



HALE PARISH COUNCIL

OF THE HALTON BOROUGH IN
THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING
OF HALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT HALE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 21st OCTOBER 2024 AT 8.00pm**

Present: Cllr Roberts, Cllr McNamara, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Healey, Cllr Trevaskis, Cllr Williams, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Wright

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

- 1. Apologies** – No apologies were received from Cllr Cleary.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – No declarations of interest were registered
- 3. Public Participation** – A local resident expressed her concerns about what she believes is a substantial increase in night airport traffic at Liverpool John Lennon Airport (LJLA). She stated that since Jet 2 have been based at the airport night flights have increased massively and are causing major concerns for residents relating to their sleeping habits. The resident believes that Manchester airport and Heathrow airport have policies which discourage night flights and she asked whether Cllr McNamara who sits on the LJLA Consultative committee could make some enquiries and report back. Cllr McNamara stated that no such policy exists for Liverpool.

The resident informed the meeting that she currently holds possession of a noise pollution monitor which is in need of calibration to be used effectively. The Chair asked for the unit to be delivered to him for him to make enquiries about the accuracy of this old technology and suggested that it might be appropriate for the Parish Council to invest in a new unit.

Cllr Trevaskis advised that there is scope for the direction that aircrafts take off to be adjusted to account for the concerns of local residents but that wind direction and weather conditions need to be considered.

Cllr McNamara advised that in the last year there have only been 2 official complaints to LJLA about night flights and that an increase in registering concerns will be an effective course of action to take. He said he would establish where letters of concern should be sent and will publish it online and in the next PC newsletter. He also noted that Jet 2 have plans for two or three additional planes for 2025 and that a new operator who specialises in flights to Turkey will be based at LJLA next year.

The Chair advised that he would contact a local Ward Councillor to ask for assistance in lobbying LJLA and will ask for any existing noise pollution records. It is believed that a noise monitor is sited upon the roof of Hale Junior School.

A local resident asked whether the Parish Council could get assurances From Halton Borough Council that the Copper Beech tree opposite the Childe of Hale Pub will not be felled or damaged during the on-going building work taking place in the centre of the Village. He stated that he has asked a current ward Councillor from Birchfield to assist in achieving a favourable outcome.

Cllr Lewis announced to the meeting that the Knit & Natter group who hire the Village Hall weekly would like to produce knitted “Toppers” for local post boxes or appropriate village street furniture. The items will be tasteful and care will be taken to leave identification with the items to be able to contact owners.

Cllr Lewis notified the meeting that Hale Junior School have volunteered to stage a community “Litter Pick” around Hale Village on 10th December. They would like areas to be considered for their task to be noted and to be advised. They have asked for the Parish Council to support their efforts, to produce posters and to promote the event where possible.

A local resident requested that the Parish Council considers having regular dance’s in the Village Hall.

A request for the Parish Council to contribute towards Remembrance Day commemorations was recorded and it was suggested that “Lorry Poppies” may be considered to display in the High Street. The Clerk will get costings and a decision to purchase can be taken under the Clerks delegated powers.

- 4 Minutes.** – The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 16th September 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record

Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr McNamara

The Motion was approved Unanimously

- 5 Accounts** – Cllr Wright proposed that the Accounts, being reconciled to the bank statement and summary of receipts & payments 7th June 2024 – 14th October 2024 be accepted as a true and accurate record and comparison against budget. This was seconded by Cllr Lewis

The Motion was approved Unanimously

- 6 Invoice Sampling** – As required by Hale Parish Council Financial regulations 2.2 the appointed member shall check and sign all reconciliations against original Unity Bank statements and report including any exceptions to and noted by the Council.

Cllr Wright examined the Account records and checked all receipts & payments against Unity Trust bank statements for the period 1st April 2024 – 14th October 2024. No issues of concern were recorded

Cllr Roberts proposed to accept the records and this was seconded by Cllr McNamara

The Motion was approved

- 7 **Policies** – The Following Policies were approved pending some minor amendments
- i. **Lone Worker Policy** – accepted without amendment
 - ii. **Scheme of Delegation** - accepted without amendment
 - iii. **Complaints Procedure** – Accepted with changes
 - iv. **Press & Social Media** – Amend to make generic for the PC and Village Hall
 - v. **Equality & Diversity Policy** - Updated version to follow shortly

Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr McNamara

The Motion was approved unanimously

8. **HR Advice** – The merits of the options obtained by The Clerk were discussed and it was agreed that in principal the use of an external HR company would be a good idea, particularly as the newly updated employment laws warrant closer management of HR matters. The Chair asked that the clerk sets up 3 or 4 virtual meetings with prospective companies to give an opportunity for members to question them prior to engagement. It is felt that such a possible long term commitment needs careful consideration. Cllrs Trevaskis and McNamara asked for each company to identify the number of local government bodies they currently represent as it is a specialised area which needs a basic understanding of the requirements. Cllr Roberts proposed that a sub-committee be formed to examine the options and make a presentation in November.

Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr McNamara

The Motion was approved unanimously

9. **Insurance Renewal** – This Item was deferred to allow the Chair time to scrutinise the current offers which arrived too late for submission to this meeting

Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr McNamara

The Motion was approved unanimously

10. Halloween – It was agreed that all preparations are well under way and within budget. A donation bucket will be available at the point of entry.

11. Hale's Got Talent 23rd November 2024 – It was agreed to use retained petty cash to purchase items for use where possible. No budget was set but it was agreed that this event will be pretty much self - funding. The Freemen will be asked to run a bar and receive a portion of the profits (to be confirmed) Ticket sales and bar receipts should cover expenditure. Tickets will be priced at £5.00 Doors will open at 6.30pm

The Chair stated that he would like to have trophies for Adults & Kids with age limits to be confirmed. Voting will take place on the night and winners announced.

Rehearsals will take place on Sunday 17th November 2024 in the Village Hall at 2pm

Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Anderson

The Motion was approved unanimously

12. Children's Christmas Party – It was agreed that a children's Xmas party will once again take place on 8th December 2024 at 2pm. A budget of up to £750 was agreed

Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Anderson

The Motion was approved unanimously

PART TWO

13. Co- Option of new member – The Clerk agreed to ask the prospective candidates to send a CV stating their strengths and reasons for wanting to join the Parish Council. Responses will be considered and brief interviews undertaken.

Proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Roberts

The Motion was approved unanimously

14. Pension – The Clerk agreed to contact the Payroll company and advise about the payment to be made.

15. Date of Next Meeting – 18st November 2024 at 8.00pm

The Chair Closed the Meeting at 10.15pm