



HALTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: 27 July 2023

Location: Halton Village Hall

Time: 19.30 – 21.00

Attendees:

Cllr J MacKinnon, Cllr B Thompson, Cllr C Waddams, Cllr A Jimson, Cllr S Barber, Cllr J Kumela, Wg Cdr P Seanor RAF.

23066. Apologies:

Cllrs, J Hickey, C Booker, BCllrs S Bowles, P Strachan, R Newcombe and F Richardson (Clerk)

23067. Declaration of Interests:

None

Chair Closed the meeting at 19:35 for Open Forum:

23068. RAF

Wg Cdr Seanor announced the success of the recent armed forces week culminating in Freedom of Bucks parades in Wendover and Aylesbury, the Chair remarked on the professionalism of the RAF Regt Band.

The trainees would embark on summer block-leave following today's graduation and on 10 Sept HHOM would feature in the RAF Halton Heritage Day.

Neither District Cllrs or members of the public were in attendance and the Chair closed the Open Forum.

23069. Minutes

Following a unanimous vote of acceptance, the Chair signed the minutes of the AGM and actions reviewed.

Actions c/f:

RAF Halton proposals for safety measures at the junction of B4009 and Chestnut Avenue, no update as Clare Gibbons has now been posted. Wg Cdr Seanor to provide an update at next meeting.
HPC to conduct a Risk Register Review.
HPC to research and apply for NP funding.
HPC to complete Lone Working and Data Retention Policies.
Broken Light in Village Hall to be replaced

23070. Clerks Report

The Chair relayed a request from the Clerk for Cllrs to submit any comments on the new website-build to the Parish office by Wed 3rd Aug due to the approach of IT contract deadlines.

Action

All Cllr's to review and comment on website to Clerk by 3 Aug 23

The Chair announced that the Clerk should submit a customer complaint to BCC that 2 streetlights fitted on the B4009 are still not electrically connected.

23071. Finance

There was insufficient information provided to recommend the approval of a new energy contract for the street lighting. The Councillors agreed that further clarity is required on the Parish Clerk's return.

The Finance Cttee Chair proposed that the Scribe Finance System should be approved, as it proved resilient on i cloud and provided a more appropriate platform than Rialtas and Sage, the Cllrs agreed unanimously.

Following a useful visit to the refuse disposal plant, the VH Cttee Chair confirmed that that the proposed Communal Refuse Collection system did not require rubbish to be segregated. The whole of refuse collected was subject to incineration before harmful pollutants were removed from the smoke, ferrous metals removed from the ash and steam used to generate electricity. The Cllrs voted unanimously to take-up the new refuse contract for the VH.

Decision

Scribe Finance System approved
BC approved as new refuse contractor for VH

23072. Planning

Following an independent report of satisfactory sound surveys and extra soundproofing measures to be undertaken by HTC (announced in the revised planning application) for replacement domes and new padel courts. The Chair proposed that the Parish Council has no objection to the HTC revised planning application, but that we would repeat the requirement that a 10pm curfew be appended to any planning decision. The Cllr's majority voted in-favor with one objection by Cllr S Barber who remained concerned that it was possible for noise to accumulate beyond acceptable levels during certain ambient weather conditions.

DECISION

Officers Lawn Tennis Club Chestnut End Halton Buckinghamshire HP22 5NS Ref: No: 23/00554/APP

- No Objection with comments that all lights in the tennis domes and padel courts must be switched off by 10pm and when not in use.

23073. Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

The Chair reminded the assembly that the NP was drawn-up so that potential developers of land within the Parish could adhere to a pre-determined set of rules where potential for misunderstanding and conflict of interests were removed. The norm is for a NP to cover the entire Parish. Uniquely at Halton the Defense Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) objected to MOD Land being included in Halton's NP, so the NP was drawn up to exclude all MOD land deemed 'Operational'. However, during Halton's NP Consultation period, the DIO removed its objections to the MOD land's exclusion, as we are nearer the disposal date for RAF Halton and work is underway on the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Consequently, the Chair wrote to Buckinghamshire Council to have a new NP area designated which covers the entire Parish. Buckinghamshire Council has granted Halton's new Neighbourhood Designated Area today, 24 Jul 2023.

23074. Closure of RAF Halton

The Vice Chair stated that the SPD consultation will begin sometime in September, we are awaiting confirmation of the date. The consultation will take place over a six-week period, and we need to remind parishioners that this consultation only covers the area of RAF Halton covered by the Vale of Aylesbury Plan, so does not include the Airfield.

When we receive the details we will conduct a communications campaign through social media, and produce flyers door-to-door, Wg Cdr Seanor agreed to promulgate the survey on the service internet to give service personnel the opportunity to take part.

23075. Policies, Procedures, Contracts

NTR

23076. Consultations

The Town and Parish Survey was completed and submitted by the Parish Clerk.

23077. Highways

Cllr S Barber summarized her report of a recent meeting with BC Cllr Steve Bowles, and the Chair which determined Community Board grants are not for highway improvements. The essential criteria for action by BC to investigate road safety hazards arises only upon serious injury or death which, attracting a marker on the BC crash map. Meaning all the accidents diligently reported within Halton Parish by RAFP and CES are not included. Cllr for Halton highways stated that finance and materiel for improving road safety are sparse at PC level and though satisfactory to gather data or facilitate ground maintenance, the "real" mechanics for change are

out of reach. Cllr Barber produced a full report on HPC's road safety issues for BC. The BCCllr agreed to elevate the Halton Road Safety Report to the Cabinet Member for Transport and report back to HPC.

Action

BC Cllr Steve Bowles to report to HPC on outcome of Road Safety Report to BC

23078. Environment

The Ecologist for BC sent a paper to show how bats were affected by light which informed a report from Cllr for Environment to recommend a review of street lighting at Halton (not including the Families estates at RAF Halton). Her findings should determine which streetlights are most appropriate for uniformity in all situations yet conform to prevent deleterious effects on wildlife.

23079. Village Hall

A grant application, submitted by Halton Parish Council, to enable the completion of the second phase damp repairs, has been reviewed by the Community Board (CB) and Cllr Chair VH Cttee proposes to disburse the whole amount to building the French drains. Unfortunately, the CB is requesting a 50% contribution from HPC which would leave funding short for the remedial decoration required after the repair. HPC await the decision of the community board.

Decision:

HPC to offer a 10% contribution based on the small size of our precept. HPC await the decision of the community board.

The stained-glass window frame is rotten to the exterior and shall be the subject of a separate grant application from Cllr Chair VH.

The current sign at the VH is worn-out and not effectively placed to serve as an attention-getter. The CB awarded a grant for a new Village Hall sign to commemorate the King's Coronation. The grant does not cover the entire cost and there is a deficiency of £1700. HPC agreed that further analysis is required before a decision can be made.

The Cllr Chair VH announced that the newly appointed Booking Clerk

Ms. S Stobbs has settled into a most productive workflow with improved processes.

Action

Cllr Chair VH to engage the contractor for French drains before winter and remedial interior decoration.

Cllr Chair VH to conduct further research so HPC can reach a decision for ratification at the next meeting.

Cllr Chair VH and Parish Clerk to prepare a bid for grant funding to decorate the outside of the VH and repair the arched window.

23080. Communications

The Chair is meeting with Cllr for Comms to discuss future strategy.

Cllr C Waddams has arranged for a newsletter (3-pages) to be printed by Almar of Tring at a cost of 200 GBP.

23081. Community Events

Cllr J Kumela outlined his recent report to propose that HPC should step-down from management of routine (biennial) events, allowing parishioners to reform their own committees to coordinate future events aimed at bringing the community together. The PC's role would be limited to celebrating national community events. All Cllrs agreed unanimously.

Cllr A Jimson has written an article for the newsletter to outline the historical success of community events organized by parishioners, and to encourage residents to come forward and volunteer to arrange village events in the VH.

Tickets are on-sale (10GBP) from Vice Chair, Parish Clerk and from the "Just" shop in Wendover High St for Music in Quiet Places at St Micheals Church on 12 Aug.

23082. Grant Applications

Cllr Chair VH has a grant application approved by the CB for 2406GBP for damp works to VH. (See 23. 079)

Cllr for the Environment had a grant application approved by the CB for 957GBP which does not attract a PC contribution (as it is under 1,000GBP).

Cllr for Highways reminded the assembly that Wendover CB has suspended funding for road safety pending advice from BCC.

23083. Matters of Report

Nothing to report

23084. Correspondence and Circulars

Nothing to discuss

23085. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting 27th of September 2023 7.30pm

23086. Confidential Items

No Confidential Items

The meeting finished at 21:00 hrs