



HALE PARISH COUNCIL

OF THE HALTON BOROUGH IN
THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HALE PARISH COUNCIL
ACTING AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF HALE VILLAGE HALL
HELD ON MONDAY 8TH APRIL 2024
AT 8.00pm IN HALE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr McNamara, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Wright, Cllr Healey

In attendance: Mr. Brian Hargreaves (Proper Officer) & 4 Members of the Public

In the absence of the Chair and deputy Chair of the Parish Council it was resolved to elect a chairman for this meeting. Cllr Wright was proposed

Proposed by Cllr Anderson and seconded by Cllr McNamara

The Motion was approved

- 1. Apologies** – Apologies were received from Cllrs Roberts, Trevaskis and Williams by the Clerk
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – No declarations of interest were received
- 3. Public Participation** – A local resident who is a member of the Village Hall management committee requested that Item 10 on this agenda should be deferred pending further discussions. It was noted that in order to establish a suitable hire tariff going forward requires a full understanding of the current “Historical” arrangements created by previous committee’s

Cllr Lewis asked that current regular users of the Village Hall receive an apology from the Clerk for the extended period that it has been without adequate heating. She stated that she felt that it is appropriate for users to ask the Village Hall Committee for retrospective discounts or free sessions as a demonstration of goodwill.

Alderman Sutton explained that he is willing to frame an explanation of the history of the Fawcett cannon sited on the forecourt area of the Hall. It was proposed that this can be mounted in the Village Hall so visitors may have a proper account of its inclusion at the Village Hall

Another member of the Village Hall Management Committee said that a meeting with the bookings officer and the Clerk should take place before the next Trustee meeting and a definitive updated tariff agreed for submission to the Trustee.

4. **Minutes** – The draft minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hale Parish Council as Trustee of Hale Village Hall on 12th January 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

The motion was proposed by Cllr Lewis and Seconded by Cllr Anderson

The Motion was approved unanimously

5. **Payments & Receipts**

- i. The payments & receipts made between 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024 were received and acknowledged as a true record as recorded in the cash book record which has been reconciled against the Bank statements to these dates, all payments having been made under Financial Regulation 6.4 as detailed.

Proposed by Cllr Anderson and seconded by Cllr McNamara

The Motion was approved unanimously

6. **End of Year Accounts 2023 - 2024** – The reconciled bank statement and summary of receipts & payments (1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024) were accepted as a true and accurate account and comparison against budget.

Proposed by Cllr Anderson and seconded by Cllr McNamara

The Motion was approved unanimously

7. **Village Hall Maintenance Plan**

Alderman Sutton explained that the deterioration of the front elevation of the Village Hall could not be attributed to one particular event or aspect of work undertaken. He explained that four elements either individually or combined have all had a detrimental effect on the front fascia. He suggested that possible bad design, building work, materials used and a lack of on-going maintenance are all responsible in differing quantities.

In the discussions that followed it was agreed that the Village Hall should not pass up the opportunity to utilise the free services of local tradesmen and volunteers. This will have a massive impact on savings for the work to be undertaken. It was noted that the Clerk has received 3 estimates for the work required and that the estimate by Alderman Sutton was considerably lower than the other proposals.

It was noted that the materials will be guaranteed for use but that by using Volunteers it may be difficult to obtain guarantees for the work completed. However it was felt that a compromise should be considered given the saving of labour costs by utilising Volunteer tradesmen as proposed.

Alderman Sutton explained that most of the available tradesmen would be happy to contribute 2 free days of labour (work) but that any additional work may command a charge.

It was agreed that a budget of £3500 should be available for materials to be purchased and for work to be started.

Proposed by Cllr Anderson and seconded by Cllr Wright

The Motion was approved unanimously

- 8. Fund Raising Approach** – It was noted that the Clerk will continue to liaise with Cheshire Community Action to identify suitable funding streams for the financial assistance required to support the Village Hall.

In addition Cllr McNamara informed the meeting that Liverpool Airport may have a local support funding facility.

Cllr Anderson suggested that she will also contact the building company currently engaged in building houses just off Town Lane to enquire about a funding contribution

- 9. Village Hall Key Replacement** – It was agreed that the Caretaker will replace the existing two key barrels on the two front doors of the Village Hall. The Clerk will replace the keys for all user groups and issue to users recording details of all recipients.

It was agreed that a new “starting point” should be established and that a proper record of who has keys and access to the Village Hall is maintained.

Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Anderson

The Motion was approved unanimously

- 10. Village Hall Tariff** – It was agreed to defer this item until the next Trustee meeting due to some late information becoming available

Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr McNamara

The Motion was approved unanimously

- 11. Village Hall Terms & Conditions of Hire** – It was agreed to accept the proposed Terms & Conditions with some minor amendments to item 17 regarding Animal admittance.

Proposed by Cllr Anderson and seconded by Cllr Lewis

The Motion was approved unanimously

- 12. Social Media/Website update** – The Clerk explained that the project is still very much a work in progress and that he has instructed the developer to continue with the chosen format. A current version is available at <https://halevillagehall-com.stackstaging.com/>

- 13. Next Meeting** – It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Trustee on 13th May 2024 at 8.00pm in Hale Village Hall

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.30pm