



AUDLEM
PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of meeting of Audlem Parish Council
held in the Methodist Church, Shropshire St. Audlem
on Monday 13th November at 7.00pm.**

Present: Steve Elliott (SE), Lynette Hopkins (LH), Stephen Hopkins (SH), George McLaren-Brown (GMB), Geoff Seddon (GS) Kate Down (KD)

In attendance: Cllr Rachel Bailey (Ward Councillor), Carol Bell (Clerk to APC)

Members of public in attendance: 6

GS reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded

23/99 Apologies for absence

Keith Nord (KN), Adriana Roscoe (AR), Jean Stainthorpe (JS)

23/100 Public participation

Congratulations were given to those who participated and helped out with the march against the introduction of car parking charges. They felt the march was successful and gained the publicity needed.

In relation to the proposed car parking charges, it was thought that the field by the car park had been given to 'someone' and the question was asked if anyone on the council had looked into this.

GS replied what we do know is that the area where the children's play area and tennis courts are, were sold to Nantwich and Rural District Council in 1973 by Greenhall Whitley who owned it at the time. The other part was in the ownership of Miss Bell and was transferred to Nantwich Rural District council in the 1960's. What we are still trying to find out is if there is any covenant on that area of the field.

The introduction of the use of microphones by the councillors was welcomed as it was stated that it had been difficult to hear what was being said in the last council meeting.

A question was raised about turnpike field and whether the vote for placing it into fields in trust was valid. GS stated that the vote was valid. There had been a query on whether it was valid. It was checked with the monitoring officer at Cheshire East who said there was nothing untoward.

A request for an update on the police investigation was made. CB stated that she had made contact with the Detective Inspector who said the case was still being investigated. CB stated she hoped to meet with the Detective Inspector at the end of November when he thought he may have an update on the investigation.

A member of the public asked in relation to their GDPR breach, were any councillors aware of the breach before 9.30 p.m. on the 9th October. LH and SH confirmed they were aware and had asked the chair to let the member of the public know about the breach.

23/101 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest

23/102 Requests for Dispensation

None

23/103 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th October 2023 were **AGREED** as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- (i) 23/93 with a remaining expenditure balance of £106,003

Proposed by SE Seconded GMB

23/104 Planning Matters

23/104 (i) No Planning Decisions to report on for the period.

23/104 (ii) The following decisions made

- 23/3033N Bradwood, Bagley Lane: Single storey extension - Approved - APC - no objection
- 23/1111N Bird's Nest, Audlem Road: Development of 25 residential units - Withdrawn - APC objected
- 22/1302N Bird's Nest, Audlem Road: Development of 28 residential units - Appeal lost

23/104 (iii) GS advised that the Environment Agency have put in an objection to the request for change of use for Turnpike Field and have requested an Ecological Appraisal. A quote had been received for the work. LH asked if the planning office had requested this appraisal. GS advised that the request had been sent from CE to the planning agent. LH asked why all councillors had not been privy to this information. SE advised that at present the planning agent is in correspondence with CE to ascertain whether an ecological appraisal is required. SE advised that by approving the payment for an appraisal tonight, it would mean that they could proceed immediately if the planning office said an appraisal had to be undertaken. LH questioned why only one quote had been given and why had this not gone out to tender for three quotes. GS stated that he would ask the planning agent to tender for another two quotes. LH advised that it should be the clerk to the council that tenders for quotes and not the planning agent but as a decision had not yet been made by CE as to whether an Ecological Appraisal was needed, she would not be voting to agree to the appraisal. GS asked if all agreed for this agenda item to be parked. All members **AGREED**.

23/104 (iv) GS advised that the Canal and River Trust had commented on the planning application for Turnpike Field. The CRT advised that they were unable to make a substantive response in the absence of the following information; details of frequency, type, scale, hours of operation or duration, or management of community events in connection with the proposed formalised community use of Turnpike Field to enable an assessment of potential increased risk in public safety resulting from an uplift in the use of the Public Right of Way FP 26 over the lock gates to access/egress the site. GS advised that there will be no changes other than how the site is used currently. GS asked for agreement that the council request the planning agent to respond to CRT's comments. All members **AGREED**.

23/105 Financial Matters

23/105 (i) SH advised that a budget meeting had been held on the 30th October. This was to discuss the precept and the expenditure for the remainder of this financial year. SH advised that the council would remain in budget this year. SH advised two other matters were discussed – bank access for the clerk which he believed was now underway and also the setting up of a savings account.

23/105 (ii) Members retrospectively **APPROVED** the expenditure of £350 for banners, leaflets and placards for the protest march.

Proposed by SH, Seconded by SE

23/105 (iii) SH advised that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services had reached agreement on rates of pay which have been agreed with SLCC and ALCC. There would be an increase in the clerk's hourly rate of £1.00.

23/105 (iv) Members were asked to approve the following payments.

Invoice Date	Supplier	Goods/Services	Amount (£)
03.10.2023	Water Plus (DD)	Water – toilets	70.16
02.10.2023	Audlem Methodist Church	Hire of Seville Room for TFWG 02/10 Hire of hall 09.10 for APC	65.00
04.10.2023	Audlem Methodist Church	Hire of Seville room for APC re interviews 04/10 Hire of Seville room for finance meeting 04/10	50.00
12.10.2023	Audlem Methodist Church	Hire of hall for APC open meeting 12/10	40.00
13.10.2023	Audlem printers	200 A5 car park flyers	15.00
21.10.2023	Tony Seabridge Grounds Maintenance	Maintenance of Turnpike Field	770 + V.A.T (£924)
23.10.2023	Audlem Printers	15 A1 Correx boards 2m x 1m banner 1500 A4 letters	335.00
31.10.2023	Lengthsman	Lengthsman duties	520.00
31.10.2023	Audlem Public Hall	Hire of hall for Village Meeting 14/10	40.00
01.11.2023	Then Media	Website Hosting	45.00 + V.A.T (£54.00)
01.11.2023	EDF	Electricity – toilets	38.66
03.11.2023	WaterPlus	Water – toilets	74.10
05/11/2023	3 Counties Cleaning	Toilet Cleaning – October	390.00
05/11/2023	Clerk	Parish Clerk & RFO	£775.68 (gross)

The payments were **APPROVED** by the members

Proposed by SH Seconded by KH

23/105 (v) Members were also asked to approve the following retrospective payment:

Date	Supplier	Goods/Service	Amount (£)
21.09.2023	PHS	Sanitary Waste Disposal	359.72

Retrospective payment as set out above was **APPROVED**.

23/105 (vi) Expenditure and Income statement as of the 31st October **NOTED**

23/105 (vii) To rejoin Cheshire Community Action Group – subscription £50

Proposed by GS, Seconded by SH

23/106 Communications

23/106 (i) Retrospective authority was **APPROVED** for the release of APC response to CE proposed car parking charges on the APC website and published via AOL

Proposed by SE, Seconded by GMB

23/107 Turnpike Field

23/107 (i) Approval requested for quotes for safety improvements to Turnpike field bridge and boardwalk area. RB questioned who from CE had advised that the work could be carried out. SE stated PROW had originally advised on the siting of the boardwalk and had advised on what safety work needed to be done. RB stated that PROW did not have the power to do this and advised the council to get clarity on whether the work could go ahead as the change of use planning application for the boardwalk had not been approved. LH asked the clerk to contact planning enforcement to ask if the work could go ahead.

23/107 (ii) Metal detecting request on Turnpike Field- withdrawn

23/107 (iii) Turnpike Field update GS advised that saplings had been removed from the pond. Budget has been drawn up and passed through to the Finance Committee.

23/108 Village Management (VMG)

23/96 (i) Kingbur Place – residents asking whether planning permission is needed to install ANPR cameras at the entrance to Kingbur Place to record vehicles entering and leaving. LH advised she does not know the answer to this but could ask the clerk to find out. GS stated the challenge with this would be residents would need to impart their friends', families', carers' etc. registration numbers to the ANPR company to avoid them getting fined. One resident advised that 100% consensus would be needed for this to go ahead and at present 7 residents were in favour and 3 against. LH asked if the Kingbur residents had met as a group to discuss the proposed installation. A resident advised that they planned to meet. LH suggested that the Kingbur residents have their meeting first to discuss further and then come back to the council if further help is needed.

LH advised that the cost of the signs from the printers for the defibs would be £48.00 plus £25 for the artwork plus the cost of the sticky glue needed to mount the signs. A map has been done to show the siting of all of the defibs. A request had been made to show the siting of a defib in the marina but all members **AGREED** that the marina was too far out of Audlem for it to be sited on the village map. The plaques will be placed at various points around the village. There are three defibrillators in the village that can be accessed 24 hours a day and the plaques will alert the public as to where these defibrillators are if needed. LH asked if the ivy had been cut back yet around the defibrillator on the toilets. GMB advised it had not.

Cost of plaques, artwork and sticky glue proposed by KH, seconded by SE

LH asked if GS had carried out the works needed on the toilets. GS advised that he had requested the work to be done and it should have been completed by now but if not he will chase it up.

LH advised that CE had been in touch re the trees on Heathfield. They have advised they will be cutting back branches and potentially may cut down an old walnut tree. LH stated she is unsure whether there is a TPO on this tree. RB advised there is no TPO.

LH advised that a report had come in from CE on Churchfields Conservation Area and if APC had not heard by the 18th December about any TPOs on the trees there then the work can go ahead to cut them down. SE stated that it was if CE decided to place TPOs on any of the trees before the 18th December not trees that already had TPOs.

LH advised that GMB had requested an invoice be sent to the tenants of Longhill Moss as it has been two years since an invoice has been sent.

LH advised that the roads at Cox Bank are riddled with pot holes and the grass verges are destroyed. The work will be finished under the bridge by Wednesday. LH would like to ask the council on behalf of the Village Management Group if the clerk could find out the cost of hiring road sweepers and gulley suckers to the area to be funded by the council to try and keep the area flood free. GS asked for the Village Management Group to write a report incorporating the costs and distribute to councillors prior to the next meeting.

LH read out a letter from Brian Bugeja re the proposed parking charges detailing suggested next steps. LH requested that a letter be wrote to Brian and the group thanking them for their hard work and commitment to the march.

23/108 (ii) LH advised that strimming of the canal bank did not directly fall under the Village Management Group. Clerk to contact CRT to discuss over strimming of the bank.

23/108 (iii) October Crime Statistics **NOTED**.

23/109 Report by Ward Councillor

RB advised that the drainage team had been working together with Untied Utilities on work on the old railway bridge and it was hoped that Green Lane would be open on Wednesday and that hopefully the drainage network would continue to deal with the waters.

CE are steaming ahead with sending out the consultations and a response is needed on their consultation for maintaining playing fields, farming and grass verges. The main one for Audlem would be the playing fields which is to look at the number of mows or cuts and to try and reduce for habitat conservation. Closing date for consultation on this is the 24th November.

23/110 Office Matters

23/110 (i) CB advised that in October 202 CE adopted a Code of Conduct to promote and maintain high standards of conduct and underpin public confidence in the Authority and its Councillors and co-opted Members. All Town and Parish Councils that are within the Borough boundary have been invited to adopt this Code. CB has advised that the information will be sent out to all councillors to read through and discuss adopting. GS advised that the code can be amended and adapted to suit the parish council.

23/110 (ii) CB advised she finally has the paperwork to complete to allow her access to the Lloyds Bank Account

23/110 (iii) a discussion was held on moving APC meetings from the second Monday of the month to the first Monday except where bank holidays occurred. All members **AGREED**

23/111 Date of Next Meeting and Items for Future Agenda

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 4th December 2023** at 7.00 pm in the Methodist Church, Shropshire Street, Audlem, CW3 0AE.

The meeting closed at 8.39pm

The Chair then asked for 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 Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

PART B

23/112 Clerk updated councillors on actions taken regarding previous GDPR breach