

**DRAFT**

**Minutes of Halling Parish Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at the Community Centre**

Present: Chair George Wenham (Upper Ward) GW; Sally Brady (North Ward)SB; Les Hitchcock (Lower Ward) LH; Chris Herbert (Lower Ward) CH ; Bob Morton (Lower Ward) BM; Trevor Reynolds ( Upper Ward) TR; Mark Joy (North Ward) MJ; Matt Fearn (Upper Ward) MF and Richard Thorne (Lower Ward) RT.

Bill Swan – Clerk (WS) and 23 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Andy Simpson and Jenny Robinson – reasons accepted.

2. **Disclosure of any other Business**

RT – 1 item; MJ – 3 items; TR – 1 item and GW – 1 item

3. **Declaration of Pecuniary and Prejudicial Interests**

CH – prejudicial interest in item 18

4. **Adjourn meeting for Parishioners' Questions**

Letter and verbal statements supporting SB. Code of Conduct broken by certain HPC members. No declaration of pecuniary interest made by a Councillor. Bullying by one HPC member of another. Cost of cutting Cemetery grass. Ownership of pontoon in Ferry Road.

SB then read out the enclosed letter regarding her resignation.

Tonight for me is the end of what started as an effort to try to do my best for the village we moved to with the hope that it was just that, a village and community now I only see somewhere with so many sour voices with no aim but to destroy anything or anyone that makes an effort within the community, the limited few that I know who still try I applaud you and commend you.

For the 5 of you who have decided to form a judgement committee and have taken it upon yourselves to act as judge and Jury without considering what you stand for or why you sit there today as a "Corporate Body" I would like to address you each individually but I feel that there is little to say here other than I pity you in so many ways.

My biggest disappointment of all is in our Ward Councillor. Both Georgia and I supported your campaign and thought you had more scruples, you knew the situation and yet last week denied any knowledge of being aware of what was and is still happening to us..to me this does not give me much faith in you going forward.

Bill, Chris, George, Bob, Les, Barry, Maria, Jim, Sam and Trudi I want to thank you for your support over the last two years and particularly the last few months and weeks as you know this is not easy for me, however I cannot continue to work with those who support Bullying, Harassment and Stalking and have too many hidden agendas. I need to support my family and do what is safe and right for us.

To Colin, Trevor, Mark and Duncan you always made meetings a pleasure and your love for your village I admire and hope that encourages others to do the same.

I have raised in excess of £20k in the last two years for events and other organisations for this village not just through the Associations affiliated but my own contacts none of which many of you would know about as I did not see it as being about myself and therefore asked for no gratitude or recognition, why would I it was never about me.

I resign my position tonight with a heavy heart but knowing it is the right thing to do, I have no doubt the small minded of this village will cheer, but what have they done for the village...nothing actually except criticise from their armchairs...

I wish the few good people among you tonight the strength and courage to continue in what I have no doubt will be a struggle, George and Bill hold your head up and don't let the bastards grind you down you need to lead and not be bullied by these fools.

5. GW gave a vote of thanks to SB for all her good work on the Parish Council and said he was appalled by the fact that she has had to resign.

5. **Reconvene meeting and Minutes of Parish Council meetings**

The Chair reconvened the meeting and asked if the Minutes of the main June 2015 meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> were a true record. TR proposed, seconded by RT, that they were a true record. All agreed It was then proposed by MF, seconded by LH that the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June were a true record. 5 in favour.

6. **Matters Arising from Minutes of last meeting** - none

7. **Halling Funday and Sunday.**

In the absence of AS, one of the Committee, Sam Thomas, produced a budget for HFW15 and said that everything is going well in the preparation. MJ thanked all of those involved in view of the short time they had had to prepare. The Assistant Clerk reported on Sunday's Duck Race – there will be 550 ducks being launched from the pontoon ending up at the school end of the village. Permission has been obtained

from the Medway Ports Authority. It was proposed by RT, seconded by BM, that this should be regarded as a part of HVF15 and therefore covered by HPC. All agreed.

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8. **Footpaths.**

Barry Barnes, the footpaths officer, reported that there has been total silence lately from Lafarge about the permissive path from Whittings Farm but he will keep pressing them. A resident, John Martin, has been giving valuable help on the marsh which is greatly appreciated. The delay on the RS201 has been caused by a fuel line under the site.

9. **Halling Association**

MF reported that the Association had awarded £2,000 for HVF15, £1,500 for school shelter, £540 for Halling FC and £350 for youth club skate day. There had also been an indication that there might be help for the recreation grounds.

10 **Parish Website**

MF said there should be one person responsible for informing the webmaster and he proposed TR for the job. It was agreed that this should be on the Agenda for the September meeting.

11. **Planning.**

MF referred to application MC/15/1912 – new build in Chapel Lane, Upper Halling. CH said this is in an AONB and the green belt. He proposed, seconded by RT, that the Parish Council objects to this application for the reasons given. All agreed.

12. **To approve the request for pond tipping in the marsh**

It was proposed by CH, seconded by TR, that provided HPC sees a copy of their insurance and takes no responsibility for the researcher involved, there are no objections. All agreed.

13. **Halling Fire Station - update by CH.**

CH said that he had had only one reply from Councillors to his earlier email on this, namely TR, and proposed that HPC write to Hicks as per the amended email. This was seconded by TR and all agreed.

14. **Halling FC – report on the match on 5<sup>th</sup> July.**

RT attended and said the teams were very well behaved. Parking was a problem as there was an event at the Jubilee Hall. TR said that Halling FC use the upper rec on Thursdays for training at the same time as the Brownies would like to use the rec. Halling FC will liaise with them.

15. **Parish Council surgeries in Upper Ward – proposal by GW to open these up to all Parish Councillors representing Upper Halling**

It was agreed that there would be no problem with this and also to include MJ. The Jubilee Hall needs to be booked for 14<sup>th</sup> August at 6.30 pm.

16 **(1)Proposal by Mark Joy that no organised football to be played in either recreation ground without the written permission of Halling Parish Council.**

(2) Proposal that no marking out of pitches without the written permission of Halling Parish Council.

(3) Proposal to have a mini soccer pitch on the Lower Rec for U11/U12 age group (9v9 80ydsx50yds) & have a mini soccer pitch on Upper Rec for U9/U10 age group

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(7v7 60ydsx40yds). This will allow an income to be gained while providing sporting activity for youths (of Halling).

9 v 9 Pitch Size

Minimum: 45 m x 60 m

Maximum: 50 m x 67 m

7 v 7 Pitch Size

Minimum: 30 m x 45 m

Maximum: 35 m x 50 m

(1) MJ said that this would make it easier for teams to get permission to use recs and to get retrospective permission for Halling FC to cover their remaining friendly fixtures.

The proposal was seconded by TR and all were in favour with a provision that there must be a risk assessment for youngsters on the play equipment when matches are taking place.

(2) Seconded by LH and all agreed.

(3) Seconded by TR . All agreed but MF raised the problem of parking round the lower rec.

**17. Proposal by Mark Joy to make a donation to Halling Minors FC**

MJ pointed out that Halling FC had received a grant from Halling Association and he felt that HPC should make a donation of £80 to Halling Minors to enable them to purchase a pair of goals. Seconded by LH and all agreed.

**18. To discuss the relevant Standing Orders and Council Procedures based on the closed session of Tuesday 30th June 2015 and to revisit the decision taken.**

It was proposed by CH ,seconded by TR that this item be discussed in private and moved to the end of the Agenda. All agreed.

**Items 19 & 20 receipts and payments** – The Clerk said that he had not had time to submit these but will email to Members for scrutiny and approval at the next meeting.

**21 Dates of next meeting of Halling Parish Council** - ward surgery on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at the Jubilee Hall at 6.30pm and full Council meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at the Jubilee Hall.

**22 Any Other Business**

RT said that the flagpole at the Church is in poor condition and can HPC help. Also the Double Yellow Lines outside the Homeward Bound. MF said that he would suggest a Single Yellow Line with time restrictions to Medway Council.

MJ said that following training with Medway Council, Members should be aware of their responsibilities un the Data Protection Act. MJ said there had been a spate of break ins and thefts from vehicles in the Medway Valley.

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TR said that there had been a low flying helicopter over the village recently.

GW said that Bob Morton and he went to the 70<sup>th</sup> Brownies celebration at the Jubilee Hall. It was a very good occasion and they were each presented with 4 coasters and a badge. TR said that HPC should send a line thanking them.

**Item 18** – CH having declared an interest left the meeting.

TR proposed that the Clerk sends KALC's email of 6<sup>th</sup> July along with the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> June to the Monitoring Officer and gets a written definitive reply as to whether HPC can pay the KCC invoice. Seconded MF and all agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.