

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 April 2026, 7.00pm, at St Helens Pavilion

Chaired by Cllr J Bacon

**Attended by: Cllrs: A Bradstock, B Hewitt, C Garnett, I Thomson, O Boelman, S Dyer
Clerk JM**

6 Public members present

189-25/26 APOLOGIES

Cllr A Phillips

190-25/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Refer: 102-22/23 12.12.22 Declaration & interest from Cllr J Bacon as member of the IOWCouncil and St Helens PC.

None other.

191-25/26 MINUTES

Minutes from the PC meeting on Monday 9th March 2026 had been circulated.

Item 176 - A letter of support for the Community Centre Biffa Grant has been sent.

Re the Youth Club building - communication has been made with the Trustees.

Item 177- Enquiry into the possibility of a previous shooting range in Station Road - the Historical Society had also been asked and were following this matter up. The PC requests for the details to be shared.

Item 179 - the book swap is now up and running - publicly thanking Marie for her enthusiasm and time in getting this up and running.

177 - Mural, report - at present £2600 has been donated for the Mural which includes the £100 from the PC, to cover the Children's involvement. The Mural will be painted in the first week of May with the Grand Opening on 7th June at the Village Fayre.

Cllr CGarnett asked for contacts who could help with the thank you signage plaque to go to one side of the mural.

Proposed Cllr J Bacon Seconded Cllr S Dyer All agreed.

192-25/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. General Issues (15 minutes)

2. On Matters below (15 minutes)

A request from the Community Centre, K Tutton, for the PC to approve a contribution towards the waste collection costs of the Community Fridge for £500. This has been included in the present year's budget.

The PC requests an invoice from the CCentre.

The Proposed development at Coastal resorts. To be discussed under planning.

193-25/26 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Currently in a pre Election period at this moment so nothing to report.

IOWCouncil Elections Thursday 7th May.

194-25/26 CLERK'S REPORT

Games afternoon continuing 2pm Pavilion on the 14th April - future dates will be advertised

locally.

The Pavilion has been hired out for a group of Gig Rowers to train on a regular basis.

195-25/26 GREENS

No Mow May - divided comments on whether it should take place. Leaving the grass for a long time is tricky to get it back on track. On the other hand, beautiful wild flowers appear.

Some discussion, highlighting the practical problems. Although there is the wild flower area, there is a state of ecological crisis at present so anything to help is essential and enabling pollinators to do their job.

Request a cut of the greens the first week of June

Propose No Mow in May: Cllr IThomson, Seconded Cllr ABradstock, PC Voted 5 Cllrs in favour 2 Cllrs abstained.

Wild flower Area - Acknowledge the work from the IOW College, for the task they have undertaken - the wild flowers will take 2-3 years to establish and be a beautiful asset to the green.

Clerk to organise a meeting between the Contractor & SP to organise the cutting of the area.

196-25/26 MAINTENANCE

Plan of action for the volunteer Help Out Day on the Bank Holiday 4th May.

A proposed comprehensive list of projects - weather dependent list was shared.

Pre-plan for the most important jobs.

Parliament bench - once weather warmer then a group to gather to varnish/oil the benches.

A suggestion of having a lengthsman on an ad hoc basis was raised - require investigating costs.

There is no budget within this current year but maybe consider for the future.

If enthusiasm is great on the 4th May - suggest another voluntary help out session.

197-25/26 PC POLICIES

Standing Orders - referred.

IT Policy

Not ready to put these through so defer to the next meeting.

Set a date for an Informal meeting at the end of this current meeting.

198-25/26 VILLAGE CONSULTATION PLAN

St Helens Youth Club - due to open on 23.4.26 from 3.30pm.

Funding from the IOWC to set it up. The Terms of the contract has varied payments throughout the year.

Youth Club - Thursday evening for young people aged 8-12, and 13-16 - support is excellent.

Equipment to be covered by the Grant.

A request for the PC to agree to pay upfront for the equipment, the funding coming in as a grant payment covering the expenses.

To approve to cover the items already purchased

PC acting as the YC Credit Facility - Spending up to the level of the grant

Proposed Cllr ABradstock, Seconded Cllr JBacon, all agreed.

Training DBS cost £15.50 each, the grant cannot cover the DBS checks or the training - can the PC cover these costs?

Details to be shared with the Cllrs on items over and above the grant.

DBS checks x 7, of a cost of £108.50 agreed. Any further checks or costs outside the grant to be brought to the PC individually for consideration.

Proposed Cllr JBacon, Seconded Cllr IThomson, all agreed.

Training - to share what is required and costs.

The PC would like to express thanks to Cllr A Bradstock, for the amount of his time and effort in setting up the Youth Club and encouraging volunteers to come on board.

The Old Youth Club building could be a great asset and in future provide a home for the new Youth Club.

Going forward sustainability of the YC needs to be worked upon.

Two issues; the need for the YC and the need to unblock the Asset of the Youth Club building. This has become a legal aspect and funding will become involved. A suggestion to have a separate working group. Cllr C Garnett is happy to lead a Working Group.

Youngsters do not pay for the first year at the Youth Club, just pay for refreshments. If further grant funding can be sourced for the next year this will enable costs to be kept low.
A Thank You to the volunteers who have helped get this venture going.

Books for the Youth Club - IOWC Library Service having a clear out so a visit was arranged and a good selection was collected .

A question arose re the School Library Bus - Prior to our visit all schools had been given the offer of visiting and collecting books too. For the Youth Club storage is an issue.

Re Training - recommended ' High Speed' on line courses.

Book Swap, (not just books but jigsaw puzzles and films too) is now up and running in the Foyer of the Community Centre, which has been reorganised.

Knit & Natter Group, also running

Film Club - 3rd film due to be shown on 17th April, next one May 22nd.

Table Tennis Group - discussion happening with a volunteer who hopefully will take a lead in running the Group. For further details watch the local noticeboards.

199-25/26 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN (EMERGENCY PLAN)

Cllr I Thomson & the Clerk had completed the draft plan - this to be shared with IOWC to be proof read.

Both Cllr I Thomson & the Clerk had attended training on the SEEN Grant.

Cllr I Thomson and Cllr APhillips to meet with M Groom from Bembridge Parish Council to look at what equipment they have acquired and work out what is suitable for St Helens.

200-25/26 SEAFRONT

The first four carriages which are not Railway Carriages, are being renovated. Progress is slow.
The Clerk to ask APalmer for details of the plan.

The outside tap by the toilets is being used for drinking water, and is positioned over a drain. Also being used for washing other items, e.g body boards - it is felt that too much water is being used which is not good for the environment.

Suggestion - reduce the flow, or turn off, have a sign stating not for drinking and provide a soft brush to use for brushing off excess sand from feet and beach items.

A suggestion to have a drinking fountain installed in the vicinity was raised but not above the drain.

Drinking Fountains - require costs and ask the other businesses in the area for their thoughts.

Put a sign above the tap stating not drinking water.

Action now:

Switch the tap off now - suggested by Cllr I Thomson and Cllr OBoelman

Or wait 1 month with a sign up now. - agreed by Cllrs JBacon, CGarnett, BHewitt, ABradstock, SDyer Decision at next meeting.

Costs of water fountains and installations - Cllr OBoelman to investigate.

Cllr I Thomson to ask BHYC for feedback and costings as they operate a water fountain.

Beach Litter Pick - Green Gym are coming to the Duver on the 22nd April, meeting at 10am.

201-25/26 FINANCE & DATA PROTECTION

Conflict of interest with the external Auditor BDO LLP. - none reported.

March's Bank Statement was checked and agreed.

Monthly Income & Expense report shared with Cllrs.

Authorise payments and expenses.

Balance Sheet - end of March 2026

Current Account end of February			1090.29
Credits March	4,020.00		
Transfer from Savings March	2,400.00		
Transfer to Savings March		2,800.00	
Expenses March		3,783.68	
Current Account End of March			926.61
Savings Account end of February			28,624.09
Transfers from Savings - March		2,400.00	
Transfers to Savings - March	2,800.00		
Credits - Interest	153.21		
Savings Account End of March			29,177.30
Current Account Balance end of March			926.61
Savings Account Balance end of March			29,177.30
Total Funds in Bank Accounts end of March			30,103.91
Mural Donations			1300.00
Wedding Deposit			500.00
			28,303.91

31.3.26 St Helens PC Financial Items paid month - end March 2026

Inv Date	To Whom	Amount	Date Paid	Payment
28.2.26	S Chester February payment Bank sent through 2.3.26	650.00	10.3.25	S/O
8.3.26	Community Action	1505.65	11.3.25	S/O
2.3.26	EDF - Gas Pavilion	38.03	11.3.25	DD
2.3.26	EDF Electric Pavilion	33.50	11.3.25	DD
4.3.26	IONOS - Web & email	23.40	11.3.25	DD
4.3.26	EDF - Elec - Duver Toilets	50.28	11.3.25	DD
31.12.25	EMRI IV00632	412.91	21.3.25	BACS
27.2.26	EMRI IV00726	412.91	21.3.25	BACS
30.3.26	S Chester	650.00	17.3.25	S/O
31.3.26	Bank Fee	7.00	20.3.25	
		£3783.68		
Income	Pavilion Hire	£720.00		
	Hire of Land Deposit	£500.00		
	IOW Council - contribution for greens maintenance	£1500.00		
	Donations for the Mural Project	£1300.00		
	Interest on Savings	£153.21		
		£4173.21		
Paid				
4.3.26	S Petterson - Wild Flower Project	100.00		

17.3.26	Lake Cleaning & Catering Supplies Ltd	7.09		
To Pay				
10.4.26	Community Action	1505.65		
2.4.26	EDF - Gas Pavilion	57.53		
2.4.26	EDF Electric Pavilion	34.14		
4.4.26	IONOS - Web & email	23.40		
1.4.26	EDF - Elec - Duver Toilets	36.57		
31.3.26	EMRI IV00783	619.34		
10.3.26	PCC St Helens Printing	23.93		
10.3.26	Wight Fire Security Pavilion fire Extinguishers	61.30		
8.4.26	Z Tam - Banners for the Youth Club	70.00		
	Youth Club expenses to be covered from the incoming grant funding			
30.4.26	S Chester	650.00		
30.4.26	Bank Fee	7.00		

No questions raised on the Expenditure report.

Clerk supplied stationery expenses and a receipt for the purchase of a new PC Laptop. Microsoft Office - to be included in the annual budget plans.

Costings for work on the PC noticeboard - information had been shared. Total £211.10. Cllr A Phillips to carry out the work.

Savings Account - look for a return of 4% if possible. There are restrictions on accounts holding Council funds. Required an instant access savings account. Cllr B Hewitt to investigate.

Proposed by Cllr JBacon Seconded Cllr S Dyer All agreed.

Contingency Fund - there was a provisional list created - suggest to hold an informal meeting to discuss how best to assign the funds. - Date for the informal PC meeting set for the 30th April.

202-25/26 APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

26/00425/TW Pedunculate Oak - dismantle to ground level. Nodes Point Holiday Centre. St Helens PO33 1YA.

26/00467/TW T1 Mulberry Tree. St Helens House, Duver Road, St Helens. PO33 1XY. 30% crown reduction back to good growth. The tree is a very old Mulberry which has had previous limb tear outs and a lot of minor deadwood.

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.

Much discussion about this application. Matters of concern raised; density, light, car parking, traffic concerns, safety for footpath users, flooding, drainage, green landscaping. The PC to submit a letter to the Planning Office outlining the issues raised. It was recommended that the public should express their views and concerns to the IOWC Planning Office for consideration.

203-25/26 NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

26/00156/FUL 19 Lower Green Road, St Helens PO33 1UB

Proposed alterations and conversion from dwelling house (C3) to a mixed use of C3/E to include a commercial unit at ground floor level; new shop front; replacement windows and doors. SDD 28th April

26/00216/HOU 1, Port St Helens, Embankment Road, Bembridge PO33 1XG.
Proposed single storey side extension with roof terrace and external staircase; alterations to fenestration; cladding; alterations to vehicular access.

26/00153/3/MAPA Ganders Restaurant, Upper Green Road, St Helens, PO33 1UQ
Prior approval for alterations and change of use from restaurant to create 1 residential flat.
Awaiting Decision

26/00077/HOU 4, Yar Quay, Latimer Road, St Helens PO33 1XL. Proposed extension and new balcony at first floor level on rear elevation.
Awaiting Decision

25/01812/FUL Guildford Park Camp, Guildford Road, St Helens PO33 1UH
Self build 4 bed detached house- link attached 3 car garage.
Awaiting Decision

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.
Granted

204-25/26 PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

BHAG - Meeting postponed to 4th June. 9.30pm,
IWALC - Nothing to report.

205-25/26 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

Nothing further to add.

206-25/26 OPEN QUESTION TIME

Emails and website for next meeting.
Any developments on Station Road Toilet Block? Cllr JBacon to find out on progress.
Idea to have a register of volunteers who have skills that could be used for the village
Cllrs would like to have Matters Arising included in the Agenda.
Urigo/Gig Rowers using the Pavilion - cost per hour is £10.
Cllr I Thomson had some questions for the BHAG meeting to submit questions to Cllr B Hewitt.
A speaker has been sort for the PC - Lucy from What 33 together for mission zero.
Emergency briefing being shown by Bembridge PC at the Village Hall, on Saturday 18th April.

207-25/26 CLERK'S ANNUAL APPRAISAL

Decided that Cllrs C Garnett and Cllr O Boelman would conduct the Clerks Appraisal this year.
For the Cllrs and the Clerk to organise a suitable date.

208-25/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Annual Parish Council Meeting - Monday 11th May 2026 7.00pm at St Helens Pavilion.

Annual Parish Meeting date - Monday 18th May, 7.30pm, Community Centre

Meeting concluded at 8.49pm

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

JM