

HALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Meeting held on 4th March 2026 at the Bridge Inn, Halford at 6.30 p.m.

Meeting closed 7.05p.m.

Present:

Cllrs Newell, Sara, Whalley-Hoggins and Gale (Chair)

County Councillor David Curtis

One member of the public was present

Clerk: Karen Parnell

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 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 of January 2026

Minutes having been circulated were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting in January 2026 and were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Democratic 15 minutes

Not required

5. Matters arising

A) Village Maintenance – Progress Report

Planters are being reinstated throughout Halford. Herbaceous perennials will be planted at the end of March, which will be butterfly friendly.

Cllr Luther has been tidying the Millennium Garden.

The crushed pavement outside the Bridge Inn has been reported to WCC for action. Cllr Curtis will follow this up.

Excessive mud on the Fosse Way was deemed to be dangerous.

B) Vehicle Activated Sign - V074 Fosse Way, Halford CV36 5BW

WCC advised: The equipment needs repair not complete replacement and the potential cost of replacement seems exorbitant.

It is important to try and slow traffic down approaching the Village by any means.

High volumes of Traffic constantly exceed speed limits approaching either side of the Village and the difficult Junction with the Idlicote Road is very close to the existing sign.

It was noted new cameras in the area may improve the situation when installed.

C) To confirm arrangements for the Parish Assembly and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

6th May 2026 at Halford Bridge Inn 6.30pm

6. Planning

It was noted that building near the Idlicote Road is likely to damage the thoroughfare.

7. Finance:

Payments

Karen Parnell £ 500.00 (Salary/Expenses) Bank Charges £ 9.00

8. Correspondence

None

9. District and County Councillors Reports

SDC Cllr Malcolm Littlewood:

Regular reports have been provided.

WCC Cllr David Curtis:

Local Government Reorganisation

Local Authorities have until March 24 to submit preferences for Foundation

Strategic Authorities <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-and-community-empowerment-bill-guidance/english-devolution-and-community-empowerment-bill-guidance> In essence this will be the

Strategic Authority that will be formed by North/South/Unified Warwickshire with other LA's.

The preference among most is for a N/S split Warwickshire with South Warwickshire combine with Gloucs and Worcs. It will be a decision by Sec of State Have your say on Local Government Reorganisation

The government has launched a consultation to invite residents, businesses, and key stakeholders, to have their say as part of the consultation on what Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) should look like in Warwickshire.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7405/have-your-say-on-local-government-reorganisation-in-warwickshire>

County Budget

Dues to last minute changes in Central Government funding the Council's finances are stronger than anticipated and Council tax will rise by 4.44% after other parties united to block Reforms plans for a 3.89% hike. That will add about £80 a year to a Band D property bill. Although the difference between the Reform proposal – 3.89% and the maximum allowable – 4.99%, may seem marginal, over the 5 year MTFs (Medium Term Financial Strategy) this amounts to £26m which has to be found by other service cuts or reductions.

Councillor Grant Fund

This has been continued. This first round deadline will likely be in early July. I will prioritise local community projects that have support from the PC.

Potholes

Due to the continued wet weather Highways is under extreme pressure. Please use this link to <https://services.warwickshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole/> If you believe the issue is dangerous, please contact our Customer Service Centre on 01926 412515 between 9am - 5pm Monday to Thursday and 9am - 4.30pm Friday.

Road markings

To discuss and note any road markings that need re-doing. This should enable me to get these into the system in time for them to be funded and carried out in the spring/summer

Date of next meeting: 6th May 2026 at 6.30pm (Halford Bridge Inn) To incorporate the Parish Assembly and Annual Meeting of the Council.

Cllr Nick Gale will not be Chairman of the parish council after this meeting therefore a new Chairman will be appointed at the onset of the Annual Meeting of the Council in May.

Nick was thanked for all his many years of work and wished well for the future after his efficient and diligent input with Halford Parish Council.

Meeting closed 7.05pm

Signed: 6th May 2026..... Chairman