

HALTHAM PARISH MEETING

Draft

Held : -Tuesday 18th May 2021 Commencing 18:30

Location St Benedict's Church. Haltham.

Villagers Attending:- Sean Matthews (**SM**), John Huthwaite (**JH**), Richard Garner (**RG**), Councillor William Gray(**WG**), Susan Schofield(**SS**), Helen Huthwaite(**HH**), Les Allen(**LA**), Ken Mellor(**KM**), Dawn Mutti(**DM**), Paula Hartland(**PH**), Pete Sewell(**PS**), Marie Mellor (**MM**), Alec McCall (**AM**).

Guests :-

Apologies for Absence – Margaret McCall, Nick Emsell, Sarah Emsell, Paul Pledger, Anne Pledger.

Everybody was asked to complete the attendance sheet, details of emergency procedures explained by **JH**.

	Action
SM welcomed everyone to the meeting and the emergency procedures including the restrictions due to the Coronavirus Pandemic were explained including removal of face coverings when addressing the meeting, plus confirmation that the surfaces that we are using have all been sanitised prior to the meeting.	
WG was invited to the floor by SM in order to elect in the Chairman for the year. WG asked for nominations to the post there was one nomination being SM . Sean Matthews was proposed as Chair for the Parish Meeting, proposed by PH seconded by LA . Vote was carried SM elected as Parish Meeting Chairman for the year 2021.	
SM took to the floor to Chair the Parish Meeting, apologies were given for Nick and Sarah Emsell, Paul and Anne Pledger.	
SM asked for nominations for the post of Vice Chairman. KM suggested it would be good if a lady from the village was put forward. No one came forward. SM pointed out the RG was acting Vice Chairman in the last period and asked if he would put himself forward for this year. RG agreed to stand as Vice Chairman if elected. SM proposed, PH seconded. Vote was carried, RG elected as Vice Chairman for 2021.	
Minutes of last meetings. JH asked if there were any points to be raised with the draft minutes of the last meeting. He asked if there were any comments from the draft meeting. There were no comments. The Minutes were accepted for signing into the minute book.	JH/SM
Chairman's Report. SM thanked all those attending and being back together again after such a time. SM said that it has been a difficult 18 months but that we are now hopefully approaching the end of the lockdown restrictions and getting back to some form of normality. Thanks were given to Mike Schofield for the organisation which produced a fantastic Christmas Carol Concert back in 2019. SM pointed out that there is another planned for this year. SM thanked Paul Gell for looking after the Parish Web Site and also for all the work he does in producing the newsletter for the village. SM gave a warm welcome to the new comers into the village and welcomed back PH into the village. SM reminded all of the What's App group for the village and how it has helped to keep some of us together throughout the pandemic. SM congratulated WG on now being our County Councillor as well as our District Councillor, and as such we can put more pressure on the County through WG on getting the speed limit reduced through the village on the A153. SM asked for others to consider coming forward in the future to consider taking over the roles of Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk . SM said for any of those interested to come and speak to either of those at present in those roles so that we can give an insight into what the role/s consist of.	
Social Events. There is another Christmas Carol Concert being organised for this year Mike Schofield is running the event, proposed date being Saturday 11 th December at 4pm in the church building. There is also planned a quiz night again organised by Mike Schofield, date, time and venue all to be confirmed. DM has asked if we can organise another Fun Dog Show, SM suggested that this event last time was a great success, well attended and enjoyed by all. SM suggested that a sub committee is formed in order to take it forward. SM pointed out that the social events are planned and run as private events and are not part of the Parish Meeting. Ant proceed raised are given over to the organiser's chosen recipients. SM confirmed that if the Parish Meeting organises a social event, then it will be made clear that any funds will come through the Parish Meeting Accounts. SM confirmed that questions had been put from a resident of the village regarding the allocation of funds from social events, it was explained that the events were privately organised events and not Official Parish Meeting events and as such we have no control over where any funds are given. SM confirmed that he as an individual is always keen and open to the suggestion of any type of social event in the village and asked that if anyone is interested in having an event to contact him so that the event can be advertised out into the villagers. There has been mention on having a post Covid celebration in the village, we need to see how we are managing to get out of lockdown in order to plan for such an event.	MS MS DM
Training. MS is looking to organise another defibrillator training session this year, any one interested need to get in touch with MS for joining details.	MS
Use of Village Funds for Private Donations. SM said this topic was raised after suggestions that money be taken out of the Village Funds to pay for a wreath from the village at Tom's funeral. We have confirmation that this is not allowed as we cannot spend public money for a private event. We can though address topics such as this through a Parish Meeting with a vote taken to donate to such a topic. SM confirmed that a private collection was made in the village and a wreath bought for the funeral. JH confirmed that we are allowed to spend without additional meetings and votes on, allotments, street lighting, bus shelters, burials and cemeteries. SS questioned that with funds sitting in the bank accounts why we are not allowed to use those funds for such items as a wreath. SM pointed out that we can spend our funds on such items as a wreath, but it needs a Meeting so that the village can agree to releasing the monies required. SS questioned why there is in place agreement to spend up to £200 on items without holding a meeting, it was confirmed by SM that the £200 is for the purchase of items needed to run the "office" of the Parish, such as stationary items, Parish email accounts. JH confirmed that a meeting to propose and approve a spend can be arranged with a three-day notice period. JH asked WG for some clarity and it he confirmed that we are able to put in place an order outside our remit for a vote each year to allow for events such as the purchase of such items as are being discussed.	

<p>SS questioned whether the monies raised from the last Fun Dog Show were counted as village funds. It was confirmed that this is the case. SM confirmed that any funds in the Parish Meeting Bank Accounts are public funds.</p> <p>SS proposed that an amount of up to £100 be allowed to be spent for each event in this current financial year for a wreath or donation of the affected family's choice as a contribution from the village funds in memory of the person/s who have passed.</p> <p>AM questioned if there was any way that the money from events could be ring fenced into a separate account so that it was not subjected to being counted as public monies? SM suggested that this could prove to be problematic.</p> <p>SM asked for a proposer that up to £100 be able to come from the village funds when a villager passes away. SS proposed PH seconded, proposal carried.</p>	
<p>Village green Update.</p> <p>SM confirmed that progress has been terribly slow, he confirmed discussions have taken place with the solicitor acting on behalf of the village, the deeds have been lost over the period that has lapsed. The solicitor is producing documentation to allow a re issue of the required paperwork. JH confirmed that the account is being paid for by ELDC. KM questioned how much land is in dispute. SM confirmed that there is a discrepancy of some 1 metre plus around the boundary and that he has tried to negotiate with the owners Son of the Marmion which did not produce an agreement.</p> <p>JH suggested a direct contact be made with Bell and Shinn and confirmed that the legal team working for the Parish Meeting agreed this could be beneficial in moving the problem forward.</p> <p>On a related item the Marmion has put in for Planning to convert the Marmion into 2 separate dwellings. SM said he proposes this should be objected to as there is a dispute over the boundary but will support the proposal when the dispute is closed.</p> <p>Discussions took place regarding finding a way forward, JH confirmed that as the Parish Meeting we cannot submit an objection to the Planning Application as at the last Parish Meeting it was agreed that there is no process in place for this to happen. JH confirmed that if a submission from the Parish Meeting was to be put to Planning, then the Parish Meeting needs approval to allow this. SM confirmed that he will put a submission in on behalf of the village if he has the permission to do so. It was confirmed that if carried then this would not set a precedent going forward and that any future Planning Application would need a Parish Meeting to be held if the Village considers a submission be made on behalf of the village.</p> <p>JH asked if anyone objects to the submission being made by SM on behalf of the village. SM proposed that he submits an objection on behalf of the village (via the Parish Meeting) HH seconded vote carried.</p>	SM
<p>Clerk Report.</p> <p>Precept. JH explained about the working of the precept it being a local tax that comes directly to the village, and that it has to date always been set at zero. JH proposed that the Precept Rate for the year 2022 to 2023 be set at zero. SM seconded. Vote carried.</p>	
<p>Matters Arising.</p> <p>£500 remains in our bank account from a Grant from the Councillor Communities Fund. JH confirmed that we await instructions from ELDC on how to close this out. JH to chase again.</p> <p>We have tried to get a PCSO from the police to attend the meeting, but none were available to attend, JH to invite them again for the next meeting.</p> <p>Speed Calming through the village, JH confirmed that SM had a date when a trial using a mobile speed camera would be available over a weekend, but the date passed without the police attending. SM to contact the police to re arrange.</p> <p>The couple who wanted to donate a new bench to the village have not responded to correspondence.</p> <p>Flooding in the road outside Wheelwrights Cottage appears to have improved since a gully sucker was used on the surface water drain.</p> <p>White lining at the junction of West Lane and Main Road remains not reinstated, but now that WG is a county Councillor SM will contact WG to put pressure on highways to reinstate the lining at the junction.</p> <p>The village owns the 5 barred gate, the notice board and the bench, we pay out over £180 per year for insurance for those 3 items. When we use the church building or are in the churchyard we are covered for insurance through the bodies that are responsible for them. Our insurance does not cover their use. It is proposed that we let the insurance lapse until the village green ownership is transferred. Proposed by JH seconded by SM. Vote carried.</p>	
<p>Planning.</p> <p>There has been 1 planning application submitted for the village since the last meeting. Conversion of the Marmion into 2 properties.</p>	JH
<p>Financial Report. Monies available at the end of last year end stood at £4,219.59 with no outstanding invoices to be paid. This includes the £500 councillor grant which has not been used still to be resolved.</p> <p>SM confirmed that the Parish Meeting need dedicated email addresses when carrying out village business. This has meant setting up email accounts for the chair, vice chair, clerk and our website controller. This has been set up and has a cost to the village of £16.56 per month.</p> <p>JH proposed that the financial report be accepted seconded by SM. Vote carried.</p>	
<p>PCC and Churchyard.</p> <p>HH reported that the churchyard grass continues to be cut by villagers. HH confirmed that there is a churches festival held every September, (this year on 11th and 12th September) but as our church is a redundant church it is not included on the list of churches in the festival. HH confirmed the Paul Gell has produced a leaflet on the history of the church that we could ask for donations from visitors. HH asked if the Parish Meeting would pay for the printing of the leaflets. A sub committee to be organised to get the church cleaned up, and to possibly have in place light refreshments for visitors over the weekend of the festival. HH proposed that the Parish Meeting pay to produce the leaflets SM seconded. Vote carried.</p>	HH
<p>Any Other Business.</p> <p>HH asked if anything can be done about the state of the fencing on the Tumby Estate field just past the Marmion. SM said he would put a call into Tumby Estate to ask them to repair the fencing.</p> <p>PH confirmed that she holds the keys to the church and questioned whether it is safe for people to go into the bell tower. HH confirmed that contact has been made with the Churches Conservation Trust and they confirmed that only those with the relevant safety certification can go up the church tower.</p> <p>PS asked if a letter of thanks went to the Environment Agency, JH confirmed that it had and would retrieve the document and put it on the web site.</p> <p>PS asked if we can put any pressure on Highways to have a street light positioned at the junction of the A153 and the entries to the village. SM said he would speak to Highways.</p>	SM JH SM
<p>Date of next Meeting. To be confirmed.</p>	