

# 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 September 2024 at St Helens Pavilion

Chaired by Cllr JB,

Attended by: Cllrs: MC,GG,PJ,AB

Clerk JM

Public 11 members present

### 50-24/25 APOLOGIES

Cllr CH, Cllr SP,

### 51-24/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Refer: 102-22/23 12.12.22 Declarations & interests from Cllr JB & Cllr PJ as members of the IOW Council and St Helens PC.

No other.

### 52-24/25 MINUTES

To approve & sign the minutes of the PC meeting held on Monday 8th July 2024

**Proposed Cllr GG Seconded Cllr PJ all agreed**

### 53-24/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Parliament Bench - please can it be finished and the plaque reinstated.

Map for the Duver Road, also please finish and reinstall.

Items raised: State of the Greens - understanding that the Grass would be cut and collected after each cut. Sports areas kept beautiful. Note that there is a healthy balance of the PC funds so why can't the greens be tended better. Ragwort seen on West Green.

The PC funds are budgeted for the whole year and a certain amount has to be kept in reserve.

The tender did request collection of the cut grass but we were informed that collection of the cut grass incurred quite a substantial increase in the costs due to the process - manpower, extra vehicles, fuel and charges for off loading commercial grass.

The main green areas are due for 4 cuts per annum. More cuts could be carried out but this in turn would increase the costs, which in turn would increase the precept.

The Sports areas are kept in such good condition - this is under a separate contract.

A number of cuts are undertaken by goodwill.

Within the contract the first cut was not of good quality and the Contractor agreed.

The second cut was much improved. Awaiting 2 further cuts - one in October and one in March.

Contract to be reviewed, concern that the contract is not being adhered too - any issues to be resolved.

Request to bring this item to the Agenda at the next Parish Council meeting.

Latimer Road Garden: Visual splay is obscured. Plants have become unruly. This item is under the Maintenance Contract. To be investigated.

Lampost on Upper Green Road - it is covered in tar - BT Openreach have been working on the telegraph pole. Please investigate.

Noticeboard - hopefully on Friday. Cllr AB & Clerk had been to see it in the morning.

Access - there will be no lock. Magnetic back and magnets available.

Please use it to advertise local events - placing your posters in the cabinet and removing them once the event has finished.

#### **54-24/25 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

No nominations received. Remains open.

#### **55-24/25 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY**

Vacancy has been running - at the time of this meeting an interview for a possible candidate had taken place - but the outcome had not been decided.

#### **56-24/25 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sports & Carnival - what a wonderful day - well supported , many volunteers and participants. There will be a meeting to reflect on this year's event and to begin planning for 2025.

Hire Charges for the Green - in the past the Fairground would be in attendance for a few days but the cost of hiring the green is now too high so only attend for one day.

Cllr JB to investigate.

#### **57-24/25 CLERK'S REPORT**

Thank you to the volunteers at the Sports & Carnival Event.

The 'Best Kept Village Award' Meeting - could a Councillor attend as Clerk unable too.

Various issues throughout the summer, items have happened and been brought to my attention - these have been reported to the relevant departments, and progress checked. To follow up: cyclists on the Causeway Path.

National Emergency Services Day known as 999 Day is today - To recognise and document a thank you within the meeting, for the local 999 services who work in and around St Helens & the Duver. Thank you for their dedication and bravery.

A games afternoon - open to all ages - to be held in the Pavilion - any games surplus to use but in fair condition please donate by contacting the Clerk.

A Great British Beach Clean - 20th - 29th September - record and submit data of the Litter collected and the records can be used to drive conservation work - fed into the international clean up - suggestion of holding a Litter Pick Session.

Pavilion - before pat testing appliances - the electric board requires servicing - a quote for approx £450.00 Clerk to progress with the item.

### 58-24/25 THE GREENS

Clerk has spoken to the Contractors and requested that Nelson Quay and Memorial Garden, Duver Road be addressed.

Plan for the next Greens Cut to be before the next PC meeting, the 14th October.

### 59-24/25 BEACH & DUVER

Extra bins - have been in place for the summer - but not used as much as previous years. An earlier removal date of the bins was requested.

BayWatch Cafe - closing for winter on 4th November (end of half term).  
Plan to commence Winter Season for the toilets to coincide.

The Railway Carriages are a disgrace - any further forward with the issue. Matter is due to go before the Courts - At the Court session the lease will be determined. The Court Hearing is due mid October and will probably be in Portsmouth. Information to be shared.

Fencing at the Car Park on the Duver - Island Roads have been contacted and barriers set up. Clerk to enquire when the remedial work is planned.

### 60-24/25 FINANCE & DATA PROTECTION

Unity Bank is changing from charging on a quarterly basis to monthly. Bank yet to clarify the monthly cost.

Interest rates on the Savings account are reducing.

AGAR finished and signed off by the Auditors.

A question was raised re the insurance policy - Clerk to clarify what is insured and share with the Councillors.

End of July balance & bank statement shown and signed by Cllr JB

End of August balance & bank statement shown & signed by Cllr JB

Monthly Income & Expense report shared with Cllrs.

Authorise Payment of Accounts & Clerks expenses.

#### Bank Balances

|                       |          |          |          |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| End of June           |          |          | £2544.44 |
| Credits July          | £150.00  |          |          |
| Transfer from Savings | £3000.00 |          |          |
| Expenses July         |          | £2801.95 |          |
| End of July:          |          |          | £2892.49 |
|                       |          |          |          |
| End of July           |          |          | £2892.49 |
| Credits August        | £10.00   |          | £517     |
| Transfer from Savings | £3000.00 |          |          |
| Expenses August       |          | £2565.87 |          |
| End of August         |          |          | £3336.62 |

|                               |       |          |            |
|-------------------------------|-------|----------|------------|
| Savings Account - End of June |       |          | £57,418.37 |
| Transfer - July               |       | £3000.00 |            |
| Transfer - August             |       | £3000.00 |            |
| Credits                       | £0.00 |          |            |
| Savings Account end of August |       |          | £51,418.37 |
| Current Account end of August |       |          | £3336.62   |
| Total funds end of August     |       |          | £54,754.99 |

### St Helens PC Financial items paid July & August 2024

| Inv Date | To Whom                         | Amount          | Date of Payment | Method of Payment |
|----------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 4.7.24   | PCC St Helens - use of printer  | 14.42           | 9.7.24          | BACS              |
| 21.6.24  | Lake Cleaning & Catering        | 14.18           | 9.7.24          | BACS              |
| 19.6.24  | Mrs S Chester                   | 135.00          | 9.7.24          | BACS              |
| 14.6.24  | Zurich Insurance                | 589.00          | 9.7.24          | BACS              |
| 6.6.24   | Screwfix J Matthews Expenses    | 12.98           | 9.7.24          | BACS              |
| 6.7.24   | Tesco - J Matthews Expenses     | 16.58           | 9.7.24          | BACS              |
| 8.7.24   | Community Action                | 1344.18         | 10.7.24         | S/O               |
| 4.7.24   | Corona Electricity              | 60.01           | 15.7.24         | DD                |
| 4.7.24   | Direct debit (1:1 Internet Ltd) | 15.60           | 22.7.24         | DD                |
| 31.7.24  | S/O S Chester                   | 600.00          | 29.7.24         | S/O               |
|          |                                 | <b>£2801.95</b> |                 |                   |
|          |                                 |                 |                 |                   |
| 11.7.24  | Beta Pak                        | 294.96          | 8.8.24          | BACS              |
| 5.8.24   | Lake Cleaning & Catering        | 14.18           | 8.8.24          | BACS              |
| 1.8.24   | E.on Next                       | 18.75           | 8.8.24          | BACS              |
| 1.8.24   | E.on Next                       | 63.67           | 8.8.24          | BACS              |
| 9.7.24   | E.on Next                       | 115.65          | 8.8.24          | BACS              |
| 4.8.24   | Direct Debit (1:1 Internet Ltd) | 15.60           | 21.8.24         | DD                |
| 4.8.24   | Corona Electricity              | 63.88           | 14.8.24         | DD                |
| 6.8.24   | Community Action                | 1344.18         | 12.8.24         | S/O               |
|          |                                 |                 |                 |                   |

|               |   |                 |         |     |
|---------------|---|-----------------|---------|-----|
|               |   |                 |         |     |
| 31.8.24       | S/O S Cheater                                       | 600.00          | 28.8.24 | S/O |
| 22.8.24       | ICO   | 35.00           | 22.8.24 | DD  |
|               |   | <b>£2565.87</b> |         |     |
| <b>INCOME</b> |   |                 |         |     |
| 5.7.24        | Cyclists  | 100.00          |         |     |
| 29.7.24       | Sense INCLC   | 50.00           |         |     |
|               |   | <b>£150.00</b>  |         |     |
| 14.8.24       | Vectis FC   | 10.00           |         |     |
|               |   | <b>£10.00</b>   |         |     |
| <b>TO PAY</b> |   |                 |         |     |
| 29.5.24       | St Helens Community Centre - Community Fridge Waste | £250.00         |         |     |
| 27.6.24       | IDVerde Grounds - May & June 24                     | £1791.97        |         |     |
| 5.8.24        | Lake Cleaning & Catering Supplies - Soap            | £14.18          |         |     |
| 8.8.24        | Business stream water - Pavilion                    | £211.77         |         |     |
| 28.8.24       | IDVerde Grounds - August 24                         | £1247.65        |         |     |
| 30.8.24       | Onward Waste  | £1003.20        |         |     |
| 2.9.24        | BDO - External Auditors                             | £252.00         |         |     |

#### **61-24/25 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN ( Emergency Plan)**

Main contact is the IOWC - but each Parish is being asked to provide an Information Hub and a list of local volunteers who could liaise and report back to the Council within the first 24 hours. So far 8 volunteers have offered their services. Cllr MC requested a meeting of the Council to decide what is required for St Helens.

One Grant application date has passed - but there should be others which could be followed up. This would be used to provide e.g the hi viz clothing, radios, first aid kits.

Any questions please ask, if you would like to add your name to the Volunteer list please do contact the Clerk. Updates will be made known as more information becomes available.

#### **62-24/25 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME CONSULTATION**

Consultation on whether the level of support from the IOWC should remain, increase or decrease.

Document to be re-sent to the Cllrs and their views sent to the Clerk.

#### **63-24/25 APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY**

24/01175/FUL Fakenham Cottage & Fakenham Annexe, Eddington Road, St Helens, PO33 1XS - small side extension. No objections.

24/00820/HOU St Helens Mill, Mill Rd, St Helens PO33 1YH - this item has been withdrawn. A number of questions arose when discussed at a previous meeting so to be vigilant if the application is represented.

**64-24/25 NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING AUTHORITY**

24/00908/RVC 3 Yar Quay, Latimer Road, St Helens, PO33 1YH variation on a condition - amend the extension on 20/00038/HOU - Permission granted.

23/01826/HOU Oaktrees, Mill Rd, St Helens PO33 1YH - variation on condition 2, alterations to fenestration(design of windows & doors) - Permission granted

**65-24/25 PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS**

IWALC - nothing to report, Cllr MC sent his apologies.

BHAG - Community Resilience Plan (Emergency Plan) sole subject.

**66-24/25 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT**

The IOW Council is entering a process of closing schools. The Law states that Schools to be identified going into the process. The process begins from 20.9.24 - with the final decision being announced in December. Schools are funded per pupil - schools short in pupil numbers due to a drop in the birth rate, therefore some schools are underfunded and not being able to cover the running costs.

**67-24/25 OPEN QUESTION TIME**

Question: Are County Hall going to look at speed limits on IOW. Not looking at a blanket 20mph. Speed Review is due to come to Cabinet  
More vehicles present on the island - more problematic with speeding and parking.

Is the PC considering the 20mph on Upper Green Road?

There has been lots of discussion on this subject since 2006. There are issues putting most measures into place. e.g A Crossing, as suggested for the area near the school, requires a set amount of road space either side, - the road does not allow for the requirements. A Speed Review taken in the past showed the average speed to be 26mph, therefore no basis to implement any measures.

When the bins are out on pavements unable to pass with pushchairs and therefore have to step into the road.

Parked cars can be an issue - and with narrow pavements not ideal conditions.

Basically too many vehicles for the Island.

Contact with Hants speedwatch - Cllr MC to contact.

**68-24/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Next PC Meeting** - Monday 14th October 2024 7pm at the Pavilion

Meeting concluded at 8:07 pm

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