

St Helens Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr Jonathan Bacon Clerk: Jacky Matthews



Office of the Parish Clerk,
Seaways, Eddington Road, St Helens, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 1XS.
clerk@sthelensiw.org.uk www.sthelensiw.org.uk 01983 722575

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ST HELENS PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 10th November 2025, 7.00pm, at St Helens Pavilion

Chaired by Cllr J Bacon,

**Attended by: Cllrs: A Phillips, A Bradstock, I Thompson, S Dyer, B Hewitt,
Clerk JM**

5 Public members present

98-25/26 APOLOGIES

Received from Cllrs O Boelman, C Garnett

99-25/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

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

None other.

100-25/26 MINUTES

Minutes from the PC meeting on Monday 13th October 2025 had been circulated.
The minutes were approved at the meeting and signed by Cllr JB.

Proposed Cllr JBacon Seconded Cllr BHewitt. Cllrs AB, IT, BH agreed, Cllrs SD, IT abstained as not present at the October meeting.

101-25/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

A question was raised re the Speed Monitoring idea. A member of the public has volunteered to assist. Brading has a machine which St Helens can borrow once they have completed their Speed Monitoring project. To purchase a machine costs £150 approx.

The idea of having a Lollipop Person has been put to the Chair of Governors at the School - awaiting a response.

Village consultation Results - all completed and now to be advertised. A copy is available for reference in the Community Centre Foyer. It is on the PC website on the home page.

102-25/26 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None other than - waiting on Mr Palmer.
Waiting for confirmation of his attendance at the December meeting.

103-25/26 CLERK'S REPORT

PSCO Steve Hull - left leaflets at the last meeting - if more could be circulated and then returned to Clerk or in the letterbox at the Pavilion so they can be passed onto S Hull.

An email had been received from the County Commissioner to ask the public to fill in a Questionnaire. Some to be printed and left in the Community Centre.

Lost and abandoned fishing gear. A register of what is found and where is to be recorded. If you find anything washed up on the beach please can you let the Clerk know the details.

St Helens Angels event - application forms available from The Vine - registered by 28th November - judging on the 29th November.

Games afternoon - the next one is Tuesday 18th November and following is Tuesday 9th December, at the Pavilion 2pm - 4pm. All are welcome.

The Rocking Horse in the playground, what is the update on it being mended? - Clerk attending a meeting tomorrow so maybe some news then.

Remembrance Day Service - thank you to Cllr BHewitt and husband for representing the PC and laying the Wreath on behalf of the parish.

Training this month - attended Finance training from IWALC and due to attend 'People in Action' - an online training of supporting, encouraging people to be involved.

The Tree Warden Position remains vacant - no responses at present. If you are interested in Trees, can volunteer some time please get in touch.

A Tree Warden Scheme has been set up, mainly over West Wight - requesting for a local person to be a contact point of tree work activities. Criteria of job - love of trees, and a few hours to spare. This does not have to be a Cllr.

The project - Mosaic/Mural is moving forward, monies to get the design complete are available.

A question for the audience - What noticeboards do you look at - how do you receive the information - from the noticeboards, Community Centre, the PC Website and What's On magazine.

The circulation of What's On is 520 which includes Seaview & Brading.

A suggested idea - would it be possible to send to all addresses within St Helens.

Printing costs about £2500, works out about 50p per copy. It is available digitally.

Would a newsletter be considered on a monthly basis? Brading runs a quarterly newsletter - maybe PC should look towards creating something similar for St Helens PC.

104-25/26 VILLAGE CONSULTATION

Thanks to Cllr A Bradstock and all who took part in creating the Village Consultation Plan.

Results: processed the data, it has taken time to work through it. If worded slightly oddly then please ask, all based on the data returned.

Every PC meeting to include an update on what is being followed through.

Questions have been asked regarding the following items:

Village Greens, Station Road toilet block, Zebra Crossings and Youth Club. Awaiting responses. Suggested to invite the Trustees of the Youth Club to a future meeting to give an update of what is happening with the building.

Station Road lease - was received from IOW Council, considered by the PC and was returned with questions. Clerk to follow up.

The Historical Society has a chance of a grant - Past Futures Grant - the submission date being 9th March. This could be used for the change of the toilet block to a Heritage Centre, if that is a route to be taken.

VCP questions on the Churchyard - a Community Asset. A company, Gods Acre, who advise on graveyards had visited and did a survey, producing a 3 year tailored plan for the Area. Data from the VCP had been used within their survey.

105-25/26 VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

The VCP asked what activities locals would be interested in having available and who would be willing to help them to go ahead. All 20 suggestions attracted a good response. A meeting this coming Wednesday is planned for those who showed interest in volunteering have been invited.

Cllr A Bradstock attended a meeting at County Hall in relation to a Capacity Grant that the IOWC are offering. One of the criteria to apply for this grant - If you have a project to help and support children, local families, e.g equipment for many of the activities - Cllr A Bradstock was strongly encouraged to submit a bid. As the timeline is tight, it needs to be submitted by 21.11.25. Cllr A Bradstock & Cllr J Bacon to meet to put the application together.

106-25/26 CHRISTMAS 2025

The Christmas Tree has been ordered. Those who help with putting tree up and checking the lights have been booked. The School has contacted me re varnishing the Angels the schoolchildren have decorated, so sorted.

The event is on Saturday 29th November, prize giving of the Angels competition, singing with the Goose Singers, tree lights going on at 5pm, mulled wine & mince pies being served in the Vine.

107-25/26 PC POLICIES

They are for the PC to read, update and approve. Our policies require updating - Cllr S Dyer has offered to run the policies through AI. One has been completed and the content is very similar, they are laid out differently and the language is slightly different.

The Health & Safety Policy - requires revising and potentially including the Pavilion.

Standing Orders - ideally should be reviewed at a separate meeting to ensure the terms are applicable to St Helens PC.

Some policies can be updated every 3-4 years, others should be reviewed annually.

Action: Work through the list by bringing a few to each future meeting.

To be circulated and considered: is this a policy to be reviewed annually or more infrequent.

108-25/26 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

Brought forward from the last meeting requiring a lead member . After discussion - Cllr IThompson would be interested in being involved.

What is required - a person to lead, a final plan, a list of equipment required. To check out having a framework to work from. To go on the Informal meeting agenda.

109-25/26 FINANCE & DATA PROTECTION

End of October account balances & one bank statement shown, (the other has not arrived in post as yet) - reconciled, agreed and signed by Cllr JBacon

Monthly Income & Expense report shared with Cllrs.

Authorise payments and expenses.

1.10.25 St Helens PC Financial Items paid month - end October 2025

Inv Date	To Whom	Amount	Date Paid	Payment
11.9.25	BDO - External Auditors	252.00	3.10.25	BACS
15.9.25	ERMC - IV00475	619.34	3.10.25	BACS
8.8.25	Cllr AP - Richardsons Yacht Services - noticeboard materials	91.50	21.10.25	BACS
23.8.25	Cllr AP - Spinnaker Yacht Chandlery - noticeboard materials	6.62	21.10.25	BACS
4.9.25	Island Roads - Refuse contract	1478.40	14.10.25	BACS
11.9.25	St Helens Community Centre - Septembers PC meeting	30.00	14.10.25	BACS
30.9.25	The Haven Churches - Printing costs (Consultation part) June- Sept	35.42	14.10.25	BACS
30.9.25	ERMC - IV00508	619.34	14.10.25	BACS
1.10.25	SLCC - Annual Membership	183.00	14.10.25	BACS
2.10.25	EDF Gas Pavilion	28.55	17.10.25	DD
2.10.25	EDF Electricity - Pavilion	40.37	17.10.25	DD
4.10.25	IONOS - Web & email	16.20	22.10.25	DD

3.10.25	Community Action	1461.87	10.10.25	S/O
6.10.25	EDF Electricity - Duver Toilets	54.38	21.10.25	DD
31.10.25	S Chester	625.00	28.10.25	S/O
31.10.25	Bank Fee	6.00	31.10.25	
		£5547.99		
Income				
17.9.25	P Hewson - Pavilion Hire	80.00		
		£80.00		
To Pay				
	Cricket Club - Grounds maintenance for year 25/26	2200.00		
	Open Spaces Society - Subscription	45.00		
	Community Action	1461.87		
	EDF - Gas Pavilion	41.73		
	EDF - Elec - Pavilion	37.58		
	St Helens Community Centre - October's PC meeting	30.00		
	EDF - Elec - Duver Toilets (awaiting invoice)	59.71		
	S Chester (balance from October's payment)	25.00		
	IONOS - Web & email	16.20		
	S Chester	650.00		
	Bank Fee	6.00		
	Royal British Legion	50.00		
		£4623.09		
	EMRI - Grounds contract. Awaiting invoice			

Proposed Cllr JBacon, Seconded Cllr S Dyer all agreed.

Bank Balances end of October 2025

Current Account End of September			£76.07
Credits October	£ 80.00		
Transfer from Savings	£8200.00		
Transfer to Savings		£0.00	
Expenses October		£5547.99	
Current Account End of October			£ 2,808.08
Savings Account - End of September			£49,305.33
Transfers from Current Account	£0.00		
Transfers to Current Account - October		£8200.00	
Credits - Interest	£0.00		
Savings Account End of October			£41,105.33
Current Account end of October			£2,808.08
Savings Account end of October			£41,105.33
Total funds end of October			£43,913.41

110-25/26 BUDGET 2026/2027

The Budget for 2026/2027 requires it to be set by the end of the January meeting.

The IOWC requires the precept figure to be submitted on 10.2.25.

Suggested an informal budget meeting

Costings for usual items estimated and then any other projects or extra business - all figures need to be added into the budget and then the PC can decide what items should /need to be carried forward or not.

A couple of items mentioned: Graveyard maintenance costs - how is that split between the Council and the Church? Background; the Church asked the PC, as the Graveyard is a Community Asset, could an amount be given towards the upkeep. Last year this did happen.

The sum of the reserves = for our size budget the reserves should be between 3 -12 months of the working budget.

What is required: a comprehensible list of items for the budget. Some items will be more favoured or not by members of the Council. The cost implications and therefore giving an idea of the precept amount.

111-25/26 APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

25/01586/HOU St Helens Mill, Mill Road, St Helens PO33 1YH.

Demolition of existing single storey outbuilding; Proposed replacement single storey outbuilding to provide home office.

Standard - no objections.

25/01559/RVC Land adjacent to 32, St Michaels Rd, St Helens.

Variation of conditions 2,5,7,8 and 9 on 22/01582/FUL to allow amendments to approved Scheme.

The slight variations are noted with interest.

112-25/26 NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

25/01388/FUL Former St Helens Service station, Lower green Road, St Helens, PO33 1TH.

Proposed conversion of former garage/workshop, with flat above into 4 residential units

Awaiting decision

A letter had been sent on behalf of the PCouncil. An amendment has shown an application without parking has been submitted. It was understood that applications like this one should include parking advice. CllrA Phillips to investigate.

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.

Awaiting Decision

Aware the applicant had not submitted the Biodiversity Net Gain information - this has been requested.

113-25/26 PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

- BHAG - Meeting is due at the end of Nov.
- IWALC - Cllr S Dyer & the Clerk attended the Finance Training event.

114-25/26 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

Formally mentioned that there is to be a report into the running of the IOWCouncil by an Independent Consultant.

115-25/26 OPEN QUESTION TIME

The matter of the Duver Railway carriages - Cllr IThompson had spoken with two representatives from Havenstreet Steam Railway a while ago. They had said that they had hoped that the carriages would be moved by the end of October. Clerk to follow up with a letter to the Railway.

The carriages are the property of the IOW Council, and they will have to let them go formally.

The tap at the Duver toilets is turned off for the winter season, despite the hosepipe ban being lifted.

An Informal Council meeting to be organised - date to be arranged once the main meeting has finished.

Fireworks - there were some unarranged fireworks let off on the Greens on firework evening, some debris was left on the Green which is poisonous to dogs - is there anything that could be done on this matter. It would be for the IOWC to enforce this matter.

Blocked drain end of Field Lane, just on from the Diggings - who is responsible?

Abandoned vehicle on West Green - any resolution - as it is taxed and MOT'd, legally ok to be parked there.

116-25/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

PC Meeting - Monday 8th December 2025 7.00pm at St Helens Pavilion.

Meeting concluded at 8.30pm