



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



**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF HALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY ON
MONDAY 21st September 2020 AT 7.30pm**

Present: cllr Mitchell, cllr Kierman, cllr Williams, cllr Travaskis, cllr Wright,
cllr Cleary, cllr Anderson

1. Apologies from cllr Spargo
2. No interests were declared
3. No members of the public were present to make representation.
4. The Minutes for Hale Parish Council meeting on 20th July 2020 were considered. Cllr Mitchell's proposed the remove the words "aggrieved" and "bullying" from the draft record. It was agreed that the amendments to the minutes be made and motion was carried.
5. All payments for the period July 2020 – September 2020 were ratified by members. Cllr Mitchell questioned the Clerk's permission to use his delegated authority to make payments (up to the value of £500) without prior approval. She expressed a view that she believed that the current Clerk's inexperience made it unreasonable for him to use the authority which the Council has previously approved and which is part of the Parish Council's Financial Regulations (para. 3.4). She indicated that she felt that the previous Clerk who was fully trained was suitably practised and qualified sufficiently to use the above authority because of his experience. The chairman re-iterated that delegated authority was in place for the Clerk to spend (up to the value of £500) regardless of any other considerations and that the majority of payments are for service contracts and payment of salaries which the Parish Council is committed to and are covered under para 6.4 of the Parish Council's Financial regulations.
6. It was agreed that the Clerk would seek three competitive quotations for the future appoint of a firm of Internal Auditors to fulfil the Parish Council's annual financial and governance obligations. It was noted by the Chairman that continuity was a consideration in auditing the Parish Council's affairs as any points of action would be more suitably addressed by the same

auditor who initially raised the matters of concern. A quotation for a three year commitment will be requested by the Clerk.

7. An email received by the Clerk asking for support from the Parish Council for a resident who is objecting to the planning application ref: 20/00478/ADJ was considered. It concerned a proposed installation of a 5G telecommunication mast near the bridleway on Hale Road. It was felt by the Chairman that the planning application may have been submitted initially to the wrong authority and the Clerk was asked to acquire some further information. It was also noted that the time scale for objection was somewhat prohibitive (objections should be submitted by October 1st 2020)

The chairman suggested that the principles of a previous objection letter submitted on behalf of the Parish Council in respect of the proposed solar energy plant could be adapted to suit this objection as a large number of the environmental considerations were relevant. It was felt that the positioning and the possible disguising of the Mast should be considered a priority. Cllr Cleary asked that the proposed positioning of the mast should be confirmed as the post code appeared to give a different location than that indicated by the resident complainant. It was agreed that a letter of objection be submitted to Halton Borough Council when all considerations had been explored.

8. The proposed renewal of Insurance cover for the Parish Council and Hale Village Hall was discussed. It was thought that a "split" policy which addressed the individual requirements of the Parish Council and also the Village Hall would be preferable but upon review the cost was agreed to be prohibitive. The Clerk had been given a quotation for renewal of the existing Policy and the premium was presented at a substantially reduced rate. It was agreed to proceed on that basis. However the premium was questioned by the Council as to its validity and the Clerk agreed to contact Richard Matthews at Came & Co. immediately to review the renewal cost as the policy needed to be in place by October 1st 2020.
9. Consideration was given to a recent proposal by a local resident who expressed a view that the Parish Council should be pro-actively involved in addressing the recognised areas of concern highlighted more recently by the increased outdoor activity levels of locals and visitors to Hale Village and the surrounding areas:-

Namely

i/ Litter

ii/ Dog Fouling

iii/ Parking

It was agreed that a line of dialogue with Halton BC's open spaces dept. should be opened. Cllr Mitchell advised that the local ward councillor cllr Wharton be included in all fact finding activities. The initial intention of acquiring information for review was agreed and cllr Mitchell agreed that she would assist with a survey when appropriate, taking into consideration the difficulties posed by the Covid restrictions. Further questions regarding parking enforcement, litter & dog fouling fines being increased to the national maximum and about educating school children should be submitted to Halton BC. The information should

be received and collated then discussed with a course of action agreed upon. Cllr Mitchell advised that the Liverpool echo was actively encouraging readers to visit Hale Village as a “beauty spot” and felt that that would in itself encourage more “traffic” of all kinds within the area of the Village. The Chairman felt that the Parish Council should explore the possibility of installing a waste bin close to Hale Lighthouse in Lighthouse Lane.

The meeting was closed at 9.15pm.