



HALE PARISH COUNCIL

OF THE HALTON BOROUGH IN
THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF HALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN HALE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7.30pm**

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

In attendance: The Clerk, Twenty Five members of public were also present

1. Apologies - Cllr Cleary sent his Apologies received by the Clerk

In the absence of the deputy Chairman a vote was taken to appoint a Councillor to Chair the meeting.

It was resolved that Cllr Roberts would Chair the meeting with all members voting in favour

2. Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of Interest expressed

7. Suspension of Standing Orders – It was proposed that the current Standing Orders be suspended to allow a new Chairman and deputy Chairman to be elected without contention.

Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Trevaskis

The Motion was approved

8. Election of Chairman – Cllr Roberts was proposed for the position of Chairman by Cllr Trevaskis he was seconded by Cllr J McNamara

The Motion was approved unanimously

9. Election of Deputy Chairman – A motion to remove the Vice Chairman from his position due to him demonstrating behaviours inconsistent with the principles of respectful conduct and effective governance was signed and submitted to the Clerk by Cllrs Anderson, Wright, McNamara, Roberts, Williams and Trevaskis.

It was proposed to remove Cllr Cleary as deputy Chairman and to install Cllr Williams in his place.

Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Anderson

The Motion was approved unanimously

3. Public Participation – The chair allowed members of the Public to address the meeting

A local resident expressed his delight at the direction the Parish Council now appears to be heading and how it is looking forwards and planning to achieve tangible results for the benefit of all residents. He encouraged anybody who wished to contribute to come forwards and join the group of volunteers who regularly assist in planning events around the area.

A second resident reminded the Clerk that the members of staff who had undertaken the Safety and First aid Training recently should make themselves available to receive their certificates of achievement, maybe at the informal meeting planned for Friday 23rd February

Cllr J McNamara took the opportunity to update the meeting about the Liverpool John Lennon Airport planning Consultancy meeting he had recently attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

By the end of 2024 it is estimated that numbers of around 4 million passengers will return to Pre-Pandemic levels. It is further anticipated that those numbers will increase with the provision of new carriers and the anticipated growth of carriers such as Easyjet, Ryanair, Logan air and the addition of 5 planes from the Jet 2 fleet being based in Liverpool.

A question was asked about any planned night flights and the panel wanted to stress that there was not a 24hr service available at Liverpool and the generally flights take place between the hours of 6.00am and 11pm

It was stated that Lufthansa had pulled out of Liverpool due to a lack of flight sales and that work has started on the new Solar Plant which will provide 25% of all electricity required for the airport.

It was also of interest that the airport is in the process of creating a Community Fund which may be of interest to the Parish Council as a potential source of funding for the future

A resident once again highlighted the recurring problems that the Village faces from dog owners who do not clear their dog's faeces from sidewalks and other communal areas around the area. Once again it was stated that this is a serious health hazard and is a criminal offence.

Cllr Roberts agreed to contact the local Environmental Health officer to explore options for a way forward. It was noted that some high visibility signs warning of the serious nature of dog fouling may be appropriate.

Once again the issue of problems with car parking was raised by the meeting. Ireland Road was highlighted as a particular problem area and although this is primarily a Police matter Councillors agreed to re-visit the problem and strive to

find a solution. Cllr Wright stated that parents want to get as near as possible to drop off and collect their children and only Police action will deter them.

- 4. Minutes.** - The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 20th November 2023 with an amendment to the second paragraph. (penultimate sentence) Were recorded as a true and accurate account

Amended to read:

"Cllr Trevaskis informed the meeting that there was no section of the Standing Orders that would prevent the motion from proceeding and that legislation permits the Council to elect a Chairman."

Proposed by Cllr J McNamara, seconded by Cllr Anderson

The Motion was approved

- 5. Standing Orders** – It was agreed to defer this item until the March meeting. In the meantime the Clerk will supply members with a copy of the proposed new Standing Orders so that members can review them and prepare any recommendations for the next meeting
- 6. Pensions** – Deferred to the end of the meeting and discussed as a part II item due to the confidential nature of the business to be conducted as defined in Schedule 12 of the LGA 1972.
- 10. Payments & Receipts** – Cllr Wright proposed that all payments and receipts for the period 30th November 2023 – 31st January 2024 are a true and accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr Lewis

It was also agreed that in future Cllrs Lewis, Wright and J McNamara will sample up to 5 payments made against the Bank statement to help to ensure that no phishing/ghost payments have been processed.

The Motion was approved unanimously

- 11. Accounts** – The reconciled bank statement and summary of receipts and payments for the period 30th November 2023 – 31st January 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate record and comparison against budget.

Proposed by Cllr Anderson and seconded by Cllr Wright

The Motion was approved unanimously

- 12. Budget & Precept** – The Chairman presented a Budget statement and accompanying figures for discussion. He informed the meeting that the members of the Council had had an opportunity to meet on Sunday to review the Parish Council budget lines prior to tonight's meeting. This was an informal meeting to give all members the opportunity to understand the current position of the Parish Council's finances and its requirements for 2024 – 2025 and no decisions were made at this time. Cllr Healey noted that he had not received an invitation to attend and the Chair apologised on behalf of the Council. It was explained that the

meeting was informal and as Cllr Healey does not have internet access he had been omitted accidentally. The Chair asked Cllr Healey whether he would like additional time to review the proposed budget and whether he required further information on which to base an opinion.

Cllr Roberts explained that the reduced Budget for 2023 – 2024 had effectively decimated the Parish Council's reserves and that the on-going yo-yo accounting did not represent good management or governance. He advised that although it was a difficult situation and that nobody liked increases unfortunately it was inevitable that the precept must rise to meet the current needs. To do nothing to alleviate the problems would be a far more damaging alternative.

Cllr Trevaskis gave a comprehensive oversight of each of the current budget lines and explained in depth the rationale behind each of the proposed budget requirements.

Cllr Healey enquired about the original spreadsheet supplied by the Clerk which demonstrated a shortfall without budget adjustments. The clerk explained again that the estimated budget figures were always only for discussion prior to formal decisions being made by the Council.

It was proposed to approve the Annual Budget for Hale Parish Council at **£91067.21** and that the Precept requirement for 2024 – 2025 be set at **£58848.50**

Proposed by Cllr Anderson and seconded by Cllr J McNamara

Seven members were in favour of the proposal

Cllr Healy voted against the proposal

The Motion was approved

13. It was resolved to amend the start time of the March Parish Council meeting to 8.00pm on Monday 18th March 2024 to reduce the interference of noise from the hirers in the Village Hall

Proposed by Cllr Roberts & Seconded by Cllr Trevaskis

The Motion was approved unanimously