

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 9th February 2026, 7.00pm, at St Helens Pavilion

Chaired by Cllr J Bacon

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

4 Public members present

155-25/26 APOLOGIES

Received from Cllr O Boelman

156-25/26 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.

157-25/26 MINUTES

Minutes from the PC meeting on Monday 12th January 2026 had been circulated. Cllr A Bradstock asked to clarify a few items which required a better description. These have been amended on the minutes.

The minutes were then approved at the meeting and signed by Cllr J Bacon

Proposed Cllr A Bradstock Seconded Cllr J Bacon All agreed.

158-25/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

The planning issue for Guildford Park was raised: has mention of the Badger Sett been submitted to the Planning Office? There had been a comprehensive Ecology Report. Badgers require a large area as a habitat. The presence of Badgers to be mentioned in all further correspondence.

To seek advice re Badgers it might be worth contacting Badger Rescue IOW.

Speed Monitor - what is the update please. Brading Town Council are happy to lend their Speeding Camera to St Helens for a donation to their foodbank fund.

Clerk to contact Police to see what is required to carry out the monitoring.

Brading TC data from their Speed Monitoring is published on their website.

159-25/26 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Severe flooding had caused St Helens to be nearly cut off.

Traffic matters - impact of New Road Closure - so far not too many comments.

Eddington Road is an appalling state with potholes. Island Roads had said it was fine but had been re-inspecting the road on the day of the PC meeting.

Mr A Palmer has put off works at the Duver until next year, stating it is to do with the Planning Process - Pre Planning has been received but it is complicated

Due to being in the Pre Election Period there are no Committee meetings held with the IOWCouncil, this is a reason being suggested for the delay in works & leading to no works to be done this summer.

160-25/26 CLERK'S REPORT

Wedding enquiry to use Church Green in September.

Rail travel is compromised during half term on the Portsmouth to London route.

Half term activities - a number of activities available for free or reduced costs over the Island.

Diabetes Group using the Pavilion 3rd Wednesday of the month for a Drop In Session.

Games afternoons: Tuesday 10th February & Tuesday 10th March in Pavilion, 2-4pm.

Sea Changers - Meeting on February 11th - invited Councillors to attend - email previously circulated.

St Johns Ambulance - running a funding initiative and requesting a donation between £250 - £2000.

161-25/26 BUDGET AND PRECEPT SETTING 2026/2027

St Helens Precept amount to be submitted after this meeting and before midnight .

An informal meeting was held previously to;

Propose a budget to cover the basic activity and to create a contingency fund to cover the various projects which have

Proposal options for the Contingency Fund have been created:

- a) £5000 to cover some of the suggested projects
- b) £10,000 to cover most of the suggested projects or
- c) £15,000 which would cover all and more of the projects.

Cllr A Bradstock - Proposed the £10,000, felt this is the right balance and enables most of the projects to progress.

This would mean an Increase in a Band D property = 22p per week, annual increase of £11.26. Which equals a 16.26% increase.

Cllr B Hewitt - wanted to reiterate that we need more clarity & to account for all money spent.

Cllr C Garnett - take seriously the strong views from the Village Consultation Plan to raise the Precept to cover the projects. The PC needs to be more creative on how to gain funding for the projects.

Cllr A Phillips - accepted what Cllr C Garnett said. There has been talk of a lot of projects - if no contingency fund then the projects will not go ahead this coming year. If at the end of the year monies have not been used - projects not gone ahead or grant funding acquired, then the surplus funds can be offset on next year's budget.

Cllr B Hewitt - Projects must be properly costed out before coming to the PC meetings.

Budget Proposal £53,326.00 Cllr B Hewitt, Seconded by Cllr I Thomson

**Budget Proposal £58,326.00 Cllr A Bradstock Seconded Cllr J Bacon
Agreed Cllr S Dyer, Cllr A Phillips and Cllr C Garnett.**

The budget of £63,326.00 was not proposed.

Therefore the budget agreed is £58,326.00 with a precept amount of £51,146.00.

Timetable of the projects - imperative to look into the costs and bring into being.

162-25/26 PC POLICIES

Bench Policy - two options suggested - ideal to combine the two documents to produce St Helens Policy. Deferred to the next meeting.

To raise - St Helens are at a point of sufficiency of benches, therefore to agree and include within the Policy; one new bench application to replace an older bench.

To clarify if the IOWC have to give the permissions of benches on the Green.

163-25/26 THE GREENS

After the informal meeting discussion - to agree the contractors from the present year to continue with the forthcoming year.

The number of cuts may have to increase depending on the growth and usage of the Greens.

Proposed: Cllr J Bacon Seconded Cllr S Dyer All agreed.

Request for benches - require the Bench Policy in place. Once both policies are combined please circulate and include in the one bench removed and a replacement fitted.

Cllr I Thomson happy to remove the broken bench on the ground at the top of Duver Road.

Matter to address memorials must be added into the Policy.

A bench on Cricket Green is broken.

To bring the Policy and positions for clarification at the next meeting.

Wildflower Area - to clarify it is the area beneath the car park. This was the designated area included in the Greens Plan 2023. An agreed date of Wednesday 17th March for the Lecturer & Students from the IOW College to attend and prepare the area in readiness to plant the seed. The area is very boggy so wetland wildflower seed and plug planting has been suggested.

Posters are required to explain what is being carried out in the area.

The area needs to be cut and scarified before the planting. The contractors are not scheduled to cut until April. This would be an extra cut. The ground is very boggy at present.

Pathways have been cut through the area for walkers over the last year and will continue - same place and width of pathway.

164-25/26 EMERGENCY PLAN

Volunteers - a number have been enlisted so the relevant paperwork requires completing and submitting to the IOW Council for approval. Cllr I Thomson and the Clerk to work on the paperwork, ready to apply for grants.

M Clarke has been approached to run a defib & CPR course which he is happy to run.

Cllr B Hewitt raised the item of Sandbags - Island Roads maintain a supply and are available to be collected in local towns. Could St Helens hold their own supply or look into Aquabags as another defense.

165-25/26 FINANCE & DATA PROTECTION

February's Bank Statement was checked and agreed.

Monthly Income & Expense report shared with Cllrs.

Authorise payments and expenses.

Balance Sheet - end of January 2026

Current Account end of December			433.56
Credits January	80.00		
Transfer from Savings January	4,000.00		
Expenses January		2,634.44	
Current Account End of January			1,879.12
Savings Account end of December			34,624.09
Transfers from Savings - January		4,000.00	
Credits - Interest	0.00		
Savings Account End of January			30,624.09
Current Account Balance end of January			1,879.12
Savings Account Balance end of January			30,624.09
Total Funds end of January			32,503.21

31.1.26 St Helens PC Financial Items paid month - end January 2026

Inv Date	To Whom	Amount	Date Paid	Payment
	Community Action	1505.65		S/O
	EDF - Gas Pavilion	39.83		BACS
	EDF Electric Pavilion	34.24		BACS
	IONOS - Web & email	23.40		BACS
	EDF - Elec - Duver Toilets (awaiting invoice)	28.43		DD
	IW Green Gym - Horse shoe trail	100.00		DD
	S Chester	650.00		BACS
	Bank Fee	6.00		DD
	The Rod Father - blockage at Duver toilets	100.00		BACS
	The Rod Father - blockage at Pavilion outside toilets	100.00		DD
	Haven Churches - Printer costs	16.89		DD
	St Helens Community Centre	30.00		DD
		£ 2634.44		
Income				
	P Hewson - Pavilion Hire	80.00		
		£80.00		
To Pay				
	Community Action	1505.65		
	EDF - Gas Pavilion	53.78		
	EDF Electric Pavilion	41.97		
	IONOS - Web & email	23.40		
	EDF - Elec - Duver Toilets	49.11		
	EMRI	412.91		
	S Chester	650.00		
	Bank Fee	6.00		
	IWALC Subs	299.89		
	What's On Advert, for the Pavilion.	45.00		
		£3087.71		

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.

Propose Mr G Hughes to be appointed as the Internal Auditor for the next year. All in favour.

Proposed by Cllr JBacon Seconded Cllr S Dyer All agreed.

166-25/26 APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

26/00077/HOU 4, Yar Quay, Latimer Road, St Helens PO33 1XL. Proposed extension and new balcony at first floor level on rear elevation. Cllr A Philips advised that from a PC perspective no objection to this planning application.

167-25/26 NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

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

24/01175/FUL Fakenham Cottage and Fakenham Cottage Annex, Eddington Road, St Helens PO33 1XS.
Condition compliance application on 24/01175/FUL relating to condition 3 (materials)

Granted

25/00567/HOU 2 St Michaels Road, St Helens PO33 1YJ
Condition compliance application on appeal APP/P2114/D/25/3371013 (25/00567/HOU)
Condition Discharge. 15.1.26

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.
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
Extended Decision date to 27.2.26

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

168-25/26 PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

BHAG - no meetings

IWALC - Cllr S Dyer joined a meeting on zoom - an Exec meeting. Nothing to report.

169-25/26 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

The IOWC funds are up in the air at the moment. The council is limited as to what it can do - requesting assistance from the Government.

Councillors Surgery - Tuesday 10th February - 10am Pavilion

170-25/26 OPEN QUESTION TIME

Cllr A Bradstock requested The Village Consultation Plan to be an item on the Agenda each month.

Film Club is being launched on Friday 27th February at the Community Centre.

A Table Tennis table is due to arrive in March, courtesy of the Co Op funding - please can all vote for the Community Centre on the Co Op website. The more votes a greater amount of funding.

Knit & Natter - due to launch in March - watch the noticeboards....

Successful Grant funding for the Community Centre will amongst other items be used for a

make over in the foyer. This in turn will give provision for a book swap area.

Another success in grant funding will give provision for running a Youth Club at the Community Centre. The funding will be issued throughout the year. The first amount of funds will allow a number of items to be purchased and costs for setting up the Youth Club.

There are a team of people involved in bringing this project into fruition.

A visit to Network Ryde is planned this week to get some inspiration and help and advice in setting up St Helens Youth Club.

DBS Checks - Cllr A Bradstock is in touch with the IOWC. As the Parish Council is the body for applying for the grant - to clarify if the PC would also be the responsible body for organising the DBS checks.

The Plan: Age groups - to hold two sessions - aged 8-10 years and then older young People.

The Youth Club requires a team of people to take the lead in running the Club. A number of volunteers as a result of the VCP who will be contacted to get the project going.

The Coat of Hopes is to visit the village - see local posters. It is a garment made of 700 plus patches that have been sewn onto the main body. It was made for COP21 and was walked up from the South Coast to Scotland. After the event it carried on being walked around the country. Arriving on the Island it has been walked 2000 miles. Do visit and try the Coat on before it leaves the village.

The Youth Centre - is an asset - is there a plan from the PC to find what the future is for the building.

Cllr A Bradstock had tried to contact the trustees a number of times but as yet no answer.

Would it be worth registering on the Land register as a Village Asset, or with the Charity Commission?

The PC needs to move forward with this item.

With the idea of a Lollipop Person - please could the costing of a zebra crossing be explored.

Eddington Road, past Nodes point entrance - lots of building happening - this comes under Nettlestone & Seaview Planning.

171-25/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

PC Meeting - Monday 9th March 2026 7.00pm at St Helens Pavilion.

Meeting concluded at 8.31pm

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

JM