

HALSE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2025 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
	Mr Dave Mansell	Somerset Councillor
Members of the Public in attendance:	None	

	<p>Report from County Councillor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Mansell advised the meeting that Somerset Council Planning department was moved to emergency measures earlier this year, but they have now cleared the backlog. They will be changing their procedures and working to rules. There is a delay in Enforcement Notices being enforced, but action is underway to improve this process.• The Chair requested clarification from Cllr Mansell on Somerset Council's plan to devolve responsibility for road maintenance, gulley and drain clearance to parish council, which was announced 2 years ago, but to date no clear instructions have been received. As a result of SC proposal, Halse PC increased the precept by 100%. Cllr Mansell responded by advising Somerset Council have a statutory duty to carry out these works. The Highways Working group have published a programme covering road sweeping, which parishes have access to. A programme of gulley clearance is being worked on, and parishes will be given access to this information. In addition to the above, there is a Reactive Budget. Problems can be reported on line and a response to this type of problem will be allocated depending of severity of the problem. There is a facility on line to check Somerset Council response to reported problems.• Action: Clerk to contact Michelle Brooks, LCN administrator for information on how to access road sweeping and gulley clearance information for Halse Parish.
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
3.	<p>Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2025 It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting are a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by the Cllr Morris.</p>
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>Co-option of Councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The clerk advised, that following the Casual Vacancy Notice, Somerset Electoral Services have confirmed there has been no response, and the co-option of a replacement Councillor for Cameron Kinch can take place.• A general discussion took place, and it was agreed to discuss co-option at the next meeting.

Signed.....Date

6. 6.1	Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule of payments - none • Current account balance = £421.86 Reserve account balance = £22,149.25 • Total = £22,571.11 as at 17/11/2025
7. 7.1	EV Chargers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair clarified the monthly running costs with Taun-Tech and advised councillors, via email, before he signed the new contract agreement for the installation of two replacement EV chargers. • The installation date for the new EV chargers is December 2025
8. 8.1 8.2	Roads and Footpaths Highways Report <p>The Chair had been advised of an issue on Tinker's Lane by a resident. The Chair and Cllr Morris viewed the problem and the Chair has tried on numerous occasions to talk to the owner of the adjacent property, without success. It is understood that the complainant is reporting the matter to SC so no further action is planned by PC.</p> Footpaths Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs have been received from SC to use as required on replacement posts in the future.
9. 9.1	Planning Report on planning and related matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A site visit to Little Brook Barn Northway took place on 25th October 2025, and the minutes were signed. • Planning application no : 25/0013/AGR This application relates to the proposed erection of a feed storage barn, under 750 sq m, on land adjacent to Blakes Lane. As this planning application has caused concerns within the village, the Chair advised the meeting, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Halse Farm has been sold to three farmers, 34 acres to Chris Briggs, who has a dairy farm on the Northway to Ash Priors lane. 400 acres to the west of the village to Mr Martin Greenway, and the remaining 400 acres to Mr Richard Parrish. Mr Greenway owns a cattle farm at Higher Vexford. ○ Mr Greenway's agent submitted the above numbered planning application to Somerset Council, and was led to believe that as the proposal falls into the Permissive Development Rights for agricultural land, this was approved. However, Somerset Council had responded to the agent requesting additional information before approving this plan. Communication between Somerset Planning, Mr Greenway and the Chair has been confusing. ○ The Chair, Cllr Robinson Burge and a local ex-dairy farmer met with Mr Greenway. At this meeting Halse Parish Councillors expressed their desire to work with the new landowners within the parish and the benefits of working together: footpath maintenance, gully clearance, hedgerow maintenance, storm damage clearance. Mr Greenway advised: farm traffic will not be travelling through the village due to narrowness of the lanes. Deliveries will be directed via the Milverton end of the village and/or via the lane from Northway. The plan is for Mr Greenway's daughter, Imogen to manage the farm and eventually take up residence in the barn currently being converted at Stoford Lane. Mr & Miss Greenway are aware of the public footpaths and rights of way across the land. As the land has been used for arable crops for many years, the quality of the soil is greatly diminished. The plan is to turn the land into pastures, and introduce a herd of 300 New Zealand friesian cows. Their contract will be with Yeo Valley. Any breaches of the environmental clauses within this contract will result in cancellation. Mr Greenway

Signed.....Date

	<p>advised that he will be happy to meet to discuss his plans with local residents and councillors at a public meeting at a later date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At a subsequent chance meeting with Mr & Miss Greenway, the Chair was advised that the plan is to resubmit the proposal to Somerset Council for the feed barn and a milking parlour. Miss Greenway, under a separate application, will be applying to improve the access from Blakes Lane into the fields and up to the property on Stoford Lane, and also to the lane between Northway and Ash Priors. ○ Once the revised planning application and the separate application has been received by Somerset Council, this will be posted on Somerset Council planning portal for the public to view. Mr & Miss Greenway will post a notice of the application for 21 days, as required by planning law. At that time Halse Parish Council will arrange a site meeting, and then submit Halse Parish Council's comments on the proposal to Somerset Council. The public are invited to submit their comments direct to Somerset Council at this stage. ○ Once the plans are available to view, it was agreed that Mr Greenway will be invited to discuss his plans at a public meeting to be held in Halse Village Hall. ○ The Chair emphasised that the final decision regarding any plans will be made by Somerset Council. ○ The Chair will endeavour to arrange a meeting with Mr Richard Parrish to discuss his proposals for the farm land to the east of the village.
10. 10.1	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The clerk had circulated her report prior to the meeting. All topics within this report have been discussed.
11. 11.1	<p>Matters of Report including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Hall Report – it was agreed that Cllr Robinson Burge will arrange to decorate the tree on the green within the village with Christmas lights. Halse Village Hall will make their own arrangements with regard to a Christmas tree. • Police Report – The September and October police reports received from PCSO Brianna Whelan were circulated prior to the meeting. No comments were noted.
12.	<p>Date of Next Meeting : Wednesday 28th January 2026 – 6:30 pm – Venue: Halse Village Hall</p>
13.	<p>Items for the next meeting :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2026/27 Precept

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