

HALSE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28th JANUARY 2026 at 6:30 pm IN HALSE VILLAGE HALL

Present:	Mr I Walker	Chair
	Mrs S Haselock	
	Mr L Morris	Footpaths
	Ms K Robinson-Burge	Vice Chair
	Mrs C Windeatt	Clerk to the Council
Members of the Public in attendance:	One	

	<p>Questions from members of the public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident of Halse addressed the meeting requesting a speed limit be introduced into the village of Halse due to the number of vehicles speeding through the village; the increase in the number of children living in Halse, who congregate in the centre of the village waiting for the school bus; a large number of homes in the village do not have frontage and therefore their front doors open out on the main lane running through the village; three cats have been killed in the past year by passing vehicles. The resident cited two local Somerset villages, Crowcombe and Monksilver have introduced a 20 mph speed limit within the village environs. • A general discussion took place regarding this topic. The Chair advised the resident that this topic had been raised by another resident a few months ago. Cllr Mansell, who was in attendance at that meeting, explained the criteria for introducing a speed limit, and advised that he did not believe Halse met that criteria. • Action: Chair to write to Somerset Council to request research be carried out into the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit within the village, and request a written answer which can be publicised/circulated to residents. • The second question from this resident related to signposting of footpaths in the parish of Halse. Cllr Louis Morris responded, informing the meeting that fingerposts and footpath signs have been purchased. Cllr Morris advised that the farmland surrounding Halse changed ownership in November 2025. • Action: Cllr Morris will liaise with the new owners and gain permission to erect the signage on their farmland within the next few months.
	<p>Report from County Councillor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both Cllr Dave Mansell and Cllr Gwil Wren were unable to attend this meeting due to prior commitments.
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Dave Mansell • Cllr Gwil Wren
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

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3.	<p>Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting are a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Haselock and seconded by the Cllr Walker.
4.	<p>Actions from Previous Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was confirmed that all actions from the previous meetings have been completed.
5.	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The balance in the two Nat West bank accounts as at 26th January 2026: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Savings account £20,183.80 Current account £ 1,658.92 <p style="text-align: right;">£21,842.72 as at 26/01/2026</p> <p>5.1 • Schedule of payments - There were no payments requiring approval. The following payments are anticipated prior to the end of the current financial year: South West Ambulance service – defibrillators; EV chargers; clerk’s training fee; clerks’ final quarter salary and expense claim.</p> <p>5.2 • New Parish Council Website – The clerk had previously circulated a report giving details of the need for a new website, together with costs received from Somerset Webservices. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with this quote, to ensure the Halse Parish Council website is fully compliant with all government regulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action : Clerk to contact Somerset Webservices to accept quote for the construction of the new website. - <i>Done</i> <p>5.3 • Precept 2026/27 – Discussions on whether to increase the precept and if so by what percentage. It was confirmed that the precept was not increased the previous year. This year, the precept will be paid in two instalments. It was unanimously agreed to increase the precept by 15% = £9,618.60. This equates to £60.92 for band D properties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action: Clerk to submit Precept 2026/27 to Somerset Council before 30/01/2026 - <i>Done</i>
6.	<p>EV Chargers</p> <p>6.1 • The Fuse EV Chargers have been removed, and Taun-Tech have installed a new unit with two charging points. The Chair confirmed they are functioning. The units are connected via cable to the wifi router in the village hall. Users will zap the QR code on the unit to access the charger, which will then take the user through the payment and charging process. The Chair advised that the charge will be 80p per Kwh, which compares favourably with nationwide EV charger outlets where the charge ranges between 80p - £1.50 per Kwh. The arrangement with Halse Village Hall will remain the same as previously. The Chair is awaiting the official handover from Taun-Tech, and their invoice for the unit and installation costs, before publicising that the units are now working.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Robinson expressed her thanks on behalf of the council to the Chair for persevering in resolving this long running problem. Action: Chair/Clerk to publicise the EV charging points at the New Inn community pub, to the local holiday cottages, Halse News, Halse Newsletter, and on the new Halse PC website. Signage to be created and erected above the EV charger at the village hall.
7.	<p>Roads and Footpaths</p> <p>7.1 Highways Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair has reported the pothole to at the end of Stoford Lane to Somerset Council. When this was reported in December Somerset Council deemed ‘no action required’. The pothole has increased in size significantly over the last few weeks. The other issue reported to councillors was the run off from Sandpits field onto the Fitzhead lane adjacent to Lavender Barn. Residents reported their concerns regarding the amount of mud and

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7.2	<p>water running off the field onto the lane following the very heavy rainfalls in January. The Chair ascertained that before the ditch had been dug around the edge of this field, the water run off was running into the garden of Lavendar Barn (holiday let) and down the footpath steps. The footpath steps have been renovated, and the run off water diverted over the bank and into the drain immediately below, alleviating the erosion to the footpath steps and excess water entering the holiday let garden.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair viewed the site prior to the meeting, and confirmed the drain was not blocked; any water running off the field was entering the drain and being filtered into the ditch adjacent to the entrance to Lavender Barn. Water was running freely, no blockages were apparent, and there was no flooding on the lane. <p>Footpaths Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An electric fence has been constructed across the footpath in the field where the proposed solar panel farm will be constructed, with sheep grazing in the field. This is an obstruction to the footpath. Action: Cllr Robinson will contact the landowner Mike King to discuss the problem. Please see action point for Cllr Morris noted under Public Questions.
8.1	<p>8. Planning</p> <p>8.1 Report on planning and related matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning application no : 25/0013/AGR- This planning minute was signed by the Chair. This application has been denied by Somerset Council. The Chair reported that he anticipates a new application for a smaller feed barn will be submitted to Somerset Council by the farmer, Mr Martin Greenway, with access via Northway lane. It is anticipated that this application will be approved by Somerset Council under Permissive Development Rights.
9.	<p>9. Clerk's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The clerk had circulated her report prior to the meeting together with accompanying documents: IT Policy, Revised Financial Regulations, draft Fixed Asset Register. The clerk briefed the meeting on the requirement for all councils to have an IT policy to ensure compliance with the 2026 Annual Governance Statement. The Financial Regulations required updating in line with the latest edition issued by NALC. A Fixed Asset Register, even if the assets value is nil, is required to be published on the parish council website. Cllrs unanimously adopted the above policies. Action: Clerk to publicise the above policies on the website.
10.1 10.2 10.3	<p>10. Matters of Report including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.1 Village Hall Report - Nothing to report. 10.2 Police Report – The December police report had been received from PCSO Brianna Whelan. No comments were noted. 10.3 No other reports received.
11.	<p>Date of Next Meeting : Wednesday 6th April 2026 – 6:30 pm – Venue: Halse Village Hall</p>
12.	<p>12. Items for the next meeting :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Statement for year ending 31st March 2026 Timetable for the Annual Governance Statement 2026 Date to be set for the Annual Meeting Review of Risk Assessment prior to renewing Public Liability Insurance.

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