

St Helens Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr Jonathan Bacon Clerk: Jacky Matthews



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Draft MINUTES OF MEETING OF ST HELENS PARISH COUNCIL Held on Monday 13th July 2026, 7.00pm, at St Helens Pavilion

Chaired by Cllr S Dyer

**Attended by: Cllrs: A Phillips, J Bacon, O Boelman, A Bradstock,
C Garnett, and I Thomson,
Clerk JM**

14 Public members (including County Press rep. present)

53-26/27 APOLOGIES

Cllr B Hewitt

54-26/27 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS and REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

(Members are reminded of the need to maintain their register of interests)

To invite Members to declare any pecuniary or other prejudicial interest they might have in the matters on this agenda (Members with pecuniary or prejudicial interests must leave the room for the relevant items);

To receive requests for and if appropriate, grant dispensation to take part in debate or decisions on items.

Cllr J Bacon with regard to Planning applications for Lilac Cottage, Upper Green Road, and 43, Downsview Road, St Helens.

55-26/27 MINUTES

To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th June 2026.

Cllr ABradstock asked for more details to be added on items No 33-26/27, for reference in the future.

Item no 51-26/27 - Change the name to: The Haven IOW Field CIO.

Re item no 36-26/27 Cllr I Thomson made the comment that the minutes were inaccurate.

Cllr I Thomson read out a statement and asked that it be included within the minutes.

"STATEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR THOMSON TO BE READ AT THE PC MEETING ON THE 13TH JULY 2026.

Item 36-26/27 PC Meeting 8th June 2026.

Councillor Phillips raised an issue of derogatory comments on social media from one councillor about another councillor, he feels that this does not represent the PC in a good light. He personally would like any differences to be addressed directly and away from the public gaze end of quote.

Then he chooses to do exactly the opposite and make what I found to be his aggressive, rude and incorrect comments in the public gaze to use his phrase. A complete contradiction from his comment in the minutes. These minutes bear no resemblance to the nasty and uncalled for comments made towards me by Councillor Phillips, his comments really upset me and made me consider my role as a Parish Councillor, I suspect this was his intention by bringing this up in public and not AWAY FROM THE PUBLIC GAZE as he claims to prefer. Finally, I would ask Councillor Phillips if he knows the difference between the IOW Council and St Helens Parish Council? I have never ever made any comment on social media about Parish Councillor Bacon, I have made comments about him as our IOW Councillor and I will continue to do so should I have anything to say and I am not banned which is very likely to happen. In view of his inaccurate and aggressive comments I am asking for a public apology from Councillor Phillips.

RESILIENCE PLAN. At the last meeting it was said that I resigned from this plan and no reason was given, the reason I resigned was because of the aggressive, rude and incorrect comments made towards me from Councillor Phillips. I would like this noted in the minutes."

In response to this statement, Cllr A Phillips said he wanted it made clear no names were mentioned when he brought the issue up at the June meeting. He had asked the Cllr in question to be honest and be counted.

Cllr A Bradstock added he felt what Cllr A Philips had said was a fair description of what had been spoken about at the June meeting.

Cllr C Garnett added that an email had been sent to the Cllrs privately, prior to the meeting, trying to dissipate the issue before the June PC meeting.

Cllr C Garnett also added that Cllr I Thomson had also passed a comment on facebook about the location of her residence and therefore she should not have an opinion.

Cllr I Thomson reiterated that comments made against Cllr J Bacon were as his role on the IOW Council and not as a Parish Councillor.

Comments on the minutes - minutes are records of essential information and decisions.

The minutes for the June PC meeting, with the amended information on items nos; 33-26/27 and 51-26/27 were proposed by Cllr S Dyer, Seconded by Cllr C Garnett, 4 Cllrs agreed, 1 against.

Vote for section 36-26/27 as a true record of what was spoken within the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr S Dyer, Seconded by Cllr C Garnett, Agreed by Cllr A Bradstock.

Cllrs O Boelman (as not being present at the meeting,) Cllr A Phillips and Cllr J Bacon abstained. Cllr IT voted against.

56-26/27 MATTERS ARISING

Cllr S Dyer has asked Wightfibre for a quote to supply an internet connection into the Pavilion.

Policies - Privacy & GDPR Policies; NALC (National Associations of Local Councils) recommend having separate policies for GDPR Data Protocol and Privacy.

Cllr S Dyer & Clerk to sort and bring to the September meeting.

57-26/27 BEACH/DUVER

No updates from A Palmer, The Beach Home Team.

A few enquiries from public about renting Railway Carriages had been received and forwarded to the Beach Home Team.

There is an issue regarding rubbish and bags of dog mess being left near the skip.

Cllr J Bacon and Clerk have been in touch with the IOWC.

The PC does not pay for extra enforcement officer duties.

The Public Realm, Enforcement Officer visits once every two weeks - this is funded from the Council Tax. Should the PC wish to fund an additional visit the costs quoted in 2025 was; £192.92 for a day, £96.46 for a half day or £26.07 for an extra hour.

No funding for extra cover has been allocated in this year's budget. Extra bins are going to be on site for the duration of the school summer holidays.

What is the time frame for the skip at the Duver? To enquire with A Palmer. Concern that rubbish attracts more rubbish.

The main problem seems to be some dog owners not being responsible for their dogs and the environment.

Councillor JBacon is in discussion with the IOW Steam Railway to formulate a plan to remove the carriages. Not an easy process, this will involve a heavy lifting crane, can the sea wall withstand the weight of the crane, also to consider bird nesting times.

The whole procedure involves the National Trust, the Environment Council, the IOW Council, IOW Steam Railway and A Palmer.

Cllr C Garnett made a plea that this work be done this autumn.

58-26/27 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - Standing Orders suspended

Prior to Part 2 of the meeting there will be an opportunity of up to 15 minutes, if required, for members of the Public to make comments and to ask questions of the Council.

1. General Issues (15minutes)

2. On Matters below (15 minutes)

Annual Cycle Cruise at the beginning of July. The letting of the Pavilion to the cyclists clashed with a cricket fixture date - efforts to address the situation were made but difficult, so as in past years shared the use - both parties were aware. Friends of a local resident who took part in the cycle ride mentioned this issue, when the cyclists arrived the cricket match was still ongoing and not the best set up all round.

Dog poo bins - would an extra empty be possible for the tourist season.

Extra rubbish bins have been organised for the summer holidays. Bagged dog mess can be put into normal rubbish bins. If anyone sees dog poo bags being left by the bin - this is fly tipping and illegal.

There is also an issue with dog mess being left on the footpath up from the school to Eddington Road.

Suggest asking the camp site to highlight the issue - poster maybe.

Cyclists on the causeway - when busy and narrow, one sign at one end but nothing at the other, owned by the National Trust.

Write to NT can we have a sign or at least an explanation why a sign cant be placed in situ.

S Dyer to write to NT.

Island Rds responsible for the bridges on the Causeway.

The footpath from school to Eddington Road has a no cycling sign at the Eddington Rd end but not at the school end.

Challenging the public can be tricky but enforcement is difficult too.

Both paths are designated footpaths so no bicycles should be on there at all.

59-26/27 CHAIRS REPORT

Cllr S Dyer thanked the Councillors for nominating him to be the new Chair. Positive feedback from the Village too.

Cllr S Dyer wanted to formally thank Cllr J Bacon for the years he has been Chair and the positive things he has brought to the village.

Cllr S Dyer has completed the IWALC New Councillor Training course, and attended the IWALC AGM.

At the AGM, a lengthy discussion about the IWALC representation on the IWC planning committee which IWALC lost last year. The leader of the IWC assured the Association that he will work towards forging closer relationships with Parish and Town Councils across the Island through IWALC.

Cllr S Dyer thanked Cllr Thomson and Cllr Boelman for reporting the following: fly-tipping, dogs off leads on the revetment, illegal camping, and overnight stays in campervans.

Cllr Dyer has been in communication with the NT about a dog bin which has a dangerous lid.

An informal meeting of the PC has been held to discuss the Resilience Plan and how to move forward. Cllr S Dyer thanked those members of the PC who attended.

60-26/27 CLERK'S REPORT

Annual Governance Audit Report submitted - no news yet.

Litter Pick by IOW Green Gym is due on Duver this week - they produce a survey of the items they find. This is funded by Baywatch Cafe.

An email re the Village Tree Warden had been received; could I confirm the lady mentioned was St Helens representative. I have asked many people and no one knows of her. I have reported back as unknown to this area.

Items coming up; Bembridge Harbour Family Weekend 31.7.26,

St Helens Horticultural Show - Wednesday 12th August

Bank Holiday Monday Sports & Carnival Event with a Car Boot Sale in the morning.

Various Carnivals over the island.

A letter re 'Holiday Club from IOW including food' - if anyone can benefit please get in touch. Any info coming through I will share on the board outside the Pavilion and the website.

Seaview & Nettlestone PC sent a notification re their Neighbourhood Development Plan - it is ready for people to review. Submit any responses.

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/article/1469/Neighbourhood-planning>

Email from Zoe Norman - Community Outreach Support, from Aspire. Enquiry as to whether there is a gap in St Helens, where their knowledge and expertise to benefit others could be used. Clerk to discuss with the Community Centre.

A letter was received; a visitor wanted to walk to the Duver, but as there were no pavements down Duver Road, decided to take the Gaggen Edge Pathway. Sadly as the lady was using a walker, herself and son got into difficulties. A passerby helped them out. The lady has suggested that a sign be required at the top of the pathway for highlighting inaccessibility.

Household support, Crisis & Resilience Fund - If anyone is struggling to get in touch with IOW Council - help is available.

The Pavilion will be used by two football teams for the winter. Both teams know each other and are working to organise their fixtures so no clashes.

Martyns Law, covering security and safety with large events. This is a law on a timeline at present before it is rolled out and fully operational. The two venues we have in the village cannot hold the number of people before the guidelines of Martyn's Law become obligatory. I attended some training about this law and what I took from it, although St Helens is exempt the legislation requires us to register as exempt if a large event is happening within the village.

61-26/27 COMMUNITY

Youth Club. The numbers are healthy, 8 - 12year olds approx 25-35 weekly, 13 - 16year olds approx 10-12 weekly.

A variety of extra activities are laid on in addition to the usual games and crafts.

More volunteers are required to help with the sessions. There is a team but due to commitments more people are required. By offering to help once a month would be most welcome.

The Haven held an open event on 4th July. 120 people attended. A teepee has been donated which the Youth Club young people particularly enjoyed.

Working with 'We the 33' to get the next stage up and running, including Community Growing for next spring.

62-26/27 WEBSITE & EMAILS

August job - nothing to report at the moment.

63-26/27 RESILIENCE PLAN

Following Cllr IT resignation, an informal meeting was held to discuss the Plan and organise a new leader.

Cllr S Dyer formally nominated Cllr A Phillips to lead the Plan, Seconded by Cllr C Garnett,
4 Councillors in favour, 1 against.

Cllr A Phillips nominated Cllr S Dyer as the Deputy lead, seconded by Cllr J Bacon,
all agreed.

Items to address - at a future informal meeting:

Locations to leave the plan - shop and pub, Community Centre, Pavilion.

Storage & equipment - Cllr JBacon - suggested a garage in Latimer Road. To be followed up

Good suggestions - grab sheets with defined instructions.

Propane Bottles - Cllr A Phillips has storage.

Items: create a list of contacts who have access to fire extinguishers and asking if they could be used if required in the event of an emergency.

Clerk to formulate the questions raised at the informal meeting and put to the Bembridge Resilience Plan Committee. Arrange a visit.

Requiring Cool spaces - a fresh kind of emergency that needs to be addressed. Revisit the idea of trees on the Greens.

Previous consultation attracted 170 responses, results 70-80% support. It was stopped because planted trees on the green were seen as an impediment to the green. Now it seems the impediment is the sun, more shade is required to be able to enjoy the area.

In the past, there have been more trees on the greens.

Food shortages - are there areas to grow food locally? Plans are in motion to add Community Growing at the Haven Field

64-26/27 STATION ROAD TOILET BLOCK

The Station Road Toilet Block - could this be the place for storage for the Emergency Plan items?

Draft lease in existence, but the former PC were not willing to sign it. A number of questions were raised by the PCouncil. Are the questions still valid? Please chase these up.

Must include a surrender clause.

Application SEEN grant money - decision is due in August.

A thank you to Mrs Lloyd for making the garden at the Station Road block an attractive feature.

65-26/27 FOOTPATH- LCWIP - CARPENTERS ROAD

St Helens are now in the loop with communications with Brading Town Council and the IOWC, pushing forward to create a pathway from St Helens to Brading as set out in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

66-26/27 VILLAGE CONSULTATION PLAN

Youth Club Building; a breakthrough has been made with the Trustees and a meeting has been arranged for August with the current trustees.

PCouncil reps: Cllr ABradstock, Cllr JBacon, Cllr BHewitt, and J Trafford from St Helens Youth Club.

67-26/27 FINANCE

St Helens Finance Risk Assessment annual review, shared with Cllrs.

June's Bank Statements were checked and agreed.

Monthly Income & Expense report shared with Cllrs.

Authorise payments and expenses.

For the next instalment of the Youth Club Grant a reference number is required - Clerk to email IOWC and ask, then forward the invoice. This next installment is given on the report being accepted that Cllr A Bradstock has submitted.

Balance sheet end of June 2026

Current Account end of May			126.17
Credits June	338.56		
Transfer from Savings June	6,600.00		

Transfer to Savings June		0.00	
Expenses June		6,773.50	
Current Account End of June			291.23
Savings Account end of May			73,452.30
Transfers from Savings - June		6,600.00	
Transfer to Savings - June	0.00		
Credits - Interest	343.30		
Savings Account End of June			67,195.60
Current Account Balance end of June			291.23
Savings Account Balance end of June			67,195.60
Total Funds in Bank Accounts end of June			67,486.83
Wedding Deposit			500
			66,986.83

30.6.26 St Helens PC Financial Items paid month - end June 2026

Inv Date	To Whom	Amount	Date Paid	Payment
27.4.26	Lake Cleaning Supplies	23.78	11.6.26	BACS
18.5.26	S Chester Pavilion Cleans	270.00	9.6.26	BACS
25.5.26	S Wilson - Electrical	113.08	9.6.26	BACS
26.5.26	Aubergine - Website & Emails	670.80	9.6.26	BACS
27.5.26	Memorial Sign renovation Tuesday Sunshine	180.00	3.6.26	BACS
28.5.26	Signpost - mural signs	28.56	3.6.26	BACS
31.5.26	EMRC Inv 908	650.32	9.6.26	BACS
31.5.26	St Helens PCC - contribution for St Helens Graveyard- ash tree dieback	1000.00	9.6.26	BACS
1.6.26	EDF - Elec - Duver Toilets	56.80	16.6.26	DD
2.6.26	EDF - Gas Pavilion	38.10	17.6.26	DD
2.6.26	EDF Electric Pavilion	59.81	17.6.26	DD
3.6.26	St Helens Community Fridge - Waste donation	500.00	9.6.26	BACS
4.6.25	Island Roads, Winter bin collection	378.00	9.6.26	BACS
4.6.26	Ionos Website & email.	25.80	22.6.26	DD
10.6.26	Zurich Insurance - Youth Club, monthly	10.78	10.6.26	DD
10.6.26	Community Action	1505.95	10.6.26	SO
25.6.26	Zurich Insurance - annual fee	604.72	25.6.26	BACS
30.6.26	S Chester	650.00	29.6.26	SO
30.6.26	Bank Charge	7.00	30.6.26	
		£6773.50		
Income				

2.6.26	P Hewson - Pavilion Hire	£80.00		
8.6.26	Mural Donation	£98.56		
15.6.26	P Daniel - Pavilion hire	£100.00		
25.6.26	Diabetes IOW - Pavilion Hire	£60.00		
		£338.56		
30.6.26	Interest on Savings account	£343.30		
		£681.86		
To Pay				
29.6.26	ERMC INV 00955	650.32		
1.7.26	EDF Electricity Duver Toilets	58.21		
2.7.26	EDF Pavilion - Gas	31.63		
2.7.26	EDF Pavilion - Electricity	40.52		
4.7.26	Ionos Website	25.80		
	Community Action	1505.95		
	S Chester	650.00		
	Bank Charge	7.00		
	St H PCC - Printer charges Youth Club & Council	40.00		
10.7.26	BetterPak	267.13		
	Clerks Expenses, Stationery, Varnish, toilet door signs,	60.74		
		£3337.30		

Signed by Chair Cllr S Dyer, Seconded by Cllr O Boelman, all agreed

68-26/27 CONTINGENCY FUND

Crossing Idea/Patrol;

The Clerk met with IOWC, data was collected on the use of Upper Green Road, from the vehicles and pedestrians during school collection time. In order to put forward the plan for a Crossing Patrol Officer the data had to be of a certain level of usage which when converted to the IOWC traffic usage system was above the base level and eligible for a Patrol Officer. To facilitate this position there would be a time line. The PC put aside a full year's cost, but as timings are, the costs will be less than first planned.

Great to do for the rest of the year. Cllr C Garnett is still an advocate of the pedestrian crossing so would like the PC to investigate the cost and feasibility of adding a crossing. It was also requested by a resident that the PCouncil look at various traffic calming measures e.g speed cushions.

Cllr A Phillips suggested - having a 'walking bus' - this has worked in the past with parents volunteering to walk the children to and fro from the school to the car park.

No cost. Short term idea. Clerk to draft a letter to the school to see if there is any interest. Discussion on the benefits of a Crossing Patrol Officer and defining the success of the project, concern for the future of being tied into a fixed term contract for the school year, the amount increasing in the future . Could this be sustainable?

Cllr S Dyer asked the PC to consider the item at present for now.

Agenda item is for a Crossing Patrol Officer position.

69-26/27 MAINTENANCE

There have been quad bikes with tanks of weedkiller on the back, spraying kerbs.
One issue: they drive around one handed, which is not having full control of the vehicle and is illegal.

The issue which is continually raised, is that the method they use is written into a contract.

This is being reconsidered, more for the issue of using glyphosate.

It is an ongoing debate, a few years back Island Roads stopped using weedkiller and employed people to weed verges. This was much slower and more costly. Complaints increased so they reverted back to spraying. Trying to find a better solution.

Can areas opt out? Cllr J Bacon to advise.

Greens. There had been an issue about the grass length in the play area. This area is The responsibility of the IOW Council, and so had been reported. In the meantime a very kind volunteer has cut this grass - thank you.

The soak away system down Station Road, requires attention.

West Green. Some bollards are damaged or rotten and require mending.

Any news on the post at the entrance to the football pitch green. Placed there originally to stop inappropriate parking. To ask IOWC if this will be reinstated.

Pavilion. To set up a working group to discuss works required for the building. Quotes required for painting the exterior. Also to ask for quotes on replacing with cement boarding. Cllr A Phillips, Cllr S Dyer and the Clerk to get quotes for the cement boarding and also painting.

To investigate the internal corner where there is an issue of possible damp.

Showers and water temperature to be tested regularly. Cllr I Thomson suggested a spreadsheet and responsible person in charge of carrying out regular testing. Shower heads should be cleaned and sanitised every three months. This job could come under a Pavilion Working Group.

70-26/27 APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

26/00633/HOU Lilac Cottage, Upper Green Road, St Helens, PO33 1UG.

Proposed cladding to the side elevation. Granted permission published 13.7.26.

26/00320/OUT St Helens Coastal resort, Field Lane, St Helens, PO33 1UX.

Demolition of existing storage building; outline for residential development of 6 dwellings.

Awaiting decision

49-26/27 NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

APP/P2114/D/25/3371013 (25/00567/HOU), 2, St Michaels Road, St Helens PO33 1YJ.

Non-material amendment on APP/P2114/D/25/3371013 (25/00567/HOU) for alterations to porch glazing, windows and decking as built. Refused.

26/00717/DIS St Helens Mill, Mill Road, St Helens, IOW. PO33 1YH.

Condition compliance application on 25/01586/HOU relating to condition 5 (Protected Species) to be discharged. Condition Discharge

26/00467/TW St Helens House, Duver Road, St Helens PO33 1XY. T1 Mulberry Tree. 30% crown reduction back to good growth. The tree has subsequently fallen. Withdrawn

26/00520/TW 43, Downs View Road, St Helens. PO33 1YE. Reduce over the garden of 43 by approximately 40%. Reason- rebalance crown and reduce overhanging into garden.
Granted

72-26/27 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

Railway Carriages - news as above under The Duver.

IWALC - It was reported that following changes to the Isle of Wight Council constitution, IWALC is no longer to have a representative on the Isle of Wight Council Planning Committee. The role was a non-voting one but the reason given was that IWALC, as a representative of Parish Councils, was representing statutory consultees and therefore could in effect be acting in judgment of its own representations. The move has however caused upset and there are discussions between IWALC and IWC to see if the matter can be resolved in some way.

The New Combined Authority met today. That body also wants to have a relationship with Town & Parish Councils

73-26/27 PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

IWALC Cllr S Dyer attended the AGM.

BHAG - Cllr AP unable to attend - but did mention that there had been a change of Chair for the PC. Cllr A Phillips asked if any of the Council members would consider taking on this role, Cllr I Thomson agreed. Clerk to send notification and Cllr I Thomson's email address to F Thorpe, at Bembridge Harbour. Cllr B Hewitt remains the deputy contact.

74-26/27 OPEN QUESTION TIME

Weedkiller - it was mentioned that there are lots of alternatives to the Glyphosate which are non carcinogenic and the European Union have embraced.

As we are a Biosphere worth following through.

The member of the public was asked to send the information to Cllr J Bacon.

Glyphosate is written in the current contract and although ideal to change the contract, this would be very costly with legal costs.

When are the Greens due a cut, Clerk to follow up.

Request to reinstate a hand water pipe on the Green?

75-26/27 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Public PC Meeting - Monday 13th September 2026 7pm - St Helens Pavilion

Meeting closed at 9:15pm.

Signed.....Date.....