

HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Halsall Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th November at 7.30 p.m. at Memorial Hall, Halsall Road, Halsall

PRESENT: , Cllr M Lyons(Acting Chair), Cllr K Wright, Cllr M Schofield, Cllr R Brookfield, Cllr A Timon, Cllr N McCarthy-Thomason, C Pyne (Clerk), and 2 visitors.

1. Introductions and Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr E Wright (Chair), Cllr J Ridley, Cllr B Roberts and were accepted. Cllr Roberts observed the meeting through a Zoom link.

2. Declarations of Interest

None. Cllr Roberts was not present for item 8.1 Gesterfield Barn.

3. Open Forum for 15 minutes for matters raised by members of the public

Clare Edwards has started a new environmental group Bees & Butterflies. She gave an introduction to the aims and objectives of the group and asked the Council to consider supporting them. Clerk and some of the Councillors provided information on some of the ways the Council could provide support

4. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2023 as a correct record.

Agreed and signed at the end of the meeting.

5. Discuss and agree on any matters arising from Parish Clerk's Report.

As the report was written 6 days before the meeting there are later developments.

Installation of the internet at St Aidan's is now complete.

A new battery charger is now available for the old SPIDs

LCC have awarded HPC the £500 and £300 footpath and biodiversity grants.

The new fire extinguisher has been installed at St Aidan's.

The Charity Commission has approved the lease extension (later that day)

6. To receive reports from representatives and discuss and agree on any actions arising;

6.1 Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC)

- Cllrs R Brookfield, J Ridley, E Wright

No recent LALC activity

6.2 Ormskirk Foundation Trust

- Cllr A Timon

Foundation meeting clashed with a Council meeting, so Cllr. Timon was not able to attend.

7. To receive reports from Working Groups and discuss and agree upon any actions arising;

7.1 St Aidan's Hall Committee - Cllrs M Lyons and N McCarthy-Thomason

Now that the kitchen is being used more frequently for the Luncheon Club there are reports that the ventilation is inadequate, condensation is running down the walls. It was agreed to ask a contractor to look at replacing the current old ventilation fan and adding another fan to the

other ventilation grill.

The Committee is looking into the feasibility of forming a Residents Association with wider aims and responsibilities which may replace the Committee.

7.2 Finance - Cllrs. E Wright, A Timon, M Schofield and K Wright

Cllr Schofield is going to contact Unity Bank over problems logging on.

7.3 Human Resources – Cllrs. A Timon, K Wright, M Lyons, M Schofield

Contract of employment for the Clerk is complete and will be circulated.

7.4 Traffic and Road Safety – Cllrs. N McCarthy-Thomason, R Brookfield, B Roberts

It was reported that Cllr Roberts is investigating the possibility of a zebra crossing outside the school.

Cllr Brookfield drew attention to the poor state of white lines and verges encroaching on the highway throughout the Parish. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact LCC Highways.

Contractor lorries have been observed on Heathey Lane in contravention of the agreed transport route.

7.5 Flooding – Cllrs. E Wright and A Timon

Exceptional wet weather this month, obvious signs of flooding in fields and on roads. There are no specific problems on blocked drains to report to LoveCleanStreets.

7.6 Healthy Halsall – Cllrs. M Schofield, J Ridley, M Lyons, B Roberts

Follow up letter sent to School Governors who will meet later in November.

7.7 Planning & Development - Cllrs. M Schofield and B Roberts

Nothing to report.

8. Planning Applications

8.1 Applications - No comments made on ;

2023/0863/ LDC Gesterfield Barn, Halsall Road, Certificate of Lawfulness

2023/0888/PNP East Crantum Farm, details of construction of agricultural building

T/2023/0102/TCA Halsall Road, Pruning and Felling Trees

T/2023/0168/TPO Cross Lane, Pruning Trees

8.2 To Note recent Planning Decisions - all granted

2023/0770/FUL 48 Summerwood Lane, Two Storey extension.

2023/0688/CON Land at Rear of 78 New Cut Lane, variation in drainage and lighting.

2023/0679/FUL 34 Summerwood Lane, single storey extension.

T/2023/0125/TPO 69 Renacres Lane, Crown Reduction/Pruning Tree.

9. To Vote to co-opt a Parish Councillor (advertised from 11th September)

It was agreed to co-opt Julie Ferguson as a Parish Councillor.

10. Withdrawn

11. To consider whether to order an Arboriculture Survey at a cost of £450 as requested by WLBC for Memorial Hall or follow alternative recommendation by the Trust (Item 7D)

Neither option was agreed. It was agreed to use the Halsall Road gate on an informal basis as

and when required.

12. To update Standing Orders to 2022 NALC Version

Agreed. Carry forward all time limits from the previous version and use the "Council" option for section 19 Handling Staff Matters.

13. To note the result of Lancashire Best Kept Village competition

Shirdley Hill Village Green won the public garden category, the Bakehouse Cafe and Halsall Cricket Ground were runners-up in their categories. It was agreed to contact Halsall Proud and Tidy to request the detailed feedback so that the PC can see what support the council could offer for next year's competition.

14. To set guidelines for the 2024/25 Budget

It was agreed to assume that inflation may increase costs by 5% but that the same or reduced Precept may be possible due to increased income from St Aidan's Hall. There will likely be an underspend to carry forward, some of which needs to be allocated to reserves. Any major projects for next year's budget need to be identified before the December review.

15. To approve a S137 Grant of £100 from Halsall West Cricket Club.

Agreed to contribute £100 towards the costs of a new floor in the Groundsman Hut.

16. To Gift Asset #20 "New Play Equipment" valued at £29,067 to Halsall War Memorial Playing Field and Hall

It was agreed to resolve this anomaly. Gifts to the Trust are usually transferred immediately and do not go on the Council's asset register.

17. To provide the Cleaner with a contract of employment

Agreed. Adopt a consistent approach with Halsall Trust. Need to review the 2006 contract of employment. We may need more hours or more flexible working and this needs to be included in the advert.

18. To agree a Policy on Joint Management of Halsall News with Parochial Church Council

Policy agreed. HPC needs to work with PCC on new ideas to reduce the annual subsidy.

19. Finance

a) To approve the Schedule of Payments for November

Agreed. One new monthly payment, the 4G Internet at £37.93 and new electricity supplier Octopus take their DD on 9th of the month instead of 21st (EON)

b) To receive a Financial Statement for September and sign Bank Reconciliation

Agreed. Spreadsheet agrees with the bank balances.

c) To confirm that bank balances in the accounts agree with the balances at the bank

Agreed, actual bank balances checked by members of the finance group.

26. Advance Notice of Information-Only Items

No items

27. Date and time of next meeting:

7:30 pm on 13th December at St Aidan's Hall (will be an E-Agenda now Internet is working)

Meeting closed at 08:46 pm