

HALFORD PARISH COUNCIL Minutes

Meeting held on 25th October 2023 Lomas Barn, Halford at 6.30 p.m.
Meeting closed 7.45 p.m.

Present:

Cllrs Arthur, Cooper, Gale (Chair) and Newell

Clerk: Karen Parnell

WCC Cllr Izzi Seccombe - Three members of the public were present

1. Apologies

Cllr Sarah Whalley-Hoggins and SDC Cllr Malcolm Littlewood

2. Declaration of Interests Councillors are asked to declare personal interests in any items on the agenda. Councillors are reminded that the code of conduct that took effect from May 2021 provides that should they have a prejudicial interest in any matter under discussion, they should withdraw from the room and not seek to influence a decision about the matter.

None

3. Approval of minutes of meeting held in September 2023

Minutes having been circulated were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting held in September 2023 and were duly signed by the chairman.

4. Democratic 15 minutes

Overgrown foliage on footpaths was noted and action will be sought.
Footpaths by the bridge and on Idlicote Road need to be made passable.
It was noted WCC cut verges less frequently than would be desirable.

5. Matters arising and new matters

A) Village Maintenance

Next time Garden Aide conduct gardening works in Halford they will be requested to tidy up the Millennium Garden.

Pedestrian Crossings and lighting:

Halford will be getting two pedestrian crossings over the Fosse at the cost of the Bowling Green Developer.

One would be close to the Idlicote Road junction and the other further down the Fosse closer to the Development itself just beyond the Pub. They will be wider than any of the existing refuges to enable slower walkers, wheelchair and disability scooter users to have additional protection. They will be standard crossings without any traffic lights installed to control the traffic whilst someone is crossing. At road level they will be lit by bollards and the "pin lights" can stay if we so wish.

Further to the Lighting team's assessment of the proposed scheme they have deemed for health and safety reasons the Fosse Way should be lit along its length between the two crossings. This from the village's point of view is less than satisfactory as it will have an adverse effect on properties along the Fosse and destroy the "dark" historical stance of the Village.

The PC unanimously confirmed that they were agreeable to the lighting being installed on the Fosse Way.

The photograph number 2 that WCC sent was the lamp chosen to be used.

As discussed at the WCC meeting it would be helpful if some sort of "baffle" could be installed to deflect light away from the properties affected.

The PC would like to have sight of the plans and projected positioning of the lamps and crossings themselves.

B) Playground Equipment

The matting in the area has been cleaned at a cost of £ 100.00.

An inspection of the area will take place and maintenance and tidying of the area will be ongoing.

Provision of additional play equipment was deemed overly expensive but remains a consideration in due course..

C) Playground and adjacent pathway and allotment on the Idlicote Road

It was noted this area is overgrown and a rotten tree could be deemed to be dangerous. WCC will be requested to improve the area.

6. Planning

Application(s) reference: 23/00773/FUL

Application(s) reference: 23/00784/LBC

Proposed : Remove modern concrete Cotswold buff tiles on front elevation - replace with wheatstraw Thatch. remove cast guttering and downpipe to front.

At : Angel Cottage, Paradise Row, Fosse Way, Halford Shipston-on-Stour

For : Mr Mark Humphris

Application(s) reference: 23/02836/TREE

Proposed : T1 - laburnum - Fell to ground level and replace with Acer 30-35 cmg tree.

Remove existing hedge along road boundary from telegraph pole on main road down to the sign past the telephone box - approx 28metres

Supply and plant instant new native hedge to replace old hedge 1.3m high.

At : Sykes House , Queen Street, Halford, Warwickshire CV36 5BT

For : Mr Karl Stuckey Nature First

Application(s) reference: 23/02730/FUL

Proposed : Remedial works to structure, minor external alterations and change of use of existing

outbuilding to ancillary residential

At : The Barn , Queen Street, Halford, Warwickshire CV36 5BT

For : Mrs L Mitchell

7. Finance

Budget – Precept 2024/25

The budget was expounded upon by the Clerk and the precept for 2024 – 2025 was agreed unanimously by the Council to be set at £ 7,200 (No increase). Proposed: Cllr Newell – Seconded Cllr Gale and agreed.

Levels of reserves were discussed.

8. *Payments*

Karen Parnell (Salary/Expenses) £ 500.00 Royal British Legion £ 30.00
Bank Charges £ 12.00 Graham Black (Play Area Repairs) £ 100.00 Narked
Limited (Website) £ 249.00

Receipts: Precept 50% £ 3600.00

9. District Councillor's Report

Future provision of Shopmobility Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet has agreed to transfer the service to Active Mobility to safeguard future provision.

SDC's Cabinet backed an existing plan to support the long-term growth of the University of Warwick Innovation Campus Stratford upon Avon at Wellesbourne.

The Lench Meadows is to become Local Nature Reserve. Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet has agreed to support the designation of Lench Meadows as a Local Nature Reserve and be managed for wildlife for the long-term future.

The developing South Warwickshire Plan is in consultation phase. My serious concern is that it will take precedence over all NDP's. This would be unacceptable. In addition, it is necessary to review NDP's every 5 years. As a minimum this would require an up-dated Housing Needs Survey to revalidate the conclusions of a Made Plan.

At the Full Council Meeting on Monday a report on the state of the District it was reported that;

1. 15.6% of households in the District were in Fuel Poverty compared with 15.1% in Warwickshire, and 13.1% in England.
2. According to the 2021 Census, 573 households are without central heating. Housing Associations are required to bring their dwellings up to a minimum standard and this is a current and on-going process. Private and Private Rented accommodation have not had the benefit of support to bring stock up to the same standard. I have separately circulated information to Parish Councils explaining the HUG2 initiative which targets the private sector. It is not a simple process to determine eligibility, but the main criteria are:

Properties must NOT have gas (mains) central heating.

Property must have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of D, E, F or G.

Household must have a combined annual income under £31,000 (gross).

If rented from a private landlord, then the Landlord is required to contribute.

The following Conservative Motions were agreed:

1. Capitalise on Military Talent -Supported
2. To support the provision of public access Defibrillators in Parishes.
3. As part of the South Warwickshire Local Plan consideration of Solar Farms and Renewable Energy Generation changes to Policy.
4. The protection of Public Houses to be considered and recommendations made for future policy.
5. The Portfolio Holder will continue to write to the South Warwickshire University Integrated Care Board and to consult with WCC to request referral to the Secretary of State.
6. A Registration Fee for Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding to be introduced.

County Councillor's Report

Cllr Izzi Seccombe discussed the lighting above the pedestrian crossings with the PC at length having previously attended the meeting in Warwick with PC members.

Izzi spoke about budget setting at WCC as well as events surrounding Birmingham City Council and it was noted WCC is financially robust. Children's Services and Adult Social Care were discussed at length.

Meeting closed: 7.45pm

10. Date of next meeting: 3rd January 2024 (The Bridge Inn)

Signed: Chairman on 3rd January 2024.....