

# 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 11th December 2023 at 7pm at St Helens Pavilion**

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

### **109-23/24 APOLOGIES**

Cllr SP sent apologies.

### **110-23/24 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.

### **111-23/24 MINUTES**

To approve & sign the minutes of the PC meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023 .

Signed by Chair Cllr JB

**Proposed Cllr JB Seconded Cllr SE all agreed**

### **112-23/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Vandalism on the Duver - the Caravans and the toilet block gutters.

Both items were reported to the police by Cllr MC. The owner of the Caravans was also notified and organised minimal cleaning of the site.

The caravans are a neglected eyesore. Subsequent damage has occurred.

The Caravans have been subject to a legal dispute since 2016. Due to a legal error, an attempt to terminate the lease failed. Subsequently there has been an ongoing legal case between the leaseholder and the IOWC, about the terms of which the lease can be renewed. A Directions hearing is due on the 18.12.23 at which arrangements will be made for a formal Court hearing to take place in 2024 to conclude the proceedings and determine the terms of the lease going forward.

At present the plan from the leaseholder is not known. In 2022 a plan to replace the caravans with bigger and better structures was dismissed as the National Trust deemed they would encroach on the land behind which is SSSI (Sight of Specific Scientific Interest) land. It was understood that a new plan would be produced but none has ever appeared. Relates to the state of the Railway Carriages which is part of the same lease. Awaiting an outcome.

### **113-23/24 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Station Road Block plan is back on track. Due to many personnel changes within the IOWC this item has been stalled but is now moving forward for the PC to acquire the lease.

### **114-23/24 CLERK'S REPORT**

Thank you to those who have helped within the village - sorting out the gutters clearing the leaves & replacing the down pipes.

Bembridge Parish Council have been in touch re a D Day event to mark the 80th Anniversary of D-Day on 6th June 2024 by lighting of the beacon on Culver Down. There is a plan to hold St Helens V Fayre on this date. Clerk to liaise. Also note many extra events locally.

Christmas Tree - up and lit, lights on a timer. Some lovely lights on houses around the Village, giving a festive look. Thank you to those who helped put the tree up and decorate it.

Sensor lights have been fitted to the outside toilets of the Pavilion.

The light in the Car Park has been fixed.

Hand dryers - one within the Pavilion and one at the Ladies toilet on the Duver have ceased working and will require replacing.

### **115-23/24 THE GREENS**

A draft document was circulated to Councillors for comment. The purpose of the document is to offer out to Tender. Requires refinement.

Councillors were requested to read the document and forward any comments to the Clerk.

The aim is to get a grounds maintenance contract for initially 1 year , but if contractors offer a longer term e.g 3 years worth negotiating.

The document contains all areas which require maintenance. Some of these areas are maintained voluntarily at present but it would be a good idea to get an idea of the maintenance cost to possibly insure for the future.

Island Rds - identify areas that are covered by Island Roads.

Itemise the areas requiring maintenance so it is clearer to understand  
Add a schedule of dates to be cut.

Idea of costing is required for the precept budget.  
The final document to be sent out for Tenders the first week of January.  
Bring back to the next meeting ready to be agreed and signed off.

N.B there is a request to remove grass cuttings - this could make a huge difference in costs.

Clerk to send an electronic copy to all Councillors.

### **116-23/24 FINANCE & DATA PROTECTION**

Monthly Income & Expense report shared with Cllrs.  
End of November balance & bank statement shown, agreed and signed by Cllr JB  
Authorise Payment of Accounts.

**St Helens PC Financial items paid month - end of November 2023**

Inv Date	To Whom	Amount	Date of payment	Method of Payment
2.11.23	E.on Next Elec	97.05	14.11.23	BACS
2.11.23	E.on Next Gas	52.23	14.11.23	BACS
6.9.23	E.on Next Gas	69.82	14.11.23	BACS
	s/o to: COMMUNITY ACTIONISL	1227.48	10.11.23	S/O
31.10.23	Open Spaces	45.00	17.11.23	BACS
7.11.23	Corona energy	37.00	17.11.23	BACS
1.10.23	Tony Elliot	30.00	22.11.23	BACS
31.10.23	Royal British Legion	50.00	30.11.23	Chq no 300401
	S/O S Chester	600.00	28.11.23	S/O
	Direct Debit (1:1 Internet Ltd)	11.99	22.11.23	DD
		<b>£2220.57</b>		
<b>Income</b>				
	Best Kept Village Award	150.00	10.11.23	
<b>Paid</b>				
20.11.23	St Helens Community Centre	133.00	4.12.23	BACS
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
<b>To Pay</b>				
23.11.23	Island Pest Control	£192.00		
	<b>J Matthews - Expenses</b>			
29.11.23	Busy Bee - items for star on tree	26.87		
27.11.23	Spinnaker Chandlery - varnish & brushes	23.00		

Proposed: Cllr GG seconded Cllr PJ , all agreed.

**Bank Statement 30.11.23**

End of October			£41,475.37
Income November	£150.00		
Expenses November		£2220.57	
End of November			£39,404.80

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

### **117-23/24 2024 - 2025 BUDGET**

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

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.

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

### **118-23/24 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.

### **119-23/24 NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING AUTHORITY**

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

23/01666/HOU Conifers, Field Lane, St Helens Garage replacement GTD

23/01649/TW 5, Stonewood Gate, St Helens Treeworks GTD

23/01642/HOU St Catherines Cottage, Upper Green Rd St Helens Lean to extension GTD

23/01567/TW The Castle, Duver Rd, St Helens Treeworks GTD

### **120-23/24 PARISH COUNCILLORS REPORTS:**

BHAG - sale of harbour on going.

Dredging of the harbour - a new technique for this year and is working well.

Issue re Water Safety - a Water Safety Network is being formed between the Sailing Clubs & the Harbour to promote a greater awareness of water.

Forthcoming events - 21st Dec 2023 - 3 Jan 2024 Mariner closed.

8th - 9th 2024 June Gig Festival

22nd June 2024 Rock the Boat

2nd - 4th 2024 August Family fun Weekend.

IWALC - Nothing to report for St Helens.

### **121-23/24 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Flooding - many areas of Ryde severely flooded and one particular area in Brading. There is to be a formal process of investigation, a Section 19 Report. This normally arises when a number of properties are affected.

This time it is to do with the drainage of the Eastern Yar & marshes, the sluice gates and the dredging of the Harbour.

Call for evidence to feed into the investigating work - open for evidence until the 21st December. Anyone wishing to submit evidence then please contact Cllr JB. Doesn't directly affect the Village - but interest with the marshes and the RSPB.

The IOW Council working on its Budget - waiting for the Financial Settlement which comes out 3 days before Christmas mass which gives final figures for the Council to utilise in setting their precept.

Island Planning Strategy - coming back to Council again in January for a full vote, hopeful it will be passed and go onto the next stage.

Not all information printed in the press is correct .

**122-23/24 OPEN QUESTION TIME**

Concern on whether the RSPB have raised the water level in the marshes - Cllr JB has asked the Environment Agency for a meeting.

The Sluice gates are being lowered more than usual and kept open. Maybe the Policy in place currently has passed its time due to the changes in the Climate.

Plans for Station Road - PC to take on the lease and rent out on a Commercial Rent. What would the Village like to have at this place?. Rough estimate for the whole space to be rented out would be £5000 per annum.

Any restrictions that the Council are aware of? Once the lease is sent for reading time then to look at the covenants.

Any idea when Eddington Road road surface is going to be fixed -it is appalling - the pot holes have increased in size. It is getting to a point when the road requires re-surfacing. Info regarding the main flood area was discussed, concern that there is a collapsed drain nearby.

There is a Cafe operating in the NT car Park. Concern of extra rubbish being generated. What are the plans? The Clerk to enquire with NT on the provision of rubbish arrangement.

Duver Footbridge - this is closed due to the footpath on the opposite side of the bridge having eroded away. Request for the Clerk to invite the NT to come and talk to us in February on what is planned for the future of this area.

Community Fridge has taken off and being well used - thank you for the support.

Potholes - there is a system for reporting - go to Fix My Street. Keep a close eye on when reported and the work carried out - Contractual period for intervention.

Cllr JB thanked the Councillors for the work they have carried out throughout the year. Also the members of the public - their contributions most valuable, and to the Clerk.

Wish you all the very best for the Festive Season and see you in January.

**123-23/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**PC Meeting** - Monday 8th January 2024 7pm at the Pavilion

Meeting concluded at 8:06 pm

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