



AUDLEM
PARISH COUNCIL

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Chair: Derek Winskill

29 Daisy Bank Crescent

Audlem, Crewe CW3 0HD

e-mail: parishcouncil @audlempc.co.uk

Minutes of meeting of Audlem Parish Council held in the Methodist Church, Shropshire St. Audlem on Monday 10th October 2022 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Derek Winskill (Chair), Ralph Warburton (Vice Chair), Tim Lawton, Nigel Mottershead, Geoff Seddon, Jean Stainthorpe and Paul Cawood

Absent: Cllr J Bower and Dr Kate Howe (Locum Clerk)

In attendance: Rachel Bailey (Cheshire East Ward Councillor), Jackie Weaver (ChALC)

Members of the public: 8

PART 1

In the unavoidable absence of the Locum Clerk the meeting agreed that Mrs Jackie Weaver (ChALC) act as Clerk to the Meeting.

22/61 Apologies for absence received from Cllr Mark Jeffs

22/78 Public Participation / Open Forum

- A request was made for an update on when a response would be received for the email question sent to the Clerk on the 11th July. The Chair said he would look into this.
- Following on from the last meeting a grant application was made for the procurement of a new flag for the village. This was not what had been agreed

at the meeting but nevertheless it had been submitted to be helpful. The Finance Committee Chairman said would ensure it was dealt with by the Finance Committee as soon as it possibly could be given the status of the Council current bank account.

- Concern was expressed at the length of time the traffic lights had been in place on Green Lane without any prospect of the works being undertaken. The Chair said that he would take this up with Cheshire East Council and include the Ward Councillor (Cllr Rachel Bailey) in any communications. Cllr Bailey added that she had put available updates on the village website.

22/63 Declarations of Interest – there were none

22/64 Requests for Dispensations – there were none

22/65 Confirmation of Minutes

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th September subject to the following amendments:

1. Public open forum bullet point 3 – the member of the public was not asked to complete a grant application form but was advised to bring the matter up at a later date.
2. The date of the minutes to be approved should read the 11th July not the 12th September.

22/66 Planning Matters

New applications

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the following responses made by the Clerk on behalf of the Planning Group under delegated powers.

- 22/3446N Sweetbriar Cottage, Damson Lane, CW3 0EU **no objection**
- 22/3467N 3 Holly Bank, Audlem, CW3 0LF **no objection**
- 22/3491N Kynsal Cottage, Paddock Lane, CW3 0DP **no objection**

Further applications

22/3550N 11c-11d Cheshire Street, CW3 0AH

Chair of Planning Group invited members to consider the report he had produced and circulated outlining the concerns he wished to draw to the attention of the Council. These included odour control; noise control; opening hours and the effect of operating a takeaway service.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to support the recommendations made in the report. They further offered their thanks to Cllr Seddon for the time and effort he had put into producing the report.

7.25pm Cllr Cawood left the meeting

22/67 Financial Matters

Cllr Tim Lawton (Chair of the Finance Committee) gave an update on general finance matters to councillors and members of the public who were present:

- a) Councillors **NOTED** The Draft Scheme of Delegation is currently being drawn up by the Finance Committee and will be brought to the November meeting;
- b) Councillors **RESOLVED** to give retrospective approval for the payments made under the Clerks delegate powers (via ChALC) from September 9th to September 30th as set out in the schedule of payments circulated with the meeting papers.
- c) Councillors **NOTED**:
 - 1) Cllrs Lawton, Seddon and Warburton have been added as signatories to the new Lloyds Bank account;
 - 2) Cllrs Lawton and Winskill have been added as digital signatories to the new Lloyds Bank account;
- d) Councillors **NOTED** work is currently in progress on identifying budget savings **and the production of an accurate budget projection for the remaining financial year** (October 2022 to end March 2023) **and for the year 2022-23**.
- e) Councillors **NOTED** the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was submitted to the external auditor on the 15th September.
- f) Councillors **NOTED** the public rights notice for inspection of the AGAR was published on the 3rd October and closes on the 11th November;
- g) Councillors **NOTED** the schedule for the quarterly Finance Committee Meetings has been agreed as December; March; June and September;
- h) Councillors **NOTED** that the Finance Committee are considering the possibility of a further loan to cover the current projected overspend but that no decision will be taken on this without the express permission of the Council itself.

22/68 Staffing Matters

Chair of Staffing Committee (Cllr Winskill) reported on the meeting held on the 28th September where the Job Description for the post was discussed. The Contract was not yet concluded and the work on the Risk Assessment and Method Statement was yet to be finalised. Cllr Winskill added that he felt he would be able to progress the Health and Safety work

22/69 Turnpike Field

Cllr Seddon lead on this item as Chair of TFWG (Cllr Stainthrope) had not been present at the last meeting.

With regard to the car park the Working Group had been to Norton in Hales to look at their car park. However, for the moment the embargo on expenditure is preventing any further progress.

The Terms of Reference of the Group had been agreed at the last meeting, and the Maintenance Group would be meeting soon.

Cllr Warburton was delighted to advise members that the Field has again won an award from NW in Bloom. The Cemetery has also won an award from that organisation. Cllr Warburton and Adrian Latham will be attending the award ceremony.

a) Tree Survey

Cllr Seddon reminded members that the last survey was done in 2019 and the company who had undertaken the work had agreed to do the next survey free of charge. Members agreed that this should be organised as soon as possible.

b) Tree Warden

Members **RESOLVED** that Peter Morgan be reappointed as Tree Warden to Audlem Parish Council.

22/70 Village Management Group

Cllr Mottershead advised that a letter had been written to Cheshire East Council (CE) asking that they remove the cross hatching from 3 parking spaces on the car park to release a further 2 bays for parking. Two are no longer needed for access for the carnival but one of them needs to retain the hatching.

CE had responded that the work could be done but it would be at APC's cost and APC does not currently have the funds to commit to the work.

The only point of leverage in this issue is that there did not appear to have been any consultation with the parish council when the car park was last relined some 18 months ago. This is perhaps something that could be raised with CE.

It was noted that parking restrictions were lifted when there was a funeral taking place.

Attention was drawn to the anticipated work on the Surgery during which 7 parking spaces will be lost. It was asked if the necessary notice had been given to CE Parking Enforcement and since that was not known Cllr Warburton said he would investigate.

22/71 PCSO Report

Cllr Warburton noted that there had been 18 reported incidents detailed on the report which had been previously circulated.

22/72 Ward Councillor's Report

Cllr Bailey posed that the considerable financial deficit anticipated by Cheshire East Council was likely to bite into a number of services. That would include the GOTO bus. She spoke of the disappointment of the event in Nantwich advising on the bus's operation was only given 2 day's notice, meaning that residents were simply not able to attend. Concern was expressed at the potentially negative effect the deficit might have on the continuation of this vital rural service. Cllr Bailey said that she would be meeting ANSA and would welcome feedback from users. Cllr Lawton said that based on his personal experience the booking system was not fit for purpose.

22/73 Office Matters – in absence of the Locum Clerk there was no report

8.00 Cllr Cawood re-joined the meeting

22/74 Items for Future Agendas

Siting of Notice Boards

Dates for Village Surgeries the Chairman added that these were valuable opportunities to engage with the community but they had not taken place for some time however, they would be reinstated and dates announced.

22/75 Date of Next Meeting

The next Audlem Parish Council meeting will take place at 7pm on **Monday 14th November at a venue to be advised.**

Part Two

The Chairman thanked the public for their attendance and then requested the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an item pursuant to Section 100 (A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the LGA 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

It was **RESOLVED** that the press and public be duly excluded

PART 2

Finance

The Chair of the Finance Committee Cllr Tim Lawton drew members attention to the Financial Report that he had previously circulated. It contained a detailed summary of the financial position of the Council and the effect that the freezing of the Council's Account had had on cash flow.

The forecast for the year was helpful to members and enabled them to understand the challenges the Council faces.

The Council subsequently agreed the following actions:

- A meeting with Cheshire East Finance Officers to work up a fully detailed budget and forecast; and
- Following discussions with the Police to agree a statement to issue to the community to help explain the current position in more detail.

The Meeting Closed at 9.10pm