



AUDLEM
PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting of Audlem Parish Council
held in the Methodist Church, Shropshire St. Audlem
on Monday 31st July 2023 at 7.00pm.**

Present: Lynette Hopkins (LH), Stephen Hopkins (SH), Tim Lawton(TL) (Vice Chair), George McLaren-Brown (GMB), Adriana Roscoe (AR), Geoff Seddon (Chair)

In attendance: Chris May (CM) (Clerk to APC)
Rachel Bailey (RB) (Ward Councillor)

Members of public in attendance: 6

23/53 Introduction by Chair of the Meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and asked members to note that this meeting was only to deal with extra-ordinary business and not normal business which would be reserved for the Council meeting in September.

23/54 Apologies for absence

Kate Down (KD), Steve Elliott (SE), Jean Stainthorpe (JS)

23/55 Declarations of Interest

AR declared an interest in Item 23/60 of the agenda as an acquaintance of the Planning Agent.

RB declared an interest in Items 23/59 and 23/60 on the agenda as she holds grazing rights to land neighbouring Turnpike Field.

23/56 Requests for Dispensation

None

23/57 Financial Matters

23/57i Council **NOTED** that the Annual Review of Risk Assessment had been performed at the Annual Meeting in May 2023 and that under Financial Regulations 13.1 and 15 this was a prerequisite to instructing the Clerk to effect insurance on behalf of the Council.

23/57ii Council had been provided with copies of the existing insurance schedule at the time of issue of the Agenda for the meeting. Council **APPROVED** the existing Schedule as fit for purpose.

23/57iii Council were provided with three insurance quotes. The Clerk advised that although the current insurer was, marginally, the highest of these three quotes, the required premium

was still within budget. Furthermore, given the recent history and the very recent appointment of the Clerk, there were significant advantages in reducing risk to the Council by staying with the same insurer this year. Council **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to renew insurance with BHIB for the year 2023 -24. **Proposed TL, Seconded SH, All in Favour**

ACTION: Clerk to renew Insurance with BHIB

23/58 Communications Group

Council was asked to **APPROVE** an article from the Communications Group encouraging people to join APC. AR and GMB both commented that the article was well written. **Proposed SH, Seconded AR. All in Favour.**

ACTION: Clerk/Comms Group: To publish on Council Noticeboard, APC Website, Audlem on Line and Audlem Life.

23/59 Turnpike Field

Council was asked to **APPROVE** a change of booking date for the use of Turnpike Field by the Audlem Ramblers Society (ARS). Concern was expressed by RB that continuing with events of this type would risk repercussions with the retrospective planning application on Turnpike Field. Specifically, RB highlighted the risk that an Enforcement Notice or Stop Notice could be served and this would have significant financial implications for the Council and hence for precept payers. LH supported RB's view. There was discussion with arguments both for and against approving this request. A proposal was then put forward to **DEFER** pending a report from the Clerk on continuing to hold events on Turnpike Field during the planning application. **Proposed: LH, Seconded: SH. Four in Favour. Two abstentions (TL, AR)**

23/60 Report from Clerk

Council was asked to **APPROVE** expenses for the retrospective planning application that had not been previously approved. This included £165.48 +VAT for scaled plans. CAD drawings have also been requested by the Planning Authority, but no estimate of cost was available at the time of the Meeting. In view of the short timescale, the approval request included delegation for the Clerk and Chair to agree the fees for CAD Drawings.

In discussion, SH raised concerns about emails he had sight of regarding the Planning Application that included discussions within TFWG that he felt should be shared with Full Council. He was concerned Council did not have the full picture.

LH advised that she was not prepared to **APPROVE** delegating responsibility to the Clerk and Chair for the unspecified cost of the CAD drawings, citing no confidence in the Chair, resulting from the appointment of the Planning Agent. The Chair wondered if this was a formal proposal of No Confidence, but LH advised it was not, it was just her personal view.

The Clerk suggested an amendment to **APPROVE** the costs for scaled plans and the Clerk to return to Council with the estimate for CAD drawings. **Proposed GS, seconded GMB All in Favour.**

ACTION: Clerk to meet costs of scaled drawings in addition to previously agreed costs with Planning Agent. Clerk to obtain quote/estimate for CAD drawings and report to Council.

23/61 Date of Next Meeting and Items for Future Agenda

The next meeting will be held at **7pm on Wednesday 6^h September 2023 in the Methodist Church, Shropshire St, Audlem, Crewe CW3 0AE.**

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.34pm, thanking everyone for their attendance.

DRAFT