



HALE PARISH COUNCIL

OF THE HALTON BOROUGH IN
THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF HALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT HALE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 15th APRIL 2024 AT 8.00pm**

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

In attendance: The Clerk, and seven member of public were also present

- 1. Apologies** - No apologies were received from Cllrs Cleary or Brown
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of Interest expressed
- 3. Public Participation** – The chair allowed members of the Public to address the meeting

A local resident expressed his opinion regarding the problems experienced by the current Carnival Committee in planning the Village carnival on 8th June 2024.

Halton Borough Council have proved to be “difficult” to deal with in preparation for the event and a number of newly imposed restrictions involving not charging for entry and parking have become major problems for the event organisers. Income from the entry into Hale Carnival is essential to guarantee an event the following year and it was noted that in years when weather has affected attendance numbers previously Carnival reserves have been severely depleted as a result.

It was also noted that the recent road race staged by Halton BC which concluded in Hale park didn't appear to have the same restrictions and residents asked whether Hale PC could contact the open spaces department to get a better understanding of the rationale being applied.

A further resident stated that the higher tier authority appeared to want to place more and more obstacles in the way of the planners and that it was becoming almost impossible to satisfy all the requirements. He also stated that he believed that the newly enforced restrictions have been applied following a complaint or a small number of complaints regarding parking in the previous year

Cllr Roberts agreed to contact Cllr Mike Wharton to ask for assistance although a previous approach was referred to the relevant department at Halton BC. It was felt by the meeting that as a resident Cllr Wharton might like to help to ensure the continuation of a fantastic village tradition.

An option to arrange a “raffle ticket” type entry was discussed where everybody who enters the Carnival is asked to purchase a raffle ticket which serves as an entry ticket and also as a traditional raffle ticket allowing for an opportunity to win a prize.

Cllr Trevaskis advised that Halton BC should be reminded that the only reason the park was surrendered and referred back to Halton BC was due to what was deemed an unreasonable commitment to maintaining the grounds at a cost of approximately £14000 per year which would also be backdated. It was assumed that in handing back the responsibility of Hale Park that Community activities would not be affected moving forwards. The Chair and Cllr Trevaskis agreed to liaise regarding a way forwards and Cllr Trevaskis agreed to write to Paul Wright at Halton open spaces with the Parish Council’s concerns.

A local resident enquired about the possibility of a temporary lease or licence to stage the Carnival and it was agreed that that possibility should be explored with the higher tier authority.

In assuming control of Hale Park for the future Cllr Trevaskis explained that maintaining the park was not a major issue in terms of cost as it was essentially cutting grass. He advised that installations such as War Memorials etc are more expensive to maintain as they require planting schemes etc.

Cllr Trevaskis advised that the Parish Council always has the option to make a community “Right to Challenge” application if it feels that matters could be better attended to locally. It would also have the option to appeal to the Secretary of State if they felt the matter was not concluded correctly.

The Chair noted that as a member of the public he would like to acknowledge all the hard work recently offered at the Easter Egg Hunt. He stated that he would like to publish a thank you in the next newsletter naming all those people who donated to the event.

Cllr Anderson also asked that the apology letter recently sent to the Clerk be published in the newsletter

4. Minutes. –

- i. The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 27th March 2024 were recorded as a true and accurate account

Proposed by Cllr Lewis and seconded by Cllr Williams

The Motion was approved Unanimously

5. **Sample Invoices** – A selection of Invoices was examined to ensure that no phishing or ghost payments have been made

Scribe Transaction 53 – Hiscox Insurance - £280.56

Scribe Transaction 72 – P Turton First Aid Kit - £80.00

Scribe Transaction 88 – M Sutton - £145.00

Scribe Transaction 100 – Halton BC Election Costs - £204.57

Checked and approved by Cllr McNamara & Cllr Wright

6. **Payments & Receipts** – Cllr Wright proposed that all payments and receipts for the period 8th March 2024 and 31st March 2024 are a true and accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr Anderson

The Motion was approved unanimously

7. **Accounts** – The reconciled bank statement and summary of receipts and payments for the period 8th March 2024 and 31st March 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate record and comparison against budget.

Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Healey

The Motion was approved unanimously

8. **End of Year Accounts** – deferred until May meeting

9. **Governance Statement** – deferred Until May meeting

10. **Accounting Statement** - deferred Until May meeting

11. **Notice of Public Rights to Inspect** - deferred Until May meeting

Items 8 – 11 deferred - Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr McNamara

12. **Planning**

Application 24/00089/FUL – It was agreed that there are no matters of concern with this application

Application 24/00091/FUL - It was agreed that there are no matters of concern with this application

Application 24/00105/FUL - It was agreed that there are no matters of concern with this application

Application 24/00114/TCA - It was agreed that this application should be contested on the grounds that any trees removed within the conservation area should have a replacement tree of a native variety planted as a replacement to ensure that the tree population is maintained adequately.

Proposed by Cllr Trevaskis and seconded by Cllr Roberts

The Motion was approved unanimously

13. Jubilee Bridge Road Race – The information supplied by “Runthrough” the company organising the Jubilee Bridge road race was discussed and it was agreed that it is a good event which the Village is happy to be involved in and support. It was however suggested that the event might be used as an example of the double standards employed by Halton BC and which appear to exist when considering events proposed by Hale Parish Council.

14. Precept Receipt – It was noted that Hale Parish Council has received the precept payment (£58,848.50) from Halton Borough Council for the year 2024 - 2025

15. D-Day Letter From Hale British Legion – The Parish Council reviewed the recent letter from Bill Sergeant and it was agreed that members should offer to arrange the opening of the Village Hall on Thursday 6th June to provide refreshments for the attendees Cllr Roberts agreed to contact Bill Sergeant and will report back in the May meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Lewis

The Motion was approved unanimously

16. Date of Next Meeting – It was agreed to hold the next meeting of Hale Parish Council on Monday 20th May 2024 at 8.00pm

Action List

- 1. LT/Clerk To Write to Paul Wright & Steven Young re local Activities & position regarding managing park**
- 2. MR – Contact Cllr M Wharton and ask about his help & input as a resident**
- 3. MR & LT to liaise regarding the Road Race relaxed conditions. Ask about a lease/licence for individual events**
- 4. Clerk to contest Planning Application 24/00114/TCA**
- 5. Clerk to book Village Hall for 6th June British Legion Event**
- 6. MR – Contact Bill Sergeant with offer of refreshments for 6th June**
- 7. VH – Contact Village school Head regarding D-Day exhibition contribution**
- 8. PL/VH – Contact Art group re D-Day art contribution**
- 9. MR – Contact Joey “the lips” re-playing on Carnival day – exhibition**
- 10. Clerk to arrange Signage for Coffee shop on Carnival Day**