

HALLING PARISH COUNCIL

The Community Centre, High Street, Lower Halling, Rochester, Kent. ME2 1BS
Clerk/Proper Officer/RFO Mr C Fribbins Telephone (01634) 241551
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Assistant Clerk Mr N Miners



Halling Parish Council

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Halling Parish Council held on Monday **19 May 2025, at 7.00pm in the Jubilee Hall, Browndens Road, Upper Halling.**

029/25 Election of Chairman for 2025-2026 (must be first item LGA 1972)

Cllr L Ali proposed Cllr R Thorne as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr G Wenham.

There were no other nominations.

Cllr R Thorne was therefore elected as Chairman of Halling Parish Council for 2025-26 and signed the declaration of acceptance.

030/25 Those Present and Apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Councillors present: Cllr R Thorne (Chair), Cllr, N Brown, Cllr S McCormack, Cllr L Ali, Cllr C Saltmarsh, Cllr L Hitchcock, Cllr G Wenham.

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

031/25 Declarations of any Pecuniary and / or Prejudicial Interests

Cllr L Hitchcock (Halling Community Centre and Halling Youth Club), Cllr N Brown (Halling Youth Club), Cllr L Ali (Jubilee Hall).

032/25 Clerk's Report on Annual Meeting Issues

The Clerk reported there were no issues arising from the previous Annual Meeting.

033/25 Urgent items to be considered by reason of special circumstances

The Chair reported there were no urgent items to be considered.

The Chair invited those present to share in a moment's reflection over the events of the past year and to bring to mind former Parish Councillor Barry Barnes and Halling Schoolgirl Sofia Le Brunn-Healey, who have both passed away since the Council held its previous Annual Meeting in May 2024. A moment of reflection was observed by all those present.

034/25 Approve the Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 9 May 2024

The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were presented to the Council. Cllr N Brown proposed the minutes as a correct record. This was seconded by Cllr G Wenham, ALL AGREED.

035/25 Matters Arising from the previous Minutes

There were no matters arising.

036/25 Election of Vice-chair 2025-2026

Cllr R Thorne proposed Cllr N Brown as Vice-chair, this was seconded by Cllr C Saltmarsh. There were no other nominations.

Cllr N Brown was therefore elected as Vice-chair of Halling Parish Council for 2025-26 and signed the declaration of acceptance.

037/25 Meeting Dates 2025-2026

The Clerk reported that the Council will be meeting for ordinary meetings in July, September, and November (2025); and January and March (2026). There will also be an extra meeting on Monday 23 June to agree the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).

038/25 To appoint Members of Committees and Representatives to other bodies

Finance Committee

It was agreed that all Councillors would serve on this committee should it meet in the forthcoming year.

Complaints and/or Personnel Committee

It was agreed to convene this committee if a complaint or personnel matter arose in the forthcoming year.

Estates and Environment Committee (including Planning and Footpaths)

This committee was not convened in the previous year, and it was agreed to continue without an Estates and Environment Committee for the forthcoming year.

Election of Portfolio Holders:

Marsh

Cllr G Wenham.

Footpaths

Cllr G Wenham.

Cllr G Wenham recorded his thanks to the late Barry Barnes for his work and dedication to Halling's footpaths.

Recreation Grounds

Cllr L Hitchcock.

Planning

Cllr L Ali.

Events Committee

Cllr R Thorne, Cllr C Saltmarsh Cllr N Brown, Cllr L Hitchcock.

The Clerk noted that non-Councillors may be co-opted by the Committee, with voting rights in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference.

Halling Association

Cllr S McCormack had been appointed by Medway Council.

Other Bodies

Kent Association of Local Councils (Medway Committee)

The Clerk reported that two Councillors could represent Halling Parish Council, and that the Medway Committee meet three or four times a year.

Kent Association of Local Councils (Local Training Representative)

Cllr L Ali.

Medway Council Rural Liaison Committee

Cllr S McCormack

John May Charity

The Clerk reported this charity is administered jointly with Snodland Town Council and Birling Parish Council, and the representatives from all three councils are by convention the Chairman and Clerk. It was agreed to continue with this convention.

Police Liaison

The Clerk reported that meetings are now conducted via Microsoft Teams and that Halling Parish Council does not currently have a representative. Cllr S McCormack agreed to fill this vacancy.

Parish Council / Community Centre Liaison

Cllr S McCormack.

Parish Council / Jubilee Hall Liaison

Cllr G Wenham.

Consideration of Appointment to Medway Valley Line Community Rail Partnership

Cllr S McCormack.

The meeting considered a donation to the Medway Valley Line Community Rail Partnership. Cllr L Hitchcock proposed that the Council donate £100. This was seconded by Cllr G Wenham, ALL AGREED.

Further Committees, Sub-Committees, Working Parties and Member Responsibilities

It was agreed to establish any of the above as and when required.

039/25 End of Meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.15pm.

Signed: Cllr _____

Date: _____