



HALE PARISH COUNCIL

OF THE HALTON BOROUGH IN
THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING
OF HALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT HALE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 17th MARCH 2025 AT 8.00pm**

Present: Cllr Roberts, Cllr McNamara, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Healey, Cllr Cleary, Cllr Trevaskis, Cllr Wright, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Williams

In attendance: Robin Tudor, Head of PR and Communications at LJLA., Andrew Dutton, Head of Environment and Sustainability at LJLA., The Clerk, and ten members of public were also present

- 1. Apologies** –Apologies were received from Cllr Hutchinson
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Cleary declared an interest in Item 5 and The Chairman declared an interest in item 14.
- 3. Public Participation** – The Chair emphasized the importance of expressing all viewpoints with respect and in an orderly fashion. A resident of Halebank made an appeal for funding on behalf of Halebank Football Club which provides a centre of interest for local youngsters. Their aim is to raise approximately £8000 to support the ongoing requirements for maintenance and operational costs. The Chair requested that the item be included for consideration on the Agenda for April's Parish Council meeting.

A local member of the Hale Gardening Group who maintains and improves the green spaces in and around the white estate in the Village would once again like to make a request for financial assistance to maximise their activities. The Clerk will send an application form and upon completion include it to be considered at April's meeting

A local resident expressed a wish that the Parish Council should write to the current organisation who are maintaining the grounds in and around St Mary's church in Church Road. It is believed that the maintenance work is being fulfilled by members of the community payback scheme and that the outstanding quality of their work and ongoing maintenance should be recognized and a sincere thank you sent. The Chairman agreed to send a letter of thanks.

It was noted that two or three years ago the Parish Council paid for the installation of some hanging baskets outside the shops at Ivy Court. A resident asked whether the Parish Council might consider installing some more this year. The supporting brackets are still in place and it would be relatively inexpensive to put some new baskets in place. The Clerk will look into the possibility of obtaining these at minimal cost to the Parish Council. The issue of who will water the basket was discussed and it

was agreed that the shopkeepers should be asked to water the basket outside their own shop.

It was agreed that as members of Hale Village we should not give up or abandon any plans we have agreed to or installed. We should always strive to achieve improvements for the Village going forwards. Woolton Village in Liverpool was given as an example of what a similar Village to Hale might look like if the correct efforts are applied. The Clerk agreed to put this item on April's agenda for discussion.

- 4. Minutes.** –The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 17th February 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record

Proposed by Cllr J McNamara

Seconded by Cllr C Anderson

The Motion was approved unanimously

- 5. Liverpool John Lennon Airport (LJLA)** – Cllr McNamara introduced Robin Tudor, Head of PR and Communications at LJLA and Andrew Dutton, Head of Environment and Sustainability at LJLA, who gave a report on the current state of LJLA.

Robin Tudor – Mr Tudor Provided an update on the Airport's recent operations including the current passenger levels (5.1 million) and the arrival of new carrier Jet2. An estimated increase to around 5.4 million passengers is anticipated by the end of 2025 with most of the business being generated by the leisure market. Liverpool John Lennon Airport (LJLA) has concentrated on returning passenger levels to the pre-pandemic quantities and most of their focus has been on interior development and activities. New security equipment has been installed and additional equipment is expected shortly.

Externally, the most visible and talked about consideration is the solar farm. Andrew Dutton has been involved in the planning for eight years and it is believed that this forward thinking strategy to supply 20/25% of the electricity requirements for LJLA is an important project going forward. The Airport master plan which was created in 2017/2018 is still valid and relevant with any changes being in timescales resulting from the COVID Pandemic. The aspirations of LJLA are still as set out in the master plan but that does not mean that those developments will actually happen. It's essentially a statement showing how the airport could develop.

In addition to growing the business at the airport and looking for more passengers and more flights there is an appetite for the organisation to become a lot more vocal in their commitment to a corporate social responsibility more recently known as Environmental Social and Governance (ESG)

One of the new initiatives undertaken by LJLA is the formation of a local community fund. Grants from the £25,000 fund are awarded to organisations meeting the selection criteria.

In a Q&A session Mr Tudor was happy to acknowledge that there may have been a previous agreement many years ago which put limitations on the number of night flights permitted to/from LJLA but that the airport is a 24hr operation and there is no such agreement or understanding in place currently.

A resident raised concerns regarding a previous consultation process and sought assurances that any future communication would be better planned and measurable.

One of the members of public challenged the current arrangements for parking around the airport and in particular along Speke Road where airline passengers and staff are often dropped off to avoid using perceived expensive car parks.

Mr Tudor informed the meeting of the Airport's reliance on income from parking to stay in business, he did state however that parking prices do compare favourably with similar airports around the country and was keen to state that a Free car park with limited time use is always available on site.

- 6. Accounts** – Cllr Wright proposed that the Accounts, having been reconciled to the bank statement and summary of receipts & payments 11th February 2025 – 7th March 2025 be accepted as a true and accurate record and comparison against budget. This was seconded by Cllr J McNamara

The Motion was approved unanimously

- 7. Invoice Sampling** - In line with financial regulation 2.2 The Council appointed member has checked and signed the reconciled account against original Unity Bank Statements and reported to the Parish Council any exceptions.

Proposed by Cllr Wright

Seconded by Cllr J McNamara

The Motion was approved

- 8. Transport Links** - This Item was deferred until April's meeting

Proposed by Cllr J McNamara

Seconded by Cllr P Lewis

The Motion was approved

- 9. School Safety Concerns** – This Item was deferred until April's meeting

Proposed by Cllr J McNamara

Seconded by Cllr P Lewis

The Motion was approved

10. Councillor Discussion Points

- i. **Disabled access for the Village Hall** – It was agreed to include this issue on the Village Hall Management Committee meeting Agenda in April's meeting
- ii. **Land at the rear of Hale Village Hall** - It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Saville's to pursue the availability of the land at the rear of Hale Village Hall.
- iii. **Public Exercise Equipment** – Cllr Trevaskis agreed to review the Councils who have equipment and look at the installation & maintenance costs. Also as someone who has secured funding at Kingsley Parish Council to get information about availability of funding for public area exercise equipment and report back to this Council in April.

11. Hale Carnival 2025 – It was noted that the Clerk has received a reply from Nicola Goodwin Director of Community & Greenspaces from Halton Borough Council regarding the issue of charging for access to Hale Park on Carnival day in June.

Thanks for your email and I apologise for my tardiness in responding on this matter.

We have considered options to address this matter, and I have consulted with colleagues who manage parks, events, and our legal advisor. There is no mechanism which will permit the parish council to charge for entrance to the park which is free to use.

I understand during planning for this year's event there was dialogue with the Council's events team on this matter however, I understand entrance to the park was managed on the day and requested a £3 entrance fee albeit there was an acknowledgement it was a donation.

I do appreciate raising funds will be fundamental to the viability of the carnival, have other means to collect donations been tested in previous years? Could tickets to attend be sold in advance which would assist with understanding numbers attending, income etc and could an online method be one of the options which would be secure for both the attendees and organisers and remove any safety risks on the collection of cash on the day of the carnival?

I recognise the approach will be disappointing and if we can assist in considering other options I'd be happy to look at providing some Officer support to the organising committee to consider and work up options;

The Officer's contact details are Adele Clarke adele.clarke@halton.gov.uk

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss further and I can be of further assistance.

12. Hale Bake Off – The Chairman gave an update on the progress of Hale Bake Off baking competition / afternoon tea.

13. VE Day 80th – 8th May 2025 – Celebrations will be staged on 4th May. It was agreed to purchase Bunting and a Commemorative Flag for the event using a maximum budget of £150. Also to consider employing a children’s entertainer or face painter in addition to the booking of the Clan Wallace Military marching Band. The Freemen of Hale will provide a bar on the day.

Proposed by Cllr M Roberts and

Seconded by Cllr J McNamara

The Motion was approved

14. War Memorial Maintenance – The Freemen of Hale have agreed to replace the stone chippings around the War Memorial. There has been a delay as machinery required is being used elsewhere. It is proposed to use the existing budget to pay for materials. It is noted that any work on the memorial itself will need planning permission from Halton Borough Council. Further discussions should be included in April’s Parish Council meeting.

15. Easter Egg Hunt 2025 – A Budget of £600 was agreed to fund the Easter Egg Hunt in April

Proposed by Cllr L Trevaskis

Seconded by Cllr C Anderson

The Motion was approved

16. Fund Raising & Accounting – It was proposed that the Clerk opens a new Savings account for Hale Parish Council. Monies raised from fund raising should be deposited here for easier accounting access to petty cash and a modest amount of interest.

Proposed by Cllr M Roberts

Seconded by Cllr J McNamara

The Motion was approved

17. Littering in and around the Football Hub – It was agreed that the Chairman will contact Robin Hulbert from the management team at Hale Football Hub and discuss the concerns raised by a resident recently. He will report back to this Council in due course.

The Chair Closed the Meeting at 10.00 pm