

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 14th July 2025 at St Helens Pavilion

**Chaired by Cllr JB,
Attended by: Cllrs: OB,SD,BH,AP,IT
Clerk JM
Public 13 members present**

41-25/26 APOLOGIES

Received from Cllr CG, and Cllr AB.

42-25/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

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

Cllr AP - declaration on certain planning matters

43-25/26 MINUTES

Minutes from the PC meeting on Monday 9th June 2025 had been circulated. These were approved at the meeting and signed by Cllr JB.

Proposed Cllr JB Seconded Cllr SD,

44-25/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

A request to refrain from cutting the football pitch at present due to a large quantity of Chamomile growing there at present.

A native plant to the IOW which has been in decline in recent years. Close mowing restricts its ability to flower, so enjoy whilst the plant is in flower.

Introduction to the New Councillors: from a Co option process the new Councillors of St Helens PC are: Cllr Andy Phillips, Cllr Olivier Boelman, Cllr Stephen Dyer, Cllr Bella Hewitt, Cllr Ian Thomson.

There is now a Defib installed at the Community Centre so thank you to those who enabled the funding and organising to get this installed.

45-25/26 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No more to add.

46-25/26 CLERK'S REPORT

Dog bin - by the end of beach huts, this has been reported and still awaiting an update.

The Dog bin at Mill Road also is missing a lid.

The wooden pedestrian barrier at the car park has been roped off due to the wood rotting and waiting for a replacement.

Dog signage with IOW Council.

Wooden Steps onto the beach, reported as requiring some remedial work - no update yet.

NT parking - there is a new app for parking at NT car parks called Just Park - if anyone requires any help with the App then please see Cllr SD at the Digi Drop in, held in the Community Centre.

Reported to me, some brambles over hanging at the Station House, Station Rd, near the bus stop. A volunteer has now cut these back - but requires reporting.

The bollard into the football green - was damaged in an incident at the Village Fayre - IOW Council is the party dealing with the dispute - no news yet.

Notification re Fire extinguishers - new criteria - Clerk to check the ones in the Pavilion.

Annual Bike Charity Event was held at the beginning of July - very successful and left the Pavilion spotless.

The Football Team who have played over the last few years are not going to be playing at St Helens this coming Season, I understand, due to not having sufficient players.

Hiring of the Pavilion - a few enquiries.

Speed management - until all old requests have been addressed no new request will be considered.

Bembridge Harbour Family Fun Weekend is from 25th - 27th July.

St Helens Horticultural Summer Show is on Wednesday 13th August - Schedules available From the Community Centre, Book Shop, Post Office.

The annual Sports and Carnival Event will be taking place in St Helens on Bank Holiday Monday 25th August. See posters locally with more details.

Matthews Fun Fair will be attending the Sports & Carnival event bringing more than double what they brought last year and keen to return in 2026 with a larger Funfair.

The New Carnival Team - have received grant funding to cover a Costume Workshop in St Helens. The date is: Tuesday 19th August, in the Pavilion - 10am - 4pm. Open to all. To book a place abigail@newcarnival.co.uk

A letter from the IOW Family Information Hub regarding holiday activities (inc food) had been received. This will be posted on the noticeboards and the PC website. Lots of info and links - if anyone knows of anyone who would be interested please share.

47-25/26 VILLAGE CONSULTATION

As Cllr AB could not attend the meeting in person he had prepared an up date, please see attached sheet.

Please encourage young people to take part and have their opinions registered.

48-25/26 BEACH/DUVER

An email response from Mr A Palmer was read out by the Clerk:

"We are pleased to inform you that the submission of the plans for the Duver will be ready very shortly as we gather quotes and designs for both the replacement railway carriages and lodges for the old caravan area. We will have a more comprehensive update, and a presentation to share by the next meeting after the month of August, which we would be delighted to attend."

A discussion was had regarding the ownership of the Carriages and the IOW Steam Railway taking them to restore.

Would the answers posed in the Village Consultation be considered in the plans?
Wait and see the proposals in September

The venue for the next PC meeting may have to change to the Community Centre, due to numbers of attendees.

Now we have Council representatives for the National Trust, the Clerk to arrange a meeting with the NT Countryside Manager Paul Davies.

Extra Bins have been arranged to arrive on Monday 28th July and remain for the summer holiday period along the seafront.

Noted that at The Point in Bembridge a working sauna and bar was in operation.

Dogs on leads; in response to a question from the last meeting. The Public Space Protection Order (stating Dogs on leads on the revetment area from May - September) lasts for a period of 3 years - the review date is 2027.

Signage - a while ago the IOW Council were going to replace the signs - Clerk has spoken with the dept and requested an update.

Discussions: re the Enforcement Officer. There was an offer last year for Town and Parish Councils to pay a fee and have a greater presence.

Request for enforcement activity - how frequently is the area visited?

How much time is given under the standard conditions without paying for extra coverage.

Drought - Proposal to turn the outside tap at the Duver Toilets off to help with the environment during the time of the Drought.

Discussion on whether it is fair to take away the water facility for dogs. It was reported that the tap had been used for more than just providing water for animals - to wash feet and paddleboards.

The clerk was asked to closely monitor the situation - if a hose pipe ban comes into force - then be actively conscious and make a decision as to turn the supply to the tap off for the duration of the hose pipe ban..

49-25/26 TO REVIEW AND ADOPT COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policies require further reading - a couple of issues have arisen.

The PC decided to take this agenda item to the September meeting.

Set up a rolling programme for review of the policies.

Clerk to send the policies to the Councillors in order to read during August.

Any comments or questions from Cllrs to be emailed to the Clerk by Monday 18th August.

All policies are available on the Parish Website.

The policies: some are standard for Councils and are taken from the Gov. website and others are more localised to St Helens.

50-25/26 COUNCILLOR COMMUNICATIONS

Plans to change the email addresses for Cllrs to [.gov.uk](mailto:sthelens@gov.uk). Previously there had been funding- the Clerk to research to see if any further funding is available.

Creating a What's App group for the Cllrs. has been suggested - proposed by Cllr AB and Cllr SD offered to manage it. Boundaries required on what it uses.e.g Highlighting an urgent email.

Using AI for taking the minutes - Clerk doing research.

Proposed What's Group - For: 3 Cllrs Against: 2 Abstain: 1.

51-25/26 COUNCILLORS AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY 2025/26

Beach & Seafront	Cllr IT	Cllr BH	
Maintenance	Cllr IT	Cllr SD	
Community Inc Village Volunteers	Cllr JB	Cllr AB	
Greens	Cllr JB	Cllr AB	
Finance	Cllr JB	Cllr SD	Cllr OB
Planning	Cllr AP		
Traffic & Parking	Cllr OB		
Pavilion Management Committee	All Councillors		

52-25/26 REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2025/26

IWALC (Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils)	Cllr JB	Cllr SD	
BHAG (Bembridge Harbour Advisory Group)	Cllr BH	Cllr AP	
National Trust	Cllr CG	Cllr IT	Cllr BH
St Helen Community Centre	Cllr AB	Cllr CG	Clerk

53-25/26 FINANCE & DATA PROTECTION

End of June accounts balance & bank statement shown, reconciliation agreed and signed by Cllr JB

Monthly Income & Expense report shared with Cllrs.

Authorise payments and expenses.

30.6.25 St Helens PC Financial Items paid month - end June 2025

Inv Date	To Whom	Amount	Date Paid	Payment
4.6.25	Lockfit - issues with key in Radar lock.	90.00	4.6.25	BACS
17.5.25	NHS Trust - Defib cabinet	560.00	10.6.25	BACS
4.6.25	IONOS Web & Email	16.20	20.6.25	DD
29.5.25	ERMC extra cut	864.00	10.6.25	BACS
21.5.25	IW GreenGym	90.00	10.6.25	BACS
	E.On Next - balance	50.31	2.6.25	BACS
9.6.25	St Helens PCC - Community Fridge Waste Contribution	500.00	13.6.25	BACS
9.6.25	St Helens Community Centre Hall hire May APM	30.00	13.6.25	BACS

2.6.25	EDF Electric	43.04	17.6.25	DD
2.6.25	EDF Gas	29.58	17.6.25	DD
4.6.25	Corona Energy	54.64	16.6.25	DD
4.6.25	Community Action	1461.87	10.6.25	SO
29.6.25	S Chester	600.00	30.6.25	SO
30.6.25	Bank Fee	6.00	30.6.25	
		£4395.64		
Income				
4.6.25	Incorrect deposit from H Bradstock refunded	-50.00	4.6.25	
5.6.25	St Helens Cricket Club donation - Key issue	90.00	5.6.25	
26.6.25	P Hewson - Pavilion Hire	80.00	26.6.25	
		£120.00		
To Pay				
17.6.24	Zurich Insurance	604.19		
2.7.25	EDF Electricity - Pavilion	53.88		
2.7.25	EDF Gas Pavilion	24.15		
4.7.25	IONOS - Web & email	16.20		
4.7.25	Corona Electricity - Duver	50.34		
4.7.25	Community Action	1461.87		
25.6.25	Benefice Churches - Printing of Community Consultation	120.21		
30.7.25	S Chester	600.00		
31.7.25	Bank Fee	6.00		
		£2936.84		
	Clerk's Expenses			
	Stationery - New Councillors folders & contents	37.20		
	Cleaning materials for the Pavilion	28.24		
	Stationery	4.75		
	Lighters for VE Day Celebrations	4.00		
		£74.19		

Bank Balances end of June 2025

Current Account End of May			£3239.01
Credits June	£ 120.00		
Transfer from Savings	£3,500.00		
Transfer to Savings		£0.00	
Expenses June		£4,395.64	
Current Account End of June			£ 2463.37
Savings Account - End of May			£61,125.65
Transfers from Current Account	£0.00		

Transfers to Current Account - June		£3,500.00	
Credits - Interest	£338.90		
Savings Account end of June			£57,964.55
Current Account end of June			£2463.27
Total funds end of June			£60,427.92

Proposed Cllr JB, Seconded Cllr BH ,all agreed

Matters queried:

Question why the expenses for the Pavilion are higher than income at this time in the financial year. Explanation: checks on boiler, electric board, fire extinguishers, Legionella testing are all carried out at the beginning of the financial year.

A question was raised re the payment made for the Community Fridge Waste. A short explanation was given.

Question re insurance - was this the best quote? There had been an annual increase of £15.19.

ICO - payment, Clerk to check rise in costs from £40 (less £5 for paying DD) to £52 (less £5 for paying DD).

Confirming Bank Signatories for the Parish Council Bank Accounts - Cllr JB, Cllr OB, & Cllr SD

Website quotes - to move forward - a company who deals with Council websites called Aubergine is quoting £500 to set up a website.
To be aware that costs are not being charged each update. Final quotes for next meeting.

Replacement bench at top of Duver. Clerk to get quotes and circulate information in readiness for the next meeting.

54-25/26 APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

25/00901/TW 1,Alpha Cottages, The Diggings, St Helens PO33 1UP - Treeworks; Tree 1 Plum Tree - remove one big stem, east side. Tree 2; Purple Plum Tree.Remove one large branch and three other branches, east side. Tree 3; Bay, remove one stem. Reduce crown on all three trees by 10 feet to allow light into No 2 Alpha Cottages.

25/00835/FUL Bembridge Boat Storage, The Duver, St Helens. Demolition of one storey structures; proposed extension of boat storage (revised scheme). Objection from one neighbour. Suggest that the corner is a tricky part, getting larger boats round to Attrils yard, and maybe that area is improved - now is the time to change it. Cllr AP & the Clerk to organise a letter to the planning department.

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.

Suggested that the PC look at the application (20 documents)
Discussion was had about the area and previous applications.

Can the PC request some affordable housing. Representations as appropriate.
Individuals have the right to make comments.
Any concerns please contact to Cllr JB as Ward Councillor or the Clerk.

55-25/26 NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

25/00567/HOU 2, St Michaels Rd, St Helens - Removal of Chimney, proposed porch alterations to fenestration and cladding to all elevations. Decision; refused.

25/00685/CLPUD Fakenham Cottage, Eddington Road, St Helens PO33 1XS. Lawful Development Certificate for proposed detached garage.

Garage at the rear of the building - proposed building to have 2 doors and an open space - within lawful development. Decision:Granted.

25/00672/TW, Miramar, Eddington Road, St Helens. Monterey Cypress - fell to near ground level. Replacement planting. Decision:Granted

56-25/26 PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

- BHAG - none
- IWALC - none

57-25/26 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

Concern over parking around Newlands in the Village. Double yellow lines and obstruction of Residential homes.

Parking issues of School parents parking and blocking the driveway of a home in Broomlands.

58-25/26 OPEN QUESTION TIME

Issues with the double yellow lines - vehicles can stop for 10 minutes whilst unloading or loading only. Suggested that the Cafe put a notice on the window of the building. If people are blocking the highway then anyone can call the police to resolve the issue.

Cricket Club - finance for the Pavilion - what has been to be decided.

Is it possible to invite PSCO Hull to the October meeting - regarding the activity in the NT Car Park, and in the Railway Carriages during evenings.

Dogs off the lead and on the Revetment - Parishioner said they kindly asked the owner to put the dog on the lead, and they obliged. Confused by the notices. The wording is a legal prescribed notice.

Covers for the bins to prevent birds - please follow up. The bin in the playground is particularly dreadful.

View at Gaggen Path - the buddleia is left because of the birds nesting season, which finishes at the end of July. Will the sheep be returning to the area?

Gravel from some drives in Station Road is working its way onto the pavement, causing difficulties with walking, or pushing a buggy/wheelchair. Can this be reported,

59-25/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

PC Meeting - Monday 9th September 2025 7pm at the Pavilion

Meeting concluded at 20:09 pm

60-25/26 TO RESOLVE THAT: Confidential business transacted, excluding the public & press.

1. Cleaning Contract
2. Clerks Annual Appraisal.

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