



HALE PARISH COUNCIL

OF THE HALTON BOROUGH IN THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN HALE VILLAGE HALL ON FRIDAY 30th MAY 2025 AT 7.00pm

Present: Cllr G Wright, Cllr C Williams, Cllr M Roberts, Cllr P Lewis, Cllr P Healey

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

1. **Introduction** – Cllr Roberts chaired the meeting stating that the Annual Parish Meeting highlighted the community spirit in Hale and recognised the efforts of the Parish Council and other local organisations. He emphasised the importance of community events, such as "Hale's Got Talent," which brought together people of all ages.

Financial reports have shown that the village hall's turnover exceeded expectations by £7,500, with successful events like the "Bake Off", "Hales got Talent" and the "VE Day" celebrations being noted. Local groups, including Mersey Wave Choir, Karate Club, and the Village Art Class, are all enjoying using the facilities and will share their achievements later. The Chair concluded with a call for increased public participation and appreciation of volunteers. He emphasised the importance of voting and expressed a hope that the community will appreciate the efforts of the Parish Council. He highlighted the community spirit in Hale and the contributions of various individuals and advised of his wish to organise an upcoming volunteers' event to recognise the efforts of the many unsung heroes in the community. Cllr Roberts also shared a personal anecdote about meeting the late Tommy Prescott, who made him feel welcome when he first arrived in the Village.

2. **Apologies** – Lord Mayor Bill Webb, Cllr Trevaskis, Cllr A Hutchinson, Cllr C Anderson, PCSO Steve Marnick, Marie Fisher, Cllr M Wharton and Vicar Michelle Goodwin all registered their apologies

3. **Minutes** –

- i. The Draft minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting on 30th May 2023 were deferred due to an absence of attendees from the relevant meeting to verify their accuracy.
- ii. The Draft minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting 30th May 2024 were approved as a true and accurate account

Proposed by Cllr G Wright and seconded by Cllr C Williams

The Motion was approved

4. Annual Reports –

The Clerk of Hale Parish Council Announced that in terms of the actual finances and governance of the Parish Council things are running pretty smoothly. He stated that he has recently submitted the AGAR return, which is the annual return for the Parish Council, and the auditor's report has just returned.

There are a number of issues which need looking at and attending to but the report will be published shortly so that people can see how the management is going.

The Parish Council is running well and the monthly meetings are generally well attended by members which isn't always the case at other councils. In addition the Village Hall is doing really well and its finances and usage are looking really good. The Clerk would like to second the Chairman's earlier comments about engagement with the village and with the people in the various user groups & organisations. This is the Parish Council's number one priority. We continue to enjoy an eclectic mix of people from different walks of life and different demographics who strive to put their stamp on our village life.

Minutes for all the Parish Council meetings and for the Village Hall meetings are on the Parish Council website and if residents are interested in what goes on and what discussions take place then they are welcome to call me on 07803611222, or by email at clerk@haleparishcouncil.gov.uk

The chairman highlighted the importance of the Village Hall's financial stability and its role in the community. He praised the positive financial performance of the village hall over the last 12 months and the efforts of Jannine French the bookings officer in increasing bookings. There is a hope that the Village Hall can continue to work towards being self – sustaining in the near future.

- i. **Hale Village Hall Management Committee (HVHMC)** – Cllr G Wright the Chair of HVHMC provided an update on the Village Hall's activities, including an overview of a number of successful events and fundraising efforts. He discussed the financial performance of the Village Hall and the need for less funding from the Parish Council this year. He also noted that the turnover for the Village Hall has increased in the last year and that the budget figure of £25,000 had been surpassed by £7500 proving that the Hall is moving in the right direction. He thanked the members of the Village Hall Management Committee and the volunteers for all their hard work. The chairman emphasised the importance of community involvement in the Village Hall's activities. Cllr Wright thanked a large number of people for their help & contributions.
- ii. **Mersey Wave Choir** – The Chairman of Mersey Wave Choir Paul Turton stated that he has been in post for a couple of years now. In that time, Merseywave has grown significantly and it is well known that started with a small group of local guys after a drunken night out having a sing song. It's now got a registered membership of 77. They don't all attend at one time, but they

average probably about 50 for each meeting, which is really good for any choir, with a sustained membership throughout.

Performances have gone really well this year, particularly in Hale village. A recent performance for V.E. Day, along with a couple of other performers appeared to be very well accepted and it was interesting to note that someone who came along after the performance said, “I didn't realise you take it so seriously” and that “you actually have lessons”. Paul noted that they do work particularly hard and stated “we were out last weekend at a charity do that we should have been doing in the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool. The Cathedral cancelled at the last minute, so we decided, not to waste our time, and quickly re-organised a concert for St Anthony Padua along with the local male voice choir. Again, this went very well and although we haven't had exact figures yet, it sounds like we made quite a few hundred pounds, which will all go to our chosen charity, AGE UK.”

The Choir is always looking for new members who predominately are male and everyone is welcome, but there is one lady member who can sing tenor, probably better than she can sing alto, however she prefers to sit with the ladies, so that's as far as it goes really, with Mersey Wave.

- iii. **Defibrillator Training** – The defibrillator initiative was praised, with four potentially life-saving incidents reported since its installation. Paul Turton stated humorously that we've been very fortunate in this village and that he has friends in “low places”. He was able to get the NHS to donate the defibrillator, but unfortunately, due to cost cutting, they were not able to sustain the ongoing maintenance costs. The Parish Council stepped in and has agreed to fund ongoing costs so the facility is available for residents & visitors. The unfortunate part is that because of those cuts, two further defibrillators, which were able to be recycled (one outside of Wellington Pub and one at St Mary's church) will become obsolete once the consumable parts need replacing. Paul noted that his intention, as stated in last year's minutes, was “really to try to cover all parts of the village”. Unfortunately, due to the cuts and once the batteries and pads expire on those two, they will probably be beyond economic repair and will have to be returned. It appears that we won't achieve that goal, which is disappointing. A number of local people have recently asked about additional defibrillator training sessions, to those held in the Village Hall last year for staff, hall users, stakeholders, and for the general public. Paul reiterated that if the PC can provide the workspace then he'll provide the training, and that there will be no cost other than for any materials incurred in doing so. That offer still stands

Paul finished off with an amusing story of one of the recent cases where somebody rang for an ambulance. He explained diplomatically, that the gentleman concerned was, he would say, of very mature years, but that he knew there was a defibrillator up the road. The ambulance service advised him that, there was an address available in the Village and, that there was definitely a defibrillator outside Hale Youth Center. This was probably the nearest one from where he was. He agreed and he was supplied with the activation code

which he immediately forgot as he made his way towards Hale Garage. He then stopped a lady at the local bus stop and got her to ring 999, he got the code for the defibrillator again, thinking, well, I'm a bit puffed out with running all this way. Perhaps it'd be quicker if I could flag down a car which he did & explained the situation. He asked, "I need a lift of about a mile down the road into the Village", to which the driver replied "I'm sorry. I'm a private hire driver, I'm not allowed to pick up on the streets as my Insurance does not cover that" and he refused, point blank to take him. Fortunately the second driver, a lady, who did stop, had a car full of toys and a couple of baby seats with just enough room to squeeze into the back seat. He probably should have just walked back, but the point he was making is that it shows the system works and that it's one of those things that we all hope we'll never need, but if we do, it's nice to know it's there and operational.

- iv. **Table Tennis Group** – Paul Turton stated that the group was formed some 12 years ago in the local youth centre which is in itself a contradiction as he is the youngest member and that to use the term "youth" centre in this context is quite funny. They have 6 regular players, one of whom is a county player so the standard is pretty high but they do welcome anybody new who thinks they would like to have a go. You can start with nothing and build up as most of the members have done. They meet on a Monday from 5pm – 7pm so go along & enjoy yourself it's as simple as that.

- v. **Chikaku Karate Group** – Graeme Holding reported on the success of the karate group, including a number of students and their various achievements. Also his own promotion to 4th Dan

He expressed a need for some additional funding for equipment for the karate group and shared the details of the positive impact that the karate group has on students with disabilities and those preparing for school exams.

Graeme supported the importance of having defibrillators available in the village for groups like his who are regularly undertaking strenuous & physical activities.

- i. **Hale Arts Class** – Cllr Cath. Williams a representative of the Hale Art Class, gave an account of the success and popularity of the class. Two thirds of the membership are residents of Hale Village with the remainder being from Westbank, Woolton and surrounding areas. Membership is currently full and it was suggested that the group may be asked to produce an exhibition of their work for residents to view in the near future

The Chair Closed the Meeting at 8.50pm