



HALE PARISH COUNCIL

Of the Halton Borough in the County of Cheshire

Dated this tenth day of April 2019 to members of Hale Parish Council.

You are hereby summoned to attend for the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Council which will be held on Monday 15 April 2019 at 7.30pm in Hale Village Hall, Hale, Halton, Cheshire, L24 4AE to transact business as shown in the below agenda.

Note to Councillors:

If a member is unable to attend the meeting, please notify the Parish Clerk of your apologies.

If a member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote, he/she is advised to contact the Parish Clerk at least twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting.

Note to Public and Press:

Members of the public, having made prior arrangements with the Parish Clerk, may be invited by the Chairman to speak during the Public Forum, in line with the Standing Orders of the Parish Council. Members of the public wishing to make representations are asked to contact the Parish Clerk no later than 10am on the day of the meeting. A maximum of three minutes is given and the Council may not be able to answer questions if the Council has not considered or resolved the question on an agenda item during a prior meeting. Should this be the case, the Council may advise correspondence with the Parish Clerk to request the item be discussed at a future Parish Council meeting. If questions are considered out of the remit of Hale Parish Council, residents will be referred to the appropriate body.

TO CONTACT THE CLERK, PLEASE CALL 07872 435813 OR EMAIL CLERK@HALEPARISHCOUNCIL.GOV.UK

Signed:

Tracey Bellis, Parish Clerk

**MEETING AGENDA
HALE VILLAGE HALL
MONDAY 15 April 2019 at 7:30pm**

Part 1

1. Absence

Motion: To note apologies for absence and absence without apology.

2. Declarations of Members' Interests of a Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Nature in Accordance with the Localism Act 2011 Sections 26-34 & Schedule 4.

(Having membership of a club, charity etc or a close relationship or having a financial bearing on a member of their spouse/partner).

Motion: To note declarations of interest.

3. Co-Option

Motion: To consider applications for co-option and approve new member of Hale Parish Council.

4. Minutes

Motion: To approve minutes of meeting held on Monday 25 March 2019.

5. Hale Police Report

Motion: To note police report on crime statistics and highlight any recommended priorities for the upcoming month.

6. Committee Reports.

4.1 To receive an update from the Village Hall Management Committee and ratify minutes of meeting held on Thursday 4 April 2019.

7. Mersey Travel Concessionary Scheme

The current concessionary travel scheme run by Merseytravel is understood to be under the responsibility of the office of the Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham for the Liverpool City Region.

As a Parish Council, endeavouring to improve the current poor transportation links to and from Hale Village, it is important to get a greater understanding of why Halton residents do not currently have the opportunity to benefit from the same concessionary travel scheme that residents of Merseyside do, despite paying the new levied Mayoral precept of £19 (per Band D property).

Motion: To liaise with Merseytravel, the office of Mayor Steve Rotherham, MP Derek Twigg and Halton Borough Council to voice the issues faced by the poor transportation in Hale and to clarify why Halton

residents do not currently benefit from the concessionary travel scheme, pursuing where possible all options to see Halton included within this scheme in future.

8. Fly-Tipping

In a meeting held by the Liverpool Airport Consultative Committee on 12 October 2018, Robin Tudor advised the committee that the proposed erection of the 2.9m paladin fence surrounding Hale Heath was for land management purposes - to tackle issues such as fly-tipping.

With this land being used for agricultural purposes for many centuries, without any such issues, it would appear that the dereliction of this Grade 1 agricultural Green Belt by Liverpool John Lennon Airport has been the catalyst for the problems that have subsequently arisen on this land.

With many months of debris building up at a time, it is unclear what land management strategy Liverpool John Lennon Airport have in place to ensure fly-tipping is cleared up in a professional and timely manner.

The proposed fence is due to be erected no less than 3 metres into the land parcel on all sides, and as most of the current fly-tipping occurs within that 3 metre space, it would appear fence will do little to eradicate the problem Robin Tudor advised it was proposed to tackle.

The debris goes a long way to detract from the surrounding environment, leaving a blight on the landscape and many safety risks that Liverpool John Lennon Airport is responsible to manage.

As Liverpool John Lennon Airport are keen to see Peel erect a proposed environmentally-friendly solar farm on Hale Heath, it is unclear as to why more has not been done to resolve the continuous environmentally-unfriendly build-up of debris causing a real blight on the landscape.

Motion: To note fly-tipping on the periphery of Hale Heath and along Oglet Lane and make representations to Peel and Liverpool John Lennon Airport requesting a copy of their land management mandate, seeking further clarification of how the fence will help resolve fly-tipping, and advising the risks associated with the fly-tipping and disappointment that the land does not appear to be managed adequately enough to ensure the debris is disposed of as a matter of urgency.

9. National Association of Local Councils.

5.1 – Call on Local Councils to improve Diversity

A recent survey found that of the 100,000 councillors serving local parish and town councils, there are only 700 councillors (0.7%) aged 25 or below.

NALC has challenged local councils to be more representative of the communities they serve and get closer to the national average, which sits at 10.2%. NALC's election campaigns aim to help local councils engage with young people to encourage them to stand.

Cllr Sue Baxter, chairman of NALC, has said: "There is a clear challenge for the sector when it comes to making local politics appealing to youngsters. We want local councils to get better at engaging with them by making the process of getting involved easier and more accessible. We believe this will help

make the next generation of community champions rise to the challenge and make a difference locally.”

Motion: To note NALC’s call on councils to improve representation of younger people.

5.2 – Star Council Awards 2019

NALC have announced the launch of the Star Council Awards 2019 to recognise the achievements of the parish and town (local) council sector and celebrate the positive impact local councils, clerks, and councillors make to their communities.

NALC is calling on councils who have gone above and beyond to serve their community to apply, seeking applications for individuals and organisations that are making a real, positive difference locally.

Last year Northwich Town Council won the award for leading a major regeneration of the town. Whilst Halton once sat within Northwich, it now lies adjacent to it, only a 30-minute drive from Hale. It is encouraging to see neighbouring councils winning national awards and fully understanding the needs of their communities.

Since the regeneration, Northwich is buzzing with free activities held in the parks, open spaces and town centre, including a community fun weekend, music festivals, family fun days and park-runs to name a few. The Council has improved the public realm of the high street, with floral display and festoon lighting at Christmas, to encourage more people to visit. It is now a street that is thriving with more people visiting the shops and local businesses than ever before, leading to a boom in the local economy.

The awards offer an excellent opportunity for community champions to receive national recognition for the real and positive difference they make locally. Categories this year include young councillor (aged 18-30), councillor, clerk, council and county association project of the year.

Motion: To enter Hale Parish Council into the ‘Council of the Year’ category for the rebuild of Hale Village Hall. Deadline is Friday 28 June 2019.

10. Future High Streets Fund

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has created a £675 million Future High Streets Fund to help local areas make their high streets and town centres fit for the future. This briefing tells members about the process carried out to select two towns in the borough to be involved in the expression of interest stage.

Motion: To write to Halton Borough Council requesting a meeting to discuss the opportunities available for an improved shopping experience in Hale that would be a nod to the historical trade that used to exist in the village, whilst supplying a unique shopping provision that could not be found elsewhere in the borough.

11. Christmas Lights.

Knutsford Town Council has thirteen strings of LED festoon Christmas Lighting to dispose of. Each string is approximately 83M long, with bulbs every 46cm. They are the displays that were used in the town centre until 2015. The festoons are on catenary wire with external plugs – ready for installation. They retail for around £500 per string. Offers are being accepted in the region of £150 per string.

Motion: To consider whether or not to improve the festive lights displayed in Hale during Christmas period and agree budget.

12. Parish Council Finance

- a) **Receipts** - to note appended schedule of receipts since last meeting.
- b) **Payments** - to note appended schedule of payments and approve invoices received since last meeting.
- c) **Internal Audit** - to note recommendations from Executive Resources Committee and approve supplier.
- d) **End of Year Accounts** – to note End of Year Accounts and surplus budgets carried over to 2019/2020.
- e) **Precept – Update from the National Association of Local Councils**

Figures released on 27 March 2019 by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government show the average increase in the small share of council tax raised by local (parish and town) councils will increase by a penny a day in 2019/2020.

Overall council tax requirement in 2019/2020 will be £31.4 billion, with £554 million raised by local councils; this is an overall increase of £1.8 billion on last year, with the small share levied by local councils increasing by £36 million year on year.

The average Band D council tax set by local authorities in England will be £1,750 (an increase of 4.7% at £78 per year), with the average Band D parish share going up by 5.7% (£3.65) per year, or 1p per day, to £67.69.

This small increase and additional investment in local communities reflects the growing role and importance of local councils as they support local communities, take on responsibilities previously provided by other levels of local government such as open spaces, street cleaning, libraries and youth services, and meet residents' needs through other activities such as improving health and wellbeing.

Hale Parish Council was the only Parish Council in Halton not to increase its precept levy for 2019/2020 and this remains at approximately £65.00 per Band D household, below the national average, providing £43,225 to be spent improving the Parish over the next twelve months. This amount is much lower than neighbouring parishes such as Halewood who have increased their precept by approximately 10%, up £35,378 year on year to £407,791 – an amount equivalent to £77.80 per Band D property.

The largest precept increase in Halton was seen in Hale Bank with an increase of 22.2% year on year.

Despite Hale Parish Council not increasing its precept, the total Band D Council Tax in Halton has seen an increase of £86.46 (5.3%). It should be noted this figure includes a new tax of £19.00 per Band D property that has been levied on residents to make up a Liverpool City Region Mayoral Precept raising a total of £0.664m across Halton.

13. Planning

7.1 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Community Infrastructure Levy is the planning charge introduced by the Planning Act 2008.

The levy is agreed with developers to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area. It came into force on 6 April 2010 through the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010.

Regulations require a Local Authority to pass 15% of CIL receipts to parish and town councils from developments that take place in their areas. This rises to 25% in areas with an adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The monies can be spent on anything that the local community decides they need to help mitigate the impacts of development such as highway infrastructure and greater recreational provision.

Whilst Halton Borough Council drafted a scoping document in 2016, they are yet to formally approve the setting of a CIL charge schedule in the area.

Motion: To write to Halton Borough Council indicating the importance of such a levy to improve the infrastructure in areas that may be most affected by the Delivery and Allocations Local Plan and to request further information on whether or not the charge schedule will be approved in the near future.

7.2 Hale Bank Waste Disposal Site

Motion: To write to Hale Bank Parish Council indicating support for their request for a judicial review into the decision regarding the new waste disposal site and to seek advice on any support that can be offered by Hale Parish Council.

7.3 Technical Consultation on Whole Plan Viability Study

Halton Borough Council is undertaking a Whole Local Plan Viability Assessment to assess the economic viability of new development in Halton.

The assessment is a key evidence base document for the emerging Delivery and Allocations Local Plan and considers proposed the Local Plan policies and site allocations and considers their economic viability and deliverability.

As part of this process, the Parish Council is invited to make comments on the approach of the study including the methodology and assumptions.

Motion: To write to Halton Borough Council indicating the views of Hale Parish Council in relation to the economic viability of new development in Halton.

7.3 Planning Application 19/00139/PDE

Applicants Name: Mr Wayne Reilly

Applicants Address: 5 Lumley Walk, Hale Village, Halton, Cheshire, L24 4BG

Officer Name: Melissa Pagan

Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension projecting from the rear wall by 4 metres. The extension has a maximum height of 3.4 metres and an eaves height of 2.2 metres.

Deadline for Representation: 18 April 2019

7.4 Planning Application 19/00165/FUL

Applicants Name: Mr John Clarkson

Applicants Address: Lenox Farm, Ramsbrook Lane, Hale, Halton, L24 5RP

Officer Name: Melissa Pagan

Proposal: Proposed rationalisation of existing elevations, improved fenestration layouts, rear and side extensions and associated internal remodelling.

Deadline for Representation: 2 May 2019

7.5 Planning Application 19/00174/FUL

Applicants Name:

Applicants Address: Stockman's Lodge, Ramsbrook Lane, Hale, Halton, L24 5RP

Officer Name:

Proposal: Proposed rear extension with increased height and associated dormer/gable projections.

Deadline for Representation: May 2019

7.6 Planning Application 18/00513/FUL

Applicants Name: Mr Stephen Snowdon

Applicants Address: Peel Energy Ltd, Peel Dome, Intu Trafford Centre, Trafford City, Manchester, M17 8PL

Officer Name: Pauline Shearer

Proposal: Proposed development of Solar Photovoltaic Array on approximately 15 acres of Grade 1 Agricultural Green Belt, including boundary treatment, control buildings and internal access track on land bounded by Dungeon Lane, Hale Road and Bailey's Lane to the East of Liverpool John Lennon Airport.

On 19 September 2018, Peel Energy held an 'open session' in the Village Hall to give local residents the opportunity to meet with Airport representatives to ask questions about the day to day operation of the Airport.

Upon setting up for the event, it became clear that the purpose of the event was to hold a 'consultation session' with residents about the proposed Solar power scheme on Hale Heath.

At no point did Robin Tudor or Stephen Snowdon advise that a Planning Application for the Solar Farm was due to be submitted the following week and the Parish Council were not aware that notice of this

Planning Application would be served on 26 September 2018, only seven days following the consultation.

This planning application was received by Halton Borough Council on 3 October 2018 and comments were invited from 26 October 2018.

The deadline for representation changed a number of times, without explanation or notice.

The target decision date was 25 January 2019 and so far the Parish Council has received no further communication regarding the Planning Application.

Motion: To write to Liverpool John Lennon Airport and Peel and ask why at no point were the Parish Council informed that the 'open session' held in Hale Village Hall was to form part of the evidence base to a solar farm application submitted a week later.

To write to Halton Borough Council asking for an update on the application, clarification on the number of times the deadline date changed for representations, alongside reasons as to why the dates for representation kept changing.

To write to the Secretary of State asking for this application to be called in, owing to all the reasons stated in Hale Parish Council's objection.

To write to Cllr Mike Wharton asking for this application to be called in, owing to all the reasons stated in Hale Parish Council's objection.

To write to MP Derek Twigg asking for his support to object to this application, owing to all the reasons stated in Hale Parish Council's objection.

To write to all other local MPs, Councillors and Local Authorities outlining the Parish Council's position and requesting their support, owing to all the reasons stated in Hale Parish Council's objection.

7.7 Boundary Commission Review

Following the initial Consultation on Draft Recommendations, the Boundary Commission have decided to hold a Consultation on Further Draft Recommendations, to be held between 7 May 2019 – 3 June 2019.

Whilst this is not unheard of, it is not common practice and has only happened in cases whereby there has been substantial public representation made to object to the original proposals.

Objections were raised by 53 residents regarding the proposal to merge Hale with Ditton – all of which can be viewed by arrangement with the Parish Clerk or online at www.haleparishcouncil.gov.uk/notices – please note all personal details have been redacted by the Boundary Commission.

No representations made by residents stated support for Hale merging with Ditton and it is clear from the objections that Hale residents were supportive of the representations made by Hale Parish Council to retain Hale as a single-member independent Ward as it always has been.

Motion: Whilst Cllr Mike Wharton did not submit an objection to the merging of Hale with Ditton, and advised he was certain that three ward councillors would continue to promote the uniqueness of Hale, it is proposed to write to Cllr Wharton asking him to reconsider his position in light of the number of objections submitted by residents of Hale and the number of comments submitted by electors in support of the Parish Councils proposal to retain Hale as a single-member ward.

To write to all Halton Councillors, MP Derek Twigg, and local organisations asking them to support the proposal made by Hale Parish Council in the second consultation.

7.8 Delivery and Allocations Local Plan / Green Belt Review

The second draft of the Delivery and Allocations Local Plan is due to be consulted on in May 2019.

It is still proposed to remove approximately 60 acres Grade 1 agricultural Green Belt from Hale to make way for the expansion of the airport closer towards the village.

Motion: it is proposed to write to all Halton Councillors, MP Derek Twigg, and local organisations asking them support the proposal made by Hale Parish Council to protect this land in the second consultation of the Delivery and Allocations Local Plan.

Proposed to write to Cllr Mike Wharton requesting his support and advice on how to protect the 60 acres of Green Belt and to ask what he can do to help safeguard this land for future generations to come.

Proposed to support Hale Bank Parish Council in their objection to the removal of Green Belt for their proposed housing allocation.

Proposed to ensure earmarked reserve is used for the protection of Green Belt and to work with appropriate service providers at appropriate time – namely consultants used by Hale Bank Parish Council and Daresbury Parish Council.

14. Communication

11.1 Social Media

Motion: To receive an update on social media engagement.

11.2 Website

Motion: To receive an update on the new website.

To approve gift vouchers of £100 for use of image copyright across entire website.

11.3 Email Policy

Motion: To consider whether or not to draft an email policy for Councillors to follow.

11.4 Communication Officer

Motion: To consider whether or not to appoint a Councillor as a Communication Officer and the scope of the role.

11.5 Surgeries

Motion: To note approved surgery dates and Councillors to manage each session.

Sunday 28th April 2019 – 10am-12noon – Cllr Trevaskis, Cllr Platt

Sunday 26th May 2019 – 10am-12noon – Cllr Trevaskis, Cllr Platt

Sunday 30th June 2019 – 10am-12noon – Cllr Williams, Cllr Kierman

Sunday 28th July 2019 – 10am-12noon – Cllr Williams, Cllr Kierman

11.6 Hale Village Map + Information Leaflet

Motion: To note pamphlet provided by resident Tony Collins and to discuss whether or not to replicate an updated version.

15. Historic Public Rights of Way

Motion: To note request by resident Tony Collins and consider registering historic public rights of way.

16. Staffing – Living Wage Employer

To note that Hale Parish Council has been operating as a Living Wage employer since 2018 and has been invited to become one of approximately 5,000 registered Living Wage employers across the UK.

The accreditation will ensure Hale Parish Council is seen as a fair employer whilst enhancing the general reputation of the Council.

Motion: It is proposed for Hale Parish Council to become the first Parish Council in Halton to become an officially recognised Living Wage Foundation employer. By becoming a recognised employer, the Parish Council would be entitled to use the Living Wage Foundation's recognised emblem, appear on their website, and contribute to press releases and campaign opportunities to promote Hale Parish Council as a fair employer. The official accreditation costs £60 and would need to be exercised during any future contracting process, to ensure all contractors and suppliers of Hale Parish Council also pay their staff a fair wage.

17. Training

- a) To note approved 'Good Councillor' training date.
- b) To note CiLCA training to be undertaken by new Clerk and Cllr.
- c) To consider electing a Councillor to attend the National Association of Local Council's Annual Conference. Discounted cost of £211 per delegate currently valid. Workshops at the conference usually include up-to-date legislation amends, funding opportunities, engaging with the community, effective communications, dementia friendly communities,
- d) To approve any other training Councillors wish to attend.

18. Correspondence

16.1 – National Audit Office

The National Audit Office has issued a consultation on the new Code of Audit Practice which is due to come into force by 1 April 2020.

16.2 – PKF Littlejohn

The external auditor, PKF Littlejohn, has briefed Hale Parish Council on the key dates for 2019.

16.3 – Legal Briefing (NALC)

A new legal briefing has been circulated by NALC on the *Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity (England)*.

16.4 – Liverpool John Lennon Airport Consultation

A new legal briefing has been circulated by NALC on the *Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity (England)*.

16.5 – Affordable Housing Commission Call for Evidence

The new, independent Affordable Housing Commission (AHC) has issued a call for evidence to achieve policy changes that would make a lasting difference and is therefore seeking views on how affordable housing provision can be improved nationally for four main social groups – struggling renters, frustrated homeowners, those reliant on state support and those who face affordability issues in older age.

16.6 – Clean Air Strategy

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has release its new Clean Air Strategy 2019. At the most fundamental level, our health and prosperity depend on the health of the planet on which we live. Nowhere is this more true than in the case of air quality. Air pollution is the top environmental risk to human health in the UK, and the fourth greatest threat to public health after cancer, heart disease and obesity. It makes us more susceptible to respiratory infections and other illnesses, and it is estimated that the actions outline in the Clean Air Strategy could cut the costs of air pollution to society by £1.7 billion every year by 2020, rising to £5.3 billion every year from 2030.

16.7 – Communities Framework Consultation

16.8 – Woodland Protection Consultation

16.9 – Free Council Tax for Foster Carers

Halton Borough Council has approved plans to grant free council tax to foster carers, hoping the scheme will encourage more people to consider fostering.

Both newly approved and existing carers who live in the borough will get the exemption. It is hoped that the initiative will help retain current foster carers as well as recruit new ones.

Motion: To write to Halton Borough Council and the Councillors involved with this decision, offering support for this initiative.

16.9 – Police Crime Commissioner

Invitation to attend a meeting with David Keane, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, on Tuesday 23 April 2019 at 6.30pm to discuss how the police can work more closely with Parish Councils to reduce crime.

19. Urgent Items

(As agreed by the Chairman and Clerk prior to the commencement of the meeting).

20. Public Forum

Members of the public, having made prior arrangements with the Parish Clerk, may be invited by the Chairman to speak during the Public Forum, in line with the Standing Orders of the Parish Council.

21. Next Meeting

- a) To consider items for the agenda of next meeting
- b) Date of next meeting – 7 May 2019 at 7:30pm

22. Exclusion of Public and Press

(To consider and resolve that under the Public Bodies {Admission to Meetings} Act 1960 as extended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and accredited representatives of press be excluded from the meeting for further items of business on the ground of likely disclosure of information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

If resolved, Chair to announce that, in pursuance of the confidential matters to be discussed forthwith, members of the public and press are asked to withdraw from the meeting.