



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



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
OF HALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN HALE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 30th MAY 2022 AT 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr McNamara, Cllr Healey, Cllr King, Cllr Spargo, Cllr Trevaskis, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Brown, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Cleary

In attendance: Mr. Brian Hargreaves (Proper Officer) and 10 Members of the public

- 1. Introduction** – Cllr Trevaskis chaired the meeting and gave a brief introduction welcoming attendees and outlining the fact that it was not a Parish Council Meeting and that its purpose was to hear updates from local groups and stakeholders. He also made it clear that any electors present were entitled to vote on any Agenda items requiring a vote.
- 2. Apologies** – Cllr Williams and PCSO Steve Marnick registered their apologies
- 3. Minutes** – The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting on 26th May 2021 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Spargo and seconded by Cllr Healey

The Motion was approved

- 4. Annual Reports** – Cllr Trevaskis thanked ex-Councillors G Wright and A Banks for the work they undertook whilst in office as Parish Councillors and welcomed the two replacement members Cllrs Brown and King. After a difficult period during the covid-19 restrictions Cllr Trevaskis said he was happy to be returning to some semblance of normality and looked forward to the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations during the coming year.

Cllr McNamara gave an overview of the events staged by the Wellbeing Working group in 2021/2022. In particular she praised the members and volunteers who helped to make the individual occasions (i.e. Halloween, Christmas & Easter) successful. She thanked Cllr Spargo who headed up the catering contribution at each event. All events took place safely with all the relevant considerations having taken place and were each well attended by over 150 children & family members. She went on to state that the success of these occasions made her happy and were the main reason for her continued work as a Parish Councillor.

Cllr Spargo gave an account of the Civic Service and afternoon tea staged by the Parish council in April this year. He felt that the improved format of an afternoon service followed by a sit down buffet with tea and soft drinks was a step up from previous events. Attended by two Lords Mayor, Freeman Mal Sutton from Hale Village, and Cllr Mary Rasmussen from Liverpool City Council and accompanied by the Mayor of Halton Christopher Rowe and Vice Chairman of Halewood Parish Council Cllr Barbera Dunn, Cllr Marie Wright from Halton Borough Council and their various consorts all enjoyed a

bright, spring day. The event was well attended by over 70 people and deemed a total success by all, especially as the event coincided with a local football derby match.

The Lord Mayor of Hale unveiled a plaque acknowledging the contributions made by local residents, contractors and Council members during the rebuilding of Hale Village Hall

Cllr Cleary noted the work of various organisations who work in the community without any formal recognition and highlighted a local member of the public who has previously arranged a number of football trips abroad to support local teams. He pointed out that only regular pub goers may be aware of this type of group or organisation but that they clearly have a value within the community.

Cllr Spargo observed that within the Community there were very few (if any) activities which targeted Gentlemen. Leisure time events such as darts or dominoes could be considered to fulfil the requirement in future planning.

5. Reports From Local Organisations

i/ Friends of Hale Village – Former Lord Mayor J Ross Thanked the Parish Council for the support that they have offered to the children of Hale Village during and since the recent pandemic. However he questioned the fact that they appeared to overlook the more senior members of our community. He advised that the Friends of Hale Village (FOHV) are focused on this demographic and it was pointed out that many seniors are lonely or in need of company. Cllr Trevaskis stated that all events staged by the Parish Council were not strictly events for children but rather for families. He asked that any support which residents feel the Parish Council can assist with should be requested formally and a proposal offered for consideration at a Parish Council meeting. He also made it known that from memory he did not believe that any request had ever been turned down.

ii/ Matters of Interest –

- a.** Cllr Brown criticised the lack of activity and input afforded to Hale Parish Council's social media sites. He made a comparison with the Halebank Parish Council's offering and asked why Hale could not have a similar presence. It was agreed that this was a situation currently under review and would be addressed at the next Village Hall management committee meeting. Discussions with a local contractor have already taken place and a proposal has been received from him. This needs to be reviewed before formal approval can be given.
- b.** Cllr Trevaskis defended the general criticism of the Parish Council's performance from the floor stating that in a very difficult year the Parish Council had worked tirelessly to keep the Village Hall open during the pandemic. Despite being reported to the Local Authorities and Police for non-compliance it was noted that upon inspection all considerations were found to be appropriate and in order. All the required measures were confirmed ensuring the safety of all visitors, hirers and staff.
- c.** A member of the FOHV Sunday Tea group who meet in the village Youth Centre stated that she was disappointed at the fact that none of the members of Hale Parish Council had attended their meetings despite being encouraged to do so while passing. Cllr Spargo thanked the member of FOHV for the offer and

received the general acceptance that members of Hale Parish Council would be welcomed going forwards.

He went on to state that the divide which has developed between certain members of the FOHV and Hale Parish Council should end and that a greater effort to work as Villagers with a common interest should be encouraged. The “point scoring” environment which exists currently needs to end and a better working partnership created for the future.

Cllr Treveskis stated that despite previous incidents where his car had been damaged and he personally had been insulted and spat at he was keen to put it behind him and move on. He recognised that there will always be differences of opinion but that the common goal has to be to benefit the Village in every contribution.

- d. The Lord Mayor thanked all the volunteers who have helped up to date with preparations for the Village Jubilee events. He informed the meeting that the Lighthouse is now finished and looking fantastic and that plans for the celebrations on 2nd June were well under way. The Fawcett cannon has been refurbished, installed and is ready to be presented at the Village Hall.

He went on to express his disappointment with the contribution made by the Parish Council and said that all village members should be working together not against each other. He said that he felt that metaphorically speaking some “heads need banging together” to encourage better co-operation. He declared that a balance needed to be found so that the Council would not be seen as dysfunctional.

Cllr Trevaskis explained that the Parish Council recognised that it may have appeared that it was attempting to monopolise the events for the Jubilee celebrations but that that was definitely not the case. The report which Cllr Trevaskis produced was simply aimed at formalising the proposal for submission to any suitable funding panel. As a result it was agreed that a cash donation to the Freemen would move matters forward in the most efficient way and give them the opportunity required to achieve their goals.

Cllr Mitchell asked whether any provision has been made for a memorial gift for children within the village. She was informed that enquiries had been made and a quotation received but that it was felt that the expense was prohibitive. This was challenged by Cllr Brown who voiced his opinion that the expense was small and that it was disgusting that there was not a gift available for children of the Village yet.

Cllr Brown withdrew and left the meeting.

It was agreed that a previously discussed commemorative mug may be appropriate and could be produced relatively quickly. The Clerk agreed to make enquiries to move matters forwards.

At this point Cllr Trevaskis reminded the meeting that the Jubilee events were taking place over a 12 month period and that other projects can be proposed for consideration.

The Lord Mayor expressed his Sympathies on behalf of the Village to the friends and family of the recently deceased Freeman Peter Doyle. He gave thanks for all the hard work Peter had contributed particularly to the Merseywave Choir and to the Freemen of Hale and expressed how much he would be missed.

- e. A member of the pubic stated that in future she felt it would be appropriate to plan events like The Queens Platinum Jubilee well in advance. She stated that a number of matters had been left too late or unattended and that it would make for a better experience if better forward planning was undertaken
- f. The chairman of the Merseywave choir reported that despite some reports to the contrary the Merseywave choir is thriving. Like all groups and organisation's there has been a turnover of members but is generally in good health and looking forward to a full program in 2022.

He went on to inform the meeting that he has been asked by PCSO Steve Marnick about forming a link and becoming the point of contact with Steve to pass any feedback back to the villagers as his time is now limited and his availability at a premium.

- g. Former Lord Mayor J Ross informed the meeting that the recent work on Parsonage Green was culminating in a formal presentation on Sunday morning 5th June when a plaque will be unveiled to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee year.

Cllr Trevaskis re-iterated the fact that any proposals need to be sent to the Clerk before 10am on the morning of any meeting which takes place and thanked those present for their attendance before closing the Meeting at 9.00pm