

Council Minutes - Parish Assembly 2022

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of Halford Parish Council
Held on the 4TH of May 2022 at 6.00 pm at Halford Village Hall

Present:

Present: Cllr Nick Gale (in the Chair)

Councillors Graham Black, Gerald Newell and Ruth Noon

Clerk:

Karen Parnell

In attendance:

Three members of the public

County Councillor Izzi Seccombe

Apologies: District councillor Penny Anne O Donnell and Cllr Sarah Whalley

1) Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly in May 2021

Were agreed and duly signed off by the Chairman to be a true record.

2) Matters arising therefrom

None

3) Chairman's report on the work of the Parish Council during the last twelve months

THIS IS THE END OF MY EIGHTH YEAR AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL AND THIRTEEN YEARS SINCE I BECAME A COUNCILLOR. I MUST THANK NEW AND OLD MEMBERS OF THE TEAM FOR THEIR UNSTINTING EFFORTS IN SUPPORTING OUR ACTIVITIES IN ALL THE AREAS WHERE WE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED AS A COUNCIL DURING THIS AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

HALFORD IS A SMALL VILLAGE AND THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES HAVE WORKED HARD TO PROVIDE EVENTS WHICH CAN ATTRACT ALL RESIDENTS. WE HAVE HAD , POP-UP PUBS, HALFEST MUSIC FESTIVAL, HARVEST SUPPER, COFFEEMORNINGS, FILM SHOWS, SPRING WALK IN MRS REED'S GARDEN, COLIN'S PROGRESSIVE SUPPER(RAISED Â£508 FOR UKRAINE), QUIZ'S AND THE PANTOMIME. MORE RECENTLY HAVE SUPPORTED EMIL MELLOR IN RAISING MONEY FOR SHIPSTON HOME NURSING IN A POP UP PLANT STALL IN HER GARDEN IN IDLICOTE ROAD

ALL THESE EVENTS HAVE BEEN WELL ATTENDED AND HAVE BEEN ADVERTISED BEFOREHAND THROUGH, PHYSICAL FLYERS TO ALL HOMES, "WHAT'S APP" MESSAGES, E-MAILS AND FACE BOOK. ANYONE INVOLVED WITH THESE IS THANKED PROFUSELY.

PRECEPT

WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP PRECEPT LEVELS AT THE SAME LEVEL FOR ANOTHER YEAR WITHOUT CREATING ANY DILUTION IN SERVICES AVAILABLE.

QUALITY STATUS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

WE HAVE RETAINED THIS STATUS FOR ANOTHER YEAR WHICH SHOWS THAT WE CONTINUE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND BY DOING SO WE CAN TAKE AN ADVANCED ROLE IN AREAS THAT INTEREST MANY OF OUR VILLAGERS. IT HOPEFULLY MEANS OUR VOICE CARRIES MORE WEIGHT WHEN DEALING WITH COUNTY AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS. I BELIEVE WE ARE A RESPECTED TEAM.

DONATIONS

WE HAVE MADE A DONATION OF Â£200 TO SAMANTHA BENNETT VIA NEWBOLD SEA SCOUTS.

THIS IS IN SUPPORT OF HER EFFORTS TO RAISE Â£3000+ TO ENABLE HER TO REPRESENT THE AREA AT THE INTENATIONAL SCOUT JAMBOREE IN SOUTH KOREA IN 2023.

SHE HAS AGREED TO WALK THE FOSSE FROM TIME TO TIME WITH HER MOTHER LOU TO TRY AND KEEP THE VERGES TIDY. SHE IS ALSO UNDERTAKING OTHER FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES.

THE OTHER DONATION WILL BE TO THE JUBILEE COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF THEIR STERLING WORK IN PUTTING TOGETHER A PROGRAMME FOR THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS. THE AMOUNT IS UNDECIDED AT THE MOMENT BUT IT SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE THEM TO GET IT DONE PROVIDING AN AFTERNOON'S ENTERTAINMENT AND KEEPING EXPENSES DOWN FOR RESIDENTS.

ROADS AND DRAINAGE

WE CONTINUE TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH COUNTY AND DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES. WE TRY TO KEEP ON TOP OF DRAINAGE AND ROAD SURFACE ISSUES WHEN THESE ARE IDENTIFIED AND PASSED ON TO US BY OUR VIGILANT VILLAGERS.

PLANNING ISSUES

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME NON CONTENTIOUS PLANNING APPLICATIONS DURING THE YEAR PASSED WITHOUT COMMENT.

THERE IS HOWEVER AN OUTSTANDING APPLICATION FOR 15 SELF BUILD HOUSES ON THE IDLICOTE ROAD. THE PARISH COUNCIL AND OTHERS LODGED OBJECTIONS TO THE SCHEME WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL. THERE IS SOME DELAY EXPECTED BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL NEW CENTRAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION IN CONNECTION WITH SELF BUILD PROPERTIES. WE WILL KEEP THE VILLAGE INFORMED ONCE WE HAVE MORE INFORMATION.

SPEED OF TRAFFIC ON THE FOSSE

REMAINS TO BE AN ISSUE. ALL EFFORTS TO HAVE MORE SPEED CALMING HAS BEEN RESITED BY WARWICKSHIRE ROADS DEPARTMENT.

ONE SMALL POTENTIAL BENEFIT OF THE PASSING OF PLANS FOR THE OLD BOWLING GREEN IS THAT ONE OF THE PLANNING STIPULATIONS WAS THAT THE DEVELOPERS WILL HAVE TO INSTALL A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING OVER THE FOSSE. REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF IT HAPPENS!!!!

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS/MAINTENANCE

WE TRY AND KEEP THE VERGES AND SURROUNDING INFRASTRUCTURE ROUND THE VILLAGE IN GOOD STATE OF REPAIR. AS WITH EVERYTHING IN NATURE IT IS A MOVING FEAST AND WE HAVE TO RELY ON VILLAGERS TO KEEP US ADVISED OF ANY PROBLEMS THAT OCCUR

VILLAGE HALL

THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE HAVE LODGED PLANS WITH LOTTERY FUND MANAGERS TO HELP FINANCE SOME SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HALL. APPLICATION HAS BEEN FRUSTATINGLY SLOWED BY COVID.

VILLAGE VOICES

THE PARISH COUNCIL MAKES A REGULAR DONATION TOWARDS PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE MAGAZINE WHICH WAS MOST APPRECIATED BY THE PRODUCTION TEAM AND IT IS AN ESSENTIAL TOOL TO KEEP VILLAGERS UP TO DATE WITH VILLAGE HAPPENINGS.

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALFORD

IT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED THAT WALLS SURROUNDING THE CHURCHYARD AT ST MARY'S ARE SUFFERING SIGNIFICANT DECAY AND DETERIORATION. QUOTES ARE STILL OUTSTANDING FOR THE REPAIR WORK. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAVE AGREED TO PROVIDE A MAXIMUM OF £10,000 TO ASSIST IF REQUIRED.

THE PUB.

A HAPPY NOTE. THE PUB IS BACK AND THE NEW OWNERS ARE CARRYING OUT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BUILDING AND MENUS. WE ARE SUPPORTING THEM IN THEIR EFFORTS. WE SAY USE IT OR LOSE IT.

PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE

THIS IS FULLY ACTIVE AND UPDATED REGULARLY WITH VILLAGE INFORMATION. THERE ARE LINKS TO FACEBOOK AND TWITTER.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THEY ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ANY OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS AND THAT THEY CAN USE THE 15 MINUTE SLOT SET ASIDE FOR RESIDENTS TO RAISE ANY ISSUES WITH THE COUNCIL WHICH ARE CONCERNING THEM.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

MANY THANKS ARE DUE TO HEAD OF WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL IZZI SECCOMBE AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR PENNY- ANNE O'DONNELL FOR THEIR CONTINUING HELP AND SUPPORT.

PARISH CLERK

THANKS ALSO DUE TO OUR CLERK KAREN FOR HER WORK AND SUPPORT OVER THE PAST YEAR.
ONCE AGAIN IT IS MOST APPRECIATED.

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

THE PARISH COUNCIL TAKES A GREAT DEAL OF PLEASURE IN WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY AND WELCOMES THE REGULAR PASSING OF INFORMATION BETWEEN ALL PARTIES. LONG MAY THIS CONTINUE.
DONT BE SHY IN COMING FORWARD

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.

NICHOLAS GALE

CHAIRMAN

4) Statement of Accounts of the Parish Council

Karen had produced the end of year accounts for 2021/22, which she summarised; a copy was sent to all Councillors and was available to the public present. The year end balance is £26201 representing a surplus of £ 1679.

Any questions relating to the finance were answered.

5) District Councillor's Report

Not present

6) County Councillor's Report

Cllr Izzi Seccombe: WCC has managed Covid fairly well with 4500 staff enabled to work from home within a week. Laptops were provided to 1500 pupils as schools were locked down at short notice.

A recovery fund was put in place for the business sector and finances provided towards supporting mental health issues.

The Afghan crisis has meant families have been accommodated within the county with housing, clothes and toys.

Walton Hall has been used for accommodation.

Asylum seekers are an issue within Warwickshire which affects resources.

The Ukraine war creates a new range of problems with many displaced people.

Cost of living and energy cost rises are a challenge.

A welfare scheme is being enabled by WCC to help those affected.

The merger between Stratford and Warwick District Councils will not go ahead.

7) Any other business

None

Meeting closed: 6.45pm