

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of Halford Parish Council
Held on the 8th of May 2024 at 6.30 pm at Halford Bridge Inn

Present:

Present: Cllr Nick Gale (in the Chair)
Councillors Mark Arthur, Gary Cooper, Gerald Newell and Sarah Whalley-
Hoggins
Clerk: Karen Parnell

In attendance:

One member of the public was present
County Councillor Izzi Seccombe and District councillor Malcolm Littlewood

Apologies: None

1) Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly in May 2023

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 8TH MAY 2024

THIS IS THE END OF MY TENTH YEAR AS CHAIRMAN OF HALFORD PARISH COUNCIL AND FIFTEEN YEARS SINCE I FIRST BECAME A COUNCILLOR.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK NEW AND OLD MEMBERS OF THE TEAM AS WELL AS OUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR IZZIE SECCOMBE AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MALCOLM LITTLEWOOD FOR THEIR HELP IN LOOKING AFTER THE NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS OF ALL THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE.

HALFORD IS A TINY VILLAGE WITH VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND ORGANISATIONS WORKING HARD TO ORGANISE EVENTS WHICH ARE INCLUSIVE FOR EVERYONE.

THE VILLAGE AS A WHOLE HAS UNDERTAKEN SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL EVENTS OVER THE YEAR WHICH HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED TO A GREATER OR LESSER DEGREE BY RESIDENTS.

COMMUNICATION REGARDING VILLAGE EVENTS IS EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE.

PRECEPT

PRECEPT HAS BEEN KEPT AT SAME LEVELS FOR ANOTHER YEAR WHILE KEEPING SERVICES THE SAME.

QUALITY STATUS

RETAINED. WHICH HELPS MAINTAIN OUR PROFILE WHEN DEALING WITH DISTRICT AND COUNCIL MATTERS.

VILLAGE PLAY AREA

THE PARISH COUNCIL ARE SPENDING JUST OVER £5000 TO REPAIR AND REFURBISH THE CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA IN THE IDLICOTE ROAD. A FORMAL INSPECTION RAISED NO ITEMS THAT ARE PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS BUT THEY RECOMMENDED CERTAIN WORKS WHICH WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO.

IT IS PROBABLY SOME 20 YEARS SINCE ANY WORK OF THIS NATURE WAS UNDERTAKEN.

ROADS AND DRAINAGE

AT LONG LAST WORKS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT ON THE ETTINGTON ROUNDABOUT TO RESOLVE FLOODING ISSUES.

HOPEFULLY THIS WILL BE THE END OF THE MATTER FOR THE TIME BEING.

IT IS RECORDED THAT ALTHOUGH VARIOUS AREAS OF BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY RESPONSIBILITIES HAVE BEEN REPORTED OVER THE YEAR RESPONSES BY THEM HAVE GENERALLY BEEN SLOW IN BEING FORTHCOMING.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

THERE HAVE BEEN NO CONTENTIOUS PLANNING APPLICATIONS IN THE PAST YEAR.

SUFFICE IT TO SAY SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS AND DISRUPTION HAS TAKEN PLACE WITH THE BOWLING GREEN DEVELOPMENT. HOPEFULLY THIS IS NOW VIRTUALLY COMPLETE AND THINGS WILL RETURN TO NORMAL.

TRAFFIC SPEED ON THE FOSSE

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS WILL BE INCORPORATED AS PART OF THE SANCTION FOR THE BOWLING GREEN HOUSES ON THE FOSSE. APART FROM LEVELLING ISSUES THESE SHOULD NOW BE COMPLETE.

ADDITIONAL LIGHTING WILL BE INSTALLED ALONG THE FOSSE AT DEVELOPER'S COST.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE

VERGES AND INFRASTRUCTURE ARE KEPT IN AS GOOD A STATE AS POSSIBLE THANKS TO ADVICE FROM RESIDENTS WHEN MATTERS ARE IDENTIFIED.

VILLAGE HALL

REMEDIAL WORKS CONTINUED OVER THE YEAR AND FINANCE AS EVER IS AN ONGOING PROBLEM.

ALSO THE COMMITTEE IS VERY SMALL AND FULLY EXTENDED.

MORE SUPPORT FROM VILLAGERS REGARDING ATTENDANCE AT ACTIVITIES AND COMMITTEE WORK WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.

VILLAGE VOICES

PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUES TO GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIS NECESSARY VOICE OF THE VILLAGE.

THE PUB

STILL UP AND RUNNING AS A BENEFIT TO THE VILLAGE.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

THE PUBLIC ARE MADE AWARE THAT THEIR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT AND THAT THEY ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ANY PARISH MEETING AND LODGE THOUGHTS AND OBSERVATIONS DURING THE 15 MINUTES SET ASIDE FOR THEIR USE.

PARISH CLERK

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT OUR CLERK KAREN PARNELL'S WORK HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY IN KEEPING US ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW. MUCH APPRECIATED.

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

THE PARISH COUNCIL ENJOYS IT'S WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY AND CONTINUES TO WELCOME THE REGULAR PASSING OF INFORMATION BETWEEN THE RESIDENTS AND COUNCILLORS.

THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.
NICHOLAS GALE
CHAIRMAN.

4) Statement of Accounts of the Parish Council

Karen had produced the end of year accounts for 2023/24, which she summarised; a copy was sent to all Councillors and was available to the public present. The year end balance is £18763 representing a surplus of £ 1522. Any questions relating to the finance were answered.

5) District Councillor's Report – Cllr Malcolm Littlewood Cabinet.

During April Stratford on Avon District Council Cabinet brought to Full Council a small number of items;

1. Gateway Site Framework Master Plan. The aim of the project is to revive and rejuvenate the area roughly between Windsor St and the railway station and make it more attractive to visitors.
2. Supplementary Planning Documentation regarding Open Spaces.
3. The Ecological Emergency [Biodiversity]

Major Planning Issues

I do not have an up-date on the Anaerobic Digester application again. Progress is slow and hopefully coming to a conclusion.

Policing

An updated document listing the preferred ways to contact the Police in our District has been provided. The police encourage all residents to report any policing issues directly to them. This information will be available on the Parish Notice Board.

Congratulations to Philip Secombe at being re-elected for the third time as PCC.

HUGS 2

The cost of heating homes has stabilised somewhat by the Government capping energy bills. The fact is however that even in South Warwickshire there are those in fuel poverty, a need to improve insulation in old properties, and inevitably, Winter is coming. The HUGS 2 scheme, that is Homes Upgrade Grant -2 is available for those that can benefit from insulation and boiler upgrades.

Funding is available to houses which don't use mains gas for heating. The Home Upgrade Grant phase 2 (HUG2) funding is provided by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero to help make cold homes more energy efficient and reduce fuel bills for heating.

SDC is working well with housing associations. A Gateway project in Stratford is ongoing and preserving pubs through planning policy is being enabled.

6) County Councillor's Report

Cllr Izzi Seccombe

A property company has been established. Six children's homes are being facilitated. WCC is a Pathway Authority regarding safeguarding.

Budgeting has been difficult notably regarding adult social care, children's services and special educational needs.

Improvements to the Ettington roundabout are in place.

7) Any other business

None

Meeting closed: 7.00pm

Signed:.....Chairman