

# 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 12th December 2022 at 7pm at St Helens Community Centre**

**Attended by: Chair Cllr JB, Cllrs: SE,PJ,CH,SP,GG,MC**  
**Clerk JM**

**Public - 2 members.**

Meeting was recorded to assist the writing of the minutes.

### **101-22/23 APOLOGIES**

Cllr MC joined the meeting shortly after it commenced.

### **102-22/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Cllr JB and Cllr PJ are elected members of the IWCouncil and St Helens PC. They both requested that St Helens PC members grant them both dispensation regarding matters discussed within St Helens PC meetings also concerning IWC..  
This declaration will cover the duration of this Council.

**Proposed by Cllr SE, Seconded Cllr GG, all in favour**

### **103-22/23 MINUTES**

To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th November 2022 .  
Cllr GG raised wording in item 111-22/23 and asked for the minutes to read 'exploring the running of the Pavilion' rather than 'taking on'. The minutes were amended.

Signed by Chair Cllr JB

**Proposed Cllr JB Seconded by Cllr PJ all agreed**

### **104-22/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

1.The member of Public felt Cllr JB & Cllr PJ commitment was in St Helens interest.

A question regarding a parking meter issue experienced elsewhere on the Island gave concern for what might come to the Duver.

2.No items.

### **105-22/23 CO OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR**

After some time of carrying a vacancy, the PC accepted and welcomed Andrew Bradstock to stand as a Councillor for St Helens Parish Council.

Declaration of Office Acceptance signed by A Bradstock

**Proposed by Cllr JB, Seconded by Cllr MC, all agreed.**

### **106-22/23 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nothing other than items on the Agenda.

### **107-22/23 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk has received a thank you from the RBLegion for the donation for the Poppy Appeal.

**Emergency Plan** - Cllr MC had attended a meeting in Bembridge prior this evening. Equipment is stored in the loft space of the Community Centre.  
Cllr MC - All PCs should have an Emergency Plan which links into the County Council Plan. Working with Bembridge PC to formulate a plan and list of equipment.  
St Helens existing plan requires a revamp. A risk assessment will be drawn up and added into the plan. Cllr GG asked for the existing plan to be circulated to the Councillors.

**Seaside Award** - application system is now open. The cost for this year's award is £583 + Vat.

Time to look at criteria and update as relevant.

**Community Fridge** - hopefully coming into the Community Centre - calling from experience of Aspire in Ryde. The idea is to receive excess foods from Supermarkets, which are delivered to Fridges giving local people access to free food and to reduce wastage so it is good for the environment. Open to all residents. Volunteers would be required to oversee operation - potential issue re-wastage. Need to address this issue. Supply needs to be monitored. Details to be explored. Trial to see if it works for our community.

**IOW Dredging Policy** - no news as yet

**The Duver** - Electricity - received a large invoice - from ongoing estimated bills (although some customer readings submitted) - ideally keep the consumption low. Clerk monitoring closely.

**DeFib training** - put a plan in place - set a date and open to the Community.

**Maintenance items** - Clerk to go through Asset list with any maintenance in mind ready for the forthcoming Budget

**Noticeboard at PO** - taken on broken when Clerk joined. Cost to replace is considerable - suggested call Men In Sheds first to see if they can assist.

**Bench at top of Duver Road** - recycled plastic bench - slat broken.

#### **108-22/23 BENCH REQUEST ON THE DUVER**

A local family have requested a bench to be installed on the Duver. It would be positioned at the end of Beach Huts. It is IOW Council land and they are happy for a new bench to be installed. The Family will purchase the bench and agree to maintain it. A concern of the IOW Council was raised about future maintenance should the Family be unable to maintain it. Cllr CH suggests that there is a limit on the number of benches that the PC can manage. Cllr GG - delighted to have the bench sorted and maintained by the family - discuss future maintenance as and when arises.

The IOW Council would like the bench added to St Helens Asset Register.

It was suggested a type of bench recently installed on the Green which is maintenance free.

Propose accept installation with the backup maintenance from the family - advise model of bench - subject to the same bench.

Proposed Cllr PJ Seconded Cllr SE all agreed

#### **109-22/23 CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES**

Harvest boxes delivered by the School were very welcome so an idea for Christmas Boxes was introduced. Non perishable goods made up food parcels given to those who would benefit.

What is required from the PC? - Voluntary time - and a request for members to forward details of anyone who they feel may welcome a Christmas Food Box - pass onto the Clerk.

## 110-22/23 ST HELENS VILLAGE GREEN PROJECT

### St Helens Volunteers

A meeting was held asking Volunteers to attend and to contribute suggestions for the village, well attended and positive atmosphere.

Communication set up through What's app or email

Practical outcomes so far; some volunteers have been to assist the Church Groundsman rake dead grass. A job he was most welcome for some assistance.

Second project - Volunteers came forward to walk with Collection Buckets with the Round Table Santa Sleigh around St Helens & Nettlestone.

Also a Volunteer has offered to help with the Community Fridge.

**Trees** - a meeting was held re sighting of trees - prices have been quoted

Oak tree to be situated near to the playground - central location and in future provide some shelter on hot days

£125 + VAT

Willow tree towards bus shelter in Station Rd: £47 +VAT

Timescale: - planting times - reasonably urgent - the quotes are time limited due to an offer of sharing delivery therefore saving on large delivery costs.

There had been 3 sources of pledged donations. The figures quoted could be covered from donations from 3 sources providing those offers still stand.

Wild Flower Meadow - still under research, to be explored.

Circulate costs of trees. Request a response by return. Full picture at the next PC meeting, 9.1.22 with an order being placed promptly.

Suggested to have guards around trees to protect them whilst they get established.

*Standing orders upheld. "A guard is a fence" and felt not allowed on the Greens.*

Cllr JB to seek advice on protecting trees/ guards on the Green.

Horseshoe Trail - meeting held with Greengym. They are prepared to help alongside with the volunteers - require a list of jobs, possible sites located for the School Grown Trees which can fill in some areas.

Proposal of a sum of £250 to be allocated, if required to make up the balance, should there be a gap between costs and donations for the provision of the trees and guards.

**Proposed Cllr JB, Seconded Cllr GG, all in favour**

## 111-22/23 PAVILION & STATION ROAD

As a means to keep the Pavilion running, a Tenancy at Will agreement has been set up between the IOW Council and the St Helens Parish Council. This allows either party to surrender the agreement at any time.

If the Tenancy at Will is agreeable and accepted by the members, the Sports Association will have then formally surrendered their lease and their obligations. A draft copy had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The document to be agreed and signed by Thursday.

Cllr MC created Maintenance Report after visiting the building. Report to be sent to Councillors.

Cllr GG wanted to check a few items before signing the document.

By having the tenancy at Will in place, the Pavilion can continue to be used whilst future plans are explored, and with local consultation.

Proposal: accept the Tenancy at Will, with a side letter clarifying the condition of the building on the date of the TaW, as shown in the Maintenance Report (to be sent too)

**Proposed: Cllr JB, Cllr SP seconded Cllr AB and Cllr SE abstained, All agreed.**

Once the 'T of W' has been agreed, the suggestion to have a small group of Council members to organise the running of the Pavilion. A request that the cleaning of the Pavilion is only when the place is used. Communication to be forwarded to Councillors from Clerk.

#### 112-22/23 LCWIP

An issue has arisen - The Local Cycling and Walking Plan is an agreed joint project between Brading, Bembridge and St Helens Councils. The draft plan has been drawn up and circulated to Councillors. The cost of the plan was £20,000 - Match funded by the IOWC, other funding was initially agreed; 40%,40%,20%. (B,B,StH). This divide was ascertained by differences in precepts and geography of the 3 areas.

Subsequently elected members in Brading decided to only agree to provide 33%, and also that Bembridge should only pay 33% as well. They have therefore now asked St Helens to pay 33% rather than the original 20%, a difference of £1333.33. After some discussion - St Helens Parish Council members are standing with original agreement. Not willing to re-open the decision.

#### 113-22/23 PARKING IN THE VILLAGE

At the Annual Parish Meeting issues with parking within the Village were discussed. An item raised was on street parking. A visit from IOWC came to assess village parking zones. Possible for the LGRd & UGR Rd. To go down this route there would go to a village vote. During discussion alternative idea - Car Park - treat as for residents parking. Residents Parking Permit for car park at present is £220 per annum and one has to live within 200 yards, whereas Residents parking zones on streets are £100 approx per annum. There are a number of considerations. Potential Residents Parking arrangement for the IOWC to view. Awaiting further information.

#### 114-22/23 WAYS OF WORKING

Introduce a way of working for the Parish Council to hold documents and information in one place giving Councillors ease of reference whilst they are in office.

Councillors can access the historical side to matters.

Cllr CH explained how the process would work - will send step by step process to Councillors of how to log in

Councillors & Clerk can add items to the Library.

Clerk manages the items contributed.

Annual subscription is approximately £15 per annum.

**Proposed by Cllr CH, Seconded Cllr JB, all in favour.**

Website - under review. Discussion was had regarding Councillor information and what was required for the Website. Clerk researched

Agreed Pic contact details reg of interests. Agendas & Minutes.

Standing orders require updating. Cllr PJ to assist.

Check policies - check out other Cllr SE to assist.

The Clerk to follow up and add as appropriate.

#### 115-22/23 FINANCE AND DATA PROTECTION

Monthly income & Expense report shared with Cllrs.

End of November balances & bank statement shown, agreed and signed by Cllr JB.

**St Helens PC Financial items paid this month: Approval sort for those marked \***

Inv Date	To Whom	Amount	Date of payment	Method of Payment
22.9.22	Lake Cleaning	59.88	2.11.22	BACS
4.9.22	Ionos - September	11.99	22.11.22	DD
5.10.22	Ionos - October	11.99	30.11.22	DD

4.11.22	Ionos November	11.99	30.11.22	DD
26.10.22	Lake Cleaning	36.61	21.11.22	BACS
10.11.22	Community Action	748.06	10.11.22	SO
17.11.22	RBL - Poppy wreath	50.00	29.11.22	BACS
20.11.22	Thompson Christmas Tree	305	21.11.22	BACS
16.11.22	Corona Energy	261.87	28.11.22	DD
	S Chester	600.00	28.11.22	SO
		Total Expense £2097.39		
<b>To Pay</b>				
25.10.22	Island Roads Rubbish Collection Apr - Sept	1224.96		
30.11.22	Bollards	8845.63		
12.12.22	Clerks Expenses	47.42		
	<b>Bollards - West Green</b>	<b>Total £8845.63</b>		
	Received contribution	From IOW Council £3686.00		
	St H to pay and claim back	St H Contribution £3685.36		
		VAT £1474.27		

**Payments proposed By Cllr JB all agreed.**

**116-22/23 APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY**

22/01900/HOU Vine Cottage, Upper Green Road, St Helens

Cllr GG & Cllr SP had looked through the application and felt there were no objections.

22/01739/FUL Latimer Rd - plan to build a detached 2 storey house, same height & style, not offering parking. The Council are happy to a point, but would like to express concerns of no off road parking.

**117-22/23 NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING AUTHORITY**

None received

**118-22/23 PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS:**

BHAG - Duver Dash being organised for May next year - will require volunteers.

IWALC - Cllr JB attended - discussion re poverty and enforcement with Planning - proposals to engage with

**119-22/23 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Nothing to report. IWC is in the process of setting next year's budget. Council Tax will rise due to meeting costs of Adult Social Care.

**120-22/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 9th January 2023 7pm**

Main meeting closed at: 20:57

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

**121-22/23 Clerks Contract**

After some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Ryde Town Council Clerk for direction regarding the contract, appraisal, levels of pay etc.  
By being guided by The Clerk at Ryde a Programme can be set out for future use by St Helens PC.

Proposed by Cllr JB, Seconded by SE, Cllr GG abstained.

Meeting closed at 21:02

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