

HALFORD PARISH COUNCIL Minutes

Meeting held on 3rd July 2024 at Halford Bridge Inn
at 6.30 p.m.

Meeting closed 6.45 p.m.

Present:

Cllrs Gale (Chair), Cooper and Newell

Clerk: Karen Parnell

One member of the public was present

1. Apologies:

Cllrs Mark Arthur and Sarah Whalley-Hoggins, WCC Cllr Izzi Seccombe 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 on the 8th May 2024

Minutes having been circulated were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting held in May 2024 and were duly signed as such.

4. Democratic 15 minutes

Village maintenance and planning matters were discussed.

5. Matters arising and new matters

A) Drainage, highway Issues and village maintenance - Progress Report
Hedgerow within Halford has been reduced and the play area tidied.

It was questioned if the street lights were installed for the crossings, why is there one by the exit from the Bowling Green and another beyond the Idlicote road, both totally disassociated from the crossings.

WCC responded: It is quite common for columns to be moved slightly when utilities or dangerous HV cables are so close to proposed positions.

The matters below have been reported to WCC for action:

The dropped crossing just outside the Halford Bridge Garage is showing signs of deterioration already despite only being finished a few weeks ago.

Replacement of 30mph sign on the Ettington side of the Village on the left hand side as you leave still remains unrepaired or replaced.

Road Barriers left over on the verge of the Fosse Way both sides near the Armscote turn have been there for over 6 months and need removing.

The keep clear signs on the road opposite the Garage to deter unthoughtful parking on that part of the road are still virtually illegible and need repainting as soon as possible. Works on the above will be undertaken in due course.

B) Noticeboard

This is currently being manufactured.

C) Play Area

The following matters remain outstanding and have been progress chased:

- 1) Eroded area under gate. Supply and spread topsoil and seed under gate entrance.
- 2) Break out and replace Litter Bin.
- 3) Sand down swing frame. Undercoat and paint dark blue.
- 4) Treat and remove algae on units.
- 5) Rotating net. Lubricate and service.

D) Significant noise of off road motor cycling on farmers land in the Village at weekends. Do we need to approach S.D.C. to see if there could be any constraints placed on the practice?

It was suggested either to report incidents to the Police on the non-emergency 101 number or possibly involve Environmental Health at SDC.

6. Planning

Application(s) reference: 24/01180/LBC

Proposed : Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of single storey garden room on rear elevation.

At : Paradise Row, Angel Cottage , Fosse Way, Halford, Warwickshire CV36 5BW For : Mr Mark Humphris

Application(s) reference: 24/01179/FUL

Proposed : Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of single storey garden room on rear elevation.

At : Paradise Row, Angel Cottage , Fosse Way, Halford, Warwickshire CV36 5BW For : Mr Mark Humphris

Application(s) reference: 24/01326/LBC

Proposed : Internal alterations to form open-plan kitchen and living space.

At : Grasmere, Queen Street, Halford, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 5BT

For : Mrs Hilary Harding

7. Finance

Payments

Karen Parnell (Salary/Expenses) £ 500.00

Japonica Pride £ 59.50 + £ 110.50

Bank Charges £ 14.00

Halford PCC £ 250.00

Rose Whelan (Rose Garden) £ 52.00

Idverde Ltd (Play area) £ 2871.83

Tree works £ 200.00

Receipt

V.A.T. Reclaim £ 478.64

8. District Councillor's Report- Cllr Littlewood

1. General Election

Since the General Election was announced, all Councils have been in a period of 'Purdah'. This means that political decisions and some council functions are limited.

As a consequence some of the day to day work of councillors has been curtailed.

2. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)

As a member of this committee, I am pleased to report that work has been successfully completed in a number of important areas of concern.

1. Public Houses. The number of public houses in the community has been shrinking. A number have been sold off to be converted into dwellings to the detriment of communities, especially in rural settlements that rely on them as social centres. The NPPF and SDC Core Strategy recognise Public Houses as Valuable Community Assets. The work of the OSC has produced a new Planning Guidance document that draws Planning Officers' attention to the need to show strong arguments regarding viability and extends the marketing review period to up to 24 months. In addition looking forward, OSC recommended to Council that Post Offices and Community Stores be included when the draft South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) is written.

2. Housing associations. Stratford on Avon District Council has an area of predominantly old housing stock managed by Housing Associations (HA). Issues of damp, condensation and associated mould are an increasing problem. Whereas the majority of the districts social housing is old, there is an increasing number of new builds also suffering from issues despite the relative young age of some housing stock. In addition the issue of Anti-social behaviour, petty crime and 'county lines' drug dealing is seemingly becoming an increasing problem even in rural communities. OSC recently completed work by 'calling in' the Housing Association to describe their efforts to combat these very real issues and to identify the need for HA's to check on and hold to account contractors who should complete maintenance in a professional and timely manner. I think that the work has been successful in holding HA's to account, building relationships with them and getting them to recognise and act on their duty of care to residents and the community at large. This remains a 'work in progress'.

3. Severn Trent

Recently I attended a meeting at Severn Trent Stoneleigh. A presentation was given by ST to up-date Councillors from across the region on planned investment of infrastructure. Since water companies have been forced to install monitoring equipment since the Conservatives were elected in May 2010, it has become clear how badly water companies have been performing. They presented the arguments that:

1. the sewerage infrastructure is very often Victorian or significantly older,
2. the historic design mixes sewerage with 'grey' water and ground water runoff. Increased rainfall due to climate change, increased hard surfaces from housing development have all contributed to a 'surge' in volume at treatment plants which just cannot be accommodated by the present infrastructure.

At the meeting, ST announced that they have programmed an infrastructure investment of £12.9 billion of which £5 billion is for maintenance. In Warwickshire and Coventry they are budgeted to spend £300m.

4. Planning

As ever, Planning remains the majority part of the work of a District Councillor. The major application in the Ward is of course the AD plant in Tysoe. This remains subject to consideration but we are all getting tired of waiting. The present delay is a need to refer certain points back to the independent consultants for clarification and this has now taken another three weeks.

Clarification of these points and some recent case law hopefully will not delay a decision much longer. I will keep you all up-to-date.

9. County Councillor's Report- Cllr Seccombe

Not present

10. Correspondence

None

11. Date of next meeting: 4th September 2024 (Same venue)

Meeting closed: 6.45pm

Signed: Chairman on 4th September 2024.....