FUL Former St Helens Service station, Lower green Road, St Helens, PO33 1TH. Proposed conversion of former garage/workshop, with flat above into 4 residential units

There are 3 parking spaces allocated - which are on the public highway, therefore they cannot be classed as allocated parking. The village car park is mentioned as a free place to park, this does have a 24 hour rule attached at present, which is not mentioned in the details.

Relying on parking spaces - but there are none.

To submit a formal note from the PC - No objections to the flats but parking is something to be considered - maybe the land at the rear of the building?

92-25/26 NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

25/01123/HOU St Helens Cottage Duver Road, St Helens, PO33 1XY

Proposed alterations to fenestration to include new windows and doors; replacement roof coverings, flashings and terraces; new fence/screening and landscaping to front garden; proposed new balustrade for roof terrace (revised description)

Decided: Granted

25/00779/FUL Land To The North Of Station House, Station Road, St Helens, PO33 1YF

Proposed residential development comprising 5 dwellings, access road, garages, parking and landscaping.

Awaiting Decision

Aware the applicant did not submit the Biodiversity Net Gain information - this has been requested.

93-25/26 PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

- BHAG - Cllr BHewitt attended.
Key update - great summer, for the Harbour.
Discussion about the pathway from the Duver to Priory Bay - Coastal signs should the PC want to get involved? Who is responsible?
Beach update was received with interest. Priory Hotel - BHAG to put in letters to the IOWC with concern for the building and area.
Southern Water and a Wildlife Sanctuary Swimmers regularly test the water for safe swimming.
Nurdles - there has been a surge over the beach, particularly bad on the beach in front of Harbour View.
- IWALC - Clerk attended the Planning Training eve.
The clerk of Nettlestone and Seaview Brian Jennings is now the County Officer

94-25/26 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

To formally report that in October the IOWC agreed to participate in the combined authority including Portsmouth and Southampton Hampshire & IOW.

95-25/26 OPEN QUESTION TIME

The horse piece of equipment in the playground - what is happening with it?
The IOWC manages the Playarea.
Greengym - they are coming to St Helens Church on Wednesday 10am Cake and Rake event - to clear the graveyard and improve the area for the wildlife, glow worms.
Drop in session with the clerk in a public area. Trial - a few dates: Tuesday 28th October from 10:00am.

96-25/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

PC Meeting - Monday 10th November 2025 7.00pm at St Helens Pavilion.

Meeting concluded at 21:05 pm

97-25/26 Cleaning contract - discussed.