



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



**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF HALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY ON  
THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020 AT 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Spargo, Cllr Kierman, Cllr Williams, Cllr Trevaskis,  
Cllr Wright, Cllr Cleary, Cllr Anderson.

- 1/ Apologies were received by Cllr Trevaskis who was not able to be present for the beginning of the meeting.
- 2/ No interests were declared.
- 3/ No members of the public were present to make representation.
- 4/ The Minutes of the Parish Council Extra ordinary meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 were approved unanimously.  
  
The Minutes for the Parish Council Ordinary meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 were approved unanimously.
- 5/ The list of payments made between 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were approved by members unanimously.
- 6/ The financial statement for Hale Parish Council for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020 was approved unanimously.
- 7/ It was resolved to approve the quotation for renewal of the Hale Parish Council Insurance policy Ref: 3110228 from Came and Co. highlighting Ecclesiastical as the most suitable policy provider.
- 8/ This Item was withdrawn upon instruction from the Chairman of Hale Royal British Legion.

- i/ At this point Cllr Mitchell was asked by the Chairman about the presence of an undeclared observer being present at the meeting. Cllr's Anderson, Williams, Kierman, Spargo and the Clerk clearly heard Cllr Mitchell speak to an undisclosed party whilst discussions were taking place. The Chairman reminded Cllr Mitchell that this was unacceptable if true and that all participants are required to declare their attendance so that the Council is aware of who is present if it were to enter into a topic of conversation that may be prejudicial and require exclusion of the public. Cllr Mitchell contested the general consensus and explained that she was merely speaking

to her pet cat who was present. Cllr Anderson suggested that she felt that this was not the first time that a person or persons unknown who, in the company of Cllr Mitchell had been involved in a Parish Council meeting without being declared. This was once again refuted by Cllr Mitchell.

- 9/ Further to an official email giving notice of intention to commence work at the entrance to Hale Park by The Friends of Hale Village (TFoHV volunteers).

A motion to allow TFoHV to undertake light maintenance work including power washing, pruning, removal of general debris and tidying of the general area was approved by members subject to the sight of all relevant documentation including a scope of work, risk assessment, insurance documentation and adherence to current Covid -19 government guidance.

Cllr Trevaskis joined the meeting.

It was confirmed by Cllr Trevaskis that an agreement between Hale Parish Council and Hale Estates (currently managed by Savills) was reached a number of years ago regarding the maintenance of the land to the right-hand side of the park entrance and Hale Parish Council has paid for this to be maintained for nearly twenty years. It was also confirmed that Hale Park Gates are included within the asset register of the Parish Council.

It was agreed that in principal Hale Parish Council would support the efforts of TFoHV and do not want to discourage them from embarking upon their proposed work. However the relevant measures must be undertaken and demonstrated. More comprehensive plans including installations and possible commitment to service contracts should be discussed further as individual projects prior to any approval by the Parish Council.

The Clerk agreed to write to Charles Lang at Savills to establish their position in relation to this proposed work and also to review the Parish Council's agreement with the landowner. In addition he will arrange a further meeting with the Chair of TFoHV for further discussions.

- 10/ It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Hale Estates (Savills) regarding the various vacant properties in Hale Village currently in a state of poor repair. Cllr Trevaskis advised that a number of the properties identified were in the process of being renovated for rental to ensure adherence to current legal requirements such as minimum energy efficiency ratings.

- 11/ The request by Hale Park Estate volunteer gardeners for a donation to purchase equipment and materials to compliment their offering was approved. A gift voucher in the sum of £300 was agreed unanimously. Cllr Mitchell stated that it was unreasonable to make the request for a publicity photograph on the Parish Council's behalf a prerequisite of the donation. It was explained by the Chairman that this was not a condition of the award and that a publicity photograph was simply a request which was made to assist with demonstrating a positive message to encourage other community groups to apply for available funding. The Parish Council exists to support all groups who may require essential assistance during this time with other worthwhile community projects.

- i/ 8.45pm - Cllr Cleary left the meeting having had an external commitment and having given a prior apology to the Chairman.

12/ It was agreed that the Clerk should be permitted to allocate four hours of his weekly sixteen-hour work schedule to training and course work towards attaining the CiLCA accreditation approved by the Parish Council on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020. A named vote was requested by Cllr Mitchell who did not agree with the proposal. Members in favour included Cllrs Trevaskis, Kierman, Wright, Anderson, Spargo and Williams. Cllr Mitchell voted against the motion.

The Chairman thanked members and closed the meeting at 9.00pm