

Halwill Parish Council

AGENDA

November, 2023

To members of Halwill Parish Council You are hereby summoned to attend a **Meeting of Halwill Parish Council** which will be held on **16th November , 2023 at 7.30 p.m.** at the Parish Hall for the purpose of transacting the following business:

2023/Nov/1 Apologies: To receive apologies for absence

2023/Nov/2 Declarations of Interest

Deferment of business for Public Question Time. Time allowed at the discretion of the chairman. The public are invited to give their views and ask questions about items on this agenda. They may also raise issues for future consideration which may be made agenda items for a future meeting. Answers may be given in writing.

2023/Nov/3 Clerk's & Councillors' announcements

2023/Nov/4 To confirm Minutes for the September 2023 Parish Council Meeting

2023/Nov/5 Finances

- i. Bills for payment (see attached list)
- ii. Grant Applications

- Match funding for playing field maintenance projects – annual various
 - Grant Request for Jubilee suit roof - £1,000
 - Holsworthy Community Transport - £500 p/a
- Section 137 of the LGA (1972) grants
- RBL poppy appeal
 - Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon Citizens Advice

2023/Nov/6 Action List / Matters Arising from the minutes including

- Boundary fence behind the Old Garage
- Boundary fence behind changing rooms/broken gate post
- Ash dieback
- Policy documents
- Measures identified in the Hall disability audit:
 - Contrasting paint for the edges of the steps to the playing field.
 - Disabled parking signs need repainting
- Gazebo

2023/Nov/7 Budget preparation. Future capital projects including defibrillators

2023/Nov/8 Planning

Torridge District Council, the determining authority, has asked for comments on the following applications:

Reference 1/1036/2023/REM

Address Land Adjacent To Byways Halwill Devon

Proposal Reserved matters application for Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for 4no. dwellings pursuant to application 1/0551/2021/OUT

Reference 1/1108/2023/OUT

Address Land Off Station Road, Halwill, Devon,

Proposal Outline application with all matters reserved for 3no. dwellings

Halwill Parish Council

Any planning applications that the Parish Council is asked to comment on after this agenda has been published will be discussed here though a formal decision cannot be made at this meeting.

2023/Nov/9 Correspondence – Letter from Sir Geoffrey Cox Regarding the parish council's priorities for the levelling up partnership.

2023/Nov/10 Matters to be raised for information only

2023/Nov/11 To confirm December 14^h as the date of the next meeting

Signed – Don Osborne

Minutes of Halwill parish council's November meeting

Held on 16 November 2023 at 7.30pm In the Parish Hall

The meeting started at 7:30pm

Present:

Cllrs J Wilson (Chair), R Cristofoli(RC), J Lawlor (JL) R Livermore(RL) and B Mason-Walshaw (B M-W),

In Attendance:

Ward Councillors P Hackett (PH) and S Gibson, (SG), 6 members of the public (MoP) and the clerk

2023/Nov/1 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from County Councillor J Morrish

2023/Nov/2 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Livermore declared an interest in the planning application 1/1108/2023/OUT

2023/Nov/3 Clerk's and Councillors' announcements

Ward Councillors

Councillor Gibson introduced himself as it was his first time attending a meeting of Halwill Parish Council. He asked the group what they thought the District Council should be doing more of.

In response JL Said that there should be an integrated transport policy; the bus service runs once every 3 hours which is not ideal for the ongoing train to Exeter. There is a division of responsibilities between government, district, county and the private transport companies so there is no one in overall control.

Councillor Hackett said the bus issue has been raised at the Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC).

PH Reported that rural drink driving is an issue and there will be increased police enforcement in December.

County Councillor

Report from Councillor Morrish:

“Over the last 2 months I have had 144 emails and phone calls on Council issues from those who live and work in the Holsworthy rural ward,

12 of these have come from your parish on issues such as Speeding, Hunt meet in Holsworthy square and homeless people.

I was pleased to see that your football club had received a grant from my locality budget. I also have had a few talks regarding white lines outside the school and am pleased that the process is well underway and is on the agenda for the next HATOC meeting. So good news.

I hope all is well at Halwill and will do my level best to be with you in December but as always please do contact me if you need anything.”

2023/Nov/4 To confirm minutes for the September 2023 Parish Council Meeting.

The minutes were signed as a correct record by Cllr J Wilson

2023/Nov/5 Finances

1 Bills for payment

It was resolved to pay the following bills

Table 1: Table of bills to pay and cheques to be raised at the November meeting

Date	Company	Amount inc VAT	For what
25/09/23	Halwill Parish Hall	£32.00	Hall hire
26/09/23	Hawthorns Accounting Services Ltd	£72.00	Payroll services
16/11/23	D C Osborne	£402.00	Salary
16/11/23	D C Osborne	£10.00	Expenses, telephone
16/11/23	GDL Garden Services	£270.00	Parish Warden September
16/11/23	GDL Garden Services	£190.00	Parish Warden October

Current Account Total For month inc VAT: £976.00

Current Account Total for month ex VAT £976.00

VAT for month: £0.00

Clerks total: £412.00

2 Grant Applications

- Match funding for playing field maintenance projects – annual various

A representative from the football club was pleased to report that the football club had received grants from the Football Association for new grass maintenance equipment and a grant for pitch maintenance. However there is a 25% match funding requirement the football club hopes that this can be found from section 106 grant money but if it can't they request that the parish council underwrite the 25% shortfall. Carried over.

- Grant Request for Jubilee suit roof - £1,000

An investigation by a building surveyor has shown that the Jubilee Suit may not need to be re roofed but may just need passive ventilation fitting. A second opinion will be sought. Carried over pending more information.

- Holsworthy Community Transport (HCT)- £500 p/a

Councillor Lawlor declared an interest in this as he is a trustee of HCT. It was **resolved** to award a grant of £150 for this year only the decision will be reviewed next November

Section 137 of the Local Government Act (1972) grants

- Royal British Legion (RBL) poppy appeal

It was **resolved** to award a grant of £50 to the RBL Poppy Appeal

- Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon Citizens Advice (TNMWDCA)

It was **resolved** to award a grant of £50 to TNMWDCA

2023/Nov/6 Budget preparation

Future capital projects including defibrillators

2023/Nov/7 Action List / Matters arising for the Minutes

- Boundary fence behind the Old Garage

So far we have failed to get any contractors to quote for fencing behind the garage. Four contractors have been asked to quote so far. It may be that volunteers will be needed to put up a temporary fence.

- Boundary fence behind changing rooms/broken gate post

Carried over.

- Ash dieback

The Council has received additional quotes to remove the ash trees should it become necessary. The largest, multi trunk tree will cost between £1,500 and £2,500 to remove depending on the method used but it has so far shown no signs of disease. The 2 trees

near the pedestrian gate to Somerslea need removing, the Clerk will arrange for this to be done.

- Policy documents

Carried over.

- Measures identified in the Hall disability audit:
 - Contrasting paint for the edges of the steps to the playing field.
 - Disabled parking signs need repainting

Road markings and step nosings are not expensive. The clerk will order.

- Gazebo

Weather and time permitting the football club will help.

2023/Nov/8 Planning/Consultations

Torrige District Council (TDC), the determining authority, has asked for comments on the following applications:

Reference 1/1036/2023/REM

Address Land Adjacent To Byways Halwill Devon

Proposal Reserved matters application for Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for 4no. dwellings pursuant to application 1/0551/2021/OUT

Halwill Parish Council has **no comment** on this matter

Reference 1/1108/2023/OUT

Address Land Off Station Road, Halwill, Devon,

Proposal Outline application with all matters reserved for 3no. Dwellings

Halwill Parish Council **resolved** to object to this application for the following reason:-

- The development is outside the development boundary.

The Council further agreed to ask PH to call-in the application to the plans committee of TDC

2023/Nov/8 Correspondence

Letter from Sir Geoffrey Cox Regarding the parish council's priorities for the levelling up partnership.

Sir Geoffrey Cox KC MP asked what the priorities should be regarding the use of the levelling up money allocated to the region.

2023/Nov/9 Matters to be raised for information only

none

2023/Nov/10 To confirm December 14th as the date of the next meeting

The next ordinary meeting will be on December 14th 2023 at 19:30 in the Parish Hall

The meeting ended at 21:00



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

31 October 2023

Mr Donald Osborne,

Clerk to Black Torrington Parish Council,

Leasefield Farm,

Halwill Junction,

Devon,

EX21 5XU.

Dear Mr Osborne,

As you may know, I carry out a programme of village and community hall consultations and drop-in surgeries most years during the summer and autumn. If I have not recently held one in your parish, I am likely to contact you soon to do so!

I am determined that our parishes and parish and town councils should have the opportunity of being consulted as much as possible and, to that end, I am writing to you now to ask the help of the Council with some important initiatives that I hope will improve the lives of those of us who live permanently in Torridge and West Devon.

Roads Petition.

One of the issues that comes up time and again for those us living in our rural parishes is the crumbling condition of many of the minor roads, which has been made worse by recent severe winters and rain.

We are all familiar with the scourge of potholes but, particularly in some of the smaller villages, critical access roads are being allowed to disintegrate because they are unclassified. The County Council's current strategy is apparently to concentrate limited resources on the classified A and B roads. This can mean that some routes, important to our villages, are no longer regularly maintained.



It is clear to me Devon County Council requires more help to maintain all roads vital to our communities to an acceptable standard. In recent years, the Government has provided significant one-off additional funds to enable the Council to carry out improved levels of road maintenance and I am pressing hard again, this year and next, for it to increase the resources allocated to this priority.

To secure that objective, I would be most grateful for the Council's help in supporting my constituency-wide Parliamentary Petition. A Parliamentary Petition is a formal process, which must obey certain rules and is formally presented by me to the House of Commons and the Speaker on the floor of the Chamber of the House. It is recorded in Hansard and the Government is obliged to formally to respond to the petition.

The rules governing such petitions are strict and all signatures must be original (not photocopied) and accompanied by a postal address or they will be discounted. Every page must also bear the text of the petition. It would be very helpful if you could circulate the petition as widely as possible in the parish and return the signatures to me at the House of Commons by Friday 29 January 2024, in order that the signatures can be counted before being presented to Parliament before the budget in March. I am enclosing with this letter blank templates of the form of the petition, which can be photocopied.

Levelling Up Partnership Priorities.

Furthermore, as you know, Torridge is one of 20 districts in the country to have been made the location of a Levelling-Up Partnership, which will be steered by a joint task force consisting of both central and local government, of which the MP is a member, and which will share in an initial fund of £400 million. The objective of the task force is to develop and finance projects to provide a permanent boost to Torridge's economy, and it will be able to use the powers of central government to waive or suspend existing rules, such as business rates or car park charges. You may well have heard me speak about this once-in-a-generation opportunity. It is essential, however, that the priorities on which the task force concentrates are informed by the views and priorities of those living in our rural parishes and market towns and I would be grateful if your Council could reach a consensus and complete the enclosed form, returning it to me at the House of Commons by the end of November.



Royal Mail Letter Post and Broadband.

Finally, I am receiving reports of continued problems with the performance of Royal Mail's universal service obligation in connection with the letter-post. The service is particularly important to our rural parishes, which may often contain isolated communities. Similarly, there are still areas that are not well served by broadband. It would help me greatly in my current discussions with the Royal Mail, and with broadband providers and Connecting Devon and Somerset (which is the government subsidised partnership responsible), if you could canvass experiences in your parish and provide me with such feedback as you can on these matters.

Once again, I am very grateful indeed for your help and collaboration and for all that you and your Council do throughout the year. The work of parish and town councils is essential to the wellbeing of our communities, and I shall continue strongly to support their continuing role. As usual, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me on any other matter of local concern with which you think I may help.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Cox KC,

Member of Parliament for Torridge and West Devon.



I am very keen to know which projects local communities think should be taken forward by Torridge's Levelling Up Partnership, and that the parish and town councils should be involved in informing the priorities for the partnership. In order of priority, please list below up to 3 projects with the most important first.

Name of parish council:

Date:

Project 1:

Project 2:

Project 3:

In the table below are some of the projects that have been suggested to me during discussions throughout Torridge. If you would support any of these projects being included in the Levelling Up Partnership, please do rank them in order of preference, with 1 being the highest priority.

Project	Rank
a) The restoration of the Biddeford-Barnstaple railway line.	
b) The expansion of the Holsworthy Agri-business Centre as a Hub for Agri-industry	
c) The re-development of the former Taddipport Creamery site.	
d) The creation of a Biddeford Maritime Heritage area, including historic ships and a Maritime Heritage Centre.	
e) The rejuvenation of Biddeford, Northam, Torrington and Holsworthy town centres with a town centre improvement scheme and special retail zones.	

If you have any further comments or suggestions, please describe them overleaf.

