

HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Halsall Parish Council meeting held on
Wednesday 12th March at 7:30 pm at St Aidan's Hall, Renacres Lane

Present: Cllr M. Lyons (Chair), Cllr N McCarthy-Thomason, Cllr R Brookfield,
Cllr D Adams, Cllr J Ferguson, Cllr E Wright (Vice Chair), Cllr A Timon, and C
Pyne (Clerk)

1. Introductions and Apologies for Absence

Introductions were made for 3 members of the public attending the meeting.

Apologies: Cllr B Roberts, Cllr K Wright, C Smith

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Open Forum

3.1 West Lancs Borough Councillors

No update

Cllr Brookfield challenged the non-attendance of Borough Councillors. The
Councillors addressed this point in their reply in December Minutes.

3.2 Open Public Forum

No comments

7.2. Election of Co-Opted Councillor

(propose a change to standard order of agenda items)

Mr Paul Barker was elected as Co-opted Parish Councillor and signed the
Acceptance of Office.

4. To confirm and sign the [Minutes of the meeting held on 12th February](#)

Agreed and signed at the end of the meeting.

5. Discuss and agree on any matters arising from Parish Clerk's Report

5.1 Noted. The Asst. Parish Clerk now has access to create & view transactions
at the Bank - needs 2 Councillors to digitally approve transactions.

5.2 Noted. Bakehouse have consulted about changes to external appearance,
maybe new signs, canopies, etc. Advised them to consult WLBC Planning
first.

Moving bookings, payments and receipts to the Asst Parish Clerk is
working well, only just starting with bank transactions but should allow
the Clerk to spend more time on planned activities.

**6. To receive reports from Representatives to outside Bodies and
discuss and agree upon any actions arising;**

6.1 Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC)

Cllrs R Brookfield, M Lyons

No meetings

Signed Chair Date

6.2 Ormskirk Foundation Trust

Cllr A Timon

Meeting of the Trust clashed with tonight's Council meeting, so Cllr Timon sent his apologies.

6.3 Shirdley Hill Community Association

Cllrs N McCarthy-Thomason & J Ferguson

a) A S137 Grant application of £300 to support the VE Day celebration on Village Green.

Cllr Adams led on a presentation of all the activities planned for the VE Day events on 4th and 8th of May.

The Council agreed to a £300 contribution to the cost of organising the events.

Local Government Act 1972 s137, grants to local organisations providing a benefit to some or all of the residents.

b) Lancashire Best Kept Village. Council to purchase Hanging Baskets for village hall at a cost of £270.

Agreed.

Local Government Act 1972 s144, power to encourage visitors to the area for recreation.

7. To receive reports from Working Groups and agree upon any actions arising;

7.1 Finance

Cllrs. M Lyons, E Wright, A Timon, and K Wright

Agreed to transfer £3200 from Reserves to Current account as identified in the 2024/25 budget to meet the final month of expenditure, unless the insurance company refund our claim within the next few days which would be sufficient income without spending from Reserves.

7.2 Human Resources

Cllrs. A Timon, K Wright, and M Lyons

a) Election of Co-opted Parish Councillor was moved to the start of the meeting.

7.3 Traffic and Road Safety

Cllrs. N McCarthy-Thomason, R Brookfield, and B Roberts

New Cut Lane 30 mph sign has been repaired.

Gregory Lane 40 mph sign has been repaired.

Gregory Lane mini roundabout is marked up for repairs (start 20th March)

FOI on speed enforcement on New Cut Lane is due in mid-March.

LCC Highways have responded that they can only repair holes/damage in pavement footpaths; irregular surfaces, or adverse cambers cannot be fixed.

- 7.4 Flooding**
Cllrs. E Wright, R Brookfield and A Timon
No update.
- 7.5 Healthy Halsall**
Cllrs. M Lyons and B Roberts
No update.
- 7.6 Environment & Biodiversity Working Group**
Cllrs M Lyons, J Ferguson and Mr J Ferguson
No update but the group will assist with item 10.2.
- 8. [Planning Applications](#)**
The Parish Council has no comments to make on any planning applications below.
- 8.1 Applications**
T/2025/0019/TPO, 5 Willow Brook, remove 3 trees
2025/0176/Full, 165 Carr Moss Lane, rear extension
2025/0180/LBC, La Mancha Cottage, blocking up a window
- 8.2 Any planning applications published on day of the meeting**
T/2025/0034/TPO, 76 Moss Road, reduce branches and crown lift
- 8.3 To Note Recent Planning Decisions**
None.
- 9. Finance**
 - 9.1** To approve the [Schedule of Payments for March](#)
Noted. Direct debit for Lloyds Charge card has been cancelled. ICO has increased the annual Data Protection fee to £47. Easywebsites have taken their first monthly payment of £30 + VAT. Millennium Hygiene are increasing their prices by 5% from 1st April.
 - 9.2** To review the [Spend to Date for February](#)
Noted. Predicted Receipts are higher (£54,404) than Expenditure (£50,340) - assuming we receive our insurance claim (£3,250) before EOY. So, we should reach our target of carrying forward a minimum of £1,250 towards next year's budget.
 - 9.3** To approve the [Monthly Bank Reconciliation](#)
Noted.
 - 9.4** To confirm the bank balances on accounts & sign bank statements
Cllr Timon confirmed that Bank Statements were correctly reported.
- 10. Update on potential donation of recreational land from the Moores estate to become open public access land managed by the Charity/Council.**
 - 10.1 Update from PCC**

Signed Chair Date

Colin Throp (Treasurer PCC) forwarded correspondence from the Trustees of the land. Not dealing directly with the family. A review of the covenants on the land, primarily that it must remain as woodland, have been circulated. These would be confirmed by our solicitors. The Trustees are expecting the Council to indicate its plans for the land. Councillors would like access to the land to help visualise the project. Clerk to request the keys to the gate.

10.2 Environmental Grant from Veolia Whitemoss Landfill

Veolia will be attending the 27th of March Funding Fair at Parbold Village Hall 10:30am. This will be an opportunity to learn more about their Environmental & Biodiversity grant scheme which may be applicable to restoration of this woodland.

11. Agree a date for the Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed to arrange this in May. Merge it with the annual charity meeting and have the main agenda item as the proposal to acquire the woodland for public access.

12. Review expenditure on Halsall News

12.1 To approve 2024/25 subsidy to St Cuthbert's PCC of £1128.25, to be paid from Reserves.

Agreed. The Council has an arrangement to pay 50% of the costs of the magazine for the previous 12 months. There was concern that this level of cost is not sustainable in the long term. Need changes to bring costs back to the historical level of £400-£500 p.a. or less.

Cllr McCarthy-Thomason provided a spreadsheet confirming that regular advertisers should contribute c £3000 to this year's costs, plus any one-off adverts.

12.2 To discuss expenditure on Halsall News for 2025/26

Company	Price	Notes
Current	£414	
O	£748	90/100gm uncoated , Stitched
P	£596	80 gsm to be collected Chorley
T	£568	80 gsm
N	£350	115 gsm, 10 day turn around
M	£345	90 gm silk , 3 day turn around

It was agreed that changing to a lower cost printer, subject to checks on quality could reduce costs from £4140 to c £3450. Clerk to progress.

It was agreed that changing the presentation into an online magazine could reduce the number of printed copies from 1025 but that some residents would probably prefer a magazine, and copies should be available from usual collection points. Cllr McCarthy-Thomason to progress.

Local Government Act 1972 s142, power to provide newsletter.

13. To discuss and agree options for repair to Septic Tank at a cost of £640

Signed Chair Date

Agreed. The Council will fund the repairs as a S19 grant to Halsall War Memorial Playing Field and Hall through use of the CIL funds provisionally allocated to improvements to the football pitch.

Local Government (Misc. Provisions) 1976 s19 3 (a) A local authority may contribute by way of grant or loan towards the expenses incurred or to be incurred by any voluntary organisation in providing any recreational facilities which the authority has power to provide - repairs to village hall septic tank.

14. Notice of Information-Only Items

None.

15 Date and time of next meeting

Next Council meeting date will be 9th April 2025 at Memorial Hall

Next Halsall War Memorial Hall Trust meeting will be 2nd April 2025.

Meeting Closed at 21:02