



AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL (APC)

held Monday 14th December 2020 at 7.00pm virtual on-line meeting

PRESENT - Cllr S Boyes (Chairman), Cllrs R Warburton, G McLaren-Brown, P Salt, A Bicknell, M Duys, C Gresty and J Sansom

In attendance: Interim Parish Clerk – Mr Paul Barton. CEC Cllr Bailey, Mr Peter Cooper(ChALC)

Public speaking open forum and Public participation

No members of the public were present on line.

117/20 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllr Bower due to IT problems.

Recognition obituary: The meeting commenced with two minutes silence to mark the passing of Mr Rodney Cottrell as a valued member of the local community with Cllr Warburton providing an obituary.

118/20 Request for dispensation

None.

119/20 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Warburton declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 126/20.

137/20 This item was taken under Confidential Matters to enable Mr P Cooper to leave the meeting at the earliest opportunity

120/20 Councillor vacancies and Co-option

The Parish Council currently has three Councillor vacancies. There being no further applications, the three casual vacancies which will be re advertised. It should be noted that in the event that more than three applications are received, there will be a call for a by election to be held at the earliest permissible date advised by, and subject to CEC Governance directives. Vacancies will be advertised for by-election request (see above) before moving to inviting co-options (pending the outcome of the by-election request period). It was **resolved** that the Interim Clerk arrange an advertisement. Clerk and Chair to arrange an update for the AOL website.

121/20 Minutes

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the last meeting held 9 November 2020 which were notionally signed by the Chair as a true record.

122/20 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting held 9 November 2020

I 23/20 Planning Reports

Planning Decisions:

There were no new planning decisions.

Planning Withdrawals:

There were no planning withdrawals

Planning Applications:

20/4339D Discharge of conditions 3, 6, 8a, 8b, 9, 11 and 12 on approval 20/0938N. The Belfry, OLD VICARAGE GARDEN, AUDLEM, CW3 0AS No objections

20/5070N Variation of condition 2 on application 18/5481N - Demolition of single storey attached stores and construction of youth activities room and associated store room.

AUDLEM METHODIST CHURCH, SHROPSHIRE STREET, AUDLEM, CREWE, CW3 0AE
To be determined under delegated authority. Cllr Boyes advised that he had visited the Methodist Church and was shown the proposed changes. No objections

20/5367T To remove a small Silver Birch of poor form due to close proximity of house. To remove a medium Ash(B) with basal decay to reduce the effects of shading and light loss in garden. To crown and reduce a medium Ash(A) by approximately 25% to bring it back to approximately 8x3M to reduce the affects of shading and light loss in the garden 30, SALFORD, AUDLEM, CW3 0AZ. To be determined under delegated authority. No objections

Cheshire East Local Plan

Councillor Bailey explained that the latest version of the plan included no allocated sites for residential development within Audlem and the withdrawal of the designation of Audlem as a Local Service Centre. The key issue is making sure there is a defensible 5 year housing land supply for the Borough. Councillor Bailey particularly highlighted recent appeal decisions, ie the one at Stapeley. It was noted that only limited infill within the Village Boundary will be allowed but clearly if the housing land supply is not robust area like Audlem could be targeted by housing developers

It was agreed that the Interim Clerk with support from the Chair would respond to the consultation outlining the issues raised

I 24/20 Group reports

There were no group reports.

I 25/20 Report from Ward Councillor

CEC Cllr Bailey provided a verbal update on local matters including

- Parking consultations to 31 January 2021 noting that it is possible that CEC may be looking elsewhere to raise revenue on car parking fees which Cllr Bailey will report on in due course
- Local concerns on traffic calming measures with suggested consideration of a 20mph limit through the village which would be the subject of consideration by CEC Highways.
- Possible enforcement steps required at Paddock Lane where environmental concerns have been raised. Cllr Bailey agreed to investigate this matter further on behalf of the Council.

I 26/20 Grant applications

Members decided having exceeded the grants budget for the current year, to defer all grant applications until after the commencement of the new fiscal year after which Members will also look at the eligibility aspect of grant applications. However, further consideration was given to the grant application from ACER where Members agreed to grant £50 against the original grant application.

I 27/20 Financial Matters

- Members considered and resolved to approve the Bank reconciliation to 6 December 2020. The Interim Clerk reported that the reorganizing and restructuring of the accounts is fundamentally completed with only minor amendments expected as cost centres develop and become more detailed.
- Members resolved to approve the schedule of payments as prepared by the Clerk.
- The Interim Clerk reported that he is now an appointed signatory to the Parish Council Bank Accounts with Santander with full internet access. A debit card to the account has been received which will enable the Interim Clerk to make small purchases which will be reported to the Full Council as and when used.
- Members unanimously resolved to appoint Cllr Warburton and Cllr Bicknell as additional Authorised Signatories. Additional signatory appointments to be considered as necessary.
- The Clerk presented a series of papers to Members at an informal budget meeting held 7 December in support of a more detailed income and expenditure budget analysis to enable Members to set a budget and Precept for the 2021-22 fiscal year. It was agreed to circulate notes from the meeting to all Members. It was further agreed that Members will continue to receive financial updates and reports from the Interim Clerk and that a final draft of the proposed budget and 2021-22 Precept would be presented to the January meeting of the Council for final approval.
Members to have the opportunity to raise any questions resulting from the informal meeting in relation to the draft budget and precept.

I 28/20 Clerks report

The Clerk had no additional items to report.

I 29/20 Turnpike Field

The Chair advised Members that the TFWG group was holding a further meeting on 9 December after which the Clerk be requested to circulate the meeting notes of the TFWG meeting to all Members. It was noted that the Parish representation on this working group was now below the agreed level and requires future consideration

I 30/20 Longhill Moss

Cllr McLaren Brown gave a brief update on the situation where Members were made aware that the Longhill Moss site had become a cost centre with the maintenance of the site exceeding the income. As reported previously, it remains a necessity to carry out a site survey to try to ascertain the cause of flooding that has been reported.

I 31/20 Parish Council Matters

- The Clerk reported that he had agreed to a charge of £25 to unblock the drains at the Public Conveniences and continues to monitor the cleaning schedule.
- Highways
- The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Conservation/Heritage officer at CEC who requested a site visit to the Butter Market to review the proposed repairs and replacements. Cllr Warburton agreed to assist in this process.
- Cllr McLaren-Brown gave a brief report on a planned meeting with the Canal Trust to discuss some aspects relating to the Turnpike Field and the canal:-
 - a) General safety of the area where the bridge is
 - b) General safety relating to Lock 11
 - c) The gate entry from Whitchurch Road and the poor state of fencing
 - d) Installation of Buoys

I32/20 Correspondence

From correspondence previously circulated, Members discussed the WI report which the Parish Council had been copied into. It was agreed that this was a matter for CEC Highways with the Clerk acknowledging receipt of the said report.

I33/20 Areas of responsibility

It was agreed that this item will remain as an ongoing agenda item with consideration to be given to the structure of, and membership of all committees, working groups and representatives to outside bodies and the delegated or allocated authority is given in accordance with Standing Orders once the budget and Parish Council meetings in December are completed.

I34/20 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Each Councillor is requested to use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas. Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate nor decision making. No other items were raised.

I35/20 As there were no members of the public present there was no need to resolve to exclude the public.

PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL

See item after I19/20.

I36/20 There were no Councillor applications to consider.

I37/20 This item was considered after item I19/20. Members were introduced to Mr Peter Cooper introduced himself to the meeting and provided the background and scope of his appointment to act as an independent person on behalf of Audlem Parish Council. Mr Cooper cited the legal background to the Ledbury High Court case of 2018 and its potential impact on all disputes between Council's and their employees. Members considered the findings of Mr Cooper's report. Mr Cooper's report drew various conclusions and made a series of recommendations for the Council to consider and decide upon. Members resolved to accept the findings of the report (with some qualification) and where possible agreed to put into practice as soon as possible, the recommendations put forward.

I38/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council currently set as being held at **7.00pm** on **MONDAY 4th January 2021** at Audlem Public Hall or via an online meeting facility (subject to prevailing Covid guidance).

The meeting closed at approximately 9.23pm