



HALE PARISH COUNCIL

OF THE HALTON BOROUGH IN
THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF HALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN HALE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 19th JUNE 2023 AT 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Cleary, Cllr Brown, Cllr Healey, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Trevaskis, Cllr Anderson, Cllr King,

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

- 1. Apologies** - Apologies from Cllr Williams were received by the Clerk
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – No declarations of interest were recorded by the Clerk
- 3. Minutes.**- The minutes of the Annual Meeting of 22nd May 2023 were approved as a true and accurate account.

Proposed by Cllr Healey, seconded by Cllr King.

Approved by Council.

- 4. End of year 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 King, seconded by Cllr Healey

Approved by Council.

- 5. AGAR Return 2022 - 2023** – The Annual Governance and accountability statement for 2022 – 2023 was accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Healey, seconded by Cllr Cleary

Approved by Council.

- 6. Standing Orders & Financial Regulations** - This was deferred at the Annual meeting to be addressed at the Ordinary Parish Council meeting on 17th July 2023

Approved by Council.

- 7. Risk Management Scheme and Policy**- This was deferred at the Annual meeting to be addressed at the Ordinary Parish Council meeting on 17th July 2023

Approved by Council.

- 8. Members Code of Conduct** - This was deferred at the Annual meeting to be addressed at the Ordinary Parish Council meeting on 17th July 2023

Approved by Council.

- 9. Civic Service 2023** – The chair confirmed that she had commenced planning for the Civic Service on October 8th 2023 2pm – 4pm. Steve Farrell will take the Service on the day and she will discuss further with the Clerk and keep Members updated. The Clerk has booked the Village Hall for refreshments after the service. Ladies of the Village will manage the refreshments. The Chair will liaise with the Clerk re-invitations
- 10. Policies** - This was deferred at the Annual meeting to be addressed at the Ordinary Parish Council meeting on 17th July 2023

Approved by Council.

- 11. Future Events** – The Chair explained that it is the intention for Hale Parish Council to offer funding through the wellbeing budget for any proposed activities such as the Christmas/Easter/Halloween events previously hosted by the Council by application and if appropriate. However it does not propose to undertake the management and planning of such events going forward. Cllr Trevaskis asked about the rationale behind the decision and noted that he felt the events previously organised were successful and of great value for very little outlay. He went on to ask for confirmation that the only event being hosted in the near future will be the Civic Service in October. This was confirmed by the Chair. A member of the public asked whether precise figures would be required or whether there would be some flexibility in estimating for proposed events. Cllr Trevaskis enquired how the message would be sent to residents who wish to take advantage of the opportunity to hold events. Cllr Anderson stated that the system is too long winded and doubted its integrity. It was stated that ultimately any requests for funding would be sent to the Clerk for inclusion on a future Parish Council meeting Agenda.
- 12. Public Participation** – The Chair allowed a number of speakers to address the meeting.

- i. The Lord Mayor enquired about the reasoning behind the late inclusion on the agenda of this particular agenda item and expressed his preference for it to be returned to its earlier position on the Agenda. Cllr Cleary said that the Council had decided upon the change and the Chair said it gave an opportunity for delegates to comment on any previous discussions. Cllr Trevaskis informed the meeting that prior to 2018 the Council had received a lot of feedback from members of the public who preferred the early inclusion of Public Participation on the PC Agenda so their comments might be considered prior to decisions being made by the Council. Cllr Cleary disputed this explanation and gave a counter explanation that it was the Clerk who changed the running order. A member of the public asked if it could be returned to its previous place on the Agenda. The Chair stated that the present Council had received feedback from residents requesting that it be later on the Agenda as is normal for many Parish Councils.

- ii. A member of the public enquired about the increased (22 new routes) level of aircraft activity from Liverpool John Lennon Airport. She was particularly very critical of the increase in air traffic between the hours of midnight and 6am when the disruption caused to her sleep pattern was particularly disturbing. She asked whether the Parish Council might be able to make a representation to the Airport on behalf of residents of Hale who are disturbed by aircraft noise. Cllr Trevaskis proposed that this be an Agenda item for the July meeting and a response sent to the airport. The resident asked whether councillors know where the local monitors are situated and how their information about noise levels is accessed. Cllr Trevaskis informed the meeting that the Consultative Committee at JLA is not the most responsive group but that the membership should be made aware of the issues experienced by residents of Hale. The Chair noted that the Ward Councillor should also be encouraged to contact the airport on behalf of the Village. The Chair asked Cllr Trevaskis to bring this matter up at the Committee. The Clerk was also asked to contact Halton BC for their support
- iii. A local resident stated that he has been pursuing a resolution to his enquiries regarding complaints allegedly made to the Parish Council in 2019. He stated once again that there were 9 Code of Conduct complaints which were handled by the Monitoring Officer at Halton BC which have been addressed and which are now fully concluded.

In the interest of transparency the resident would like the Parish Council to address the other 7 complaints to conclusion. The monitoring officer has explained that as the matters concerned are from 7 individuals (some more than once) and do not involve Code of Conduct complaints they are not within his remit to address.

It was agreed that the Clerk will contact the Monitoring Officer to establish whether it is appropriate and possible for him to have copies of the alleged outstanding complaints so that they can be addressed by the Parish Council. Currently the Clerk has no knowledge or records of the nature of the alleged complaints. It was noted by a further resident that if complaints are about a particular councillor or about particular councillors it should be handled in strictest confidence by the Monitoring officer if appropriate or the Clerk & Chairman if not. The Chair stated that any such items would be part 2 matters on an Agenda which in the interest of privacy is addressed after public have left the meeting.

iv. PCSO Steve Marnick – Gave a good account of Hale Village. He was keen to stress what a very nice, peaceful Village we live in and how he has nothing of any concern to report to the meeting. He was extremely happy with the organisation of the recent Carnival in Hale Park and said that he was only called out on Saturday afternoon regarding 7 minor parking offences where tickets for parking were issued. However he felt that all in all it was a great, well organised event. He has had his work hours cut to 28hrs per week and the area he operates in has now become larger so he stated that he is disappointed at not being able to spend more time locally. He stated that even though he no longer holds local surgeries he is still available on social media and by telephone. PCSO Marnick stated that he was unaware of any Arriva buses having to be re-routed down Ramsbrook Lane due to double parking in the centre of the village

13. Date of Next Meeting - The date for the July Parish Council Meeting is Monday 17th July 2023 at 7.30pm in Hale Village Hall

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.35 pm.