

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 November 2023 at 7pm at St Helens Pavilion**

Chaired by Cllr JB,
Attended by: Cllrs: PJ,MC,AB,SP,GG,CH,
Clerk JM
Public - 5 members present

91-23/24 APOLOGIES

Cllr SE sent apologies.

92-23/24 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 IOWCouncil and St Helens PC.

Cllr JB also wanted to mention he is on the IOWCouncil Planning Committee.

93-23/24 MINUTES

To approve & sign the minutes of the PC meeting held on Monday 9th October 2023 .

Signed by Chair Cllr JB

Proposed Cllr PJ Seconded Cllr SP all agreed

94-23/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Whilst Island Roads have been undertaking works within St Helens considerable damage has occurred to the Greens. This has been reported to the IOWC. This brought up a wider issue of who is responsible for the Greens. Cllr JB to follow up.

As the member of the public felt it was potentially Island Roads liability, the question was asked whether Island Roads had a Method Statement in place to protect the Greens, which they would be duty bound before commencing work Cllr JB to follow up.

The issue with the traffic controls/notifications during the planned roadworks in St Helens was raised - i.e. having roads closed in two of the access areas at the same time. Who is responsible for organising such closures to happen at the same time? The question was raised; why money is being spent on an illogical & not very organised set up, causing issues for many road users.

Cllr PJ was asked to find the details and look into specific interests.

Acoustic Fencing at Fields Lane properties adjacent to the Away Resorts. To discuss later in the meeting.

Communicating with the IOWC Planning Dept, the member of the public has tried to contact the Planning Dept but has not had a response at the time of the meeting. Suggested that they contact Cllr JB as Ward Councillor direct

95-23/24 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Damage to the Greens - as mentioned previously.

Roadworks issues - as mentioned previously.

Youth Club building - a suggestion of having a Community Oven within the Youth Club had been raised from a member of the public - Cllr JB had contacted the person and welcomed them to come and speak at the Council Meeting - sharing the idea and proposal for using the Youth Club Building. There had been no take up to attend the meeting, but discussion about the Youth Club building has begun again within the Village.

Field Lane - there is a matter in relation to nuisance and disturbance arising from the site. - Cllr JB spoke to an officer for Environmental Health - there appears to be a 3 way discussion between Environmental Health, Licensing and Planning.

Use of hot tubs away from the neighbouring borders is the subject requiring discussion.

Hot tubs on raised decking next to boundary is not effective

Departments involved in the discussion:

Environmental Health - role re noise level

Licensing - role how business is conducted

Planning - role need planning to run activities

Mixed responsibilities - debate - an ongoing discussion.

Accepted there is an issue but difficulty getting the 3 bodies together and - ongoing discussion is wider than a planning issue.

96-23/24 CLERK'S REPORT

Report of a landfall at Priory Bay - another incident of someone getting stuck in the mud requiring the rescue services to attend.

Parking Meters - from last minutes - there is no plan to replace parking meters and no requests for cash meters. One of the reasons along the coast for having non cash parking meters installed is because salt air causes corrosion.

Car Park Light - establishing ownership and responsibility for fixing - issue ongoing.

Pavilion Exterior toilet door blown off its hinges in one of the storms now fixed and replaced.

Pavilion - installing sensor lights in the outside toilets - awaiting communication - and an outside light to shine down the steps.

IICA (Introduction to Local Council Administration) Clerk has passed this award.

Clerk requesting an Appraisal - Clerk to organise a date and necessary paperwork to Cllr SP.

Contacted by the Harbour re their Emergency Plan - updating the community contact telephone numbers.

Village Emergency Plan - work to continue bringing this up to date. To liaise with Cllr MC

Assistance required in the village with any household Issues due to the weather - I have not heard anything so assume either issues dealt with or none have happened.

97-23/24 COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Break standing orders: H Bradstock:

Community Fridge Project - situated in the foyer of the Community Centre and open to the Community.

Food Waste Project - the idea: surplus food from shops, allotments, preserves are given and placed in the fridge and foyer area and then available for use by all members of the community.

Information is available on the boards in the foyer.

The Project requires a rota of volunteers to help to make the system work: check dates, clean fridge, pick up the donations. If you can help please get in touch.

Health & Hygiene Certificates - funding for training is available for the Level 2 Hygiene Certificate. - Homemade preserves can be donated but must have a list of ingredients on the products - as per Natasha's Law 2021.

A question was raised regarding the temperature fridge checks - display & daily checks. A particular thermometer is placed within the fridge and will send an alert to a member of the team, if any change in temperature occurs.

Waste collection - hopefully minimal as food should be used - but as the Community Centre is a Charity it does not pay business rates therefore not viable for an IOWC waste collection service.

Clerk: A request for a grant of £133.00 towards the provision of providing bins was sought from the PC. As there are funds available within the annual waste collection budget allocation this was granted.

Proposed Cllr JB Seconded Cllr PJ all agreed.

98-23/24 STATION ROAD

The proposal has been on a hiatus over recent months due to changes within the IOWC.

Cllr JB read an email received from IOWC - looks like plans are back on track.

Once a draft lease has been received then discussions on future plans can commence.

99-23/24 THE GREENS

The Working group was established to formulate a working plan for the future of the Greens.

Cllr AB gave an Introduction of the group & brief details of the 3 meetings so far.

Aim to : maintain a balance between neat & tidy but also to include biodiversity

Meeting 1. - Vision & aims

Meeting 2. - Defining terms of different lengths of grass cutting

Meeting 3. - Populate a map and plan to formulate a proposal

Proposal - use of greens, grass categories,

The template/map was shown and discussed.

Use of the Greens taken into account. The whole village should be kept informed on progress with the village greens - to include the children in the plan - e.g sowing the wildflower seeds.

Keep the Football and Cricket Pitch mown short, which is undertaken at present by Steve. It would be a good idea to include this item in the proposal should there be a time when this area isn't undertaken.

Future managed Wild Flower area in the lower part of the car park. An expert from IOW College has offered their services to advise planting.

Ideally to add some native primroses and daffodils planted at the bottom of the Cricket Field. Also daffodils on the bank at Station Rd.

Cllr GG thanked the group for the very impressive plan.

One question: all plans are about the grass cutting but no mention of hedge cutting. e.g hedge along West Green - contractors used to maintain, but not of late - please add this to the proposal.

Cllr CH - Questioned if the proposal is covering the Greens only. Group has just been discussing the Greens - in the past there have been other areas included and these will be looked into.

Grass cutting an arrangement with the IOWC - wider - where does the responsibility lie?

Clerk to translate into the tender for the new contract.

PC expresses thanks to the group for the work completed.

100-23/24 CHRISTMAS

Village of Angels - publicity gone out - on FBook and contact school

Tree ordered. Check lights will be on a timer.

Pavilion could be decorated.

Switch on Lights on 2.12.23 and Carol Singers

101-23/24 BEACH & SEAFRONT

Seaside Award 2024 application costs have risen this year to £734.58 inc VAT and with the same criteria. Last year the PC felt we couldn't agree to the full criteria to apply for the award. One item being: we would be required to fly the Seaside Award flag, (when bathing water is good) so would rely on the cafe or expense of installing a flagpole.

SW are due to carry out some work on the outlet pipe in November - which has been postponed.

PC decided not to pursue the Seaside award for 2024.

A concern raised: The footpath across the Duver from Gaggen Edge Path. The bridge was closed due to the adverse weather and the Duver area became flooded. The National Trust are responsible for the land and footpath, it is considered the drainage pipe under the bridge is not to be doing the job.

The National Trust's Adaptive Management Plan, (October 2019) shows the Duver becoming marshland - concern that the National Trust is not going to spend funds on internal defences - rushes etc around the Causeway & Mill pond.

We require clarification on what work the National Trust plan to do - what happens over the next 10 years? Defend the roads and some of the footpaths .

It was requested that copies of the Plan are circulated amongst the Councillors, in readiness for a more informed discussion at a Parish Council meeting either in December or January.

102-23/24 FINANCE & DATA PROTECTION

Monthly Income & Expense report shared with Cllrs.

End of October balance & bank statement shown, agreed and signed by Cllr JB

Authorise Payment of Accounts.

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

Inv Date	To Whom	Amount	Date of payment	Method of Payment
21.9.23	SLCC annual subscription	177.00	11.10.23	BACS
26.9.23	BDO External Auditors	252.00	11.10.23	BACS

28.9.23	IdVerde July - Sept contract	1016.40	26.10.23	BACS
28.9.23	IW Green Gym	90.00	11.10.23	BACS
2.10.23	E.on Next Elec	60.46	11.10.23	BACS
2.10.23	E.on Next Gas	96.14	11.10.23	BACS
4.10.23	Direct Debit (1:1 Internet Ltd)	11.99	20.10.23	DD
10.10.23	Community Action	1227.48	10.10.23	S/O
11.10.23	Thalia IOW - Waste Collections	511.00	11.10.23	BACS
	J Matthews - expenses	201.50	11.10.23	BACS
17.10.23	Corona Energy	52.76	17.10.23	BACS
26.10.23	De Fib Pads & battery - Duver	441.60	26.10.23	BACS
26.10.23	S Chester - Toilet Rolls	35.98	26.10.23	BACS
26.10.23	De Fib Pads - Pavilion	95.62	26.10.23	BACS
30.10.23	S Chester	600.00	30.10.23	BACS
		£5128.93		
Income				
	Vectis	75.00		
	Vectis	25.00		
	Vectis	50.00		
		£150.00		
To Pay				
	E.on Next Elec	97.05		
	E.on Next Gas	122.05		
	Open Spaces	45.00		
	Corona Energy	37.00		

Proposed: Cllr PJ seconded Cllr GG , all agreed.

Bank Statement 31.10.23

End of September			£46,454.30
Income October	£150.00		
Expenses October		£5128.93	
End of October			£41,475.37

End of October balance & bank statement shown, agreed and signed by Cllr JB.

103-23/24 APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

23/01772/HOU Station House, Station Rd, St Helens PO33 1YF

Discussion about the planning application to modernise Station House. The house has fallen into decay over the years. Within this application is the demolition of a lean to, the Station Canopy and build a new structure which was not felt in keeping. Is the canopy considered a Railway Heritage asset?

It would be remiss of the PC to not put on record the asset - in an ideal world it would be preserved and not demolished.

Another viewpoint - This is an ambitious and interesting project, concerned with the plan for the new garage building - the rest is quite sensitive. People should be encouraged to be creative with old buildings.

Cllr JB suggested that Cllrs GG & SP come up with a draft letter and circulate with other Councillors before being submitted to the Planning Dept.

23/01866/HOU Oaktrees, Mill Road, St Helens PO33 1YH

Reconfigured application - the exterior is quite a departure from the building standing at the moment and felt not in keeping with the other properties in the vicinity.

The reconfigured plans for inside look great, but it was felt the exterior was not and therefore warranted an objection.

23/00033/FUL Field Lane Holiday Park - acoustic fencing.

Concerns of the Acoustic survey undertaken. The object was to record the level of noise. The survey was conducted outside of the School holidays (quiet time) and Away Resorts were informed of the dates when the survey was happening, potentially not hiring the caravan and therefore noise level at minimum. The Surveyor wanted to know the level of quiet and not the noise, which is the issue. Should be recording both levels and comparing.

Visual encroachment was not taken into account. Acoustic fencing is a good move but if the clients of Away resorts stand on the decking they can still see over into the neighbouring properties. It was felt the fencing required is to be a 3m high fence.

104-23/24 NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

23/01106/FUL Flats 1 & 6 Pavilion House - Granted replacement windows

23/01448/HOU 6, Yar Quay, Latimer Road, St Helens - Granted - in fill extension.

IWC Planning Enforcement Officer proposal - in order to improve the capacity of Planning Enforcement a proposal for each Council to fund part of the salary, on a pro rata basis, of an extra Enforcement Planning Officer enabling planning issues to be dealt with in a timely manner.

This is possibly more appropriate for the larger Councils.

Suggestion of smaller neighbouring Councils e.g St Helens, Nettlestone & Seaview, Brading & Bembridge working as a group and sharing the cost.

Circulate the document to the Councillors.

105-23/24 PARISH COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

BHAG - meeting was postponed until 22.11.23

IWALC - Meeting 2.11.23 Clerk attended. Found it beneficial. Communications - meeting the members of the IOWC.

An insight on the process of acquiring property from the IOW Council and the various departments involved.

106-23/24 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

No more to add

107-23/24 OPEN QUESTION TIME

Positive note - an offer of help to deal with maintenance items.

Report - State of Toilets at Duver - checked over - 2 items to report - ladies hand dryer not working properly and the guttering requires clearing.

Duver Toilets winter opening - only the central toilet open.

Emergency Plan - Copy of the 2017 E Plan to be circulated with the Councillors.
Suggested a separate meeting to update the plan. A convenient date to be suggested.

108-23/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

PC Meeting - Monday 11th December 2023 7pm at the Pavilion

Meeting concluded at 8:25 pm

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