

HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Halsall Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th December 2022 at 7.30 p.m. at Memorial Hall , Halsall Road, Halsall.

PRESENT: Cllr. E Wright (Chair), Cllr. J Ridley (Vice Chair), Cllr. R Brookfield, Cllr. D Corfield, Cllr M Schofield, Cllr. A Timon, Cllr. M Lyons, Cllr. K Wright, Cllr. K Pyne, and 2 members of the public.

01/12/2022 Introductions / Apologies

No Apologies.

02/12/2022 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest

03/12/2022 Borough Councillor's Report followed by Open Forum for 15 minutes for matters raised by members of the public for Councillors to respond to.

No report received from Borough Councillor Hirrell.

No questions from the public.

04/12/2022 To confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2022 as a correct record.

The minutes, having been circulated were accepted and it was **Resolved** that they be signed as a correct record.

05/12/2022 Note the Resignation of David Bond from role of Parish Clerk.

Noted. Wef 30/11/2022.

5.1 Parish Clerk's Report replaced by Report from Chair

Attached Appendix 1. Noted. Urgent activities completed by the Chair and activities scheduled for the forthcoming weeks. It was suggested that former Parish Clerk be asked to put a redirection on his HPC mailbox so that it not necessary to forward each individual email.

ACTION Chair

06/12/2022 To receive reports from the following representatives and discuss and decide upon any actions arising.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils – Cllrs. R Brookfield, J. Ridley and E. Wright

No meetings since October.

Moss Alliance – Cllr. E. Wright

Nothing to report.

Ormskirk School – Cllr. A. Timon

Next meeting March 2023.

Healthy Halsall – Cllrs. R Brookfield, M Schofield, J Ridley and M Lyons

Terms of reference need restating, recently been too narrowly focussed on staff and councillors. The original scope was for the health, social health and wellbeing of the whole community (staff, councillors, volunteers, residents, everyone in the community)

Action HH Group

NALC Civility Initiative is being reviewed, put on the agenda again for January 2023.

Action Clerk

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Gritting of Roads and Pavements has been an issue in past few weeks due to cold weather. Carr Moss Lane was a high priority on Friday but not done until Tuesday. High percentage of retired residents who are afraid to leave home and need visits from care workers. Issued raised with Cllr Hirrell who is looking at this.

Action Clerk to investigate more Grit Boxes for pavements in high priority areas

07/12/2022 Planning Applications:

2022/1095/FUL Refurbishment of Grade II listed residential property

Location: 58 New Street, Halsall, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 8RS.

2022/1096/LBC Listed Building Consent - Refurbishment of Grade II listed residential property. Proposal for the general refurbishment of Grade II listed residential property largely including internal / external modifications / additions.

Location: 58 New Street, Halsall, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 8RS- No Comment

T/2022/0153/TPO Sycamore – has significant root plate movement – remove to make safe.

Heather Farm, Carr Moss Lane, Halsall, L39 8RY – No Comment

2022/1084/FUL Proposed vehicular crossing to classified road. New front garden wall and hard paving to front garden.

59 Carr Moss Lane, Halsall, Ormskirk, L39 8RU- No Comment

Notice of the Planning Appeal for new houses adjacent to Malt Kiln Cottage is not on the agenda. Is this a one-off oversight or a problem with the process? Comments must be sent to Planning Inspector c/o WLBC. The Council would not wish to add any further comments to those submitted for 1st planning application. Comments from the Public are open to 28th December.

Action Clerk to investigate the process for adding Planning Appeals to Agenda

08/12/2022 To receive reports from the following Working Groups and discuss and decide upon any actions arising

8.1 Finance – Cllrs E.Wright, A.Timon, and M.Schofield

Bank Balances were checked daily; access to Bank account has been transferred from Clerk to Chair; recent invoices have been paid. Responsibility for paying for Window Cleaning which is a joint activity with the Halsall Trust has been passed to the Trust Secretary for interim period.

8.2 Flooding – Cllr. E Wright and A Timon

Cllr. Timon will again chase LCC engineers regarding flooding at top of Renacres Lane which is damaging a resident's wall. Other locations reporting road flooding problems are; near Gregory's Garage; 44 Summerwood Lane; junction of Heathey Lane & Renacres Lane.

8.3 Traffic and Road Safety – Cllrs. R Brookfield, D Corfield and K Pyne

Cllr K Pyne presented a report of a further meeting with Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and Neighbourhood Police Officers on 1st December. (Attached Appendix 2) A Road Monitoring device has been installed on Gorsuch Lane near Four Lane Ends. Lancashire Police have been asked for more detailed information on collisions via an FOI. Useful information and contacts details were exchanged on new generation of solar powered Speed Indicator devices (see Agenda item 11). A follow-up meeting is scheduled for 1st February with D. PCC and LCC Highways.

D. PCC was aware of fatal RTC on Northmoor Lane and offered to investigate the non-return of the Defibrillator through his contacts in NWS. Concerns were raised about when will this be escalated to an insurance claim if no-one can find it and return it. Agreed to ask Cllr Corfield to ascertain where the device is and when it will be returned.

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

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Action Cllr Corfield

Cllr Wright provided information on a new generation of more cost-effective Defibrillators coming onto the market in 2023. These could be suitable for the proposed installation at Saracen's Head and other locations in the community.

Concerns have been raised about external lights on a house extension on Gregory Lane which are dazzling motorists.

Action Cllr Pyne

8.4 Energy Saving – Cllrs J. Ridley and M Lyons

The status of the EPC Report for St Aidan's is uncertain; it is approved but was it ordered?

Action Clerk

Cllr Corfield advised that reported problems with springing floorboards in boiler room could be a major task as there is a deep cellar space for old central heating tanks.

Action Clerk

8.5 Human Resources Working Group – Cllrs A. Timon, K Wright, M Lyons

It was agreed to add Cllr Schofield to the group following the resignation of Cllr B. Young.

The Group has made enquiries with WLBC, NALC, ACAS and other Parish Councils to ensure this is the correct way forward. It is recommended that this committee has a quorum of 4. The Group needs to define specific terms of reference from the many models available.

Action HR Group

8.6 Entertainment – Cllr M Schofield

Some individuals in Shirdley Hill area are keen to reinvigorate the use of St Aidan's Hall. Cllr Schofield is investigating the model used in Haskayne where a charity runs the village hall which is owned by the Parish Council. Some form of MOU would be required on respective responsibilities.

Action Cllr Schofield & Lyons.

09/12/2022 To further discuss and agree what action to take on availability of grants for the Disabled slope at St Cuthbert's Church.

Cllr Brookfield is researching which grants can be accessed and applied to the Church for the purpose of funding the disabled slope. This information can be presented to a future PCC meeting.

Action Chair & Cllr Brookfield

10/12/2022 To discuss and decide on a proposal to abolish the HR Working Group

There was a robust discussion about the merits of maintaining the status quo of keeping HR discussions between the Clerk and the Chair or moving to an advisory HR Group.

Voting recorded at request of Cllr Corfield: FOR Abolish 2 votes (Cllrs Corfield and Brookfield) :

AGAINST Abolish 7 Votes (Cllrs Wright, Ridley, Timon, Schofield, Lyons, Wright and Pyne)

Resolved NOT to Abolish HR Group

11/12/2022 Discuss and Decide on proposal to look into costs of New SPID

Cllr Pyne provide information on the Elan City Solar Powered SPID devices recommended by the D PCC and recently installed by Scarisbrick PC using some grant funding obtained from WLBC. It was agreed to continue with the research and obtain more detailed pricing.

Action Cllr Pyne

12/12/2022 Discuss and Decide on a Proposal to Service and Replace batteries of existing SPIDs.

It was agreed to include this within the scope of researching new SPIDs.

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15.2 Update on discussions between the Chair and the former Parish Clerk. Proposal to discuss and decide on a compensatory agreement, if one is available by this date.

Confidential discussion documented by HR Working Group.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.25 pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

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Chair's report for meeting on 14th Dec 2022

Parish Clerk Dave Bond's resignation effective from 30/11/2022 has led me as Chair to do the following:-

1. Prepare the Minutes for the HPC meeting on Nov 2022 as the Parish Clerk was absent
2. Prepare the Apr-Nov 2022 cash book and balance to the Bank balance at the end of Nov 2022
3. Send out statements after receipt of the card/card reader and changing security tel number to mine.
4. Prepare an Agenda for the extraordinary meeting on 7th Dec 2022 to discuss the Parish Clerk's resignation
5. Arrange with a volunteer to post the notices for the 7th Dec 2022 extraordinary meeting inside the legal timeframe
6. Obtain the keys for the notice boards
7. Prepare the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting on 7th December 2022 and circulate them
8. Prepare the Agenda for the routine meeting on 14th December 2022
9. Arrange with a volunteer to post the notices for the 14th Dec 2022 meeting inside the legal timeframe
10. Continue negotiation with the outgoing Parish Clerk to achieve a final settlement.
11. Draw up a proposed settlement, cost it ready to present to meeting on Dec 14th 2022
12. Assess the CIL balance in the Bank to extract an estimate of the revenue balance remaining for 2022/23
13. Obtain CIL historical data for completion of the CIL return by 31/12/2022 deadline
14. Ensure an HMRC return for St Aidan's was completed prior to the early December deadline to avoid a threatened fine
15. Pay an overdue invoice for the projector at the MH previously approved as funded by CIL paid in Dec
16. Pay for the mirror glass for the door at the MH, also previously approved by Council as CIL funded
17. Arrange new payment procedure with the window cleaner
18. Receive bookings requests for St Aidan's referred to me
19. Note that Cllr A Timon has informed Jackie Denning of the Parish Clerk's resignation and had his name removed from the WLBC website
20. Written to Kay Lovelady the Borough Solicitor via her secretary to inform her of the Parish Clerk's resignation. Still no response as requested
21. Note the incoming invoice from J Forshaw for Spids siting and grounds maintenance, due for payment end Dec 2022
22. Arrange safe storage of files dropped in the foyer of St Aidan's and collect more files dropped off with Cllr D Corfield.
23. Continue the actuals/budget comparisons towards finishing Q3 in the end of Dec 2022 to assess the likely outturn in Mar 2022
24. Start preparations for costing the precept application for 2023/24, to be submitted in Jan 2022
25. Noted concerns about lack of Spids sittings. Enquiries revealed the batteries in very old equipment flatten quickly.
26. Noted the E-on and Water Plus contact details, passwords to the a/cs require alteration.
27. Prepare this Chair's report in place of the Parish Clerk's report for Dec 14th, 2022, meeting
28. Prepare a Schedule of Payments report for the meeting on Dec 14th, 2022

Elizabeth Wright, Chair, Halsall Parish Council 14/12/2022

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Appendix 2

Halsall Parish Council – Road Safety Group

Meeting 10:00 am 1st December 2022

Attendees

Andy Pratt	Chair Lancashire Road Safety Partnership
Paul Austin	Halsall Neighbourhood Police Officer
Sarah	Halsall Neighbourhood PCSO
Kim Pyne	Halsall Parish Councillor (Road Safety Lead)
James Rimmer	Co-opted - New Cut Lane Residents
Rebecca Jones	Co-opted - Church PCC & School Governor
Mark Brown	Co-opted – New Street Residents
Lynn Campbell	Co-opted – New Cut Lane Residents
Chris Pyne	Secretary

Apologies

Neill	LCC Highways Engineer
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Introduction

The impetus for this meeting is a recent Very Serious collision at Four Lane Ends. An historic analysis reveals a series of collisions at this junction and an earlier (2016) intervention has failed to reduce the frequency of collisions. A public meeting of Halsall residents on 7th November brought out several other areas of traffic related concerns hence the formation of this group.

1. Introduction from Andy Pratt

Everyone would like a quick fix to all of these problems, but it is not that easy. Police enforcement is not the sole solution, it is necessary to change the driving culture around excessive speed and dangerous driving, regrettable this seems to have worsened in this post-COVID period. The Highways Authority has a role in reviewing road layouts, road surfaces and road signs to modify driver behaviour and provide a safer environment. The community has a role in providing joint funding and increasing driver awareness as some offenders will be residents.

Research has revealed that only 1% of collisions involve trapped persons who require the expertise of the Fire & Rescue service to remove them safely. It is more important that mildly injured persons are removed to a place of safety and that breathing / airways are safeguarded.

2. Nature of Traffic in Halsall

Halsall is a through route for commuters from the coast, from Ainsdale, Birkdale and southern areas of Southport, using the rural lanes to get access to Ormskirk, Maghull and onwards to the motorway connections rather than use the A570 or M57 link road. They want to get to work and back home as quickly as possible.

Enforcement of speed restrictions is difficult. The long straight sections that encourage speeding make the enforcement vans very visible but that does modify driver behaviour when they are present.

Trying to discourage people posting on Halsall Village Facebook page to warn residents that the Enforcement Vans are in place.

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

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3. SPIDs and VAS signs

Halsall Parish Council does own 2 basic SPIDS and has around 17 mounting points but the devices appear dated, with a short battery life and an infrequent rota.

A proposal is going to be put to the Council to purchase new data recording SPIDs so the problem routes can be monitored and analysed on a more regular periodic basis. (Need to comply with new regulations on frequency of use of temporary SPIDs)

High priority sites could then be escalated to more regular monitoring using the new generation of fixed-site solar powered SPIDs.

Scarisbrick Parish Council have invested in solar powered SPIDs and useful information will be available from John Herbert, Chair of SPC [Contact has been established with John. He is sending information and has offered to speak at HPC meeting]

Woodplumpton PC have used development funding (CIL most likely) to jointly fund road surface, traffic calming and traffic monitoring measures.

Alan Cox is the LCC contact for the VAS signs. The New Street VAS has been out of order for many months and there are suspicions that the 2x VAS at Four Lane Ends are not working. Maintenance is outsourced to a company and Andy Pratt has raised the maintenance issues with LCC.

A new style of monitoring device will be installed near Four Lane Ends to capture traffic patterns and driver behaviour in December for later analysis. Easier to deploy than the traditional two wires across the road.

A further meeting with LCC has been arranged for 1st February to discuss SPID, VAS and Highway issues in more detail.

4. Other Initiatives for Further Consideration

The petition organised by New Cut Lane residents for traffic calming measures has had excellent support. A further petition is to be organised for the wider area of Halsall.

Once a series of measures can be identified and implemented then publicity in the wider “commuter” area needs to be sought, not just the parish area.

Road Safety and Local Police can provide support for traffic awareness to local schools. This can be investigated.

Memorial Hall Car Park has previously been used for vehicle spot checks and enquiries will be made to see if it is a feasible location for the Christmas Drink/Drive campaign in this area.

More radical changes to persuade motorists to use more suitable main roads creates “displacement issues” which need careful assessment.

The Police are no longer enforcing parking restrictions in Lancashire. Andy to provide contact details for “Parking Services” who will issue tickets.. Perhaps Parish Council could place advisory notices on vehicles warning that enforcement action may occur in the future.

Renacres Hospital may be affecting the volume of traffic using Four Lanes Ends junction. Further traffic monitoring might confirm this in which case they may be able to assist with better maps/information for visitors who are not familiar with the area.

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5. Summary of Actions

Andy Pratt has contacts with NWAS. He can contact them regarding collision on Northmoor Lane and the location of the Defibrillator.

Andy Pratt to invite Cllr David O'Toole (WLBC & LCC Councillor) to next meeting

Chris to Email copies of documents to Andy Pratt.

Use of Memorial Hall car park for drink/drive enforcement in the area ?.

Contact details for Scarisbrick on Solar power SPIDs

Contact details for Woodplumpton on wider traffic calming measures.

Contact details for Parking Services

Investigate opportunity for a School Road Safety Visit

Meeting closed 11:00 am

Next meeting 10:00 am 1st February 2023