

HALFORD PARISH COUNCIL Minutes

Meeting held on 2nd July 2025 at Halford Bridge Inn
at 6.30 p.m.

Meeting closed 7.10 p.m.

Present:

Cllrs Gale (Chair), Arthur, Newell, Probert and Whalley-Hoggins

Clerk: Karen Parnell

WCC Cllr David Curtis and SDC Cllr Malcolm Littlewood

One member of the public was present

1. *Apologies:*

None

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 7th May 2025*

Minutes having been circulated were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting held in May 2025 and were duly signed as such.

4. *Democratic 15 minutes*

Not required

5. *Matters arising and new matters*

A) Drainage, highway Issues and village maintenance - Progress Report
Overgrown foliage by the Fosse Way has been reported to SDC Streetscene for action. Brambles affecting the pavement in Idlicote Road will be attended to.

A resident will be asked to continue watering a tree outside the church which is suffering – A quote for maintenance costs for gardening is still awaited.

SDC would encourage residents to report anything necessary to us so that we can deal with issues promptly with as much information in the report as possible. Reports can be made quickly at [Waste and recycling app | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#) .

B) Japonica Pride Contracted works

All identified ongoing works were advised to the PC.

Garden Aide to liaise with Cllr Amanda Luther and arrange a meeting to progress potential works to the Rose Garden and other areas within Halford

6. *Planning*

Application(s) reference: 25/01286/TREE

Proposed : - T1 cherry - crown reduction, reducing height of tree by 2 metres and leaving a height of 5.3 metres

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

For : Mr Paul Noon

Application(s) reference: 25/01357/TREE

Proposed : - T0115 Pinus nigra - fell

- T0121 Taxus baccata fastigiata - prune canopy away from neighbouring building for 1m clearance

- T0122 Taxus baccata fastigiata - remove dead/dying central limbs and leave lower canopy growth

- T0125 Tilia platyphyllos - crown clean to remove dead branches

- T0126 Sorbus aria - fell

At : St Marys Church, Mill Lane, Halford,

For : Mr Mark Arthur St Marys Church

Application(s) reference: 25/01359/TREE

Proposed : - T1 yew - crown clean removing deadwood, then crown reduction by up to 3m to balance remaining tree

At : The Old Rectory, Queen Street, Halford, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 5BT

For : Mrs Anna Grove

7. Finance

Payments

Karen Parnell (Salary/Expenses) £ 500.00

Japonica Pride £ 63.00

Bank Charges £ 20.00

Halford PCC £ 250.00

Receipt

CIL Monies £ 2013.75

8. District Councillor's Report- Cllr Littlewood

Private Management Companies operating Public Open Spaces, Flood Alleviation Schemes and Estate Roads

A Motion on Notice has been posted by the Shadow Leader of the Council Daren Pemberton and seconded by the Leader Susan Juned. To be debated at the next Full Council meeting 14th July. There are many new developments that suffer from indifferent management and pay high costs for the privilege. Costs are unregulated and approaching unaffordability. The motion will enable a working group to accept evidence from residents and the MP's that represent the communities of SDC.

Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution

Warwickshire County Council and the District and Borough Councils are to be abolished and replaced with a Unitary Authority. The new Authority will take on the combined responsibilities of the existing two tiers of local government which was the preferred option of the WCC prior to the last local elections. It now seems clear that it will not be possible for Warwickshire to join the West Midlands Combined Authority as the Mayor has clearly stated that the proposal will not be supported. Warwickshire can stand by itself as the population exceeds the 1.5m minimum set by the Government. There are two practical options that are being considered;

a. A single Unitary Authority essentially replacing WCC without a Mayor.

b. Two Unitary Authorities; on North Warwickshire, and one South Warwickshire.

The two new authorities would comprise North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth and Rugby Borough Councils, and SDC and WDC respectively.

The financial case for a single unitary authority is compelling but other issues are to be considered of a more social and local economy driving cohesion to communities.

SDC historically has demanded the lowest Council Tax of the other current Authorities and consolidation into a single authority would require a unified Council Tax demand.

It appears that the current 'preferred option' is a Bi-Unitary option but this will come before the SDC Cabinet on the 7th July, and Full Council on the 14th of July to confirm the 'preferred option' and for work to commence on the submission that will be made to the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution on the 28th November 2025.

South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)

Work on the SWLP continues. It was recently announced at the Parish & Town Council Forum that the Housing Land Supply for SDC, originally quoted at some 24 years has now been reduced to 5 years and 22 days. This is due to increased housing demand loaded onto Rural Authorities with a corresponding reduction on Urban areas as well as a change to the standard method of calculating local Housing Need.

The consequence of this change is that Reserved sites, Grey-belt, and brownfield sites will be actively sort to full fill Local Authorities duty to deliver more housing.

Currently there is no Policy in SDC for this and we will need to have one before the SWLP will be ready. If we do not achieve this then the flood gates could well be opened to developers.

In addition, Announced yesterday: Government's Neighbourhood Planning Support program is not being renewed by MHCLG. This disappointing but not unexpected news means that Town & Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Forums can no longer secure grant funds or free technical support packages for Neighbourhood Plan projects.

Ellen Badger Hospital

I shall be attending a site visit as a member of SDC's Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) next month to see exactly what has been provided for the community and how SDC funds have been spent. I shall report back in September. Cllrs Whalley-Hoggins and Littlewood are assessing progress.

9. County Councillor's Report- Cllr Curtis

The WCC Councillors Grant Fund was discussed whereby £ 8000.00 can be divided between all represented parish councils in the ward.

It was also noted SDC have a Climate Change Grant and Community Grants.

10. Correspondence

None

11. Date of next meeting: 3rd September 2025 (Same venue)

Meeting closed: 7.10pm

Signed: Chairman on 3rd September 2025.....