

# HALLING PARISH COUNCIL

The Community Centre, High Street, Lower Halling, Rochester, Kent, ME2 1BS.  
Clerk/Proper Officer/RFO Mr C Fribbins. Telephone (01634) 241551.  
Email: clerk@halling-pc.gov.uk Website: www.halling-pc.gov.uk  
Assistant Clerk Mr N Miners.



Report of the **Annual Parish Meeting of Halling Parish Council** held on **Friday 30 May 2025, at 7.30pm in the Bishop's Room, The Community Centre, Halling.**

## **1/AM-25 Recording of Those Present and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Councillors present: Cllr R Thorne (Chair), Cllr N Brown (Vice-chair), Cllr L Hitchcock, Cllr L Ali, Cllr G Wenham.

In attendance: Clerk Mr C Fribbins. Assistant Clerk Mr N Miners. Nine members of the public.

Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr C Saltmarsh.

## **2/AM-25 To Receive the Report of the Annual Parish Meeting 2024**

The Chair noted that due to staff changes during the 2024-25 Council year the Report from the 2024 Annual Meeting would be supplied in due course.

## **3/AM-25 To Receive the Report of the Parish Council Chairman for 2024/25**

The Chairman reported that Halling Parish Council had enjoyed a busy year in 2024-25.

The village, through the Council's Events Committee, had organised numerous events over the course of the year, all of which had been well supported and well received by the residents of the village. The events organised had been Halling Fun Day 2024, the traditional Christmas Pantomime at the Community Centre, and in 2025 two events – the beacon lighting and a party in the Lower Rec – had been held to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.

The Chairman also welcomed the relaunch of a print version of Halling View after an absence of five years following lockdown in 2020. The June 2025 edition had covered Parish Council news only, but future editions would be expanded to include news from local groups, clubs and associations.

The Chairman concluded that Halling is now a thriving Parish Council and thanked the Councillors and staff for their efforts over the past twelve months.

The Clerk gave a report on the process of the publication of the Council's Annual Accounts. The internal audit would be taking place on Thursday 12 June, following which the accounts would be submitted to the external auditor and published in early July.

## **4/AM-25 To Receive Reports from Village Organizations**

### **Halling Historical Society**

The Historical Society has enjoyed a busy year and will soon celebrate its 40th anniversary. A key part of the celebration is the installation of 14 Heritage Plaques on important buildings in the Parish, including a plaque at the Jubilee Hall to commemorate Ted Gowers, the author of *Across Low Meadow*. The Society was also involved in a three-year campaign to persuade Medway Council to restore the walls at Bishop's Palace, work which has now been completed. Research has continued into Forge Green, and the Society participated in the deposition of two time capsules at Lakeview Care Home. The Society had also attended Halling's D-Day commemorative event in 2024 with a presentation that had also been exhibited at the Royal Engineers Museum in Chatham.

### **Halling Community Centre**

The Community Centre has continued its role as a hub for the village in 2024-25 with a range of clubs and associations using the Centre for social, educational, and religious activities. The Centre was also available for individual hire and has been used for parties and wakes during the year. The current regular hirers include: the Boxing Club, the Pre-School, Cornerstone City Church, an Art School, HALARA, Halling Youth Club and Halling Sapphires Women's Institute.

### **Jubilee Hall**

The Jubilee Hall has continued to provide a meeting point for many village groups in 2024-25. Several of these groups will be celebrating milestones in their histories in the forthcoming year – the Historical Society, Gardeners' Society and HALARA were all established at the Jubilee Hall and will all be celebrating important anniversaries in 2025. The Girl Guides are currently at full capacity, and the Karate Club have now been using the Jubilee Hall for over 20 years. The Hall has continued to provide an affordable venue for numerous meetings and parties.

### **Halling Youth Club**

The Youth Club celebrated its 20th Anniversary this year and has now welcomed over 3,000 children through its doors – and today some of the former children are bringing their own children to the Youth Club. At present the Youth Club has nearly 90 children as members and opens on Fridays during term time. The Club offers a mix of traditional youth club activities and a range of different activities to build new skills and confidence for the children. The Community Centre remains a perfect venue where the volunteers can run a safe and informative Club which is enjoyed by all the children.

At the conclusion of the Youth Club report, the Chairman presented to Cllr N Brown and Cllr L Hitchcock the Kent Association of Local Government Community Award for their work and commitment to the Halling Youth Club. The Award had been signed by the Medway Mayor and the High Sheriff of Kent. The Chairman added his personal thanks to Cllrs N Brown and L Hitchcock.

### **Halling Sapphires Women's Institute**

The Halling Sapphires will celebrate its 8th anniversary next Easter and has continued to support the village. The Sapphires' activities have included a display for Remembrance Day 2024 and the Sapphires are now looking to extend into St Andrews to help support the new community there.

## **5/AM-25 Public Questions / Statements**

A resident raised the issue of unsightly graffiti on the bridge at the Peters Road roundabout on the A228. The Chairman agreed that Halling Parish Council would raise this matter with Medway Council and request the removal of the graffiti.

The Clerk confirmed that Halling's two Medway Councillors had been informed of the Annual Meeting but had not replied.

A discussion was held concerning the Community Centre's drainage issue in the car park and its roof. The Chairman agreed that the Parish Council would contact Norse to acquire a quote for repair work to the drain in the car park, and to contact Medway Council concerning the issues affecting the Centre's roof.

The Clerk confirmed there are currently six vacancies for Councillors on the Parish Council.

The Clerk updated the meeting on the progress of Medway Council's Local Plan. This would be entering Regulation 19, the period for consultation, over July and August. There was some potential that the Plan would include development in Halling, and a possibility for building in the Green Belt if the Plan does not reach its house building target.

A discussion was held on 20 mph speed limits in Halling and the criteria used by Highway Departments to determine the conditions required for their installation. The Chairman agreed that the Parish Council would write to Medway Council to request a speed limit of 20 mph around the primary school.

## **6/AM-25 Any resolutions for consideration of the Parish Council, although not binding on them, or the calling of a Parish Poll at the Parish Council expense**

No resolutions were raised.

**7/AM-25 Closure of Meeting**

The Chairman thanked all those present for attending and closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.30pm.

**Signed: Cllr** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_