

# HALLING PARISH COUNCIL

The Community Centre, High Street, Lower Halling, Rochester, Kent. ME2 1BS

Clerk Mr C Fribbins  
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Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Monday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at –  
The Community Centre, Lower Halling, commencing at 7.30pm

## 016/24 Chairman's welcome and recording of those present.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present Cllr R Thorne (Chairperson.) Cllr Mrs C Saltmarsh.  
Cllr Mrs N Brown.  
Cllr G Wenham.  
Cllr S McCormack.  
Cllr R Brown.

In Attendance Clerk Mr C Fribbins. Assistant Clerk Mr N Fursdon.  
7 members of the public.

## 017/24 Apologies for absence.

Received from Cllr Mrs L Ali (Overseas)  
Cllr B Ali (Overseas)  
Cllr L Hitchcock (Medical)

The matter of absences was debated by Cllrs present, the apologies were agreed as valid.  
The Chairman explained that Cllr L Hitchcock had been undergoing a course of treatment for Cancer and declared as being free of Cancer today.

## 018/24 Declaration of any Pecuniary and / or Prejudicial Interests –

The Chairman declared an interest in Planning applications MC/24/0392 and MC/0397, and will leave meeting during these items, part of 025/24. Estates & Environment Committee.

## 019/24 Adjourn for Public Questions (up to 15 minutes for the public).

**Person 1** Asked a question about footpath RS320.

*(Person 1 sent the assistant clerk a document with their question and the Parish Council response having checked it tallied with the notes, is attached to these Minutes at Appendix 1 on page 4)*

**Person 2** Asked if the New Medway public footpath officer had been informed of the Illegal gate across a public footpath at Court Farm, Upper Halling.

*The Clerk replied saying that she has been informed and looking into the matter.*

**Person 3** Asked if Medway Council could be contacted to repair the damage to the roundabout where Kent Road joins the A228; it was damaged several months ago.

*The Clerk replied saying that he will contact Medway Council on the matter.*

## 020/24 To Approve Minutes of meetings held on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Proposed Cllr G Wenham and seconded by Cllr S McCormack as a true record, all Cllrs agreed.

## 021/24 Clerk's report. To receive any reports from Councillors

The Clerk informed Cllrs that since the last meeting the Debit Card has been received and is locked away in a safe place and will not be taken around. The Chairman also has a copy and details which he has also locked away in a safe place.

The Clerk directed Cllrs to the January and February Bank reconciliation documents which he went through with the Cllrs. The Chairman duly signed and dated them.

022/24

**Finance: Note Payments made under delegated powers of the Chair/Clerk and to seek approval of any additional payments, as necessary.**

**Financial Reports as circulated (January & February)**

Hard copies of the Financial Reports had been handed around to the Cllrs at the beginning of the meeting, as the Bank Statements had only just been received.

A copy of the report is attached with these Minutes as Appendix 2 on page 4.

023/24

**Grant requests:**

**a) Future Grant & Donations Policy.**

The Clerk has included a Grant and Donations Policy, and an official application form, which he has composed. The Clerk pointed out that some donations to the British Legion, Air Ambulance would always be done.

The Chairman said he was pleased to see the Policy and the official application form.

The Chairman proposed that the Policy and application form be accepted.

Seconded by Cllr Mrs N Brown and was unanimously agreed by the other Cllrs.

**b) Halling Gardening Society** – Tables for Jubilee Hall £979.90 (referred to Jubilee Hall Committee in first instance).

Cllrs debated the matter in depth but decided to decline the application.

**c) Halling Amateur Boxing Club** – New equipment following move to Community Centre from their previous Location (Upper Halling) £2,500 to £5,000

This matter was debated in depth. It was decided that more information was required, is the Boxing Club a business? Is it a Non – Profit Organisation?

The Clerk said he would contact them.

**d) Kent Community Rail Partnership/Medway Valley Line CRP** – Support donation (Halling Station) details previously circulated - £100

It was proposed that the support donation be paid by Cllr S McCormack and seconded by Cllr Mrs N Brown and was unanimously agreed by the other Cllrs.

**e) Air Ambulance** – The Clerk said that communication had been received from the Air Ambulance asking for a £350 donation.

The Chairman proposed the donation be made seconded by Cllr Mrs C Saltmarsh and was unanimously agreed by the other Cllrs.

024/24

**Parish Council Co-Options** – No candidates currently.

025/24

**Estates & Environment Committee (07/02/024)** – Update items discussed and actions.

As the Chairman of this Committee was not present, the Clerk spoke on the matter.

**Upper Halling Car Park** – The concrete post at the Car Park in Upper Halling had been broken, so the car park barrier could not be closed. A site meeting attended by Cllrs G Wenham and Hitchcock, the Clerk and the person from Boundary Fencing, the Chairman of the Parish Council had been informed and he deemed that it was an emergency, so the work was done by the delegated power of the Parish Clerk.

**Upper Halling Public Seats** – The public seats at Upper Halling need refurbishing, some have slats missing.

Cllr G Wenham had offered to get the wood if he was given the measurements.

Cllr Mrs C Saltmarsh suggested using resin slats.

**Baptist Church Gate Problem** – The problem is that the gate does not open wide enough to allow easy access to the field, access is possible but awkward for some fairground rides.

**Planning** – The Clerk produced a Planning sheet, which is attached at Appendix 3 on page 5.

At the beginning of this section the Chairman left the meeting.

The Clerk went through the various planning applications, most were non-material amendments or details of conditions. All applications were noted.

026/24

### **Events Committee Report**

The Chair of the Committee went through the events planned for 2024.

D Day celebrations will start on Thursday June 6<sup>th</sup> with the Beacon being lit at 9.15pm.

Entry to the mound from around 8.45pm with the Army Cadets providing marshals, there will also be a bugler.

There will be the Remembrance Fayre on Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> with funfair, bouncy castle etc in the Lower Halling recreation ground.

The Chairman of the Parish Council has asked the local MP to open the fair.

The Chair of the Committee continued saying that other events included a HalloweenFest in collaboration with the New Town Social Club in October.

There is also the pantomime at Christmas.

027/24

### **Parish Council Meeting dates for 2024 – Mondays – Tuesdays.**

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm at Jubilee Hall – **July 9<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm at Community Centre**

September 9<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm at Jubilee Hall – **November 12<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm at Community Centre.**

The Clerk explained that due to the Boxing Club now hiring the Community Centre every Monday the Parish Council meeting have had to be moved to a Tuesday (in red).

028/24

### **Annual Parish Meeting Arrangements – to agree date, venue, and speakers etc.**

The 2024 Annual Parish Meeting was debated, should be held before the end of May, it was decided to try to hold at the end of April, should be held at the Jubilee Hall this year.

The Clerk will investigate booking a date.

029/ 24

### **(PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETING) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC)**

**To resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public are to be excluded from the Meeting.**

030/24

### **Personnel and confidential matters.**

A councillor has raised concerns regarding the arrangements for afternoon meetings of the Estates and Environment Committee and that this meant that some members were unable to attend due to work and/or personal day time commitments. They asked that this be reviewed to allow maximum attendance of committee members, although noting that some afternoon meetings may be required on-site or to meet potential contractors, with any findings reported to a subsequent evening E&E meeting for discussion and agreement where necessary.

031/24

### **Insurance Claim – re. Walkway by Lower Halling Recreation Ground.**

There is not much to report on yet, the Parish Council insurer has been informed.

032/24

### **Date and Venue of next meeting.**

**Jubilee Hall, Upper Halling, 7.30pm Monday May 13<sup>th</sup> – Annual Parish Council meeting and May Meeting.**

**Closure of Meeting – Meeting closed at 9.30pm**

## **Appendix 1**

**Question raised by (Person 1) at the meeting on 11 March 2024**

I have a question about the RS320 Public Footpath.

This footpath starts on Halling Common which is owned by Halling Parish Council, and it then turns at a stile and is then on land owned by Kent Wildfowlers Association and this part of the footpath has been affected by the collapse of a culvert.

The land owner is responsible for maintaining this public right of way and the footpaths officer of Medway Council has the power to enforce this or take action to deal with the problem and I understand that he has had steps built on both sides of the culvert to allow the public to cross the culvert.

My question is.

Does the Footpaths Officer have any plans to carry out any further work on this damaged culvert and is there any truth in the rumour circulating in this village that the Parish Council is going to contribute towards the cost of this work on land owned by the Kent Wildfowlers meaning that the precept money of this village is to be spent on a part of the area which only benefits a very small minority of the residents and will have no benefit to the residents in Upper Halling and North Halling?

I ask this question based on my experience as Vice Chairman when I had to defend the council against numerous complaints that this council spends too much of our money on the marsh. At this time, I was able to refute this allegation as the previous Council led by Paul Crispe had spent a lot of money refurbishing the Upper Recreation Ground. I was just left with paying for the work and organising the Deputy Mayor to open the refurbished Upper Recreation Ground.

### Response from the Parish Council

The Clerk explained that Medway Council now have a new footpaths officer in post, she has been busy dealing with the backlog. She has inspected the site of the damaged culvert, and she has identified a charity that can give grants for rectifying this type of problem and Medway Council have submitted an application for a grant.

Cllr Wenham suggested that the stile at the end of the RS320 where it meets the RS319 public footpath should be replaced with a Kissing gate.

She has identified other areas that need work carried out and the Parish Council may consider making a donation once the full details are known.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council will not pay for anything that is built on Kent Wildfowlers land.

When pressed he repeated this statement.

### Appendix 2

#### HALLING PARISH COUNCIL INCOME & EXPENDITURE – January 2024

January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Halling Community Centre (Office Rent)	£ 328.90	SO
	MHS Homes (Garage rent)	£ 46.83	DD
	Staff Costs 1 employee Dec Pay)	£ 145.60	DPC
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Microsoft 365 Annual Licence fee	£ 79.99	DPC
January 25 <sup>th</sup>	Bouncy Castles	£ 50.00	DPC
January 29 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Costs (3 employees)	£ 894.21	DPC
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Deposit Account Interest	£ 329.22	Paid In
	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 1,445.53</b>	
	<b>Paid In</b>	<b>£ 329.22</b>	

#### HALLING PARISH COUNCIL INCOME & EXPENDITURE – February 2024

February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Halling Community Centre (Office Rent)	£ 328.90	SO
	MHS Homes (Garage rent)	£ 46.83	DD
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Nationwide Amusements (summer event deposit)	£ 2,220.00	DPC
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	Medway Council (Cllr Fearn/Cllr Filmer grant)	£ 450.00	Paid in
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	Four Jays	£ 474.00	DPC
	KALC (Cllr Training)	£ 60.00	DPC
February 29 <sup>th</sup>	One Fun Band (summer event deposit)	£ 156.25	DPC
	Staff Costs (3 employees)	£ 839.45	DPC
	Cllr N Brown (Wristbands25.co.uk)	£ 58.20	DPC
	Deposit Account Interest	£ 289.69	Paid In
	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 4,193.40</b>	
	<b>Paid In</b>	<b>£ 739.69</b>	

**HALLING PC PLANNING**  
**March 2024**

- MC/24/0481** Details pursuant to conditions 5 (Landscape Management Plan), 6 (Lighting - Amenity and Biodiversity) and 15 (Cycle parking) on planning permission MC/23/0535 for construction of care home facility consisting of 66no. bedrooms with en-suites and communal facilities, and the construction of a separate retail unit (Class E(a)) of 392m<sup>2</sup> with associated landscaping, access, parking and infrastructure Land Adjacent To Balancing Pond St Andrews Park Halling Kent
- MC/23/2686** Variation of condition 7 (Implementation and remediation) on planning permission MC/21/3681 to reword condition 7 according to the covering letter Land East of Formby Road Halling Rochester Medway ME2 1AW APPROVED.
- MC/23/2785** Application for a non-material amendment to planning permission MC/23/0535 for amendment to the parking layout for the commercial unit Land Adjacent to Balancing Pond St Andrews Park Halling Kent APPROVED
- MC/23/2743** Application for non-material amendment to planning permission MC/23/0535. Relocation of both the Meter House and PV Store Land Adjacent to Balancing Pond St Andrews Park Halling Kent APPROVED
- MC/24/0425** Details pursuant to condition 15 (CSWMP) and 16 (sustainable drainage) on planning permission MC/22/2915 - Construction of eight new residential dwellings with associated hard and soft landscaping - demolition of existing buildings M C L Ltd Grove Road Upper Halling Rochester Medway ME2 1HZ
- MC/24/0392** Excavation works to facilitate the construction of vehicle hardstanding and crossover to front 214 High Street Halling Rochester Medway ME2 1BZ.
- MC/24/0106** Details pursuant to condition 4 (Biodiversity Method Statement) and condition 5 (Ecological Compensation and Measures) on planning permission MC/22/2924 - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on planning permission MC/21/3244 for alterations to the layout of the apparatus within the site and reduction of the overall length of the perimeter fencing |Halling Greensand Water Treatment Works North Of Vicarage Road Halling Rochester Medway ME2 1BG
- MC/24/0397** Excavation works to facilitate the construction of vehicle hardstanding and crossover to front 212 High Street Halling Rochester Medway ME2 1BZ.
- MC/24/0358** Variation of conditions 2 and 4 on planning permission MC/22/2433 - Condition 2 to replace the Proposed Site Plan and Vary Condition 4 to amend the wording 106 Pilgrims Road Upper Halling, ME2 1HP.
- MC/24/0160** Application for Lawful Development Certificate (existing) for the installation 1x permanent above ground water tank, on the existing operational site Reservoir Land Off Chapel Lane Upper Halling Rochester Medway ME2 1JTpper Halling Rochester Medway ME2 1HP
- MC/24/0292** Outline application with all matters reserved for the demolition of existing bungalow and construction of two detached houses 37 Rochester Road Halling Rochester Medway ME2 1AQ.
- MC/24/0139** Details pursuant to condition 14 (electric charging points) on planning permission MC/21/3681 for construction of two mixed use (Classes E (former B1) and B8) business units with associated parking and new access onto Formby Road Land East of Formby Road Halling Rochester Medway ME2 1AW APPROVED, subject to conditions.