

HALFORD PARISH COUNCIL Minutes

Meeting held on 2nd September 2026 at Halford Bridge Inn
Meeting closed 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Cllrs Sara (Chair), Luther, Newell and Sarah Whalley-Hoggins

Clerk: Karen Parnell

SDC Cllr Malcolm Littlewood WCC Cllr David Curtis

Plus two members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr Nick Gale

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 in July 2026

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

4. Democratic 15 minutes

Rules regarding flagpoles will be circulated.

An eroded drain cover was reported to Cllr Curtis WCC for action.

Parking on verges was discussed and land ownership of the verges in Queens Street will be established by the PC Chairman.

5. Matters arising and new matters

A) Drainage, highway Issues and village maintenance - Progress Report
A quote for £ 570.00 to get the garden back to as it should be was agreed. The digger work will be done soon. The turf will be much easier to keep well maintained and is something residents close to the area have wanted. The hedges by the bench and along the path into The Close have been cut back by Orbit. Further bulbs will be planted and benches improved. Eroded pavements will be reported to WCC for action. Severn Trent works within Halford were discussed and continue to be monitored.

B) Traffic and Road signs update

Speed Limit

WCC: With regards to your request for 30mph sign to be relocated, unfortunately this is not something we can accede to. Please be advised that the speed limit which currently exists is appropriate for the environment. Speed limits should be evidence-led, self-explaining and seek to reinforce people's assessment of what is a safe speed to travel, encouraging self-compliance. They should be seen by drivers as the maximum speed rather than a target speed at which to drive, irrespective of conditions. Additionally, please be advised that Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) that display the speed limit are only permitted on the carriageway governed by

that speed limit and cannot be located in within a derestricted section of carriageway. Speedwatch Group is a consideration and will be looked into.

Radar Sign

WCC: in response to your request for a Speed Camera to be installed in the village of Halford, please be advised that unfortunately, it will not be possible to fund the installation of either Fixed or Average-Speed Camera here, as this location does not meet the National Department for Transport (DfT) Criteria for enforcement cameras. These systems can only be considered at sites with a proven history of serious or fatal injury collisions where speed has been identified as a contributing factor. When we assess a site, we must follow established guidance from the DfT that focuses on locations with ongoing, recorded injury collisions. This ensures that the most serious problem areas are prioritised and that resources are used where they will have the greatest impact on reducing harm.

C) 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 - Meeting with SDC

1. The PC considers if it believes the best way of ensuring the POS is maintained properly is that it takes over the responsibility in due course and assuming that adequate funding is available.
 2. If point 1 is positive then the PC expresses interest in taking over subject to satisfactory funding and related issues.
 3. PC gets quotes from maintenance specialists based on the detailed 20 year maintenance plan.
- A site visit will take place and CIL monies involved will be established.

6. Planning

Application(s) reference: 26/01456/FUL

Proposed : Conversion of integral double garage and replacement of faux wooden garage doors with glazed doors to match existing

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

For : Mr Kevin Sparks – No representation.

Application(s) reference: 26/01548/REM

Proposed : Reserved matters application pursuant to Condition 2 on outline planning permission, referenced 21/03775/OUT for approval of the appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale in relation to Unit 2 at Land to the North of, Idlicote Road, Halford. The outline application was not an EIA application.

At : Plot 2, Land To The North Of, Idlicote Road, Halford

For : Mr Fergus Clarke

Application(s) reference: 26/01549/REM

Proposed : Reserved matters application pursuant to Condition 2 on outline planning permission, referenced 21/03775/OUT for approval of the appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale in relation to Plot 11 at Land to the North of, Idlicote Road, Halford. The outline application was not an EIA application.

At : Plot 11, Land To The North Of, Idlicote Road, Halford

For : Sheldon and Nicola Banks

Application(s) reference: 26/02080/COUQ

Proposed : Physical conversion works under Class Q(c) to accompany approved change of use of agricultural barn structure.

At : Glebe Barn, Halford Road, Halford,

For : Guernsey Children's Settlement

7. District Councillor's Report – Cllr Malcolm Littlewood

Devolution and Local Government Reform

At the end of last month, the Government announced that Warwickshire will be administered by two separate Unitary Authorities, North Warwickshire and South Warwickshire. Two such authorities will enable a Mayoral Strategic Authority to be established attracting additional annual funding from Central Government for the implementation of devolved powers. The details of the latter are to be notified. It is possible however that the Government will require a Warwickshire Mayoral Strategic Authority to also combine with another authority such as Worcestershire. No further information is forthcoming on that matter.

The Government has also determined that NHS regions should match the political authorities' geographies. In Warwickshire that would mean removing Coventry from the current sphere which would seem unlikely. Also, there is a review of the number of police forces with a view to reducing the number of forces to increase efficiency. The new South Warwickshire Unitary Authority will comprise Stratford-on Avon and Warwick District Councils. The vesting date for the change is 1st of April 2028.

It seems likely that a separate Fire and Rescue Authority would be set up under a Warwickshire Mayor, but again, no information is coming from Central Government on that subject.

Elections for the current District Councils are due to go ahead in May 2027 as normal but will also elect members for the Shadow Unitary Authority. The electoral Wards (41 in SDC) of the current District Councils will be replaced by the current County Electoral Divisions, 27 in South Warwickshire). Each Division will have two members, except for Bidford & Welford and Budbrooke & Bishop's Tachbrook which have three elected members each giving a total of 56 members. Parish Council elections will be at the same time as UA elections to ensure Parish Councils do not carry the financial burden of a separate election.

Members elected in 2027 will serve an initial five year term.

An Extraordinary Parish Forum meeting will be held on 22 October 2026 at 6pm, regarding Local Government Reorganisation. This will be an online meeting via Teams, and a link to the meeting will be forwarded with the agenda five working days prior to the meeting.

Parishes are entitled to send nominated representatives of their Council (usually the Chair and/or their Clerk) to the meeting, with a maximum of two per Council. Additional Parish representatives may attend, subject to written notice being given to the District Council's Democratic Services Team (committeemanagers@stratford-dc.gov.uk) five working days prior to the Forum meeting and subject to the subsequent approval of the Forum Chair.

South Warwickshire Local Plan and Regulation 19 Public Consultation

The SWLP was approved to be submitted for Regulation 19 at the last Council Meeting. I voted against the motion because I do not believe that the plan is

ready and is flawed because the deliverability is based on getting some £400m funding for two new roads and bridges across the River Avon, and in my judgment is not “sound”.

The next stage is now in progress and is a public consultation which closes on the 8th of September, although this is not very well publicised in my opinion. Below I have copied the list of face-to-face public meetings that are planned by SDC. You will note that none of the public briefings are scheduled for the South of the district. I have raised this with the Chief Executive, and his deputy has stated that our part of the District is not affected by the plan in so much as housing numbers are not allocated, but that is not the point. The plan will affect everyone, and everyone has a right to comment and express their view. One more face-to-face meeting is due to be announced, and I have requested it to be in Shipston on Stour.

Meeting availability or not, it is important that our residents have the chance to make their feelings known and have them taken into account before the final submission of the Regulation-19 draft plan.

Comments can be submitted on-line or by email, or by post.

Overview for September

In August I reported that this is a holiday period with Central Government in recess. And normally little happens in Local Government. This year has been different with Devolution and Local Government Reform, the South Warwickshire Local Plan, reform of the planning system from the 31st of October this year, and the climate that threatened high fire risks in rural areas and future food security: not to mention a change in Prime Minister.

I have little to add to my previous report therefore except to repeat how important it is that Parish Councils encourage their residents to respond to the public consultation on the South Warwickshire Local Plan that will directly affect the communities and all who live in South Warwickshire. As it is drafted this plan will change where we all live until 2050.

Representations can be made via the SDC Website and also be emailed to swlp@warwickdc.gov.uk , or posted to the South Warwickshire Local Team, Stratford-upon-Avon District, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6HX.

County Councillor's Report – Cllr David Curtis

The application window for Warwickshire County Council's new £500,000 Crisis and Resilience Community Grant Fund is now open.

The fund is aimed at voluntary and community organisations across Warwickshire, supporting practical projects that help residents become more financially resilient and reduce the likelihood of needing ongoing crisis support. This could include work to help people manage money, access advice, reduce debt, build savings or maximise their income.

The application window is open until Sunday 4 October 2026, your support in helping to spread the word and raise awareness among relevant organisations in your divisions and through your own channels would be appreciated.

Full details of the grant fund and details on how to apply are available here: [Find out more and apply](#)

Childminder Grants

To help newly registered childminders cover the initial costs of establishing their childcare business Warwickshire County Council has opened the application process for new Childminder Start-up Grants.

This short animation shows you everything you need to know: <https://youtu.be/f3v48KiFMSs>

The scheme offering grants of up to £1,500 is designed to increase the availability of high-quality, affordable early years education and childcare across the county. Warwickshire childminders who completed registration since 1 April 2026 are eligible to apply.

The grant supports both traditional home-based childminders and childminders operating without domestic premises—such as those providing care from community centres, schools, or dedicated spaces within local businesses.

8. Finance - Payments:

Clerks Salary/Expenses £ 500.00

Japonica Pride £ 90.00

Bank Charges £ 4.00

KR Roads £ 570.00

9. Correspondence

Despite its name Shipston SCAN (Stour Community Awareness Network) exists for the benefit of residents of local villages and not just for Shipstonians. We try to arrange a programme of talks on interesting and relevant topics.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday September 8. We hope to have four speakers, a councillor from each of the town council, the district council and the county council as well as member of staff from the district council. We would love to welcome more members from villages and believe that this meeting will cover a subject of importance to us all.

Meeting closed: 7.30pm

10. Date of next meeting: 21st October 2026

Neighbourhood Development Plan and Ongoing Village Maintenance to be discussed

Signed:Chairman on 21st October 2026