

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 12th January 2026, 7.00pm, at St Helens Pavilion

Chaired by Cllr J Bacon

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

5 Public members present

136-25/26 APOLOGIES

Received from Cllr C Garnett

137-25/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

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

None other.

138-25/26 MINUTES

Minutes from the PC meeting on Monday 8th December 2025 had been circulated. The minutes were approved at the meeting and signed by Cllr J Bacon

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

139-25/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

The planning issue for Guildford Park was raised: Guildford Road Street Managers are holding a meeting and have invited Cllr J Bacon, as Ward Councillor to attend.

The Clerk to organise a site visit for the PC Cllrs to attend.

Cllr A Phillips raised the Historic Right of Way for the Guildford Park Camp Site over Guildford Road to be clarified. There is a Right of Way which may require a change of use. This might be the representation of the land.

Island Rds have no objection to the proposed planning application.

Suggested that Cllr A Phillips attended the upcoming meeting.

Speed Monitor - what is the update please. Clerk to follow up.

140-25/26 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Southern Water Works on Embankment Road are taking place so the access route to Bembridge is closed for three weeks The works were postponed from December because of the impact on business,homes and activities over the festive period. Essential works to do with flood prevention works to a number of local properties.

The Clerk and I met with T Prewer, a local surveyor, at Station Road Toilets to look over the building and the original plans to get a provisional view on internal walls.

Looking from the Greens Side to the building, the walls front to back (North to South) are not supporting walls therefore could be removed.

The wall at the front (presently with the accessible toilet door in the centre) and side walls adjacent to the storage area are believed to be supporting walls.

The Construction Documents are available but not the Building Approval Documents that were signed off by Building Control. Looking into acquiring these.

The Clerk & I also met with A Palmer to discuss the original plan of the seafront. Present at the discussion was a member from the IOWC Property services. He said that they would need to receive a formal application in order to remove the railway carriages - discussion on how that can be achieved - in progress.

Questions about the responsibility for tidying up the area behind the carriages and the NT land - to be clarified. Still planning to achieve something by the summer.

A pre-planning application had been registered, A Palmer waiting for a response - Cllr J Bacon has asked the Planning Dept - has this application been moving forward?.

Discussion - ideas for the caravan area - concern about flood risk, A Palmer thinks it can be dealt with - knowledge on the pre application is where we stand.

Cllr B Hewitt asked if the National Trust was involved in this meeting - no.

Cllr S Dyer asked for clarification on the ownership of Railway Carriages, they are IOWC property.

A Palmer is asking how to get permission from the Council. A Palmer had believed that the IOWC were going to remove the Railway Carriages at some point in time.

At the PC meeting in January the plans seemed further forward but appear not so after this recent meeting.

The Clerk asked to be included on any further progress. It is a good thing that a pre application has been sought from the Planning Dept so any potential issues will be highlighted and then addressed.

The question had been raised: if the caravan /lodges do not go ahead what would be the future for the beach huts and Railway Carriages.

141-25/26 CLERK'S REPORT

Since the last PC meeting an informal meeting to discuss the budget had taken place. Xmas tree angels from the school, varnished and put on the tree. A good Christmas event. The tree had been dismantled and removed, thank you.

142-25/26 PARKING

Cllr A Phillips reported that a number of cars seem to be 'dumped' in the village.

Lower Green Road and West Green, with another combi van joining which seems to be being slept in as there are lights on during evenings. This has been reported to PSCO S Hull.

All are taxed and MOT'd . Concern is that once 1 or 2 the number will increase.

Concern at West Green - for the rubbish clearance lorry getting access to the properties.

Are there any restrictions that can be applied for? Yes, but this is a lengthy process but if warranted worth following up.

Clerk to send a letter requesting feedback from PSCO Steve Hull.

Rules on whether sleeping in camper vans on the highway is legal - concerns.

Check with Island Roads & the Police.

143-25/26 PC POLICIES

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

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.

144-25/26 THE GREENS

A tender was circulated to the Councillors - if any comments by end of week please. If no comments received assume all agreed.

Request for benches - require the Bench Policy in place. Once both policies are combined please circulate and include in the 1 in 1 out item.

An audit of the present benches is on record and a recent one has also been supplied

from Cllr I Thomson.

Wildflower Area - agree a date with the Students from the IOW College to prepare the area in readiness to plant the seed in the area below the car park. The area is very boggy so wetland wildflower seed and plug planting would be suggested. Some information on costing would be advisable.

145 -25/26 VILLAGE CONSULTATION PLAN

Good news to report - activities for young people was an item on the VCP. Cllr A Bradstock has applied for a Grant for Youth Activities. This has been successful for £3K - to cover table football, table hockey, venue hire, and more equipment. Also a shed to be placed at the back of the Community Centre.

Activities to be held in the Community Centre and Pavilion and on the green.

10% of funding is available up front with two further payments - a stipulation of the grant is that the activities begin in April.

The big issue is to find people to help run the Youth Club - if anyone is willing or knows how to reach out to find a person/group who would help get this project started, please get in contact.

Many people completed VCP and offered help but omitted any contact details - please do get in touch if this applies to you.

Suggested one meeting a week - 2 sessions one for younger and one for older.

Agreed to work on advertising.

Many thanks to Cllr A Bradstock on his fantastic work.

146-25/26 MURAL/MOSAIC

To formally note that a contribution of £100 has been made to this project. Any ideas to be put forward for the design please forward to the Clerk.

147-25/26 FINANCE & DATA PROTECTION

January's Bank Statement was checked and agreed.

Monthly Income & Expense report shared with Cllrs.

Authorise payments and expenses.

Balance Sheet - end of December 2025

Current Account end of November			2,038.86
Credits December	600.00		
Transfer from Savings December	2,700.00		
Expenses December		4,905.30	
Current Account End of December			433.56
Savings Account end of November			37,105.33
Transfers from Savings - December		2,700.00	
Credits - Interest	218.76		
Savings Account End of December			34,624.09
Current Account Balance end of December			433.56
Savings Account Balance end of December			34,624.09
Total Funds end of December			35,057.65

Inv Date	To Whom	Amount	Date Paid	Payment
4.12.25	Community Action	1461.87		S/O
7.11.25	Display Book for the Village Consultation Plan	4.99		BACS
25.11.25	Engraved Plaques - plaque for the Oak Tree	39.74		BACS
27.11.25	Tesco Lights for the star on Christmas Tree	4.50		BACS
27.11.25	Tesco Batteries for the star lights	7.50		DD
29.11.25	B&Q - white paint to mark out the football pitch	16.00		DD
28.11.25	EMRI - grounds maintenance Oct & Nov	1032.25		BACS
27.11.25	Island Pest Control	210.00		DD
2.12.25	Thompsons - Christmas Tree	270.00		BACS
30.11.25	Royal British Legion	50.00		DD
11.12.25	Community Action - back pay for National salary award.	394.11		DD
2.12.25	EDF - Gas Pavilion	43.94		DD
2.12.25	EDF Electric Pavilion	36.12		DD
4.12.25	IONOS - Web & email	16.20		DD
22.12.25	Community Mural	600.00		BACS
23.12.25	EDF - Elec - Duver Toilets	62.08		DD
29.12.25	S Chester	650.00		SO
31.1.25	Bank Fee	6.00		
		£4905.30		
Income				
12.11.25	P Hewson - Pavilion Hire	100.00		
		£100.00		
Contribution	Stonewood Camp Charity - towards Mural.	500.00		
To Pay				
	Community Action	1505.65		
	EDF - Gas Pavilion	39.83		
	EDF Electric Pavilion	34.24		
	IONOS - Web & email	16.20		
	EDF - Elec - Duver Toilets (awaiting invoice)	28.43		
	IW Green Gym - Work on the Horse shoe trail	100.00		
	S Chester	650.00		
	Bank Fee	6.00		
	The Rod Father - blockage at Duver toilets	100.00		
	The Rod Father - blockage at Pavilion outside toilets	100.00		
	Haven Churches - Printer costs	16.89		

148-25/26 Draft BUDGET 2026/2027

Prepared documents distributed to the PC.

Cost Centres - these were worked through with a suggested budget for 26/27.
Proposed figures - agree in principle to include in the planning of the Budget.

Emergency Planning - suggested to remove the £500 assigned. There is a grant from SSEN available to cover the funding for the Plan. To apply for this grant a plan has to be finalised in time for the deadline application. Cllr I Thomson suggested that funding from the grant would cover all required. This is not match funded.

Agreed in principle to leave in the budget.

Duver Toilets - to clarify where the cost of the legionella test is listed.

Summer bins - propose to have a final budget available to spend - and this will be less bins and less duration.

To investigate the cost of bins and number of lifts required - suggest starting on a smaller plan, increasing extra bins if required but keeping within the budget.

To be prudent on costing.

Agreed on Waste total in principal.

Salary - there could be a National Increase, Clerk to keep PC advised.

Graveyard maintenance contribution - request received for £1000.00 towards the maintenance of the St Helens Graveyard. Last year's annual maintenance cost was £15,000.00. Discussion ensued from Cllrs.

Vote: 6 Cllrs agreed in principle, 1 Cllr against.

Crossing Patrol Officer Role. The idea came from the Village Consultation Plan, about safety on Upper Green Road was questioned and thereafter a request for a crossing to be installed. The logistics etc would not be able to facilitate. So the idea to have a Crossing Patrol Officer - 30 mins each every morning and afternoon, school terms only.

Annual cost of covering this facility would be £3700.00.

If this is agreed then an assessment should be carried out by the IOW Council before the role can begin.

No news from the school as yet, so do not know the schools position of assisting with the funding.

The PC is interested in taking this project forward. If any grants available to assist funding - should be investigated. For now to be added in the draft budget.

Installation of Solar Panels on the Duver Toilet & Pavilion - not to be included in the budget figures but to investigate grants that could cover this idea.

Parish Noticeboard - on the Post Office wall. A quote of £1000.00 to replace the board. The present one leaks, the perspex is obscured, the hinges, and lock is broken and the sealant is perished. Accessibility to read the board was questioned. Proposal of £1000.00 but to find a cheaper option.

PC Laptop - to be replaced as out of date. An amount proposed £1000 - to research costs.

Provisional items, one item not going forward and to research costing's accordingly.

Website & emails - to check any ongoing costs. A previous amount budgeted for in the current year. Previously agreed.

Village Assets - to agree a maintenance plan for ongoing maintenance. Would all Cllrs highlight any issues with the items on the Plan. It is thought that any maintenance costs required would be covered within the maintenance total in the draft budget.

149-25/26 APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

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).

25/01812/FUL Guildford Park Camp, Guildford Road, St Helens PO33 1XS.

Self build 4 bed detached house with a link detached garage.
Cllr A Phillips - all papers have been read fully on the application. The only possible issue is the view onto neighbouring properties from the first floor balcony. The position of the house would suggest not further development would follow. A site meeting is scheduled between the Cllrs & the Owner. A question was raised re the clearance of the land to date.

Comments to the Planning Office required by 30.1.26.

25/00567/HOU 2, St Michael's Road, St Helens PO33 1YJ.
Condition compliance application on appeal

150-25/26 NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM 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.
Granted

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

25/00779/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

151-25/26 PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

BHAG - meeting covered issues that are marine related. M Thorpe would like to see a better relationship with the PC.

Bembridge Fire Station is well behind being brought back into use.

IWALC - no update.

152-25/26 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

The Finance Committee disclosed following the result of the recent Government Settlement the IOWC is far more in financial difficulty than it originally thought. The IOW Council budget is on hold until 6th/7th February.

153-25/26 OPEN QUESTION TIME

Area of land by Hilbre Road joining the Green. The informal parking of cars and contract vehicles are encroaching onto the green and causing a mess of the area. This is not a parking area, but a turning area.

Toilet Door at the Duver - is broken and will not close.

The letter from the PC was received from the Yorkshire Building Society. The Financial Ombudsman could not pursue the matter as it had no power to stop the branch closure.

154-25/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

Informal Budget Meeting to be arranged.

Meeting concluded at 9.07pm

