



AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL (APC)

held Monday 4th January 2021 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

Public speaking open forum and Public participation

Representation were made by a member of the public concerning planning application 20/5578N. Members listened to the comments and concerns and confirmed that they would bear these in mind when considering the application.

139/20 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllr Bower due to IT problems.

140/20 Request for dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

141/20 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Warburton declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 148/20.

142/20 Councillor vacancies and Co-option

The Parish Council currently has three Councillor vacancies. There being no further applications, the three casual vacancies 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.

The meeting was temporarily suspended at 7.58pm to hear the Govt announcement on the current Covid situation. The meeting recommenced at 8.15pm.

143/20 Minutes

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the last meeting held 14 December 2020 which were notionally signed by the Chair as a true record.

144/20 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting held 14 December 2020

145/20 Planning Reports

Planning Decisions:

There were no new planning decisions.

Planning Withdrawals:

There were no planning withdrawals

Planning Applications:

20/5578N CORBROOK GRANGE, AUDLEM ROAD, AUDLEM, CW3 0HF 20/4339D Discharge of conditions 3, 6, 8a, 8b, 9, 11 and 12 on approval. This revised application was again considered by Members taking cognisance of the comments made by a member of the public. Whilst Members did not see any reason to change the original support for the application but did consider there were issues which needed to be resolved by CEC Highways and Planning officers who should be satisfied on all aspects of the proposed new splay onto the roadway, protection of trees and with efforts to alleviate amenity of neighbouring properties caused by increased traffic flows. Highways to also consider a contribution to improve (sideout) pavement improvements from Corbrook to Audlem. This application to be determined under delegated authority.

20/3690N Revision to proposed rear fire escape

MANCHESTER HOUSE, 1, SHROPSHIRE STREET, AUDLEM, CREWE, CW3 0AE. To be determined under delegated authority. Members were happy to support the application but expressed Health and Safety concerns over any potential planning approval being delayed by a backlog in the Planning Dept.

20/5597N Proposed side and front single storey extension to existing GP practice. Location: AUDLEM MEDICAL PRACTICE, 16, CHESHIRE STREET, AUDLEM, CREWE, CHESHIRE, CW3 0AH. Members considered this application and were happy to support the planning application as an improvement to the local amenity. This application to be determined under delegated authority.

20/5750N Proposed construction of two new-build holiday lets. Lows Croft Barn, BAGLEY LANE, AUDLEM, CW3 0DR. Members considered this application and had No Objection. To be determined under delegated authority.

20/5259N Proposed 3 bedroom bungalow. The Granary, AUDLEM ROAD, HANKELOW, CW3 0JE. Members observed this application in Hankelow but had no observations N.B. In neighbouring Parish. To be determined under delegated authority.

Cheshire East Local Plan

Members were advised that the Council had responded to the consultation which expressed the concerns raised by Members.

146/20 Group reports

There were no group reports with some matters being discussed under separate headings.

147/20 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. CEC were to receive a further £558k in support funding but this had not yet been allocated
- Cllr Bailey was disappointed to report that there was no local engagement and will report on further developments.
- Local concerns over the rollout of vaccinations
- A local petition being raised over the problems associated with flooding caused by local springs in the Heathfield area
- Village View: Enforcement of the fencing requirement near the playground
- The Chair expressed serious concerns at the community being inconvenienced when local roads (e.g. A51 and A529) are being patched with heavy traffic being (unnecessarily) redirected through the village. Cllr Bailey offer to contact Ian McLellan at CEC Highways to draw attention to this.

148/20 Grant applications

Members reiterated the decision 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.

I 49/20 Financial Matters

- Members at the last meeting considered and resolved to approve the Bank reconciliation to 6 December 2020, there being no statement available till after 6 January 2021. Members resolved to approve the schedule of payments projected to the end of January 2021.
- Members again considered at length the budget proposals for the next fiscal year. Members resolved to approve the budget and agreed the precept of £55,000. (5.5% increase) Clerk to submit the request to CEC.
- It was reported that the Debit card to the account has now been received enabling the Clerk to make small purchases which will be reported to the Finance Sub Committee as and when used. Clerk has set up an annual payment on this card to enable monthly Zoom meetings to continue until further notice.
- Members agreed that the new Finance Sub Committee would comprise Cllr G McLaren-Brown (Chair), and Cllrs P Salt, A Bicknell and J Sansom. This sub committee to meet as soon as convenient at which members would consider the current financial situation and review the existing Terms of Reference.

I 50/20 Clerks report

Members considered the next stage in advertising and appointing a new Clerk to the Council. It was agreed that the Interim Clerk would carry out research and circulate a job description template by 18 January with the intention of advertising the position early February to short list and commence interviews by the end of February. Members agreed to the setting up of a staffing recruitment panel of 3 Members (one of who should be the Chair) plus the incumbent Interim Clerk.

I 51/20 Turnpike Field

Members were brought up to date on the last meeting of the TFWG held 9 December. Cllr Warburton advised Members of the Maintenance Plan which had been agreed which had been costed at approximately £930 per annum to cover the cost of regular grass and hedge cutting. Members were advised that the plan going forward was to eventually plant new hedging, with a flower meadow in due course with other works needing to take place before this could be achieved.

Clerk is requested to circulate the meeting notes of the TFWG meeting to all Members as available. It was noted that the Parish representation on this working group was now below the agreed level and that Cllr J Sansom would join Cllr G McLaren Brown on the Group.

I 52/20 Longhill Moss

Cllr McLaren Brown gave an update on the situation whereby the Longhill Moss is now subject to flooding with the blocked catch pit being the most likely reason. Access to the site with suitable equipment is the only way to investigate and resolve this problem but access is proving difficult. Members were advised that it was probable that legal advice and action may be necessary to gain access and assess the problem. The Council is investigating all options open to it to investigate and resolve the long term problems associated with the Longhill Moss.

I 53/20 Parish Council Matters

Members considered the following:

- Due to the current Covid situation Members agreed that it was not possible to make decisions concerning the Annual Parish Meeting
- Village sign board where it was agreed to defer this until further notice
- Any outstanding Highways matters were still awaiting updates with no decisions being made
- Old PO box re siting. There was no further information available.
- Cllr Warburton provided a report on the Burial Board advising that the Parish Council representation was below the required levels. Cllr P Salt and Cllr C Gresty agreed to join Cllr G McLaren Brown in representing the Council on the Burial Board.
- Cllr Warburton confirmed that a visit and inspection from the Conservation Officer at CEC had been arranged for the Butter Market repairs and electrical replacements following a request from the Clerk.
- The situation on the Playing Field complex which was put in abeyance last as a result of Covid 19 still remained with information still outstanding from the CEC legal team.

154/20 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 having acknowledged receipt of the said report.

155/20 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.

156/20 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.

157/20 As there were no members of the public present there was no need to resolve to exclude the public.

PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL

158/20 There were no Councillor applications to consider.

159/20 The Clerk provided a brief update on the current staffing situation. See item 150/20

160/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members agreed to change the date of all future meetings until further notice to the second Monday of each month.

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council currently set as being held at 7.00pm on MONDAY 8th February 2021 at Audlem Public Hall or via an online meeting facility (subject to prevailing Covid guidance).

Future planned dates 8 March 2021, 12 April 2021, 10 May 2021 noting that this is scheduled to be the AGM, 14 June 2021, 12 July 2021. NO meeting in August 2021, 13 September 2021, 11 October 2021, 8 November 2021, 13 December 2021.

It should be noted that meeting dates are subject to change and in view of the ongoing Covid situation will continue to be 'virtual' meetings until guidelines permit otherwise.

The meeting closed at approximately 9.03pm

Members **resolved** to approve the minutes of the last meeting held 4 January 2021 which were notionally signed by the Chair as a true record.

S Boyes (Chair) 8 February 2021