

HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Halsall Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th November 2022 at 7.30 p.m. at St Aidan's Hall, Renacres Lane, Shirdley Hill, Halsall.

PRESENT: Cllr. E Wright (Chair), Cllr. R Brookfield, Cllr. M Lyons, Cllr. K Wright, Cllr. B Young, Cllr. A Timon, Cllr. K Pyne, Cllr M Schofield and 2 members of the public.

01/11/2022 Introductions / Apologies

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr. D Corfield, Cllr. J Ridley, D Bond (Parish Clerk)

02/11/2022 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest

03/11/2022 Borough Councillor's Report followed by Open Forum for 15 minutes for matters raised by members of the public for Councillors to respond to.

No report received from Borough Councillor Hirrell.

Vince Williams thanked the Council on behalf of FROG for the purchase of the Tool-shed for Shirdley Hill Village Green and asked if the Council would consider some form of Civic Award for the Corfields for their contributions to the Shirdley Hill community.

04/11/2022 To confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2022 as a correct record.

The minutes, having been circulated were accepted and it was **Resolved** that they be signed as a correct record.

05/11/2022 Parish Clerk's Report

The Chair has been invited to speak to the PCC about the process for a grant application in support of Access for All.

06/11/2022 To receive reports from the following representatives and discuss and decide upon any actions arising.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils – Cllrs. R Brookfield, J Ridley and E Wright – LALC has circulated details of the NJC 2022 Pay Award.

Action: Clerk to action.

Moss Alliance – Cllr. E Wright – Nothing to report.

Ormskirk School – Cllr. A Timon attend meeting on 6th November. Lord Derby has now taken ownership of the chattels and moved them to Knowsley Hall. Grants were awarded to current and previous students of Ormskirk School.

Healthy Halsall – Cllrs. R Brookfield, M Schofield, J Ridley and M Lyons - Nothing to report.

07/11/2022 Planning Applications:

2022/1018/FUL – 15 Elm Park Drive -Conversion of existing garage and utility room into ground floor ensuite bedroom – No comment

2022/1026/FUL – Primrose Hill Farm, Asmall Lane – Single storey extension to side and rear including internal and external alterations to all elevations including enlarged windows to front and change to grey/black frames – No comment

2022/1058/FUL – 115 Moss Road – New Dormer to Front – No comment

08/10/2022 To receive reports from the following Working Groups and discuss and decide upon any actions arising

Traffic and Road Safety – Cllrs. R Brookfield, D Corfield and K Pyne – Cllr K Pyne presented a report of a public meeting on 7th November (attached to minutes Appendix 1). Over 30 residents attended the meeting to raise their road safety issues with Andy Pratt, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner. James Rimmer has offered to join the Working Group as a representative of New Cut Lane residents who put

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forward proposals and a petition for traffic calming measures on New Cut Lane.

Finance - Cllr. E Wright, A Timon and M Schofield – Nothing to report as specific items are on the agenda later.

Flooding – Cllr. E Wright and A Timon – Cllr. Timon will again chase LCC engineers regarding flooding at top of Renacres Lane which is damaging a resident's wall.

Energy Saving – Cllrs. B Young, J. Ridley and M Lyons - Waiting for EPC rating to be completed which is a prerequisite for any grant applications for improving energy efficiency of St Aidan's Hall. Cllr. Lyons reported on a series of maintenance issues with the fabric of St Aidan's Hall (attached to minutes Appendix 2).

It was proposed and resolved that the Role of Clerk should be responsible for regular monitoring of the condition of the Hall and that this should be included in the current review of duties being considered by the HR Working Group.

Action: HR Working Group

It was proposed and agreed that an insurance-backed contractor should investigate and resolve evidence of rising damp in the back store room and movement in floorboards near the dishwasher .

Action: Clerk to action.

09/11/2022 To further discuss and decide how to progress the installation of bus stop lighting

The bus stop at the Church has sufficient lighting. The 300 bus service stops before the lighting at Gregory's Garage is switched off so the shelter does not need any further lighting. No further action at this time.

10/11/2022 To discuss and decide whether Council wishes to sign up to the NALC Civility and Respect Pledge

Deferred so that Cllr Ridley can introduce the item.

11/11/2022 Finance

11.1. Schedule of Payments:

Resolved: Schedule of Payments approved.

<u>Chq No /</u>	<u>D.D</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
			£
Direct Debits:			
Oct		E-On	30.01
		E-On	27.97
		Water Plus	14.16
		Water Plus	17.86

Paid under delegated authority:

Oct

M Lyons – Shed	399.99
Evergreen – Payroll	60.00
D Bond Sal	614.02
HMRC	116.37
J Forshaw	302.00
A Little – Cleaning	86.60
Royal British Legion	40.00

For Approval:

Information Commissioner	40.00
Ormsby Memorials	375.00

Signed:

Chairman

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11.2. To receive Financial Statement and confirm that the bank balance shown in the accounts agrees with balance on the bank statement.

Resolved: Financial Statement received and accepted and that the balance shown on the bank reconciliation is the same as on the bank statement.

11.3. To discuss and decide upon any application for S137 monies. None received.

11.4. To discuss and decide upon application for CIL monies.

Following items of infrastructure installation and infrastructure repair to be funded by Halsall Parish Council from CIL funds or other appropriate means.

Yates Playground - essential repairs to children's playground equipment at a cost of £240.00

Rainwater Harvesting System at a cost of £765.00

HIVE App installation to upgrade Central Heating to remote control at a cost of £300.00

Replacement for broken mirror in the Memorial Hall at a cost of £360.00

Total cost £1,625.

Following discussion it was **Resolved** that CIL monies be used to fund the installation and repairs at the Memorial Hall at total cost of £1,625.

11.5 To discuss and decide upon quotes received for EPC rating to be carried out for St Aidan's Hall.

Following discussion it was **Resolved** to accept the quote of £155 for the EPC Rating.

11.6 Proposal from the Finance Working Group, the Chair and Vice Chair:

To discuss and decide, and if agreed, that with immediate effect, steps are taken by the Responsible Finance Officer to setup a dual/triple authorisation business account with Unity Bank, a specialist in handling Parish Council accounts. A sum of £500 may be used in first instance to set up the new account, prior to eventual transfer of all balances from the existing bank account used by Halsall Parish Council.

Following discussion it was **Resolved** to setup a dual/triple authorisation online bank account with Unity Trust bank.

Proposed resolution "That in view of the [special] [confidential] nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw so that Council can conduct a review of Clerk's terms and conditions and decide whether any adjustment is required to reflect the additional demands on his time to accommodate extra financial controls and website administration.

Resolved: That the public and press be excluded and they were asked to leave.

Confidential discussion documented by HR Working Group.

Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday 14th December 2022 at 7.30 p.m. at Memorial Hall, Halsall Road, Halsall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm

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Appendix 1

Report from Traffic & Road Safety Working Group - 9th November 2022

7th November 2022 organised a public meeting with Andy Pratt, Deputy PCC to discuss road safety in Halsall. The meeting was very well attended by over 30 members of the public, with very emotive comments, and lots of concerns about the lack of action, particularly on enforcement. The police did not send a representative despite promising one. Andy said he would speak to Police Inspector, for this area, John Bent.

Andy was more inclined to Prevention than Enforcement and gave an example of when developer's CIL money to a Parish Council could have been used on Road Safety (he quoted a Parish Council that spent £500,000 on a new Village Hall when it could have been spent on their Road Safety issues).

Andy came back the same day to organise a follow-up meeting for December where he will come with LCC Highways and Police to meet the Working Group.

LCC's preliminary response to the most recent collision at Four Lane Ends (Morris Lane, Halsall Road, Renacres Lane and Gorsuch Lane) is that the road signs were improved in 2016; there is no evidence of speeding; road markings could be refreshed, and signs might need improving. More rumble strips or high friction road surface was suggested several times as it is believed many people miss the junction especially at night, or in bad weather, or when bright sunlight shines down the lane.

Our evidence suggests that the 2016 improvement to the road signs has had no impact on the frequency of injury collisions; same rate; 10 collisions in 5 years before, at least 10 in 5 years since. There is no data for 2022 yet. No idea how many damage-only incidents and near-misses occur. This junction has worse collision statistics than 5-Ways in Ormskirk and that is getting a £150,000 red-light traffic camera.

Road Safety Partnership assesses speeding by tracking Sat Nav in cars but this needs to be checked by wires across the road to get current data.

James Rimmer organized a report and a petition for Andy from residents of New Cut Lane who want traffic calming measures. Cars take too long to slow down from 60 mph when they get to the 30 mph limit. They want a chicane. James has agreed to join the Working Group.

There were similar comments from Gregory Lane residents about vehicles traveling too fast in the 30 mph section, approaching the mini roundabout. Users of Halsall Road ignore the mini roundabout, do not give way to traffic from Gregory Lane.

Too many near misses at entrance to Renacres Hospital. Poor road markings and visibility.

Mark Brown, spoke about speeding on New Street and the LCC speed detector, still broken after 4 years. He spoke to the most recent engineer who said he was wrong type of engineer to fix this.

Observations of the 2 speed detectors at Four Lane Ends suggest they might not be working.

Barry Assheton spoke about being threatened by lorry drivers for taking pictures of HGV drivers ignoring 7.5 ton limit on Moss Road .

Moss Road residents are concerned about the new Sefton houses which face onto Birkdale Cop as it is likely that cars will be parked here on a 60 mph road approaching the sharp bend.

Signed:

Chairman

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I have asked Councillor O'Toole (21/10/2022) to ascertain Sefton MBC plans. It appears streetlights are being installed so will this become 30 mph?

Noel McCarthy-Thompson raised speeding on Heathey Lane which has been assessed in the past as justifying a Speed Camera van which visits occasionally. It would be interesting to assess whether this has had any impact since the 85% percentile score for this lane was 40mph for a 30mph limit.

Comments were made about construction traffic using Heathey Lane, Renacres Lane and New Cut Lane in contravention of the planning permission approved traffic route, but persistent complaining to the developers has reduced this traffic considerably.

Other issues raised included.

- Is the post box at Four Lane Ends safe? Is it well used? Must overtake if anyone stops to post or Post van is collecting, right on this junction. There is no safe parking at this junction.
- Flooding at this junction makes some drivers cross the white lines to avoid it
- Could some of the trees on the farmland, left-hand side of Renacres Lane be cut back to improve the visibility of Gorsuch Lane?
- Reports of suspicious activity on Northmoor Lane Canal car park. Cars arriving and leaving within a few minutes, suspect drug dealing
- Debris from overhanging trees falling onto Northmoor Lane

Cllr Ray Brookfield is continuing with his investigation on the availability of land for a village car park for school and church users.

Cllr Kim Pyne

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Appendix 2

St Aidan's – Shirdley Hill Findings from a brief review of the hall

Peeling paintwork behind stored chairs in rear porch. Looks as if this area may be damp.

One female / disabled and one male toilet. No sanitary bin in either toilet. An open waste paper bin in the female toilet. Loose paper towels on a shelf in both rooms. Looks as if they do not fit the paper towel holder.

Light fittings are dirty.

Extractor fans are dirty.

New blinds, but several weights holding the cord in place have deteriorated and are broken. Several broken bits left lying on the window ledge.

About 20 AA batteries on the window ledge in the kitchen. Are these new or used batteries? Why are they here?

Framed copies of previous 'best kept village' awards are lying around. One has a broken glass.

Area around the hall looks neglected, it is full of leaves and there is some litter. Quite a lot of moss growing on the car park.

Central heating system clock read 2.35 am when it was about 10.00am. (I managed to change the clock time, so that it read the right time – pre clocks going back, so may be wrong again now.) Central heating goes on for an hour in the morning and again in the afternoon. This can be changed if needed. Seems very wasteful to have gas boiler coming on twice a day – every day, when the hall is not used daily.

Recommendations

1. Clarify who is responsible for monitoring upkeep of St Aidan's Hall. Is this part of the role of the clerk? Is it in the job description? Set up a regular monitoring schedule.
2. Get appropriate professional to check for rising damp in the rear porch corner and take appropriate remedial action.
3. If nobody is employed to clean the hall, ask for volunteers to undertake a thorough clean – including light fittings and extractor fans.
4. Purchase additional weights for the cords where the weights are broken and fit these.
5. Make both toilets unisex. Install a sanitary bin and a regular covered pedal bin in each toilet for waste paper towels and possibly nappies. Set up a contract with a company to provide and empty sanitary bins.

Signed:

Chairman

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6. Check the batteries on the windowsill. If used, dispose of appropriately. If they are still live, put away in a clearly labelled box in a cupboard.
7. Put up picture hooks and hang the award certificates in an appropriate place
8. Have heating set so that it only comes on when temperature goes low and risk of frost / ice damage. Prepare clear instructions about how to override the system and put the heating on if required.
9. Ensure area around the hall is kept clear and clean. Clarify who is responsible for this area.

Cllr Mary Lyons