



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 17th JULY 2023 AT 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Brown, Cllr Healey, Cllr Anderson, Cllr King,
Cllr Williams, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Lewis

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

1. **Apologies** - Apologies were received from Cllr Cleary by the Clerk
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Lewis stated an interest in Item 12 regarding the Art Class support request.
3. **Minutes.** - The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 19th June 2023 were approved as a true and accurate account.

Proposed by Cllr Healey, seconded by Cllr Anderson.

The Motion was approved

4. **Payments & Receipts** – Cllr King proposed that all payments and receipts for the period 1st April 2023 and 30th June 2023 are a true and accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr Anderson.

The Motion was approved

5. **Accounts** – The reconciled bank statement and summary of receipts and payments were accepted as a true and accurate record and comparison against budget.

Proposed by Cllr Anderson, seconded by Cllr Mitchell

The Motion was approved

6. **Internal Audit Report** – The Internal Audit report was received

Proposed by Cllr Healey, seconded by Cllr Roberts

The Motion was approved

7. **Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance** – It was noted that the period of Publication is 1st July 2023 until 5th August 2023

8. Standing Orders & Financial Regulations –

i. The amended Standing Orders were approved

Proposed by Cllr Lewis and seconded by Cllr Anderson

ii. The Financial Regulations were approved

Proposed by Cllr Healey and seconded by Cllr Anderson

The Motion was approved

9. Risk Management Scheme and Policy- The risk management Scheme and policy were approved without amendment

Proposed by Cllr Lewis seconded by Cllr King

The Motion was approved

10. Members Code of Conduct – The Members code of conduct and policy were approved without amendment

Proposed by Cllr King seconded by Cllr Roberts

The Motion was approved

11. Policies – The following Policies were approved pending small amendments to update names of current officers

1. Grievance Policy

2. Dignity at work Policy

3. Scheme of Delegation

4. Disciplinary Policy

5. Social Media Policy

6. Complains Procedure

7. Public Complaints Procedure

Proposed by Cllr Roberts seconded by Cllr Anderson

The Motion was approved

12. Art Class Support – It was resolved to support the Village Art Class with a 50% part funding of £360.00 from the wellbeing budget towards the cost of employing a permanent tutor. The Chair enquired about the possibility of a current student or students holding art sessions for youngsters of the village who may have an interest. The chairman of the Art Group thanked the Parish Council for the support and said that consideration would be given to the Chairman’s request.

13. D-Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations 6th June 2024 - It was noted that the 6th June 2024 marks the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings and that national celebrations will be taking place to mark the event. Cllr Roberts stated that he will co-ordinate a meeting between representatives of the Parish Council and other stakeholders who may have an interest in organising appropriate events to celebrate the occasion. Cllr Roberts will report back to the Parish Council with any proposals for consideration. It was agreed that this needs be actioned as soon as possible.

14. Public Participation – The Chair allowed a number of speakers to address the meeting.

- i. The Lord Mayor welcomed two new councillors Cllr Roberts and Cllr Lewis wishing them a productive term on the Parish Council. He also thanked the two previous Cllrs, Malcolm Spargo and Ann McNamara, recognising the commitment they had given to the Parish Council and acknowledging their work arranging events & functions during their terms of office. He went on to enquire whether previous events such as the Christmas Party would continue and if so how would they be insured if not organised by the Parish Council. He said that Parish Councillors were noticeable by their absence at certain events and asked that there be more commitment to attending Village occasions such as the Shore Dash and having a higher profile generally. The Lord Mayor was also very keen to see that people who have committed their time and effort organising events should be recognised and thanked accordingly.
- ii. The Chair said she would contact Shaun Corness to enquire about the proposed work on the Parish Council websites and Social media platforms and enquire about a way forward
- iii. Cllr Roberts stated that all current members had now agreed to renew the Councillors Code of Conduct and as such should be mindful at all times of that commitment. He also stated that enquiries about an “Umbrella” type insurance policy could be explored for events not covered by the current Parish council Policy.

The Clerk agreed to check the policy and add this Insurance item to the Agenda for the Parish Council meeting on 18th September 2023

- iv. A local resident enquired about the recent internal audit and specifically about the comments by the Auditor regarding the setting of the Budget to support the Precept. He stated that the issue identified was addressed a number of years ago and he felt there had been a step backwards in the budget preparation.

The resident went on to enquire about a proposed meeting being planned by the Village Hall Committee which will not open to the public. The chair explained that it is private meeting with confidential matters being discussed. She explained that it is a Village Hall Management meeting and that there are two items to discuss. She acknowledged that no formal decisions can be made. Cllr Roberts assured the meeting that he would ensure matters are conducted in a proper legal manner.

- v. A member of the Public asked whether the Parish Council would consider a change to the day/time of Parish Council meetings as there is considerable noise produced by the Majorettes who's hire of the main hall clashes with PC meetings on Monday Nights. The Clerk agreed to put this on the Agenda for discussion on 18th September 2023

- vi. A different member of the public enquired about inviting a representative of Liverpool John Lennon Airport to explain about the recent increase in traffic and more specifically about an increase in traffic between the hours of midnight and 6am. which are causing disturbances in the sleep patterns of residents living close to the airport

The resident went on to request that the Agenda item "Public Participation" be returned to the beginning of the Agenda so residents comments could have a bearing on the decision making further down the Agenda. It was noted that in its current format decisions have often been made before any contributions by residents have been offered.

The Clerk agreed to put this item on the Agenda for the Ordinary meeting on 18th September 2023

15. Date of Next Meeting - The date for the next Parish Council Meeting is Monday 18th September 2023 at 7.30pm in Hale Village Hall

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.