

# HALE PARISH COUNCIL

**of the Halton Borough in the County of Cheshire**

MINUTES of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on

Thursday the 11th July 2019 at **HALE VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, HALE VILLAGE, L24 4AE**

**COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllrs Trevaskis, Williams, Spargo, Wright, Healey, Hunter, Cleary, Anderson, Mitchell and Kierman

There were 17 members of the public present

1. To receive Apologies

***None***

2. To consider and approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 17th June 2019 enclosed

***It was resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th June 2019 should be approved and that the Chairman should be authorised to sign them as a true and accurate record***

3. To receive Declarations of Interest

***None***

4. To receive and note (if available) the police report on crime statistics

***An electronic report had been received shortly before the meeting – it will be printed and made available in the Village Hall for those who wish to read it.***

5. To receive an update with regard to the Village Hall.

***A report from the VH Manager had been prepared and was available to residents after the meeting***

6. To adjourn the meeting for a period of public participation

*The meeting was adjourned*

*Bernie Mitchell was congratulated on winning the recent by election.*

*A prepared statement was read out by a representative of the ‘Friends of Hale Village Hall’ an organisation formed to support the Village Hall. It was hoped that this new organisation would be welcomed by the Parish Council and would be able to assist in supporting activities in the hall by providing practical support and possibly fundraise for items the hall might need.*

*A resident complained regarding statements made by councillors and the apparent bias towards one of the candidates. Another resident asked if councillors were bound by a Code of Conduct – the Clerk confirmed the latter and explained to both residents that they must speak to the monitoring officer at Halton Borough Council if they felt that there had been any breach since this Council had no jurisdiction in these matters.*

*A resident asked that seating be installed in the village – it was confirmed that a new seat was to be installed shortly*

*It was confirmed that the Annual Return had now been finalised and was being sent to the auditors – once the audit is*

*completed it will be published and any recommendations considered by the Council.*

*It was mentioned that a notice board in Baileys Lane was not being utilised by the Parish Council to display Parish Council notices as had apparently been previously agreed*

*The meeting was reconvened*

7. To authorise/ratify payment of the following accounts:

*To receive and ratify the Cash Book Record which has been produced from the Bank Statements from 1st April to 3rdt June 2019 and which details all payments made up to 3rd June 2019 under Financial Regulation 6.4*

***It was resolved that the Cash Book Record referred to above should be ratified***

8. To agree an addendum to this Council’s Standing Orders as follows as authorised under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 101(a) - this is to ensure that the business of the Council may lawfully continue between ordinary meetings.

*The Council shall delegate to the Clerk the authority to make routine decisions on its behalf as and when required including routine planning decisions subject to those planning decisions being taken only after consultation with the Chairman of the Council or the Vice Chairman in his absence.*

***It was resolved that the Council’s Standing Orders should have the above addendum added***

9. To appoint John Henry (JDH Business Services Ltd) a specialist Internal Auditor as the Internal Auditor for the year ended 2018/19

***It was resolved that John Henry (JDH Business Services Ltd) should be appointed as the Internal Auditor for the year ended 2018/19***

10. To consider the enclosed report which has been put together under the advice of our insurers and approve the future method for access to the Village Hall

***It was resolved that option three (as below) of the report referred to above should be adopted with immediate effect and that the only key holders should be the VH Manager, the VH Caretaker, the Parish Council Chairman, Parish Council Vice Chairman and the Village Hall Committee Chairman.***

***Remove external code box and have VH manager and one or two members as key holders - they would then control access and exit and be responsible for locking up properly. This is obviously the safest method and reduces risk and is how most village halls normally operate. The control then rests with us alone and our insurance will pay out since key access will no longer be possible without the compliance of a key holder.***

11. To ratify the appointment of Scott Harris who has accepted the employed post of temporary part time caretaker, cleaner and grounds person for 18 hours per week from 8th July to 30th September 2019 at a rate of £9.00 per hour

***It was resolved that the appointment referred to above should be ratified and confirmed that it was the intention to advertise the post on a permanent basis in due course***

12. To approve that this Council should purchase a colour laser printer to be located inside the Village Hall which will allow the VH Manager to be able to work from the Village Hall more frequently than at present and will in the longer term save the costs of using printing companies to produce agenda copies and such. The benefit of a colour printer will also save money on village hall and event notices. Estimated cost £220.00

***It was resolved that a suitable printer should be purchased as referred to above.***

13. To note that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday the 23rd September 2019

***It was noted that the next meeting is scheduled for the 23rd September 2019***