



HALE PARISH COUNCIL

OF THE HALTON BOROUGH IN
THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF HALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN HALE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 16th January 2023 AT 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Trevaskis, Cllr Cleary, Cllr Brown, Cllr McNamara, Cllr Healey,
Cllr King, Cllr Williams, Cllr Spargo

In attendance: The Clerk and Eight members of public were also present

1. **Apologies** – No Apologies were received by the Clerk
2. **Declarations of Interest** – No declarations of interest were recorded by the Clerk
3. **Public Participation** – A local resident who is a member of Hale Village Hall management committee made a representation in which she expressed surprise that no budget for the Village Hall had been included for the meeting. Whilst the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) may make recommendations, it is the Parish Council who are responsible for setting budgets and the Village Hall budget document should have been presented. She was also dismayed to see that the reserve on the PC budget had been reduces. She felt it would have been more prudent to keep a greater reserve to ensure that repairs could be undertaken if grants were not forthcoming. She noted that there may also be some pension contributions which the PC will have to pay and will also need to be included in the budget. The current situation with gas and Electricity should also be reviewed.

A second member of the Village Hall Management Committee said that he agreed with the first resident and felt that it would be shortsighted to leave the Hall in a very difficult position trying to address the outstanding maintenance issues without a contribution from the Parish Council

The Lord Mayor expressed his delight at the success of this year's annual Christmas events and thanked all the helpers and volunteers for their contribution. He went on to warn that the Village Crib would need to be re-positioned for Christmas 2023 as the usual Post Office site will no longer be available.

- i. A Police Report submitted by PCSO Steve Marnick was distributed and noted at the meeting
- ii A letter submitted by a local resident regarding his concerns about the setting of this year's budgets and the precept was distributed at the meeting by the Clerk.

4. **Minutes** – Cllr Cleary proposed that the approval of the Minutes of Hale Parish Council Extra - Ordinary meeting on 13th December 2022 should be accepted with an amendment to Item 7. The addition of the words “Motions Approved” should be inserted. This motion was seconded by Cllr Brown and in a named vote the amendment was approved with cllrs Cleary, Brown, King and Healey in favour of the amendment and four abstentions were recorded.

The Motion was approved

5. **Payments & Receipts** – Cllr Trevaskis proposed that all payments and receipts for the period 15th November 2022 and 6th January 2023 are a true and accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr Spargo.

The Motion was approved

6. **Accounts** – Cllr Spargo proposed that the accounts presented for the period 15th November 2022 and 6th January 2023 are a true and accurate record and Cllr Healey seconded the proposal.

The Motion was approved

7. **Planning** – It was resolved that the Parish Council should contact Halton planning to Object to the proposed Planning Application Ref: 22-00638-FUL

It was agreed that an objection based upon similar criteria as the submission by Halebank Parish Council should be submitted on behalf of Hale Parish Council. The Chairman advised that proper integration/Blend and Character should be conditions to be considered with density and affordable dwellings also being important. The Lord Mayor expressed an opinion that Hale Parish Council should be fully involved with the planning process and should push for at least 25% retirement style property and 25% affordable style property to be built. It was noted that the area in question will be perfect for retirement property due to its close proximity to shops, Pharmacy and local public transport. A resident also noted that proper consideration should be given to the existing farm pond and its effect on surface water and was keen to see this integrated into the plan along with other “green space” considerations.

Proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Spargo

The Motion was approved

8. **Village Forum** – It was resolved that the Clerk will contact local organisations with an interest and invite them to this informal meeting on 5th or 12th February TBC. Subsequent management of the Forum and its arrangements for meetings & work all to be addressed and agreed at the relevant meetings.

Proposed by Cllr Trevaskis and seconded by Cllr Williams

The Motion was approved

9. **Asset Register** – It was noted that there is no requirement within the terms of the JPAG Practitioners Guide (ref 5.65) to consider depreciation or appreciation of assets belonging to the Parish Council. However it was resolved to compile a separate asset register which allows for depreciation so an actual position can be considered when negotiating any future Insurance cover.

Proposed by Cllr Cleary and seconded by Cllr King

The Motion was approved with one abstention

The Lord Mayor Alderman Malcolm Sutton confirmed that the Fawcett Gun and Carriage situated on the forecourt of the Village Hall has been gifted to the village and can now be entered on the register as an asset of the Parish Council

10. **Budget & Precept 2023 – 2024** – After considerable debate where the Chairman expressed concerns about the process used to calculate the approved budget figures it was agreed to defer this Agenda item until the February Meeting. Cllr Cleary believes that a proper course of action was taken with the decision making process being observed and appropriate. It was agreed that to establish a healthy audit trail there should be a forthcoming meeting of the Parish Council as Trustee to the Village Hall Charity. This should then be followed up by a meeting of the Parish Council Finance Committee before a final proposal is presented and agreed at the February Parish Council meeting.

Proposed by Cllr McNamara and seconded by Cllr Spargo

In a recorded Vote Cllrs Trevaskis, Brown, McNamara, Healey, King, Williams, and Spargo voted in favour. Cllr Cleary abstained

The Motion was approved with one abstention

11. **St Marys Graveyard Maintenance** – It was acknowledged that the Parish Council is anticipating a response from St Mary's Church containing a scope of works for the maintenance of the Graveyard.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.15pm