

HALLOW PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Hallow Parish Council held on Monday 22nd July 2024 at Hallow Village Hall

PRESENT: H. Kemshall; M. Silvester; L Marson; J. Walker; Julia Hixson (Clerk) and 13 members of the Public

1. Apologies for Absence. None

2. Declarations of interest and applications for Councillor Dispensations subject to the Localism Act 2011.

Cllr Marson declared an interest in respect of agenda item 6. Planning Application Consultation M/24/00878/HP The Copse, Brownes Way, Hallow, Worcester, WR2 6LE and would refrain from any discussion and voting.

3. Public Question Time

Members of the public were individually invited to voice their thoughts on matters including parking and use of the carpark, swearing, and use of the field for sport - in particular football and cricket. Comments received from parishioners were taken into account and Emails from 3 parishioners, all dated 15th July 2024 were read out. Following further input from Parishioners, Chair, Cllr Kemshall invited Football Chairman Joseph Grange to make a presentation in reply, after which Cllrs moved to discuss. Please see 8a below.

4. Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting of the meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of June 3rd, 2024 were unanimously accepted.

5. Neighbourhood Development Plan and South Worcestershire Development Plan Matters

Following a request from a member of the public for an update on the SWDP District Cllr Dean Clarke commended Cllr Kemshall on all her work on the NDP and agreed that the Chair and the Parish Council had taken the best decision with regard to the plan. Cllr Clarke gave an update on the possible impact and changes there may be to local and national planning under the new Government; and indicated that the SWDP revised would not be ready until the summer of 2025.

6. Planning Applications:

- Public Path Diversion Order - 550(part) and 555 (part) Hallow, Worcestershire. To note (Clerk to post such information on Parish notice board).
- Planning Application M/23/01167/HP - 6 Cedar Cottage, Main Road Hallow Worcester WR2 6PW. To note. Planning refused.
- Planning Application Consultation M/24/00878/HP The Copse, Brownes Way Hallow Worcester WR2 6LE. Cllr Marson remained silent having declared an interest. Councillors agreed to pass over without comment on this proposal.

7. Governance and Financial Matters

7.1 Bank Reconciliation to June 30th, 2024 – approved by Cllr Kemshall

7.2 BACS list June/July to date for approval – approved by Cllrs Walker and Silvester

7.3 Bank mandate. To pass the following resolutions:

(1) The Bank is authorised to act on the following agreements/instructions (Instructions) entered into or given by those persons specified by the Organisation (each a signatory and together signatories) for giving those Instructions. A motion was proposed by Cllr Kemshall and seconded by Cllr Walker.

(2) specifying either one or two named authorisers. 2 signatures for cheques and 1 authoriser for BACS payments. A motion was proposed by Cllr Kemshall and seconded by Cllr Marson.

The new mandate forms would be duly completed by all and submitted to the bank.

8. Parish Matters

(a) review of sport use of playing field

Parishioners raised the following issues:

- access to the carpark being constricted by parking cones
- pressure of parking
- impact of parking arising from training events on Weds clashing with parish hall events
- swearing that can be overheard in two neighbouring gardens
- that the field should be reserved for villagers and that too many outsiders were using the field
- The Chair of the Hall committee raised parking issues and clashes with weekend hall events. Cllr Kemshall advised that the Hall had been invited twice to present evidence of impact on bookings and income and had chosen not to provide this.

Joseph Grange who lives in the village, next to the playing field, Chairman of the football club, provided a full update and account of the activities of the footballers and the actions taken by them to mitigate all complaints, parking issues and Parish hall event clashes over the past year and their efforts to continue to try to promote football to all within the village whilst also being sensitive to the needs of the surrounding residents and Hall users.

Jo advised that their efforts to increase community engagement in under 2 years, had resulted in 330 people paying football at Hallow (190 adults and 140 children). Of these, 35 children attend the village school or have relatives in the village, the majority of the rest are from surrounding villages. Of the adults, 25 are from families in Hallow.

He was keen to emphasise efforts to engage locals, children and girls. His committee are keen to carry out remedial work on a voluntary basis to improve the conditions for use of the Pavilion before next season (pending a new pavilion). They also plan to make it clear to the public that half of the field is open to all other public users whilst training sessions are in progress.

With regard to parking – arrangement has been made for footballers to use up to 50% of the car park at the Crown.

In addition, he pledged his support to help with village events and continue to be as flexible as possible to try to fit in.

He advised that there would be a 50% reduction in the number of fixtures for the 2024/5 season.

Chair, Cllr Kemshall thanked Joseph and the Parishioners for their input, then presented background detail to the meeting including:

- The PC took over management of the playing field, pavilion, provided subsidies, and incurs significant running costs.
- Decisions about its use rest with the PC.
- Large events and using the field for overflow parking over many years had resulted in significant damage to the ground so had to cease, and remedial action and repair were overdue.
- The field is open to rent by all others, but demand is low from villagers. The field is often freely given for charity events and the PC supports with donations, purchase of equipment and funding security (for example to HVCG events).
- The pavilion is an asset to the village but the cost of keeping it in a safe condition and fit for use is huge.
- Pavilion needs replacing. Funding via support from MHDC S106 is available, but match funding is needed-the only source likely to be available (after extensive grant searching by the PC) is the FA.
- Funding options include renting out the field in its entirety for example to the English cricket board, or seeking funding from the football Assoc which requires us to show significant provision of sport for our parishioners, including children.

The PC needs to raise income – be this either by renting facilities or by raising the precept. A balance must be struck.

The PC cannot please all – we will still have parking issues (double yellow lines are not enforceable), we try to avoid event clashes with the Parish Hall (clerk will initiate a web booking system visible to all), neighbours will still raise objections.

The figures presented by football Chairman Joseph, show that the field is not just used by outsiders. In parallel, Parish Hall events are often attended by outsiders.

The PC's objective is to benefit the village by providing a community service at a low cost. There are around 740 households in the village. We have taken comment from a number of residents here, but the majority of households have not said what they want in the village.

The other Parish Councillors provided their feedback, opinions, pro-s and con's:

Cllr Walker commended the efforts and achievement that the football club had already made from a standing start to engage 120 local children and adults. He also stressed that a grant from the FA to renovate the pitch was achieved with the help of efforts to promote more sport in the village and that a working party of footballers and cricketers was making efforts to help achieve a new pavilion. He added that swearing was cultural. Joseph (Football Chairman) added that there were no rules to penalise swearing but was looking at what other teams and the FA have in place such as code of conduct signs.

Cllr Marson stressed that a balance was needed and that both local and outside sports players are needed to make sport sustainable in the village, given the small pupil numbers the school. Cllr Marson added that the home teams have made huge efforts to manage issues but have little control over away management.

Cllr Silvester added that the growth of football over the period should be commended, and approved the idea that the football Chairman was considering signage to highlight a code of conduct for players and spectators.

- **Councillors formally voted unanimously to continue with sport on the playing field for the coming year.**
- **Councillors unanimously proposed to send a letter to the Football club to address swearing and drinking during on the pitch.**

In addition, Chair, Cllr Kemshall stressed to the football Chairman that parking must be off-site for all footballers for any midweek training or events.

(b) use of tennis courts rented from Hallow PC for pickleball.

A presentation was made by Mandy Mackinnon asking for permission to create 2 Pickleball courts on land leased to the tennis club, by upgrading existing unused court areas. Councillors agreed to this proposal, with Cllr Silvester abstaining due to being a neighbour of the tennis club.

(c) request for assistance with the fundraising scheme for heating from Hallow Church, to include consideration of a donation to the fund raising in order for Hallow Church to provide a venue to a wide range of community meetings and activities.

A presentation was made by Emma Guise on behalf of the church. Councillors agreed unanimously to make a donation of £10,000 under Local Government Act 1976, section 19, in order to provide and enhance community use, social and recreational use by the wider community, to enable a venue for local events, and a safe, warm space for parishioners especially the vulnerable, proposed by Cllr Marson, Seconded by Cllr Walker.

(d) Update on bicycle rack at parish hall. – deferred to the next meeting.

(e) Enquiry from Rushwick Cricket club to use playing field on alternate weekends in 2025.

Councillors agreed unanimously to turn down the proposal with regret.

(f) Phone box and Christmas tree enquiry/proposal from Community Group

Councillors agreed to support HVCG'S proposal to take over and utilise the telephone box. The Parish Clerk will liaise and assist where possible.

Councillors agreed in principle to support the hvcg's plan to erect a Christmas tree on the Green and would await an update on the plan in due course. In principle the PC agreed to assist with funding.

(g) Worcester electric vehicle strategy consultation -<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say-electric-vehicle-charging-infrastructure-evci-strategy>

Cllr Marson stressed the importance of making representation on behalf of rural communities and agreed to look through the information in full with a view to submitting a formal representation. Councillors agreed unanimously.

(h) Clerks report to note. N.F.A

(i) Scheme of Delegation for the Clerk to undertake any urgent matters on behalf of the Parish Council. Until the next regular HPC meeting.

Councillors unanimously supported to delegate the above powers to the Clerk until the next meeting.

Those members of the public who had expressed an interest in co-option were provided with the relevant forms for completion. Date of the co-option will be confirmed and circulated in due course.

NEXT MEETING: t.b.a Meeting ended 8.50pm.

Minutes approved 10th October 2024

Signed by Chair: *Hazel Kemshall*