

DOCKET OF REPORTS & INFORMATION FOR AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7.9.15

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- FINANCE REPORT & SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT
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PLANNING WORKING GROUP REPORT

Initial Report on Planning Application 15/3257N

Land Adjacent to Bird's Nest, Audlem Rd - Outline application for a housing development for 21 dwellings with access

This is yet another speculative development outside the Audlem Settlement Boundary. It should be noted that two of the market value properties are part of an Enabling project to allow repair of the Victorian part of Highfields – a Grade 1 listed building.

The Parish Council Planning Sub Committee recommends that the Parish Council **objects** to the proposed development on two separate bases.

1 Non-compliance with the Emerging Audlem Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council submits that the planning application does not comply with the following ANP policies:

- **Policy H1: Number of New Homes**
- **Policy H3: Scale of New Development**
- **Policy H4: Size of Homes**
- **Policy H5: Types of Homes**
- **Policy H6: Affordable Housing**
- **Policy H7: Tenancy Mix**
- **Policy CW3: Infrastructure Support.**

2 Non-Neighbourhood Plan Reasons

This is a speculative application on a site which is outside the settlement boundary and is on grade 3a agricultural land.

There are also concerns about infrastructure issues as follows:

- Traffic
- Medical Facilities
- Public Transport
- Employment
- Sewerage Infrastructure

If Councillors agree the recommendation of the Planning Group then these issues will be expanded upon in the Parish Council's response

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2015

The performance against budget and the figures for the Public Conveniences budget are shown below.

Councillors and residents are asked to bear in mind that Applications for Grants will be considered at the October meeting – this will help inform the budgeting process which will need to be carried out over October and November.

All other items are covered in the report from the Finance Sub-Committee which is attached.

Audlem Parish Council								Print Date	02/09/2015
Performance vs Budget		2015/6	as of	02/09/2015	Period	5			
Cost Centre	Designation	Budget Planned Expenditure	Current			Simple Year end prediction as of 02/09/2015			
			Expenditure	Over/under Spend	Status	Expenditure	Over/Under Spend	Status	
A	Salaries - Admin	6014.00	2651.25	3362.75		6363	-349	Overspend	
B	Office Expenses	550.00	164.51	385.49	▶	395	155	Surplus	
C	Room Hire	500.00	160.00	340.00	▶	384	116	Surplus	
D	Professional Services	690.00	278.00	412.00	▶	667	23	Surplus	
E	Insurance	900.00	858.97	41.03	▶	2062	-1162	Overspend ***	
F	Subscriptions	680.00	659.32	20.68	▶	1582	-902	Overspend ***	
G	Newsletters & promotional printing	1850.00	297.00	1553.00	▶	713	1137	Surplus	
H	Website	300.00	64.27	235.73	▶	154	146	Surplus	
I	Training	200.00	90.00	110.00	▶	216	-16	Overspend ***	
J	Councillor Expenses	200.00	51.30	148.70	▶	123	77	Surplus	
K	Chair's Allowance	200.00	35.00	165.00	▶	84	116	Surplus	
L	Salaries - Street Cleaning	4200.00	1830.39	2369.61	▶	4393	-193	Overspend	
M	Grass Cutting	200.00	0.00	200.00	▶	0	200	Surplus	
N	Community Expenditure	700.00	120.00	580.00	▶	288	412	Surplus	
O	Repairs & Renewals	500.00	0.00	500.00	▶	0	500	Surplus	
P	Village Meeting	200.00	84.62	115.38	▶	203	-3	Overspend ***	
Q	Toilets	5000.00	1464.97	3535.03	▶	3516	1484	Surplus	
R	Neighbourhood Plan - APC Funded	0.00	0.00	0.00	▶	0	0	To Budget	
S	Playing Field Complex	0.00	0.00	0.00	▶	0	0	To Budget	
T	Other Prof Services (Planning etc)	1000.00	500.00	500.00	▶	1200	-200	Overspend ***	
U	Grants	10000.00	3050.00	6950.00	▶	7320	2680	Surplus	
V	Approved Projects	2500.00	0.00	2500.00	▶	0	2500	Surplus	
W	Other Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	▶	0	0	To Budget	
X	Reserved Funds A/C	3900.00	2224.93	1675.07	▶	5340	-1440	Overspend ***	
Y	Neighbourhood Plan - GRANT	3060.00	1050.30	2009.70	▶	2521	539	Surplus \$	
Z	TOTALS	43344.00	15634.83	27709.17		37524	5820	Surplus	
*** Inaccurate projection due to one off or occasional commitments rather than regular monthly expenditure									
\$ Inaccurate projection as project is short term									
PLEASE NOTE ALL TOTALS ARE NET OF VAT									

		Toilet Block		Income & Expenditure 2015/16			02/09/2015	
Month		Income			Expenditure			
		Income banked	Total Income	Budget Income	Expenditure for month	Total Expenditure	Budget Expenditure	
TOTAL								
April	1	39.93	39.93	62.50	177.37	177.37	416.67	
May	2	68.10	108.03	125.00	285.34	462.71	833.33	
June	3	63.50	171.53	187.50	411.26	873.97	1250.00	
July	4	34.97	206.50	250.00	321.34	1195.31	1666.67	
August	5	96.83	303.33	312.50	343.27	1538.58	2083.33	
September	6	0.00	303.33	375.00	0.00	1538.58	2500.00	
October	7	0.00	303.33	437.50	0.00	1538.58	2916.67	
November	8	0.00	303.33	500.00	0.00	1538.58	3333.33	
December	9	0.00	303.33	562.50	0.00	1538.58	3750.00	
January	10	0.00	303.33	625.00	0.00	1538.58	4166.67	
February	11	0.00	303.33	687.50	0.00	1538.58	4583.33	
March	12	0.00	303.33	750.00	0.00	1538.58	5000.00	

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AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

Finance Sub-Committee Report –September 2015

The Sub-committee has met twice in August and as a result of these meetings makes the following recommendations:

Renewal of the fencing at the Conservation Area, Churchfields.

The quotes were received and discussed and it is recommended that Tony Seabridge be contracted to carry out this work. All the contractors who quoted were local and most have previously carried out work for the Parish Council but Mr Seabridge's quotation was the most competitive. (Reserve is I&R Marshall.)

CCTV Renewal

The quotations were considered and it was agreed that Wistonia Electrical & Security Ltd offered the most appropriate solution at a competitive price. The solution they offer can be enhanced retrospectively for a small fee, offering the most useful and adaptable option for the Parish Council, should requirements change in the future.

Electricity Supplier for Public Conveniences

The one year agreement with nPower is due to expire in October and accordingly a number of different electricity suppliers have been contacted to assess the best option currently available.

From the information gathered, it is recommended that a one year contract with Extra Energy is pursued with the next best alternate being a one year contract with Scottish Power. When compared using expected annual usage (as predicted from current usage), moving to Extra Energy will save £250 per annum when compared with the rate offered by nPower (Scottish Power would give a saving of £202).

Cleaning Contract for Public Conveniences

3 Counties Cleaning have agreed to clean the facilities under the terms that Audlem Angels had as an interim measure and this is working well. The Clerk is in the process of obtaining quotes for the contract.

APHAX Request

There was extended discussion about the current resources and budget and the likely impact of the devolution of the Playing Field Complex. The predicted annual running costs for the PFC (along with reserving funds for repairs and renewals such as resurfacing the car park) are considerable and will undoubtedly impact on the future funds available for other community expenditure, particularly the amount allocated to grants, even if the precept is raised significantly. It was agreed that, should the PFC devolution proceed, the current budgeting trends would have to be re-aligned to ensure that the necessary increases of the precept are kept to a minimum. However, in spite of the anticipated significant change in the Parish Council's available resources, it was agreed that the Parish Council should support the APHax project and therefore the following options were agreed:

OPTION 1

The Parish Council undertake to grant £10,000 to the APHax project and offer an interest free loan of up to £10,000 to be repaid over perhaps 5 years commencing once the Annexe has been completed.

OPTION 2

The Parish Council undertake to grant up to £20,000 to the APHax project as and when required (to be agreed with Parish Council).

The Sub-committee considered that OPTION 1 would be the preferred proposal as it would meet the immediate needs of the APHax project whilst offering longer term stability to the Parish Council budget. The third option of a lump sum of £20,000 was largely rejected.

The Sub-committee is continuing to work on the future finances of the Parish Council and will report again on the anticipated impact of the devolution of the PFC and make recommendations on the changes that will be required to the budget and the level of precept in order to keep the Parish Council solvent following the asset transfer.

Notes of a Meeting with Cheshire East Highways on Friday 17th July 2015

Present: Mike Hill, Dave Siddorns, Geoff Seddon (APC), Dave Chan, Liz ? (CEC)

A number of maintenance issues were raised:

- the numerous potholes in the parish and why some were left when others close by were repaired, adding to the overall cost of patching;
- blocked gullies in Churchfields;
- grass verge cutting.

DC stated that all maintenance issues need to be raised with Chris Shields, the Service Leader. He promised to send the email address to DS.

The traffic issues raised were:

- the parking in Shropshire Street and the lack of visibility when high-sided vehicles are parked outside the Co-op. Although this was seen as a problem, the general view of all was that the chicane effect created by the parking bays was preferable to parking along just one side;
- the parking of vehicles on the double yellow lines. DC stated that this would need to be taken up with the Traffic Warden section;
- whether a width restriction could be imposed on the A525. DC said that this was impractical with agricultural vehicles using the road;
- speeding along Whitchurch Road – this was discussed and GS raised the issue of a mini-roundabout at the Green Lane junction to control speeds. DC/L? agreed to look at this. It may be possible with some minor realignment of Whitchurch Road;
- the width of the footpath on the bridge on Shropshire Street;
- the fact that the high-visibility markings on the bridge over the Weaver haven't been done yet - they were supposed to have been done when the bridge was rebuilt;
- the possibility of width restriction measures on the approach to the bridge over the Weaver from the west and the advance 100 yard markers to the bridge was raised. DC/L? stated that neither of these measures could be undertaken, but rumble strips would be used;
- the potential enlargement of the 30 mph zone when approaching from the west (*note: could this have an impact on the NP by potentially allowing for the settlement boundary to be increased?*);
- whether weight assessments had been carried on recently on the bridges in and around Audlem now that the weight limit for vehicles has been increased.
- poor road markings and obscured road signs, especially in the rural parts of the parish.

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

(DRAFT)

The primary objective of the Finance Sub-committee is to assist the Parish Council in **overseeing** the financial management of the Council in line with the adopted Financial Regulations. This will include:

- Preparation of the annual budget and monitoring against actual expenditure
- Review of the Asset Register (annually)
- Review of risk assessments
- Initial review of quarterly bank reconciliations and annual internal audit
- Insurances (including annual review of insurance)
- Review of contracts for the supply of utilities and services when required
- Review of financial regulations and any related policies and make recommendations for revision to the full Parish Council.

It will review and make recommendations on major financial transactions, the annual precept and undertake any other associated matters delegated to it by the full Parish Council.

The Sub-committee will meet at least quarterly.

The Sub-committee will have 3 Councillors as members, one of whom will be either the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Parish Council, with the Clerk as an ex-officio member.

The Sub-committee only has the authority to authorise expenditure as and when this has been specifically delegated to the Sub-committee by the full Parish Council.