

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 13th January 2025 at St Helens Pavilion

Chaired by Cllr JB,

Attended by: Cllrs: GG,SP,MC,AB,CH,PJ,CG

Clerk JM

Public 15 members present

126-24/25 APOLOGIES

None

127-24/25 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.

128-24/25 MINUTES

To approve & sign the minutes of the PC meeting held on Monday 9th December 2024
Proposed Cllr PJ, Seconded Cllr JB

129-24/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

A member of the public spoke about the potential Devolution and their views on what effect it would have on the IOW. The question was raised "Does the PC trust and believe that devolution would be beneficial for the IW?" Cllr JB explained the devolution matter further.

Work is happening on the Map & Parliament Seat, these will be completed for the summer.

130-24/25 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

No nominations received. Remains open.

131-24/25 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr JB had already talked about the devolution.
We may have elections deferred which will affect the Town & Parish Councils - wait to be confirmed.

Cllr JB gave notice that he plans to step down from being Chair as from May 2025, whether there is an election or not.

132-24/25 CLERK'S REPORT

LCWIP - Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan - a list of proposals has been listed in response to the consultation - it is on the IOWC website.

When funding becomes available there is a researched plan ready to work on.

The suggestions for the village are good - a few which may cause issues - anyone wishing to put a view forward should contact the IOWC or the PC clerk.

133-24/25 THE GREENS

The Tender used for last year is to be reviewed - any updates to be given to the Clerk. Cllr AB and Cllr GG to be the coordinators.

Unhappy with some of the work this year so seeking a new way forward.

Evidence from a recent survey (from May 24) over all the greens showed that there are over 50 flowering plants - homes to 20 different butterfly species within the areas of the greens as well as moths/bees/hover flies/mosquitoes & other insects (losing insects by 2.5% per annum - onward effect with birds,) therefore it was recommended that the condition of the greens to be improved with a plan to sustain these such habitats for the insects and wildlife.

As a starting point: to have a list of the locations of the plants.

A general feeling: there had been a large increase in the fees for a much reduced number of cuts and quality. It would be good to see what other contractors have to offer.

The Greens are a showcase for St Helens and generally people dissatisfied with the work this present year. Maintenance covers many requirements - including sports and nature. Actively seek a new contractor(s) - ideally have a choice.

Proposal for using the tender set out last year - with the choice of extra cuts in various places if it felt required.

Cllrs GG & AB asked to coordinate the process.

Proposed by Cllr JB, Seconded: Cllr GG All agreed.

134-24/25 CHURCH YARD

The Church has asked the PC for a contribution towards the maintenance of the ChurchYard - as a Community Asset. It is the only Churchyard for St Helens, Nettlestone & Seaview. The income presently from relatives & family interred in the Church Yard & voluntary donations. The annual cost to maintain the area is £15,000.

Under Section 137 of the Local Gov Act 1972 the PC can now assist with the cost of maintaining the Churchyard.

Consider a contribution throughout the forthcoming year of £1000.

If the ChurchYard were to close it could become the responsibility of the Parish Council (Section 215, Local Government Act 1972).

A mention of Parish boundaries was made: - the burial ground is within the boundary of St Helens and is the only burial ground for St Helens.

Proposed : Cllr GG, Seconded Cllr JB, Vote 1 against 5 agreed.

135-24/25 VILLAGE CONSULTATION PLAN

At the end of last year a suggestion of having a Village consultation mainly about the greens was raised but on further discussion it was felt there are a number of other items that views from all Villagers would be helpful. This would be beneficial in moving the village forward and allocating funds in the correct areas. To attract grant funding to have evidence of a consultation is beneficial.

Discussion of different aspects took place; what to be included, timescale and ways in which to contact all villagers to establish an informed public opinion.

Proposal: to have a Working Group to produce a Village Consultation Plan, to be present at various events in the village, leaflet drop, in order to engage with as many people as possible.

Proposed: Cllr AB, Seconded Cllr JB All agreed.

136-24/25 DRAFT BUDGET

It was decided to postpone the discussion of the proposed budget due to a further couple of items being raised which would require funding.

Clerk to circulate the proposed budget to the Councillors in readiness for the next meeting.

137-24/25 FINANCE & DATA PROTECTION

End of December balance & bank statement - shown, agreed by all & signed by Cllr JB
Monthly Income & Expense report shared with Cllrs.

Bank Balances end of December 2024

End of November			£809.82
Credits December	£ 0.00		
Transfer from Savings	£ 3,300.00		
Expenses December		£ 3193.80	
End of December			£ 916.02
Savings Account - End of November			£37,776.47
Transfers to Current Account - December		£3,300.00	
Credits - Interest	£269.15		
Savings Account end of December			£34,745.62
Current Account end of December			£916.02
Total funds end of December			£35,661.64

St Helens PC Financial items paid December 2024

Inv Date	To Whom	Amount	Date of payment	Method of Payment
1.12.24	Community Action	£1645.90	10.12.24	S/O
7.11.24	Business Stream	£126.24	4.12.24	BACS
4.12.24	Corona Energy	£37.88	15.12.24	BACS
22.11.24	Corporate Christmas Tree - Lights	£65.89	10.12.24	BACS
8.12.24	De Fib - pads	£96.00	10.12.24	BACS
3.12.24	E-On Next Elec - Pavilion -	£95.52	10.12.24	BACS
9.12.24	E-On Next Gas - Pavilion -	£57.00	10.12.24	BACS
13.11.24	Thompsons - Christmas Tree & Delivery	£335.00	10.12.24	BACS
27.11.24	IW Green Gym	£90.00	10.12.24	BACS
4.12.24	Ionos Webmail	£15.60	20.11.24	BACS
28.12.24	S Chester	£600.00	28.11.24	BACS
31.12.24	Bank Charge	£6.00	30.11.24	DD
		£3193.80		

Income				
Dec		0.00		
		£0.00		
To Pay				
	Community Action	£1404.70		
	Corona Energy	£41.53		
	E-On Next Elec - Pavilion -	£120.31		
	E-On Next Gas - Pavilion -	£65.79		
4.1.25	IONOs Webmail	£15.60		
	S Chester	£600.00		
	St Helens War Memorial	£1000.00		
	BetaPak	£59.86		
	Bank Charge	£6.00		

Clerks Expenses -

4.1.25	Black Ink Refill	£11.99		
10.1.25	Tesco -cleaning supplies for Pavilion	£23.44		
		£35.43		

Proposed: Cllr JB, Seconded Cllr PJ. All agreed

Clerk awaiting a new invoice for the Bins including Broomlands dog bin which wasn't in operation for a while.

138-24/25 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN (Emergency Plan)

No updates to date.

139-24/25 APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

24/1771/HOU Mill House, Mill Lane, St Helens, PO33 1YH. Proposed alterations to the existing house, including replacing the roof, changing the fenestration and entrances, and installation of an air source heat pump.

Re configured house. The rebuild is more in keeping with the original building. A Bat Colony was observed in the roof - the roof is to be replaced - so concern re the environment for the bats. Consideration is being given.

The Causeway: there may be some minimal closure during some of the works for safety reasons. The project should be a quality one with eye for detail if the developer uses the same team as other work on Castle Cottage.

24/01888/FUL Sewage Treatment Works, Carpenters Road, St Helens PO33 1YG

140-24/25 NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

24/01742/TW Ivy House, Lower green Road, St Helens, PO33 1UF. Bramley Apple Tree - remove some lower branches to allow light, pruning back to previous pollarding points.

Plum Fruit Tree - re shaping and removal of dead branches. - No objections.

24/01693/HOU 4, Westfield Road, St Helens, PO33 1UZ. Demolition of existing extension proposed single storey replacement rear extension. - Granted.

24/01670/FUL Bembridge Boat Storage, The Duver, St Helens - application withdrawn

24/01261/DIS 34, Station Road, St Helens PO33 1YF - Condition 3 (Design & construction) Driveway. - No issues

24/01584/FUL 5, Pavilion House, Lower Green Road, St Helens, PO33 1T. Proposed replacement UPVC double glazed windows. - No issues

24/01556/HOU 1 Melbourne Villas, The Diggings, St Helens, PO33 1UN. Demolition of existing canopy, proposed single storey side porch extension. - No issues

24/01475/HOU 2, St Michaels Rd, St Helens PO33 1TT - Property built in stone - changes to make it more appealing - felt it is a considered application, changing the layout and updating the property - Refused planning.

141-24/25 PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

IWALC - no meeting in December.

BHAG - meeting on Tuesday 14th January.

142-24/25 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

In response to the first question devolution orientated - the future of the economy of the IWC would be beneficial as, at present, in a poor state.

143-24/25 OPEN QUESTION TIME

St Helens PC Reserve level - is there a policy for the Reserve amount.

Standard level of reserve should be between 6 - 12 months of a working budget.

Request that St Helens signs at the entrances to the village are repainted - looking worn & tired.

Concern of the van parked in Field Lane for a number of weeks - the area it is parked is reducing the width of the road causing the dust cart to cut into the green verge on the opposite side to pass the vehicle, and causing some damage. Cllr JB to enquire.

144-24/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next PC Meeting - Monday 10th February 2025 7pm at The Pavilion

Meeting concluded at 8:15 pm

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