



HALE PARISH COUNCIL

OF THE HALTON BOROUGH IN THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT HALE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 22nd APRIL 2025 AT 8.00pm

Present: Cllr M Roberts, Cllr J McNamara, Cllr P Lewis, Cllr P Healey,
Cllr G Wright, Cllr C Williams, Cllr A Hutchinson

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

- 1. Apologies** – Apologies were received from Cllr Anderson and Trevaskis. No apologies were received from Cllr Cleary
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – The Chairman and J McNamara declared an interest in Item 16 being active Freemen of Hale..
- 3. Public Participation** – The meeting discussed a number of community issues including a need for disabled parking spaces near the shops and at St Mary's Church, and also the potential for the Parish Council to address them with Halton Borough Council.

A local resident advised that a team from BBC North West will be visiting Hale on 1st May 2025 to highlight local history. It is hoped that a number of local Freemen and Aldermen will be on hand to give an overview of Hale's fantastic history.

Once again concerns were raised about the unreliable local bus network and the need for better transport links.

Further to the visit by representatives from Liverpool John Lennon Airport (LJLA) a regular contributor expressed her concerns about the "significant noise" she is experiencing from low flying aircraft. Hale Parish Council's airport representative Cllr McNamara encouraged anybody experiencing excessive problems with noise should contact the department below. He explained that without registering complaints the airport are not aware of people's problems. The recent information supplied to him indicates a very low level of reporting and complaint.

For Noise Complaints please email: environmental@liverpoolairport.com

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

Proposed by Cllr J McNamara

Seconded by Cllr P Lewis

The Motion was approved unanimously

- 5. Accounts** – The reconciled bank statement and summary of receipts and payments for 7th March 2025 – 31st March 2025 were accepted as a true & accurate comparison against budget

Proposed by Cllr G Wright

Seconded by Cllr P Lewis

The Motion was approved unanimously

- 6. End of Year Accounts** – The end of year accounts April 1st 2024 – 31st March 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate record and comparison against budget

Proposed by Cllr G Wright

Seconded by Cllr P Lewis

The Motion was approved unanimously

- 7. Governance Statement** – The Annual Governance Statement was agreed & signed by the Chair for submission to the Internal Auditor as part of the AGAR audit for year 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025.

Proposed by Cllr P Healey

Seconded by Cllr G Wright

The Motion was approved unanimously

- 8. Accounting Statement** – The Annual Governance Statement was agreed & signed by the Chair for submission to the Internal Auditor as part of the AGAR audit for year 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025.

Proposed by Cllr P Healey

Seconded by Cllr G Wright

The Motion was approved unanimously

- 9. 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

- 10. Risk Management Scheme & Policy** – The reviewed Risk Management Plan and Register were considered fit for purpose

Proposed by Cllr Lewis

Seconded by Cllr J McNamara

The Motion was approved

- 11. Transport Links** - Cllr Hutchinson gave an account of her correspondence with local Ward Councillor Cllr Mike Wharton and outlined her concerns regarding the current, limited bus service available to the residents of Hale Village. In particular the lack of synchronisation with school schedules and a need for more frequent services.

Past efforts to pressurise Halton Borough Council to improve the local bus service has not been listened to sympathetically as the service is ultimately run by a private company. It is hoped that changes in the city region transport policy will give hope for a more accommodating system and Cllr Hutchinson agreed to pursue some further clarification from Cllr Steve Rotherham at Liverpool City Council.

- 12. School Safety Concerns** – Cllr Hutchinson explained her concerns about the safety of children using the school entrance in Town Lane adjacent to Ivy Court shops and the fact that excessive car parking is making the area very dangerous for all. Signage and marking hazard zones may be useful. PCSO Marnick has provided assistance in this area previously. Cllr Hutchinson agreed to explore options and possibilities and report back to the Parish Council.

- 13. Emergency Planning – Potential Rest Centre Location** – It was agreed to discuss this subject at the next meeting of the Parish Council as Trustee.

Proposed by Cllr M Roberts and

Seconded by Cllr J McNamara

The Motion was approved

- 14. Hale Park** – Food & Drink Vendors – The Clerk will reply to Halton Borough Council on behalf of Hale PC and seek clarification regarding the terms & conditions of licencing for vendors to trade in Hale Park. It was noted that one local Vendor has had what he feels are unreasonable conditions attached to the offer he has received from Halton BC

- 15. Parking Complaint** – The Clerk will respond to the local resident's concerns regarding parking around the Village Hall during events with larger than normal numbers of attendees. The Chairman will also ask local PCSO Marnick to supply some additional notices which residents can attach to cars parked illegally or inconsiderately around their properties.

- 16. VE Day 80th – 4th May 2025** – It was agreed to provide a maximum budget of £500 for staging the event on 4th May. 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 C Williams

The Motion was approved

- 17. Halebank Football Club** – It was agreed to ask the representative of the Football Club to complete an application form and to defer this item for further discussion at the Parish Council meeting in May.

Proposed by Cllr M Roberts and

Seconded by Cllr G Wright

The Motion was approved

- 18. Hale Park Estate Gardening Group** – It was agreed that a collection should be made during the V.E. Day event in aid of the gardening group and then review the request again after that event.

- 19. Hanging Baskets for Ivy Court** – it was agreed Not to replace the hanging baskets around the shops as there was no appetite by the shop keepers to water them. The Chair suggested a wider discussion during the May meeting about flowers & their upkeep around the Village.

Proposed by Cllr G Wright

Seconded by Cllr M Roberts

The motion was refused

- 20. Land at the rear of Hale Village Hall** – The Clerk gave an update and agreed to follow up the recent email from Savilles regarding the piece of land in question

- 21. War Memorial Maintenance** – The Freemen of Hale have agreed to replace the stone chippings around the War Memorial. Machinery is now available and it is proposed to use the existing budget to pay for materials. It was noted that the V.E. Day 80th event is only approximately 2 weeks away and there is a renewed urgency to complete the work in time. It is noted that any significant work on the memorial itself will need planning permission from Halton Borough Council.

22. The dates for Parish Council Meetings - the following dates were approved for Parish Council Meetings in 2025 – 2026.

19th May 2025, 16th June 2025, 21st July 2025, 15th September 2025, 20th October 2025, 17th November 2025, 20th January 2026, 16th February 2026, 16th March 2026

The Chair Closed the Meeting at 10.00 pm