

HALLING PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of Halling Parish Council Meeting held on October 7th 2019 in the Jubilee Hall, Upper Halling

226/19 Present

Cllr G Wenham (Chairman)
Cllr T Dolby (Vice – Chairman)

Cllr G Chalker
Cllr Mrs S Chamberlain
Cllr D Marshall
Cllr P Hudson
Cllr Ms C Ebanks

Mr N Fursdon (Asst Clerk)

30+ members of the public.

227/19 Apologies for absence – Cllr R Thorne, Cllr C Buckwell and Cllr Mrs M Dillon.

228/19 Disclosure of any interests. – Cllr D Marshall – Item 237/19.

229/19 Approve Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on September 3rd 2019.

There was a minor error in the footpath item of the Minutes, Footpath RS220, should have read as footpath RS320. It error was corrected by hand and initialled by the Chairman.

The Minutes were then found correct and signed and dated by the Chairman.

230/19 Matters arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda – There were none.

231/19 Residents open session – no more than 30 minutes.

At the beginning of this section, the Chairman informed the residents that they could have one question each, and the session was limited to 30 minutes.

Residents were asked to give their names, but these are not published in these minutes.

- **Graffiti on foot bridge over the A228**

A resident said that he had mention the graffiti on the foot bridge at the last meeting, and it is still there.

- *The Chairman said it had been reported to Medway Council, the Parish Council do so again.*

- **Environment**

A young lady who is doing a project for her school about environmental issues.

- *The young lady was told that someone from the Parish Council would see her at a later date.*

- **20mph zone through the village**

A resident said that some time ago he asked for Halling to be a 20mph zone

- *The Chairman said that the Parish Council does not have the power to do this. He had spoken to Medway Cllr Fearn, who has said that the best thing would be for the residents to do a petition stating why there is a need.*

- **Defibrillator for Upper Halling**

A resident said that she had raised money towards a defibrillator for Upper Halling some time ago, and nothing seems to have happened yet.

- *The Chairman said that the matter is being looked into, the Jubilee Hall seems the best place and the Parish Council will have to contact the Jubilee Hall Committee on the matter. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council does not own the Jubilee Hall.*

- **DBS check**

A resident said that at the last meeting she asked that the new Asst Clerk have a DBS check, as he works in the office in the Community Centre while the pre-school is on.

- *The Chairman said that it had not been done at present, but is in the process of being done.*

- **Cuxton residents being Parish Cllrs on Halling Parish Council**

A resident asked why there were 2 Cuxton residents at Parish Cllrs on Halling Parish Council, is this legal, do they have an interest in the village, or is it to enhance their own political aims.

- *The two Cllrs concerned said that it was due to their interest in the village.*
- *The Chairman added that anyone within 3 miles of the Parish Boundary can put their names forward to be a Parish Cllr of any Parish Council.*

- **Water mains problems**

A resident said that there had been major water main problem in Upper Halling over the past week, with a burst water main. There are further work to be done and Pilgrims road is due to be closed for a number of weeks for work to be done.

- *The Chairman said the Parish Council was aware and will be monitoring the matter.*

- **Footpaths over the marsh**

A resident spoke about the team of three men who come each year to cut and clear the various footpaths on the marsh. These three men do this voluntarily. He suggested that the Parish Council may like to give them a thank you, by offering some money, he suggested £50 each.

- *The Chairman said that this was a one off cut as the footpath was so overgrown. The guys are people who volunteer to help Adam Taylor the Footpaths and Rivers Manager for Medway Council.*

- **Upper Halling recreation ground**

A resident said that he had been to a meeting where the Upper Halling recreation was debated, also the position of the new goal posts were, and they should be in the Parish Council Minutes.

- **Halling Minors**

A resident who is one of the organisers of Halling Minors said that at the last meeting Halling Minors were told that they could not play their Sunday League games on the Upper Halling recreation ground. Since then they have organised a petition which now has over 200 signatures, there is also an online petition on change.org which now has over 600 signatures, meaning there is a total of over 1000 signatures.

He asked the Chairman if the Parish Council was willing to change the decision. The Upper Halling recreation ground is the safest place for them to play and it also causes less problems with parking as there is a car park.

It had been stated that the Halling Minors does not have any public liabilities insurance. He can confirm that they do have public liabilities insurance, they have to, to play in the Sunday league.

- *Cllr D Marshall said that it does look like they have some support on the matter. He suggested that a Working Group be set up to talk to the people who live in the area of the Upper Halling recreation ground, the organisers of Halling Minors. He is willing to organise the Working Group.*

- *The Chairman said that the Halling Minors organisers should have written to the Parish Council in the matter.*

Why did they not come to the Parish Council Office to see someone?

One of the organisers said that he had phoned, emailed etc.

- **Kent Messenger article**

A resident started to mention an article that was in the Kent Messenger 2018.

At this moment there was a disturbance from an element of the residents present, and a lot of extreme foul verbal language aimed at the Parish Cllrs.

The Parish Cllrs agreed and the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8.05pm and asked the residents to leave the Hall so the Parish Council could continue the meeting behind closed doors.

Some of the residents left the hall, but the element that caused the disturbance in the first place refused to leave, despite some residents trying to persuade them to leave.

The Chairman then abandoned the meeting at this venue.

The Parish Cllrs and two of the residents cleared and locked the venue by 8.35pm

The Parish Cllrs reconvened the meeting in the Parish Council Offices at 8.45pm

232/19 Conformation of Portfolio Holders – deferred to next meeting.

233/19 Estates Report – deferred to next meeting.

234/19 Footpath Report – deferred to next meeting.

235/19 Marsh Report – deferred to next meeting.

236/19 Planning MC/19/2306 – Increase of height and formation of a mezzanine floor to facilitate the conversion of a garage to an annexe – deferred to next meeting.

237/19 Proposal to assist with funding to Halling WI for Christmas event - £450

Cllr D Marshall had declared an interest. He remained during the debate and did not take part in any vote.

The Cllrs debated the request from Halling WI for funding towards the Christmas event for Christmas 2019.

The event is an event for the whole village to enjoy, not just the WI

Cllr T Dolby proposed that Halling Parish Council provide the requested £450, Cllr P Hudson seconded the proposal and all Cllrs agreed.

Therefore the Proposal was carried.

238/19 Finance

❖ **September expenditure list** – The list had been sent to Cllrs by email before the meeting.

❖ **Nat West Bank – to approve a mandate be submitted to Nat West Bank to change the signature signing rules, to restore the original condition that any two (2) Councillors to sign cheques from the current All to sign.**

The matter was debated in full by the Councillors.

The proposal that the Mandate be sent to Nat West Bank was –

Proposed by Councillor G Chalker and seconded by Councillor P Hudson, and all Councillors agreed.

239/19 Any other business – There were none.

240/19 Date of next meeting – Tuesday November 5th at 7.30pm in the Committee Centre, Lower Halling.

241/19 Section 100A (4)

To resolve that pursuant to section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public be excluded from the following item because it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted that members of the public are not present at this item, there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of schedule 12A of the act – A Vote will be taken.

Cllr T Dolby proposed and Cllr G Wenham seconded with all Cllrs agreeing.

This section of the meeting closed at 9.10pm

242/19 Personnel Matters – The Cllrs debated various personnel issues.

243/19 Close of Meeting – The Chairman thanked Cllrs for attending and the meeting closed at 9.45pm.