



**HALE PARISH COUNCIL**  
OF THE HALTON BOROUGH IN  
THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE



**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF HALE PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON MONDAY 24TH APRIL 2023 AT 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Healey, Cllr Cleary, Cllr Anderson Cllr King, Cllr Brown.

In attendance: B Hargreaves (Clerk) and thirty five members of the Public

1/ **Apologies** - Apologies were received from Cllr's Trevaskis and Williams

2/ **Declaration of Interests** - No interests were declared.

3/ **Public Participation** – The Chair allowed four members of the public to speak.

The first requested a grant application form from the Parish Council to request £100 towards the purchase of bunting for the Kings Coronation on 6<sup>th</sup> May. The Clerk agreed to forward a form asap.

A second resident asked whether the Parish Council had organised any lasting momento's to present to the children in the Village and suggested that many people would only ever witness one Coronation in their entire lives. He said that it wasn't acceptable that The Parish Council had not responded to requests in October 2022 to arrange a suitable celebration and appropriate items of remembrance for resident & children.

An ex-Councillor noted that the Parish Council had re-assigned and earmarked £3000 in their recent budget to fund celebrating the Kings coronation and suggested that this should have been used appropriately. She asked what exactly the Parish Council had done in preparation for the Kings Coronation.

Cllr Mitchell noted that she had recently worked with Halton Borough Council to arrange the installation of the Queens Canopy of trees in memory of the Queens Jubilee. She also informed the meeting that she had recently purchased a new image of HRH King Charles III for display in the Village Hall.

The Lord Mayor informed the meeting that in the absence of any arrangements by the Parish Council, The Freemen of Hale have organised a celebration which includes a Barbecue, Band, Children's entertainer, Bouncy castle and face painting at the rear of The Childe of Hale Pub. He went on to say that this is a family event and is Free to attend!

A current Councillor attempted to refer to a recent publication in which allegations regarding the Chairman's personal business were apparently published.

The Clerk and a member of the Public made it clear that this was not an appropriate time or the place to discuss these matters particularly when the Chairman was not present to represent himself.

4/ **Minutes** - The Minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were rejected by the Chair and by Cllr Cleary on the basis that in their opinion they did not truly represent the events of that meeting

5/ **Payments & Receipts** - The list of Payments & Receipts made between 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 were approved as being an accurate and true account having been made under Financial Regulation 6.4 as detailed

Proposed by Cllr Healey and seconded by Cllr Cleary

**The Motion was Approved Unanimously**

6/ **Accounts** - The financial statement for Hale Parish Council for the period 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 was rejected by the Chair. Upon enquiry the Chair requested a print out of the certificate to confirm that all transactions are reconciled. The matter was deferred until the May meeting

7/ **End of Year Accounts** – The end of year accounts presented by the Clerk were rejected by the Chair pending clarification of particular items

8/ **AGAR Return 2022 – 2023** – This item was deferred pending a correction on the Annual Governance statement assertion no. 9

9/ **Living Wage/ Minimum Wage** – It was resolved to renew the Parish Council's commitment to the "real living wage" as an accredited employer and to pay the £66.00 annual fee for this accreditation.

Proposed by Cllr Cleary and seconded by Cllr Mitchell

**The Motion was Approved Unanimously**

10/ **Standing Orders & Financial Regulations** – It was agreed to set up a working group to review the current Standing orders and Financial Regulations. The working group consisting of Cllrs Cleary, Mitchell & King will conduct a review and report back to the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. The review will be minuted and any amendments to current documents will be highlighted for approval.

11/ **Risk Management Scheme & Policy** It was agreed to refer these documents to the working group to review the current Risk Management Scheme and Policy documents. The working group consisting of Cllrs Cleary, Mitchell & King will conduct a review and report back to the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. The review will be minuted and any amendments to current documents will be highlighted for approval.

**12/ Members Code of Conduct** - It was agreed to refer this document to the working group to review the current Members Code of Conduct The working group consisting of Cllrs Cleary, Mitchell & King will conduct a review and report back to the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. The review will be minuted and any amendments to current documents will be highlighted for approval.

**13/ Receipt of Precept** – It was noted that the Precept for 2023 – 2024 of £37000.00 has been received and is now on deposit in the Parish Council Account.

**14/ Dates for Future Meetings**

- i. It was resolved to hold the Annual meeting of The Parish Council meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 at 8.00pm
- ii. It was resolved to hold the Annual Parish meeting on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.30pm

Proposed by Cllr Mitchell and seconded by Cllr Healey

**The Motions were Approved Unanimously**

The Chair thanked members and closed the meeting at 8.15pm