

HALFORD PARISH COUNCIL Minutes

Meeting held on 8th July 2026 at Halford Bridge Inn at 6.30 p.m.

Meeting closed 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Cllrs Sara (Chair), Gale, Gopsill and Luther

Clerk: Karen Parnell

WCC Cllr David Curtis and SDC Cllr Malcolm Littlewood

No members of the public were present

Co-option of a parish councillor

James Gopsill was co-opted to fill the historic vacancy – SDC will be advised of the appointment.

1. *Apologies:*

Cllr Gerald Newell

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 6th May 2026*

Minutes having been circulated were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting held in May 2026 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
A burst water main has been attended to by Severn Trent. It was noted that new development will bring water and sewage concerns and Cllrs Luther and Sara will ask for input from residents and a possible speaker from Severn Trent at a PC meeting is a consideration in due course.

Maintenance

Village maintenance outside the remit of Japonica Pride will be considered – Notably the Millennium Garden and quotes will be sought from qualified residents of Halford.

SDC would encourage residents to report anything necessary to them so that they 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) Request from Frampton's Planning regarding residential development on and to the north of, Idlicote Road, Halford (Ref 21/03775/OUT), on behalf of their client to enquire if the Parish Council would assume responsibility for

maintenance of the Public Open Space associated with the above development.

The PC Chairman will attend a meeting with SDC Planners to consider this matter and report back to the PC in due course. It was questioned why SDC do not take on such contracts themselves.

The Management Construction Plan will be looked at notably regarding access and egress of vehicles at this location.

C) Erection of a flagpole eg junction of Idlicote road and Fosseway
Discussed and not required.

6. Planning

Application(s) reference: 26/01189/FUL

Proposed : Proposed rebuilt boundary wall

At : The Homestead, Fosse Way, Halford, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 5BN

For : Mr And Mrs Wells – No representation

Application(s) reference: 26/01583/TREE

Proposed : T1 - Birch - Fell to ground level -due to close proximity to wall and power line.

At : Fosse Ridge House, Fosse Way, Halford, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 5BN

For : Mrs Susan Schlee – No representation

Street Naming and Numbering – New Street Name Consultation

Development: Land To The North Of Idlicote Road, Halford

Proposed New Street Name: Bramble Rise

Consultation Expiry Date: 6 August 2026 – Accepted by the PC

7. Finance

Payments

Karen Parnell (Salary/Expenses) £ 500.00

Andy Faithfull (Planters) £ 985.00

Rose Whelan (Gardening) £ 40.00

Halford PCC £ 250.00

Bank Charges £ 6.00

Japonica Pride £ 126.00 + 137.00

8. District Councillor's Report- Cllr Littlewood

SWLP

Following the Planning Inspectorate advisory meeting (19th May), prior to the Joint Cabinet Meetings of Warwick District (WDC) and Stratford on Avon District (SDC) Councils on the 1st of June, the initial response by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS report) clearly highlighted flaws in the SWLP. The report highlighted issues with site viability due to requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain and Net Zero Carbon requirements that exceed legislative and Government requirements, and consequently the low level of Affordable and Social Housing possible. The Inspector also questioned how realistic the evidence base was regarding the anticipated supply of “windfall” sites within the Housing Land Supply calculations. Neither authority can show a Five-Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS) currently. SDC has adopted a “stepped trajectory” plan because of the considerable shortfall of site in the first three years. This approach has been criticised by the inspector, and this means a radical change to the plan and its priorities in the short run. The inspector also considered that the amount of “headroom”, or contingency sites was

unrealistically low at 6.8% in SDC and 1.4% in WDC. The expected number is around 10%.

Allocation of both Gypsy and Traveller sites and Travelling Showman Yards requires clarification. There remain questions over allocations within the Greenbelt following changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and with regard to affordable housing allocation rates on those sites. There remain questions over the funding of the Stratford upon Avon western Relief Road that would enable further development of the sites around the Long Marston Airfield developments. Highway funding details must be available before the next stage which is to submit Regulation 19. This is the test of deliverability of the plan and without firm answers to the above issues the SWLP cannot be delivered and therefore found to be unsound.

5YHLS

As mentioned above, the 5YHLS is unmet in both WDC and SDC geographies. This is partially due to the changes to Housing Need calculations imposed by this Government, but also to a level of complacency on behalf of both administrations since 2024. The Government did change the calculations, and the current 5HLS calculations have almost doubled the “local need” in Warwickshire and almost halved the need in the suburban areas of Coventry, Solihull, and Birmingham. In my mind this is unsustainable because to move from the urban/suburban centres will require new employment centres in South Warwickshire or an increase in commuting. Considering the lack of transport infrastructure in our districts, this is unsustainable and definitely does not make “Green Sense”. The plan for over 28,000 new homes could mean up to 56,000 new jobs in the period of the plan. The economic development plan alongside the SWLP does not seem to adequately address this question satisfactorily in my opinion.

The 5YHLS is very important. Without meeting the number, the Local Plan (currently the Core Strategy (CS) and possibly soon to be made the SWLP), neither plan could be considered to be up-to-date. This means that the “tilted balance” referred to in the current NPPF (paragraph 11) applies and is balanced towards presumed granting of planning application. The current Local Plan is out of date as it relates to housing policies, locations, and numbers because of a lack of a demonstrative 5YHLS. The other policies in the current CS remain up to date and can be relied upon in determining planning applications. With a demonstrable 5YHLS the entire CS would be valid until 2031.

This also has implications for Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) where all but 5 of the ‘made NDP’s are themselves ‘out of date’ The good news is that the TYSO NDP is considered to be ‘up to date’ and can be relied upon. The ‘tilted balance’ remains a significant issue.

Regardless of which Local Plan is being considered to avoid a development free for all in our District, we need to secure a demonstrable 5YHLS. This is the critical objective, and one we need to achieve to maintain and protect our part of the County and provide homes, environment, and employment for our children. Unfortunately, it is not clear to me that all parties involved in these immensely important decisions for a generation have recognised this reality.

9. County Councillor’s Report- Cllr Curtis

Bollards

Delighted to see the bollards have now been installed correctly.

Changes to Councillors' Grant Fund

Community groups across Warwickshire are to benefit from a refreshed County Councillors Grants Fund 2026–27, designed to deliver greater impact, simpler access, and stronger alignment with local priorities. Discover more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7734/changes-to-councillors-grant> - fund-to-boost-impact-for-communities-across-warwickshire

NB This year there will only be 1 round and deadline is July 26

South Warwickshire Local Plan Officers from Stratford-on-Avon District

Council and Warwick District Council would

like to invite you to attend an update on the Publication Version of the South Warwickshire Local Plan. The online session will take place on Friday 10 July, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Please register in advance using the link below:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/d76576a5-85d9-4c11-a81f-b70b1b929e71@ea0773dc-0dec-4c50-a4c9-bc26a247ed21>

Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation email containing the Microsoft Teams joining link. If you experience any difficulties accessing the meeting, please contact us at swlp@stratford-dc.gov.uk.

This session is intended exclusively for Parish, Town and District Councillors in Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick Districts, and Warwickshire County Councillors.

Local Government Reorganisation LGR

It is anticipated that the government will announce the shape of the new Unitary Authorities on 16 July, there is, as yet, no clear indication as to whether Warwickshire will become a single Unitary or a North/South split.

The mobile library could be lost through lack of use – It was suggested a visit to Halford would be welcomed.

10. Correspondence

None

11. Date of next meeting: 2nd September 2026 (Same venue)

Future meeting dates through 2027 have been booked and agreed with the Bridge Inn.

Meeting closed: 7.30pm

Signed: Chairman on 2nd September 2026.....