

# 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 10th February 2025 at St Helens Pavilion**

**Chaired by Cllr JB,**

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

**Clerk JM**

**Public 18 members present**

### **145-24/25 APOLOGIES**

Cllr SP

### **146-24/25 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.

### **147-24/25 MINUTES**

To approve & sign the minutes of the PC meeting held on Monday 13th January 2025  
**Proposed Cllr JB, Seconded Cllr GG**

### **148-24/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Devolution - a question was raised about the cost of the mayoral tier. Would the cost for this extra tier be paid for from the public?

Cllr PJ gave an explanation about the set grant funding - and extra additional small grants available from the Government. This money will support the smaller authority. Six of thirty nine local authorities who applied have been granted the funding, the Solent Area (IOW, Portsmouth, Southampton & Hants) being one.

Discussion continued regarding Devolution and the Local Government Reorganisation.

A member of the Public raised the issue of Councillor interest regarding the proposal of the PC taking on the Station Road Toilet Block, presently owned by the IOWC. Please see item 146-24/25 both Cllr JB & Cllr PJ have made their declaration of interest and request for dispensation. Cllr JB replied he believes there is no conflict as he has nothing to personally gain from any transfer, therefore nothing to declare. Cllr PJ - agreed with the Chair and made clear if there was an interest then he would not take part in any discussion.

A question was raised;- will there be a Consultation with the Village on this item alone; i.e. the plan to take on the Station Road Toilet Block? After some discussion the Chair stated that due to the item being on the agenda and discussed over the past few years he felt that there had been sufficient time for parishioners to raise their concerns, so declined a Consultation on this individual matter.

#### **149-24/25 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None that had not been already raised.

#### **150-24/25 CLERK'S REPORT**

- A request that all dog owners pick up their dogs waste - this can be placed in any rubbish bin - not just the dog waste bins.
- Rubbish - plea to holiday let owners - please ask that any rubbish is disposed of properly. An open shopping bag of rubbish was left by the bus stop, easily accessed by the birds. Many of the items were recyclable. Clerk to highlight the issue in the local magazines.
- Parking on the Greens - concern about the damage to the cars & greens - it is illegal and any damage caused is down to those who caused it to pay.  
The times that the Greens are used for car parking is an agreement with IOWC.
- Feeding of Seagulls - following an email from a resident: please discourage feeding the gulls, the birds as they are nesting on houses.
- The provider for Gas & Electricity is changing. A more favourable contract has been agreed, hopefully saving about £1000 a year on the current figures.
- The Contract for electricity at the Duver ends in the summer so a new one with again a favourable rate has been set up. The costs will be more than the past 3 years as prices have increased since that contract was set up.
- Walk the Wight - in its 35th year - takes place Sunday 11th May
- Potholes in Eddington Road - growing - Clerk to follow up
- The Clerk has received a few questions re the Beach Huts. These are now subject to a new lease with Duver Enterprises. A meeting between Duver Enterprises and IOWC Property Services is due to take place.  
Cllr JB has received a request to meet with Beach Hut owners.  
Plans for clearing up the area and the caravan - suggest a meeting with PC Cllrs and Duver Enterprises.

#### **151-24/25 THE GREENS**

A Draft Tender had been circulated with the Cllrs. It still reflects the findings of the working group.

The new tender to: insist on cuttings being collected.

Contractors to give prior notice on attendance to do the work.

The Tender to reach a good number of contractors so there is greater choice to place the work.

Cllr AB, Cllr GG & the Clerk had walked & inspected the areas included in the Tender. It is a complicated matter as all areas require different considerations. This is an ongoing item. Agree tender to go out.

Public advertisement & individual companies to be approached

New contract to begin before Easter.

Contact IDverde re completion of the current contract.

Make the decision at the April meeting.

**All agreed.**

#### **152-24/25 PAVILION & STATION ROAD TOILET BLOCK**

The long awaited lease proposals for the Pavilion & the Station Road Toilet block have come through from the IOWC. Due to a few questions arising the PC were not in a position to vote at this meeting.

Cllr JB & Cllr AB have met with The Historical Society. They are interested in taking on half of the Station Road building to create a Local Museum. Grant funding is available.

Waiting for clear details of the funding - to apply, a lease for the building will be necessary. The other half being let for commercial use therefore providing an income to cover the running costs of the building.

Cllr CH raised a few questions from the proposed leases for the Pavilion and Station Road Block - Cllr JB & the Clerk to forward the questions to the legal team dealing with the proposals, with a view to getting a response and concluding the decision next month.

**153-24/25 DRAFT BUDGET 25/26**

The proposed Budget for 2025/2026 had been circulated with the Councillors . Cllr CH requested that the Clerk gain a few quotes for the insurance renewal premium. There would be an increase in the insurance with the Pavilion and Station Road buildings added.

Overall proposal of the precept to be a rise of 3.16%,  
3.16% rise for a Band D property will cost £69.28 per annum, an increase of £2.12 from last year

**Propose Cllr JB, Seconded Cllr CH, all agreed.**

**154-24/25 VILLAGE CONSULTATION PLAN**

Conduct a VCP within the Village. Set out an Action Plan for the next 5 years. Important to have contact with all groups of all ages - what are their requirements within the village. It is beneficial to have completed a VCP in order to gain funding for local groups and associations,

Proposal: to make contact with all local associations and to create 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.

The group would seek professional help with forming the questions - anyone with experience please do get in contact.

**Proposed: Cllr AB, Seconded Cllr JB All agreed.**

**155-24/25 FINANCE & DATA PROTECTION**

End of January balance & bank statement - shown, **agreed by all & signed by Cllr JB**  
Monthly Income & Expense report shared with Cllrs.  
To agree the Internal Auditor, G Hughes, for Accounts 2024/25

**Bank Balances end of January 2025**

End of December			£916.02
Credits January	£ 65.00		
Transfer from Savings	£ 4,000.00		
Expenses January		£3335.04	
End of January			£ 1645.98
Savings Account - End of December			£34,745.62
Transfers to Current Account - January		£4000.00	
Credits - Interest	£0.00		
Savings Account end of January			£30,745.62
Current Account end of January			£1645.98
Total funds end of January			£32,391.60

**31.1.25 St Helens PC Financial items paid month - end of January 2025**

<b>Inv Date</b>	<b>To Whom</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Date of payment</b>	<b>Method of Payment</b>
3.1.25	Community Action	£1404.70	10.1.25	S/O
3.1.25	Ionos Webmail	£15.60	10.1.25	DD
7.1.25	Corona Energy	£41.53	17.1.25	DD
2.1.25	E-On Next Elec - Pavilion -	£120.31	14.1.25	BACS
2.1.25	E-On Next Gas - Pavilion -	£65.79	14.1.25	BACS
10.12.24	BetaPak Ltd	£59.86	14.1.25	BACS
	St Helens War Memorial contribution	£1000.00	14.1.25	BACS
4.1.25	Currys - Printer Ink J Matthews	£11.99	14.1.25	BACS
10.1.25	Tesco - Cleaning items Pavilion - J Matthews	£23.44	14.1.25	BACS
30.1.25	S Chester	£600.00	31.1.25	S/O
31.1.25	Bank Charge	£6.00	31.1.25	DD
	Credit from Lake Cleaning	-14.18		
		<b>£3335.04</b>		
<b>Income</b>	Vectis Football Club	£65.00		
		<b>£65.00</b>		
<b>To Pay</b>				
	Community Action	£1404.70		
	Corona Energy	£56.79		
	E-On Next Elec - Pavilion -	£105.18		
	E-On Next Gas - Pavilion -	£50.36		
	Ionos Webmail	£15.60		
	S Chester	£600.00		
	Bank Charge	£6.00		
	IWALC Subscription	£297.70		
	What's On Ad - Pavilion	£45.00		
	Island Pest Control	£204.00		
	IDVerde	£820.20		
	Ringway Island Roads	£1310.69		
	<b>Clerks Expenses</b>			
3.11.24	Toilet door Sign (outdoor Pavilion)	£4.53		
17.12.24	Booker - Toilet Rolls - Pavilion	£15.59		
20.1.25	Tesco - stationery folder & paper	£7.40		
		<b>£27.52</b>		

**Proposed: Cllr JB, Seconded CllrAB. All agreed**

**156-24/25 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN ( Emergency Plan)**

Grant possibility from Southern Electricity - PC to apply. Pre application a discussion to take place re items the grant would cover.

**157-24/25 APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY**

Treeworks:

24/01844/TW Poplar tree - to reduce in height, rear of 2, Stonewood Gate.St Helens.

24/01888/FUL Sewage Treatment Works, Carpenters Road, St Helens, PO33 1YG  
Proposed change of use to operational land to include construction and operation of a humus tank & security fencing, Awaiting decision.

**158-24/25 NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING AUTHORITY**

24/01771/HOU St Helens Mill, Mill Rd, 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. Granted

24/01822/TW Sycamore - fell - Land at Priory Woods North of Nodes Holiday Camp. Granted.

25/00014/TW - 3 trees - Nodes Point Holiday Camp Road, St Helens. Granted.

**159-24/25 PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS**

IWALC - Meeting on 13th January - Subjects covered: Committee systems & Devolution.

BHAG - Dates for your Diary:

14th - 15th June GigFest

28th June Rock The Boat

25th - 27th July Family Fun Weekend

Question raised re the Public Footpath - R89 - check out if this pathway has been rerouted. Signage is required, as there are people getting stuck in the mud. Is there any redirection signage?

Contact Nodes Point,Bembridge Harbour & Rights of Way to highlight the danger.

Put some advice posters up in the Village.

An application has been lodged with the IOWC for a right of way through the Priory Golf Club, as an alternative route (this was used in the past). This is within Seaviews boundary - useful to know further information.

Rambler association - do they have any power to maintain footpaths.

**160-24/25 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT**

- IOW Council Elections are being postponed until May 2026.
- Elections to Town & Parish Councils to proceed for May 2025, as a stand alone exercise.
- Thank you to the Clerk for all the work put into forming the budget for 25/26.

**161-24/25 OPEN QUESTION TIME**

Toilet Block, Station Road, - suggestion it could be used for a commercial enterprise - any further information. Suggestions have been a community cafe but concern as the former cafe in the village closed.

What is happening with the scaffolding around the Old Church building on the Duver?

Car Park - tickets have been issued to residents. Could residents be issued with a pass to use the Car Park for longer than the 24 hours? Item to be put on the Village Consultation.

Request was raised regarding wheelchair access along the Lower Green (Cricket Green). The pathway across is not wide enough for a wheelchair, could this be widened? Also to have a dropped curb into Downsvie Road.  
To do work on the Greens is a very involved matter, and can take a great time.  
The PC to investigate the dropped curb,

Rubbish put into the bins - report of toxic weed killer being placed into bin, by a local resident. Please can residents use their own bins.

Budget request - is it too late to assign an amount to the (Dog Warden Scheme.) Environment Enforcement Officer to deal with the amount of dog waste left along the Duver and around the village.  
The PC could enlist, but the costs are believed to be: £11,000 - £13,000 for one day per week, for a year. Clerk to confirm costs.

On the beach - some signs and other items are missing or broken - Clerk to follow up with IOWC.

**162-24/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

Meeting concluded at 8:23 pm

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