

HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th April at 7:30pm at St Aidan's Hall, Renacres Lane, Halsall.

Present: Cllr M.Lyons (Chair) Cllr N. McCarthy-Thomason (Vice Chair), Cllr P. Barker, C.Smith (Clerk), S.Donnely (Asst clerk) Cllr L. Stephenson, Cllr D.Adams, Cllr T Atlay, Cllr E. Wright and seven members of the public.

Information given and permission granted from all attending for the meeting to be transcribed via Plaud.

1.Introductions and Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr B.Roberts.

Absent, Cllr R. Brookfield.

LCC L.Graham arrived at 7.36pm.

2. Declarations of Interest. Cllr.E. Wright declared an interest in item 8.1

3. Open Forum.

3.1 West Lancs Borough Councillors No reports.

3.2 Open Public Forum Chair proposed change to the agenda to allow for items requiring input from the public to be discussed first. This was agreed.

Item 8.1

2026/0163/OUT 18 March 2026 Proposal: Outline Application - Outline Planning Permission for development of 72 dwellings with associated access, estate road, open space, biodiversity area, flood risk and external Site location: Land To Rear Of New Cut Lane , New Cut Lane, Halsall.

New Cut Lane spokesperson presented compiled objections.

Highway safety: Five entry/egress points within ~50 meters before Guildford Road lights; risks to traffic, sightlines, pedestrians, and cyclists.

Ecology: Limited bat survey area; request for comprehensive bat and full ecological surveys; mention of TPOs; peat as significant carbon sink.

Foul water: Plan to connect 72 dwellings to existing system without capacity survey; historic surcharge events pushing sewage onto Newcut Lane.

Privacy/amenity: Overbearing proximity near New Cut Close; 21 m separation issues; call for more sympathetic layout and reduced heights.

Conclusion: Action group will submit formal objections. Parish Council to submit own comments and ask Borough Councillor to call in the application for committee consideration and site visit.

LCC Leon Graham reported that there had been reports of flytipping at a farm in New Cut Lane, He is waiting for confirmation from the farmer, it is believed to be a structure made up of hardcore and rubble that has been collected over time and will be used for a new project at the farm.

1 Signed.....Date.....

Return to scheduled agenda.

4. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting [2026 11 Mar minutes](#) Approved.

5. Discuss and agree on any matters arising From the Parish Clerks report.

5.1 £25.00 spent on flowers for a resident who injured her hand on a table in St Aidan`s Hall.(Hall was on hire to SHCA) Approved

5.2 £150.00 spent on a second hand laptop for new assistant clerk. Approved.

5.3 £65.00 spent on annual boiler service at St Aidan`s. Approved.

5.4 Double plug fitted in St Aidan`s Kitchen at a cost of £73.00. Approved.

5.5 £14.21 spent on cleaning materials. Approved.

5.6 PAT testing has been carried out in the hall at a cost of £90.00. To be discussed in item 11. Approved.

5.7 Noted progress on [HPC action list. 3](#) closed, 6 carried forward.

6. To receive reports from Representatives to outside bodies and agree on any actions arising;

6.1 Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Cllrs R. Brookfield & M. Lyons) Nothing to report.

6.2 Ormskirk School Foundation Trust (Cllr D. Adams)
Issues were reported from the meeting held on 18th March
£14,700 awarded across 12 grants; overall positive. Concerns that school management is not adhering to lease (e.g. events potentially contrary to lease).
Separate meetings to be arranged with the school.

6.3 Shirdley Hill Community Association (Cllr N. McCarthy-Thomason)
Cllr Noel McCarthy-Thomason, Cllr D.Adams, and local residents Mr John Ellison and Mr Alan Williams, were thanked for their hard work in the painting of St Aidan`s Hall. Clerk to get quotations for perspex sections to cover the bottom of the hall walls for protection from scuffing.
Noted.

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

7.1 Finance (Cllrs M. Lyons, E. Wright)

2 Signed.....Date.....

Clerk to review and pay cleaners increment from 1st April 2026. Approved.

7.2 Human Resources (Cllrs M. Lyons, & P. Barker)

Clerk and assistant clerks contracts are all signed. Clerk to carry on at 20 hours per week until 1st May 2026, due to staff training, year end audit and AGAR. Approved.

Cllr K.Wright has resigned, the council wished him well. West Lancashire Council have been informed and the position for a new councillor is to be advertised on Halsall notice boards for fourteen days, thereafter to advertise on the council's website and social platform.

7.3 Traffic and Road Safety (Cllrs N. McCarthy-Thomason, R. Brookfield, & B. Roberts)

Concerns were raised over the motorbike activity on and around Renacres Lane, excessive speeding. Clerk to contact local police officer and try to gain support for further action.

7.4 Flooding (Cllrs E. Wright , D, Adams & R. Brookfield)

No Business.

7.5 Healthy Halsall

No Business.

7.6 Environment & Biodiversity Working Group (Cllr M. Lyons, P. Barker)

No Business.

7.7 Halsall News (Cllr N.Mccarthy-Thomason)

To maintain bi-monthly publication schedule, first edition May/June. enforce page limits to 44. Some concerns over the deliveries have been reported for the December issue, Cllr N McCarthy to review.

Local Government Act 1972 s142, power to provide newsletter.

8. Planning applications

8.2 Any planning applications on the day of the meeting.

Ward: Rural West Ward Parish: Halsall Application No: 2026/0240/FUL Date Valid: 25 March 2026 Proposal: Demolition of Existing Outbuilding and Erection of Replacement Outbuilding Site Location: Holt Farmhouse, 273 Carr Moss Lane, Halsall, Ormskirk, Lancashire. Applicant: Mr & Mrs John & Hayley Davenport Decision Level: Delegated to the Assistant Director of Planning and Regulatory Services Services for determination unless Member requests consideration by Planning Committee.

The Parish Council has no comments on this application.

8.3 To note recent Planning Decisions

3 Signed.....Date.....

WARD:- Rural West Ward PARISH:- Halsall Application: 2025/0998/PIP
Decision: Permission in Principle Refused Proposal: Application for Permission in Principle for up to 3 no. dwellings at the land Adj To Model Farm, Plex Lane, Halsall, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39

WARD:- Rural West Ward PARISH:- Halsall Application: 2025/1049/FUL
Decision: Planning Permission Granted Proposal: Single storey extension at front side and rear. Location: 32 Summerwood Lane, Halsall, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 8RJ

WARD:- Rural West Ward PARISH:- Halsall Application: 2026/0058/LDC
Decision: Cert of Lawfulness (EXISTING) Granted Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness - Use of glasshouses, yard and buildings for B8 Use. Location: Land To The Rear Of 19, Summerwood Lane, Halsall, Lancashire.

9.0 Finance

9.1 To approve the [2026 Apr schedule of payments](#)

Agreed.

9.2 To review the [Spend to date april 2026](#)

Clerk explained that the final payment of £5604.00 has been transferred to precept for the earmarked to reserves as follows:

£1500.00 Solicitors costs for the Woodland.(£500 paid)

£2000.00 Grant for St Cuthberts (disabled ramp)

£1000.00 Elections

£1104.00 Defib replacements 2027

Agreed.

9.3 To approve the [2026 Apr bank rec](#)

Agreed.

9.4 Independent Review of Bank Balances. Cllr E Wright had circulated bank balances.

Agreed.

10. Woodland Project. (Cllrs D. Adams, L. Stephenson, T. Atley & P.Barker)

The draft Constitution is still with the solicitor.

Our solicitors are still waiting for documentation from the seller's solicitors. Set a firm deadline for constitution review, to obtain regulator guidance on bank arrangements and trustee documentation. Noted.

Local Government Act 1972 s124 (1) parish council may acquire by agreement any land... (b) for the benefit, improvement or development of their area.

11. PAT testing, to be carried out on an annual basis. As we hire out to the public it is recommended as `best practice` that we have the procedure carried out annually. Approved.

4 Signed.....Date.....

12. Payment of £144.00 ILCA exam for Clerk. Passed August 2025, funded from the training budget. Approved.

13. Railings at St Cuthberts school, New Street. LCC Leon Graham has visited the site and agreed that the railings need to be extended. The information has been forwarded to West Lancs for consideration. Noted.

14. Quotation for cleaning of the gutters and car park. Gutters and Boards £120.00 Car park £330.00 Approved.

15. St Aidans hall requires two new 6ft tables at a cost of £34.99 each. Approved.

16. A Local resident has made an enquiry about the purchase of Cross lane, Halsall. A similar attempt in 2019 progressed to solicitors but was withdrawn. Prior valuation noted at 10,000; last agreed price discussed was 18,000; speculation that 20,000 might be achievable. Motivations include resurfacing/maintenance costs and event parking issues; resident seeks a security gate. Concerns over maintaining public/essential access (residents, farmers, bins, ambulances). Trusteeship and need for public consultation discussed. Responsibilities for road maintenance and access rights unclear; suggestion to verify deeds/covenants.
Conclusion: Information-only; further documentation to be circulated; public consultation required if trustees proceed.

17. S19 to the Memorial Hall for £1300.00 for the flagging, pressure washing to the building and the toy storage unit. Approved.

18. £75.00 paid to the Memorial hall trust for the meetings held by the Halsall Parish at the Memorial Hall. Approved.

19. Notice of information-only items.

a) Cllr N McCarthy has successfully been appointed the village agent for Halsall. The village agents provide support, guidance or information on groups, benefits and health information.

b) Village halls week 20th March. An event attended by Clerk & Cllr N McCarthy, informing councils and trusts of grants that are available.

20. Date & time of next meeting

Next meeting will be on 13th May 2026 at the Memorial Hall, 7.30pm.

Meeting closed: closed 21.10pm