

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 8th December 2025, 7.30pm, at St Helens Community Centre**

Chaired by Cllr A Phillips,

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

15 Public members present

117-25/26 APOLOGIES

Received from Cllrs J Bacon

118-25/26 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.

119-25/26 MINUTES

Minutes from the PC meeting on Monday 10th November 2025 had been circulated. The minutes were approved at the meeting and signed by Cllr A Phillips.

Proposed Cllr A Phillips Seconded Cllr S Dyer, All agreed.

120-25/26 SEAFRONT

A presentation by Palmer Duver Enterprises - see separate write up..

121-25/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

A request for the Clerk to ask the NT to mend the white fence at the bottom of Duver Road.

122-25/26 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None at present

123-25/26 CLERK'S REPORT

Playground update - the horse has been mended.

The Yorkshire Building Society in Ryde is closing in January.

A Councilor from Nettestone & Seaview Parish Council had been in touch asking if our PC could send a letter to our MP registering our concern on the number of banks and building societies open on the Island and the effect that has on a number of Island residents who cannot travel to the mainland or do not have the facilities for online banking.

Christmas Tree - thank you so much to HUGH and Paul for sorting the tree. Lovely event with the Goose Island Singers.

Games afternoon on December 9th from 2 -4 - please see noticeboards for other dates.

The plaque to go with the Oak Tree has been sorted and now being placed on a wooden backing ready to put up.

Upper Green Rd - 15th December work by Wightfibre, no mention of location. Embankment Road to Bembridge will be closed from 12th January in order for Southern Water to carry out essential sewer works.

The Clerk had received a call regarding speeding traffic in Station Road. In the New Year the PC had planned to undertake a speed enforcement using Speed Cameras. Flood alert for Tuesday 9th December - any issues please do get in touch - numbers for help are available.

124-25/26 VILLAGE CONSULTATION PLAN

Cllr A Bradstock gave an update. A good number of volunteers have been enlisted to cover the cleaning rota for the Community Centre, a team of helpers to rake and coppice the Graveyard, and additional names have been added to the main Volunteer list.

A request from the VCP was to provide more facilities for young people, The idea of a youth Club was raised and approx 30 people offered to help.

A grant bid has been submitted of £3,000 to provide funding for various items/equipment for the Youth Club attendees to use at the Community Centre - included are some outdoor sports equipment.

No news on the Youth Club building - return communication is slow.

Within the Consultation there were 20 activities including a clothes swap, craft/knitting group. Following a meeting in November a few people have volunteered to run this group and hopefully some will be up and running early next year. Positive news for the New Year: Film Club, Knit and Natter activity, dance, etc.

The Community Centre has been nominated to be put forward to receive a grant. If you are a Co Op member please do vote for St Helens Community Centre.

If all these activities go ahead there will be a role for organising these items. Another grant has been sourced to cover the cost of this role. It would also cover the administration side of running the Community Fridge.

Crossing - a request from the School children. To have a crossing for the school. There would be a number of issues trying to sight the necessary mechanics.

Lollipop role - could be considered, in contact with the IOW Council - more details next meeting.

Dropped kerb - to be put on Island Roads list of works.

125-25/26 THE GREENS

-Cutting Contracts for 2026/27 - require 3 quotes for the next term. Clerk to circulate former Tender for Councillors to approve before it is sent out.

-Memorial Benches - the PC have received two requests for new memorial benches to be placed on the Greens.

Suggestion that a Bench Policy is formed. To cover the future maintenance of the benches and a plan of action for when requests are received.

A bench asset register had been given to the Councillors. Listed are 29 benches at present.

Cllr I Thomson agreed to carry out a maintenance check on the benches in situ to date.

-Idea proposed in 2023 - plans are coming along to work in the area below the car park to create a wildflower area. Working with volunteers and the IOW Horticultural College. Whilst work is happening, the area will look unmanaged - suggested that signs are placed in situ explaining what work is being carried out. The work will take about two years to see results. Because of the nature of the ground, quite boggy, the plants suitable for that environment will be encouraged.

126-25/26 MURAL/MOSAIC

An ongoing idea for a mural on the wall of the shelter. Community Murals Ryde had been contacted. To commission for the size of 2m - 1.2m would cost about £1700. Funding; many avenues, including local businesses who could be included in the design.

Cllr CGarnett explained that to create the design with Community Murals involving the local School Children would cost £100.00.

Stonewood Camp have offered to contribute £500.00, which will begin the funding, the rest of the project to come from grants and private donations.

Proposed payment of £100.00 Cllr CGarnett, Seconded by Cllr S Dyer, All agreed.

127-25/26 PC POLICIES

To defer the other Policies to future meetings, due to time restraints.

To add the Bench Policy.

128-25/26 FINANCE & DATA PROTECTION

October's Bank Statement was checked and agreed. (It had not arrived in time for the last meeting.)

Monthly Income & Expense report shared with Cllrs.

Authorise payments and expenses.

Bank Balances end of November 2025			
Current Account end of October			2,808.08
Credits November	80.00		
Transfer from Savings November	4,000.00		
Expenses November		4,849.22	
Current Account End of November			2,038.86
Savings Account end of October			41,105.33
Transfers from Savings - November		4,000.00	
Credits - Interest	0.00		
Savings Account End of November			37,105.33
Current Account Balance end of November			2,038.86
Savings Account Balance end of November			37,105.33
Total Funds end of November			39,144.19

30.11.25 St Helens PC Financial Items paid month - end November 2025

Inv Date	To Whom	Amount	Date Paid	Payment
5.11.25	Community Action	1461.87	10.11.25	S/O
6.11.25	Open Spaces Society - Subscription	45.00	13.11.25	BACS
20.10.25	St Helens Community Centre - October's PC meeting	30.00	13.11.25	BACS
12.11.25	Greengym - litter pick on beach to be reimbursed from Baywatch Cafe	90.00	13.11.25	BACS
3.11.25	EDF - Gas Pavilion	41.73	18.11.25	DD
3.11.25	EDF - Elec - Pavilion	37.58	18.11.25	DD
13.11.25	S Chester (balance from October's payment)	25.00	13.11.25	BACS
7.11.25	Business Stream - Water Pavilion	186.13	19.11.25	DD

15.10.25	Cricket Club - Grounds maintenance for year 25/26	2200.00	19.11.25	BACS
4.11.25	IONOS - Web & email	16.20	20.11.25	DD
6.11.25	EDF - Elec - Duver Toilets	59.71	21.11.25	DD
28.11.25	S Chester	650.00	28.11.25	DD
30.11.25	Bank Fee	6.00	30.11.25	DD
		£4849.22		
Income				
12.11.25	P Hewson - Pavilion Hire	80.00		
		£80.00		
To Pay				
27.11.25	Island Pest Control	210.00		
28.11.25	EMRI - grounds maintenance Oct & Nov	1032.25		
30.11.25	Royal British Legion	50.00		
2.12.25	EDF - Gas Pavilion	43.94		
2.12.25	EDF Electric Pavilion	36.12		
2.12.25	Thompsons - Christmas Tree	270.00		
4.12.25	Community Action	1461.87		
	EDF - Elec - Duver Toilets (awaiting invoice)			
4.12.25	IONOS - Web & email	16.20		
	S Chester	650.00		
	Bank Fee	6.00		
	Clerks Expenses			
7.11.25	Display Book for the Village Consultation Plan	4.99		
25.11.25	Engraved Plaques - plaque for the Oak Tree	39.74		
27.11.25	Tesco Lights for the star on Christmas Tree	4.50		
27.11.25	Tesco Batteries for the star lights	7.50		
29.11.25	B&Q - white paint to mark out the football pitch	16.00		
		£72.73		

Proposed Cllr C Garnett, Seconded Cllr S Dyer, All agreed.

To formally note the local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/26 for Council Clerks, & backdated, includes a 3.2% increase on all pay points National Local Government Pay Agreement, effective from April 1st, 2025.

129-25/26 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 to set a budget.

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 was an item that was covered in the budget.

Both Parish Councils, St Helens & Nettlestone & Seaview have been approached.

For St Helens size budget the reserves should be between 3 -12 months of the working budget.

Consider the proposed contribution from Duver Enterprises, towards the running costs of the Duver Toilets.

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.
Potential on [.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) emails to be free again.

130-25/26 APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

25/01654/NMA Fakenham Cottage and Fakenham Cottage Annex, Eddington Road, St Helens PO33 1XS.

Non-material amendment on 24/01175/FL to allow for changes to door configurations.

131-25/26 NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM 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.

Awaiting Decision

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.

Awaiting Decision

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 four residential units

Granted.

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

Awaiting Decision

132-25/26 PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

BHAG - Meeting is due Thursday. Cllr A Phillips to attend.

IWALC - Cllrs J Bacon, A Phillips & the Clerk had attended the Training event on Chairing PC meetings.

133-25/26 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

Please pass on Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year to all.

It was announced last week that the elections for a Mayor for the new Combined Authority are to be postponed until 2028.

Despite a large amount of rumour and supposition this should not have any wider effect.

There is no proposal to defer IOW Council elections. It is wrong to suggest that any of the local councils have requested such. All are requesting that elections go ahead. The deferral of the Mayoral election came wholly from Westminster. Suggestions otherwise have come wholly from those seeking to make political attacks on the process.

It is still anticipated that a form of Combined Authority comes into being in the new year. It will be supplemented by a Mayor when that election takes place. The key question under discussion is what effect the deferral will have on receipt of the funding due to the new Authority. Local Council Leaders are meeting with the Government in Westminster this week to argue that the deferral should not affect matters.

134-25/26 OPEN QUESTION TIME

Question, would the PC insurance cover First Aider at the Village Fayre.
Clerk to confirm.

An Informal Council meeting was organised in order for the Councillors to discuss the budget suggestions for Monday 5th January 7pm.

135-25/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

Meeting concluded at 9.27pm