



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 18th SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Brown, Cllr Healey, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Lewis,
Cllr Trevaskis, Cllr Cleary

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

1. **Apologies** - Apologies were received by the Clerk from Cllr King, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Williams
2. **Declarations of Interest** – No Declarations of interest were received by the Chair.
3. **Minutes.** - The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 17th July 2023 were approved as a true and accurate account.

Proposed by Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr Lewis.

The Motion was approved

4. **Payments & Receipts** – Cllr Healey proposed that all payments and receipts for the period 1st July 2023 and 8th September 2023 are a true and accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr Lewis.

The Motion was approved

5. **Accounts** – The reconciled bank statement and summary of receipts and payments were accepted as a true and accurate record and comparison against budget.

Proposed by Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr Healey

The Motion was approved

6. **Holidays** – It was agreed to authorise the Clerks holiday leave 16th October 2023 – 20th October 2023

Proposed by Cllr Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Brown

The Motion was approved

7. **Parish Council Website** – This Item was deferred until the October Parish Council meeting

Proposed by Cllr Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Brown

The Motion was approved

- 8. D-Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations 6th June 2024** – It was noted that the Royal British Legion cannot organise events to commemorate this occasion but that it will support and assist any planned events within Hale Village. Halebank RBC have also indicated a willingness to be included. Cllr Roberts observed that the incoming Lord Mayor (Bill Webb) may well have some ideas or wishes about how the celebration will proceed and as such It may be worth taking some time to consider his views.

Cllr Lewis advised that the Merseywave choir led by Jason Ellis will be keen to be included in the commemoration. It was noted that Halebank PC will be lighting their beacon and that Hale may like to stage something on either of the weekends prior to or after 6th of June. It was stated that the restoration of the war memorial in Hale Village coincides with the 80th D-Day landing celebrations and that it might be appropriate to re-engrave the names on the memorial and re-turf the surrounding garden as a fitting tribute. This would give a strong focal point for the celebrations if the new Lord Mayor feels it is appropriate.

The Lord Mayor advised that a past resident Peter Fleetwood Hesketh, had worked for the government during the planning of the D-Day landings and that there was a direct connection to Hale Village. His remit involved creating the Mulberry Harbour at Normandy and it is felt that some sort of display remembering this contribution and remembering the Barrage balloons situated behind Hale manor house should be created in the Village Hall.

Cllr Mitchell stated that the burning of a beacon on the headland would inconvenience local residents in Church Road and that anything staged on the Freemans field would be inaccessible for elderly and disabled residents.

Cllr Roberts observed that it would be sad to have to rely solely upon Halebank's celebrations but that concerns for safety and the crops in surrounding fields in June must be taken seriously.

Cllr Roberts asked for this item to be included on the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

A local resident stated that the British Legion are planning to have a short service on 6th June 2024 at 11am which will be repeated on the following Sunday 9th June 2024 and that it will be a commemoration rather than a celebration.

- 9. Insurance** – A request was made to verify the list of key holders for the village Hall and the insurance requirement for recording holders. The Clerk will enquire about the current position with the insurers and the Village Hall management committee.
- 10. Time Consideration for PC Meetings** – it was agreed that the Clerk would ask the bookings officer to enquire with the organisers of the Majorette troop who have a regular Monday night booking to see whether they might consider ending their session early to accommodate the Parish Council meetings each month. It was felt that the noise generated during their sessions interfered considerably with the proceedings of the PC meeting and that residents and councillors are struggling to hear discussions.

11. Public Participation Agenda Item – It was agreed that the period of public participation which was recently moved to the end of the agenda be returned to the beginning of Parish Council meetings to give residents an opportunity to voice their opinions before any discussion or decisions are resolved.

Proposed by Cllr Trevaskis seconded by Cllr Roberts

The Motion was approved

12. Public Participation –

The Chair allowed a number of speakers to address the meeting. A local resident said that the decision to return the discussion period back to the beginning of the meeting is a good one and that it made the most logical sense provided people read the agenda. People are more inclined to participate at the beginning of the meeting. The same resident advised that the secretary of state had approved an application by Peel Holdings to use land adjacent to Liverpool John Lennon Airport for use as the base for a Solar Farm. He went on to state that Hale Parish Council should have at least two representatives on the airport committee. Cllr Mitchell asked not to be included and the Clerk agreed to pursue the appointment of two suitable representatives. It was observed by one councillor that there are 8 meetings per year but that no influence on the decision making or direction of the airport can be made. It is effectively a “box ticking” exercise which benefits the airport’s apparent local inclusion. However any feedback is always favourable.

Cllr Cleary declared that his experience of Peel Holdings (who own the land which LJLA is sited upon) has only ever seen them “juggernaut” their way over anybody offering an opposition to their proposals. They have a history of purchasing land and then borrowing against it to finance their objectives.

A member of the public asked whether the Parish Council could monitor airport noise and whether they have any measuring equipment. She was very concerned about the announced additional Jet2 service which will operate from LJLA starting in early 2024. Having already been subjected to additional NATO air exercise traffic, diversions due to weather and re-positioning of non-scheduled flights and additional post-covid flights, she is concerned about the effect on her family’s ability to sleep adequately.

The Lord Mayor asked whether an appropriate display or sign to explain the history and relevance of the Fawcett Canon on the forecourt of the Village Hall could be installed

He added that the media outlets for the Village Hall and the Parish Council need attention and that an administrator needs to be employed to manage Village information and keep entries relevant and up to date.

His last point was in relation to the installation of the Nativity Crib. It is proposed that the crib be installed at the front of the Village Hall. However there may be concerns relating to the evacuation “assembly point” at the bus stop in front of the Village Hall. A better option might be to erect the crib inside the community room inside the Village Hall. Cllr Trevaskis noted that The Parish Council had always contributed towards the installation of the Village crib. A view that the Park

entrance might be a suitable site for the crib was dismissed due to the possible attraction of vandals and the lack of a supply of electricity to light the installation.

PART II

- 13. Exclusion of Press & Public** – The meeting was closed to the press and public due to the confidential nature of the business to be conducted as defined in Schedule 12 of the LGA 1972.

This part of the meeting was requested by Cllr Cleary to discuss a number of complaints received about the management of the Village Hall's booking system and the staffing requirements. The Agenda did not specify the topics for discussion upon which decisions could be made and as a result there was a lot of contention and disagreement.

Cllr Trevaskis stated that there was nothing specific and therefore had no substance for discussion. Specific staffing matters need 3 days notice and as such he was not willing to continue debating them and other random issues. He also stated that he was not prepared to sit opposite Cllr Brown who he said finds it difficult to contain his anger and to control himself and then Cllr Trevaskis left the meeting. Cllr Brown asked Cllr Trevaskis to return his Village Hall keys and said he would inform the Police should they not be returned to him.

The Chair, Cllr Mitchell announced at this point that Unity Trust Bank, the Parish Council's & Village Hall's bank had contacted her with some very disturbing information regarding the authorisation of payments made from the Village Hall account. She went on to say that the Clerk had brought the Parish Council into disrepute by allowing a Village Hall management Committee member to authorise payments outside his permitted limits. The Clerk argued that this wasn't the case and that the Chair might want to check the facts properly. The chair proceeded to propose that the Clerk be suspended indefinitely pending an investigation into the matter.

Cllr Roberts said that he felt that this was a personal vendetta against the Clerk without evidence and without notice and that he would not be associated with the proposed course of action.

The Clerk indicated that the item being proposed was against standing orders and asked the Chair if she really wanted to take this course of action which she confirmed.

The Chair made a formal proposal and asked those members present to vote on it

Cllr Roberts requested a named vote as below:-

In support of the Clerks suspension Cllrs Mitchell, Healey, Cleary and Brown

Against the Clerks Suspension Cllr Roberts

Abstained Cllr Lewis

The Motion was approved

The Clerk handed over his keys as requested and left the meeting