

# HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Cllr E Wright (Acting Chair), Cllr K Wright, Cllr B Roberts, Cllr A Timon, Cllr R Brookfield, and C Pyne (Clerk).

**1. Introductions and Apologies for Absence**

Mr J Reilly, EasyWebsites Ltd plus one member of the public.

Apologies; Cllr M. Lyons (Chair), Cllr N McCarthy-Thomason, Cllr D Adams, Cllr J Ferguson.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**3. Open Forum**

**3.1 West Lancs Borough Councillors**

No Update

**3.2 Open Public Forum**

Latest update on La Mancha planning application for 2 new dwellings. LCC Highways are objecting on grounds that the private access road is too narrow for two vehicles to pass so vehicles may have to queue on Renacres Lane to wait for access which could be dangerous.

There is no public footpath through Webster's Farmyard. There is a new Environment Agency scheme to encourage farmers to create new footpaths. Clerk to research this.

A recent Memorial Hall booking was too late and noisy. Council will introduce a late-night curfew.

LCC Highways have attended and erected additional barriers around the land slip into the Renacres Lane stream. No longer possible to use the pavement footpath, not safe.

**4. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th December**

Agreed and signed at the end of the meeting.

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

**5.1** Feedback from LCC Highways is there have been no significant changes which would justify additional Farm/Tractor road signs.

Signed Chair ..... Date .....

- 5.2** CIL Grant work at Memorial Hall  
Improvements for wheelchair access at the main entrance and exit have been completed at a cost of £617.25. The outstanding work is repairs and repaint of Triple Play Platform in the Spring and a thorough clean of all surfaces and equipment in younger children's playground in the Spring.
- 5.3** Power failure at Memorial Hall indicates that the 3-Phase electricity supply needs to be extended into the Cafe Kitchen. Tenants have agreed to 50/50 cost contribution, and it was proposed and agreed to fund the balance as a CIL Grant.
- 5.4** Noted that insurance surveyor has assessed the damage to Memorial Hall roof following storm Darragh.
- 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.
- 6.2 Ormskirk Foundation Trust**  
Cllr A Timon advised that the Foundation Trust has agreed to the restoration of 17th Century documents on the formation of the Trust and to digitise its important documents on the early history of Ormskirk and its Grammar School.
- 6.3 Shirdley Hill Community Association**  
Cllrs N McCarthy-Thomason & J Ferguson  
No report, Cllrs both gave apologies.
- 6.4 St Cuthbert's Church Committee**  
Following Cllr Schofield's resignation, we will not nominate a replacement. The proposed Church committee has not met.
- 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
- a) To Review Draft Budget 2025/26 and Precept Calculation**
- The Clerk explained the process for building a budget and the Precept calculation.
- Chair proposed a motion to amend the salary calculations so that the ratio of funding between Council and Trust would be  $\frac{2}{3}$  and  $\frac{1}{3}$ . This would increase the Precept calculation by £2054 to £34,546.35 Seconded and change agreed.

Signed Chair ..... Date .....

**7.2 Human Resources**

Cllrs. A Timon, K Wright, and M Lyons

- a) NALC standard contract of employment agreed by employee, to be circulated to HR group and signed.
- b) Timetable for co-option agreed. Closing date for applications 28th Feb. Voting on applications at the March 12th meeting.

**7.3 Traffic and Road Safety**

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

Speed limit signs on Gregory Lane are obscured/ illegible. To be reported on LoveCleanStreets.

**7.4 Flooding**

Cllrs. E Wright, R Brookfield and A Timon

Recent exceptionally heavy rainfall. Many lanes were temporarily flooded. Cllr Brookfield advised that Summerwood Lane has been flooding for the past 20 years.

**7.5 Healthy Halsall**

Cllrs. M Lyons and B Roberts

No business.

**7.6 Planning & Development**

Cllrs B Roberts

Merge any future interest into Item 8 Planning Applications

**7.7 Environment & Biodiversity Working Group**

Cllrs M Lyons, J Ferguson and Mr J Ferguson

No business. Recent County Council initiative so need to keep on the agenda.

**8. Planning Applications**

**8.1 Applications**

2024/1015/PNP Gorse Hill Farm, New Cut Lane, permission for new farm track  
This revised plan does not have an access onto New Cut Lane. At the rear of properties on Guildford Road which is in Sefton Council Area.

2024/1013/FUL La Mancha, conversion of outbuildings to 2 dwellings  
Discussed at Item 3 Public Forum. In addition, it has already been escalated to a WLBC Planning Committee decision. The Parish Council has nothing further to add.

**8.2 Recent planning applications**

(for planning applications that are published on day of the meeting)

2024/1107/FUL 233 Carr Moss Lane, Garage conversion to living accommodation

Signed Chair ..... Date .....

**8.3 To Note Recent Planning Decisions**

2024/0902/FUL 32 Linaker Drive, Single extension; Granted  
2024/0739/FUL 93 Segars Lane, Caravan in garden; Refused  
Land at the rear of the property is not part of the garden, still officially green belt land.  
2024/0715.FUL 1 Halsall Farm Grove, Children’s Play Equipment; Granted

**9. Finance**

**9.1** To approve the Schedule of Payments for January Agreed.

**9.2** To review the Spend to Date for December Agreed.

**9.3** To approve the Monthly Bank Reconciliation Agreed.

**9.4** To confirm the bank balances on accounts & sign bank statements  
Confirmed by Cllr Timon

**9.5** To approve the transfer of quarterly interest to the Reserves account  
£112.83 from Reserves, £85.91 from CIL, £103.67 from Precept accounts.  
Total £302.41 in quarterly interest  
Agreed.

**10. Demonstration from Easywebsites, new Parish Council website**

Need to upgrade to a WCAG 2.2 compliant website to meet .gov.uk requirements

Chair proposed taking as Item 4, out of sequence.

Council was impressed by website facilities offered by the major supplier of LALC websites. 60 Lancashire Parish Councils supplied from a local firm in Preston.

Not cost effective to assess any other suppliers. Motion proposed by Chair and seconded that Halsall Parish Council purchase EasyWebsites product at a cost of £250 (includes special 50% LALC discount) and £30 per month rental.

*1972 LGA s111 Power to do anything that will facilitate discharge of powers and functions (providing a website)*

**11. S137 Grant application from Bees & Butterflies for £500**

Bees & Butterflies Update report  
Bees & Butterflies Grant Application - Agreed.

Clerk asked to revise the process so that grant applications are presented at the meeting where Councillors can ask questions.

Signed Chair ..... Date .....

*1972 LGA s137 Discretionary power to award grants to local groups or organisations for purposes which may bring a benefit to the area or any part of it for some or all inhabitants.*

**12. Notice of Information-Only Items**

None

**13. Date and time of next meeting**

Next meeting date will be 12th February 2025 at Memorial Hall

Next Trust meeting will be 5th February 2025 at Memorial Hall

**Meeting closed 21:07**

Signed Chair ..... Date .....