



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 WEDNESDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Trevaskis, Cllr Healey, Cllr King, Cllr McNamara, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Williams

In attendance: Mr. Brian Hargreaves (Proper Officer) & 1 Member of the Public

1. **Apologies** – Cllrs Spargo and Mitchell registered their apologies with the Clerk
2. **Declarations of Interest** – No declarations of interest were received
3. **Minutes** – The minutes of the Annual meeting (Pt 3) 14th November 2022 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

The motion was proposed by Cllr Trevaskis and Seconded by Cllr Healey

The Motion was approved

4. **Public Participation** – No members of the Public wished to address the meeting.
5. **Hall Maintenance** – In the absence of the authors of the Safety/Maintenance audit it was agreed that the Clerk should arrange a meeting between the Parish Council's third party consultant Charlie Jones from Risk Services Ltd and Peter Platt from the Village Hall Committee. It was noted that there are a significant number of subjective opinions which need to be addressed in the interest of safety and that some items of significance may need to be added to any subsequent maintenance schedule. It was noted that a Tree survey will need to be undertaken and that consideration in the Village Hall budget should allow for items of significance which have already been identified such as the condition of the Hall floor and the replacement of the cladding to the front elevation of the Hall. It was proposed by Cllr McNamara that a figure of £15000 should be allocated for maintenance work. This was seconded by Cllr King

The motion was approved unanimously

- It was noted by Cllr King that the Electrical cut out on the main electrical supply is an out of date (black) version which has now been superseded following safety concerns. The current version of the cut-out component should be grey in colour.

6. Budget Review

It was resolved to propose the following amendments to the current budget lines for acceptance of the full 2023-2024 Budget at the Parish Council meeting on February 27th 2023.

- i. **Staffing** - £25000 (from £26000) Proposed by Cllr Anderson and seconded by Cllr King
- ii. **Water** - £735 Proposed by Cllr McNamara Seconded by Cllr Williams
- iii. **Rates** - £160 (from £320) Proposed by Cllr Anderson seconded by Cllr Williams
- iv. **Subscriptions** - £750 (from £475) Proposed by Cllr Anderson and Seconded by Cllr McNamara
- v. **Repairs & Maintenance** - £15000 (from £3000) Proposed by Cllr McNamara and Seconded by Cllr King
- vi. **Gas** - £2500 - Proposed by Cllr Anderson Seconded by Cllr McNamara
- vii. **Capital Equipment** - £250 - Proposed by Cllr McNamara Seconded by Cllr Williams
- viii. **Contingency** – £1000 (from £5000) Proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr McNamara
- ix. **Electricity** - £2500 – (from £2000) Proposed by Cllr King Seconded by Cllr Healey
- x. **Telephone / Internet** - £450 (from £840) Proposed by Cllr McNamara and seconded by Cllr Anderson

A total budget requirement of **£48345.00** was agreed by members. It is anticipated that a Bank Carry forward of **£20626.91** at 1st April 2023 will result in a Budget requirement of **£27718.09** which it is felt can be achieved through Income from Hall rental in 2023/2024 and without additional support from Hale Parish Council.

The Chairman was cautious and explained that whilst the proposed Budget may balance this year due to a substantial carry forward of funds, next year will be substantially more difficult to balance and may require additional funding. He said that he would write to Hale Parish Council as Trustees of Hale Village Hall charity to enforce that belief and to warn against a yo-yo effect precept which has a detrimental impact and which he has witnessed previously.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.15pm