

Halford Parish Council

A member of the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at Halford Village Hall on Wednesday the 7th of May 2025 commencing at 6.50 pm

Present: Cllr Mark Arthur (in the Chair)
Councillors Gerald Newell, Amanda Probert and
Sarah Whalley-Hoggins

County Councillor David Curtis

Apologies: District Councillor Malcolm Littlewood

Clerk: Karen Parnell - Five members of the public were present

To note the resignation of Cllr Gary Cooper and vacancy created.

SDC have been notified and since no election has been requested the PC can now co-opt. Amanda Probert put herself forward for co-option and was duly appointed to the PC.

To note subsequent to the May election David Curtis is now the County Councillor. Izzi Seccombe was thanked for her work and input of knowledge over many years.

1. To Elect a Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Gerald Newell Proposed Mark Arthur Seconded – Position offered to Nick Gale
Abstention Sarah Whalley-Hoggins

2. To Elect a Vice-Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Mark Arthur Proposed Amanda Probert Seconded – Position accepted by Gerald Newell
Abstention Sarah Whalley-Hoggins

3. Disclosure of Interests. Councillors are asked to declare personal interests in any items on the agenda. Councillors are reminded that the Code of Conduct that takes 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.

There were no disclosures of interests.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in March 2025

Were agreed by the Council to be an accurate record of the meeting, and were duly signed off by the Chairman as such.

5. Matters arising therefrom and new matters.

Village Maintenance

The light on the middle of the road approaching the Tredington roundabout from Halford on the Fosse has been knocked over and reported to WCC for action.

A dead tree needs to be removed from the play area.

A resident will quote on planters, grounds and maintenance to the July PC meeting. Works by Japonica Pride will also be considered.

It was noted plants need procuring and nurturing and some tidying is necessary.

Potholes remain an issue within Halford as does parking. Clarification is needed on a road that is not adopted.

6. Planning:

It was noted parking should be seriously considered with future planning applications.

Application(s) reference: 25/00541/FUL

Proposed : Proposed outbuilding to form a home office.

At : Wagtails, Idlicote Road, Halford, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 5DA

For : Mr C Santana-Vaz

Application(s) reference: 25/00851/FUL

Proposed : Extension of roof line to create a small front extension (5m2)

Construct new dormer to front elevation

Demolish existing uPVC conservatory (10m2) and construct stone faced orangery (26m2) to rear elevation

Construct new Oak framed porch canopy Block up rear door

Block up garage door to form new window aperture

Convert integral garage to living space (28m2) Alteration to kitchen, bedroom and hallway

At : Old Manor Lodge, Queen Street, Halford, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 5BT

For : Mr Ian Simpson

Application(s) reference: 25/01086/FUL

Proposed : Proposed Single Storey Rear Extension

At : 1 Church Terrace, Halford, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 5BX

For : Mr And Mrs Nik Suckling

7. Finance:

The internal audit was conducted on the 13th of April 2025 by Kenneth Dunn.

To complete the Annual Financial Return for the year ending 31st March, 2025:-

a) Councillors to complete the Statement of Assurance;

This was agreed by those present

b) Chairman to sign The Statement of Accounts;

This was done and the RFO countersigned

c) Chairman to sign the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March, 2025.

Done by both Chairman and RFO

To agree that as this parish council has not exceeded either income or expenditure totaling over £ 25,000 and has met the qualifying criteria they wish to certify themselves exempt from a limited assurance review. Agreed by the PC

The play area lease between the PC and SDC was signed and will be returned to SDC.

8. Accounts for payment.

Clerks Salary/Expenses £ 500.00

WALC £ 195.00

Kenneth Dunn (Internal Audit) £ 100.00

Bank Charges £ 19.00

Clear Insurance Management Ltd (Insurance) £ 1093.20

Japonica Pride £ 36.00 + £ 63.00

Halford Bridge £ 100.00

Play Area Lease £ 700.00

Receipts: 50% Precept £ 3600.00 from SDC

Shipston Town Council (SAFAG) donation considered and declined due to lack of activity in Halford. It was noted WCC should be approached for jetting at the bottom end of the village.

9. Councillors reports –

District Councillor Malcolm Littlewood:

- The response to the SWLP Consultation was strong and officers are now tasked with the analysis of respondent's preferences and fears. As soon as any new information is available I will communicate it with you.

- The new financial year opens up opportunities for Parish Councils to bid for Infrastructure projects. I draw your attention to the last Cabinet Meeting [7th April 2025] item 7 Community Infrastructure Levy Up-date, and also item 5 Round Three of the Community Climate Change and Nature Recovery Fund. Please note that funding for schemes to replace sodium fluorescent lighting with LED's are included in the list of awards. The Agenda for the meeting is available on the SDC website.

The Local Government Reform process is on-going and WCC and the five District and Borough Councils have proposed two separate strategies; one for a single Unitary Authority in line with the English Devolution White Paper, and a bi-unitary authority for North Warwickshire and South Warwickshire. I think that the White Paper makes clear that this Government's intention is to simplify and not to complicate Local Government. I therefore do not think that the bi-unitary proposal will be acceptable as it would necessitate the duplication of Universal Services currently under one organisation, WCC.

10. Comments from the public –

Full Fibre Broadband is an option within Halford and will be promoted.

Meeting closed: 7.30 pm

Signed Chairman.....July 2025