



HALE PARISH COUNCIL

OF THE HALTON BOROUGH IN THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE



MINUTES OF EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF HALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY ON 27 APRIL 2020 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Cleary, Cllr Spargo, Cllr Kierman, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Trevaskis, Cllr Williams and Cllr Healey

1. No apologies received.
2. No interests declared.
3. No public were present to make any representations.
4. It was resolved to subscribe to Zoom at a cost of £14.39 per month to enable the Council to conduct remote meetings.
5. The return of the Papal Bull, or at least a copy, was discussed. It was noted that this was purchased by Hale Parish Council in 2007 at a cost of £4,693.00 and has since been stored at Cheshire Archives.
6. It was resolved not to carry over any unspent budgets from 2019/2020 to their respective budget lines for 2020/21.
7. It was resolved to contract the Lengthsman to carry out some maintenance work to borders on Wellington Gate at a cost of £120.00. It was also resolved to explore additional waste removal services for Hale Village Hall and the scope of implementing a compost system.
8. **The Council resolved to exclude the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960 on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**
9. The Council considered staffing matters.

Like any other local authority, a parish council must arrange for the proper administration of its financial affairs, and secure that one of its officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs (Local Government Act 1972, s151).

The Council must ensure compliance with the law and agree to engage an officer to fulfil this duty.

The Council noted the resignation of the Clerk in March. It was noted that due to Covid-19, it was not possible for the Council to meet at that time to discuss recruitment and the Coronavirus Act 2020 had not yet been enacted. Instead, discussions at the time took place remotely (in line with advice from NALC) and a record retained. At the time, the majority of members did not wish to ask the Clerk to reconsider. The Clerk's resignation was therefore acknowledged.

Members considered the events to date, and no motions were tabled to overturn any actions that had been agreed remotely thus far.

The Council considered a number of potential options.

It was considered that the Council may ask an existing officer to fulfil this duty. Although it was noted no existing officers may have the appropriate skill sets.

It was considered that the Council may ask a Councillor to fulfil this duty. Although it was noted no members were forthcoming in offering to take up this responsibility.

It was considered that the Council may ask external bodies to provide a locum to fulfil this duty. Although it was noted locums have been used in the past and found the workload

challenging - this may be exacerbated during Covid-19 where a locum may not even be able to visit the parish.

The Council resolved to employ Freeman Brian Hargreaves on a fixed three month contract until such time that the Council is in a position to recruit.

The Council resolved to use the approved contractual terms for the position outlining duties, remuneration, annual leave, hours of work, sick pay etc. The Council resolved to amend the mileage to £0.45 per mile.