



HALE PARISH COUNCIL

OF THE HALTON BOROUGH IN THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF HALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN HALE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 20th MARCH 2023 AT 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Cleary, Cllr Brown, Cllr Healey, Cllr Spargo, Cllr McNamara,
Cllr Mitchell

In attendance: The Clerk and Five members of public were also present

1. **Apologies** - Apologies from Cllr Trevaskis, Cllr Williams Cllr King and Cllr Anderson were received by the Clerk
2. **Declarations of Interest** – No declarations of interest were recorded by the Clerk
3. **Public Participation**

The Chair allowed a member of the Public to address the meeting and to register her concerns about a recent local Forum Group at which there were a number of local residents and stakeholders. This is the first meeting of this Forum and although the resident in question was involved in the formation of the group it is the Parish Council who are responsible for its creation as part of a requirement of the Village Hall Trust Deed. The resident went on to explain that she had received unjustified and misguided criticism for her role in the Forum being established and said she feels very upset, bullied and abused as a result.

The Chair also allowed The Lord Mayor to describe the work he had undertaken on that particular day and to question the input of the Parish Council in preparation for the Kings Coronation. He had been preparing to install the recently acquired anti-vandal benches in the positions agreed in consultation with Halton Borough Council.

- At this point of the meeting one lady Councillor was upset and offended by comments made to her by the Chair and by other Councillors. This resulted in a number of bad tempered and offensive exchanges between the cllr, the Chair and two other councillors.

As the Chair allowed the meeting to deteriorate into an out of control, chaotic encounter with one of the male Councillors confronting an elderly member of public, the Clerk and two further members gave their reasons and withdrew from the meeting

Agenda item 3, Public Participation was concluded. There nothing further of note to be reported.

N.B. At 8.00pm Cllr Mitchell, who was chairing the meeting in the absence of the Chairman, re-opened the meeting. There was a quorum of 4 Councillors to continue the meeting.

- 4. Minutes.-** The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 27th February 2023 were approved, subject to an amendment to item 3 (iii) being made. The last sentence to read: “It was noted that the Fire Evacuation Assembly Point is on the Village Hall concourse area near to the Notice Board.”

Proposed by Cllr Healey, seconded by Cllr Cleary.

- 5. Payments and Receipts -** In the absence of the RFO these items were deferred as there were queries that needed to be addressed.

Proposed by Cllr Cleary, seconded by Cllr Brown, approved by all.

- 6. Accounts -** In the absence of the RFO these items were deferred as there were queries that needed to be addressed.

Proposed by Cllr Cleary, seconded by Cllr Brown, approved by all.

- 7. Standing Orders & Financial Regulations -** This was deferred to be dealt with by a Working Group as was agreed at the meeting on 17th October 2022.

Proposed by Cllr Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Cleary. Approved by Council.

- 8. Risk Management Scheme & Policy -** This was deferred to be addressed at a future Parish Council meeting

Proposed by Cllr Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Cleary. Approved by Council.

- 9. Members Code of Conduct -** This was deferred to be addressed at a future Parish Council meeting

Proposed by Cllr Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Cleary. Approved by Council.

- 10. Platinum Jubilee Trees -** The Chair distributed correspondence to and from the Open Spaces department of Halton BC. Their advice had been requested on suitable species of tree to complete our tribute to HM the Queen’s great achievement, taking into consideration the necessity of reducing carbon and also the existing trees in the village. Their proposal was discussed and accepted

Proposed by Cllr Healey, seconded by Cllr Brown and approved by Council.

11. Upcoming Events. - The events on 6th (Flower Arranging) and 8th April (Easter Egg Hunt) were noted by members

*It was also noted that the Civic Service for 2023 will take place on Sunday 8th October 2023 – details to follow.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.05 pm.