



AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL (APC)

Held Monday 12 July 2021 at 7.00pm Audlem Village Hall

Present - Cllrs C Gresty (Chair), D Winskill (Vice Chair), P Salt, A Bicknell, M Duys, J Sansom, J McGregor, P Cawood, J Bower.

In attendance: Clerk O Hembry, Interim Parish Clerk P Barton, CEC Cllr R Bailey. There were four members of the public in attendance.

68/21 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr R Warburton.

69/21 Councillor vacancies and co-option of new Members

There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council which have been or are currently being advertised as casual vacancies in accordance with current governance guidelines.

70/21 Public speaking open forum and public participation

- Audlem Public Hall Treasurer John Tilling addressed the meeting. A briefing document provided a history of the Public Hall, which Mr Tilling said was approaching a point of crisis in its management. The personnel responsible for managing the Public Hall are aging and involvement from new people is required. Mr Tilling said a project was needed, led by one or two people from outside the public hall structure, to investigate how the hall should be run and made best use of during the next five or ten-year period. Cllr C Gresty confirmed she would attend a meeting taking place on July 22 and Cllr J McGregor voiced an interest getting involved with the Public Hall project.
- A member of the public commented on planning application 21/3505N to say they had concerns about possible noise that could be generated by the development, volume and noise from traffic, and road safety.
- A member of the public representing the applicant for planning application 21/3505N said they were attending to acknowledge concerns. When a planning officer was appointed, they would look to address concerns. They said contractual agreements and supplier terms and conditions could alleviate some concerns about the development.

71/21 Requests for dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation

72/21 Declarations of Interest

Cllr J McGregor declared that he undertook contract work for the applicants of planning application 21/3505N.

73/21 Minutes

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 14 June 2021 as a true record, to be signed by the Cllr D Winskill who acted as Chair for that meeting.

74/21 Matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting held 14 June 2021.

There were no matters raised at this point in the agenda.

75/21 Financial matters

- Report from Finance Subcommittee meeting held on 7 July 2021:
 1. The minutes from the meeting held on April 28 was approved.
 2. The bank reconciliation report to June 30 was approved.
 3. The payments schedule available up to July 31 was approved.
 4. The monthly flexed budget report was agreed to be accepted.
- Clerk O Hembry was authorised as a user of the Santander account.
- Cllrs C Gresty, D Winskill, P Salt and M Duys were authorised as signatures for the CCLA investment fund account.

76/21 Subcommittees

To receive from subcommittees any updates not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

Asset Management Committee:

- A list of assets has been divided up for assessing. The committee hoped to have the process completed by August 9.

Safety Committee:

- Risk assessment forms have been produced. The asset list has been divided for risk assessment.
- A weekly check of the defibrillator has been organised.
- COSHH regulations do not impact the PC as there are no employees using chemicals.
- PAT testing is not required for equipment used by the Clerk. An annual visual inspection is recommended and should be recorded.
- With regards to an emergency plan, there has been an assessment of risks and needs for the village which has been circulated for comments. Actions are still underway with local businesses and the identification of resources. An initial target for completing the process was six months.
- With regards to community speed watch, a suggested format for a campaign to attract volunteers has been prepared for publishing on Audlem Online and the Parish Council website.

77/21 Turnpike Field Working Group

- The proposed next step from the Working Group to investigate a car park by providing the design brief to three expert companies to obtain initial quotes at no cost was approved.
- Reserves agreed by the Turnpike Field Working Group meeting are to be updated in the accounting software, with cost codes updated to record future spending.

78/21 Longhill Moss

It was agreed that this item should be considered under Part Two Confidential Matters.

79/21 Monument/lamp in square

- Cllr D Winskill reported that Robin Rogers of Nantwich has quoted price of £708 plus VAT to undertake maintenance work on the base of the monument.
- The lamp will need separate assessment.
- The monument is a listed structure. Contact will be made with a heritage officer at Cheshire East Council to check whether there are any specific requirements to undertake work on the monument. It was agreed that if there were no specific requirements to be reported back to the Council that work could proceed as quoted.

80/21 Planning Reports

Decisions:

None

Withdrawals:

None

Applications:

21/3505N (Audlem (2011) / Audlem PC) Change of use from use class C3 (residential) to sui generis (wedding venue) to include the erection of a marquee and associated parking. THE PARKES, MONKS LANE, AUDLEM, CHESHIRE, CW3 0HP. Last date for submitting comments is 4 August 2021.

- The Planning Committee drafted a response objecting to planning application 21/3505N, which was agreed to be published and reported to Cheshire East Council.

Audlem Parish Council welcomes new business initiatives to the area and the inclusion of the community to help them expand and improve. However, the establishment of any new business needs to be balanced against any possible adverse impact on the community of Audlem.

The potential for 12 new jobs created by the new wedding venue is welcomed by the Council and it is hoped that these would be taken up by local people.

However, the Council does have concerns about both noise and disturbance caused by arriving and departing guests to the venue as well as deliveries particularly as the hours of business requested are 8.00am to 1am seven days each week. Currently, Monks Lane, which is a single-track lane, is used by farm vehicles, milk wagons and local traffic. It is also used by a great many dog walkers and cyclists for these very reasons.

The arrival and departure of guests, potentially up to 70 vehicles, would impact on those properties in Monks Lane, Heathfield Road and those from Corbrook Court Nursing Home to the A529 junction with Heathfield Road, a total of 56 properties.

The school and nursery, also located in Heathfield Road, and currently has staggered incoming and leaving pupils during the morning and afternoon. Due to restricted parking in Heathfield Road outside the school those parents who have to pick up their child with a car often park in Heathfield Road between Monks Lane and the A529. In September these restrictions should lift so drop off time and pickup times could well be affected by this incoming delivery traffic and guests arriving for afternoon receptions.

During April to September the owners of the venue wish to erect a marquee on the disused tennis court to facilitate larger wedding and have either live music or a disco. Whilst the property itself is shielded from view of local residents this does not stop the sound travelling. Marquees are not sound proofed and again this would affect even more properties, we estimate in excess of 62 properties. Disco music at any time, would impact on residents' reasonable expectation of "quiet enjoyment" of their properties.

For all the reasons stated above the Parish Council objects to the planning application on the grounds of noise and disturbance to the local community in that area.

21/3284N (Audlem (2011) / Audlem PC, Buerton PC). Permanent key worker dwelling. Glenworth, LONGHILL LANE, BUERTON, CW3 0JQ. Last date for submitting comments is 14 July 2021.
This application for information only.

81/21 Highways

A discussion was held on the possible next steps regarding Cheshire East Council's proposed Top Up Highways Maintenance pilot scheme. The scheme was described by councillors as over complicated, poorly timed and potentially costly. It was noted that Cheshire East Council had a duty of care to maintain the highways. It was proposed to draft a letter to be sent to Chalc and contact a member of the public who has been active in relation to the issue of highway maintenance. Cllr Paul Cawood to draft the letter and contact the member of the public for feedback.

82/21 Village Meeting

The Tourism & Business Subcommittee is to determine a plan. The date of the meeting was provisionally set as October 7, with October 14 as an alternative. The Clerk was asked to check the availability of the Public Hall.

83/21 Clerks report

- An email was circulated regarding the Churchfields Nature Area. The conservation area is going to be thinned out, with trimmed branches used to construct fences. Students from Reaseheath Collage will undertake the work, under supervision, at no cost to the Council. The work is expected to be undertaken in October/November. This work is being led by Cllr D Winskill with support from ADAS chair Neil Goodyear.

84/21 Report from Ward Councillor

- CEC Cllr R Bailey was concerned that under Cheshire East Council's proposed Top Up Highways Maintenance scheme that complaints about highways would be directed towards the Parish Council, which would be hamstrung with its budget. Cllr Bailey said Cheshire East Council had not explained what was meant by basic maintenance and there were many unanswered questions. Cllr Bailey to help organise a meeting of parish councils regarding the highways scheme.
- Cllr Bailey reported that Cheshire East had passed an inspection in relation to children with special educational needs.

85/21 Parish Council Matters & Policies

- There were no reports on training.
- There were no matters raised.

86/21 Correspondence

(10 minutes)

- A member of the public has contacted the Council regarding Wood Orchard Lane, which connects Paddock Lane to Bagley Lane, to say the road is collapsing. They have contacted CEC Highways.
- A member of the public has contacted the Council regarding the footpath leading from Copthorne Drive to Green Lane being overgrown. The member of the public contacted Cheshire East Council and footpath was subsequently mowed.
- A member of the public has contacted the Council regarding cycling activity on the park, raising concerns about people walking in the area coming together with people cycling. It was asked if cycling could be accommodated on Turnpike Field, whether roughly constructed steps leading to the park area could be renovated, and whether wheelchair access could be re-established and maintained.

87/21 Grant applications

A grant application is to be submitted by ADCA.

88/21 Items for future agenda

- Discussion on cycling activity in the park area.
- Councillors are requested to email any agenda items to the Clerk.

89/21 Date of next meeting

Until further notice Parish Council monthly meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month, except during August when there are no meetings. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at **7.00pm** on **MONDAY 13 September 2021** at Audlem Public Hall.

Future planned dates. 11 October 2021, 8 November 2021, 13 December 2021, 10 January 2022, 14 February 2022, 14 March 2022.

PART TWO CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Members discussed the problem at Longhill Moss.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 12 July 2021 which were signed by the Chair of the meeting as a true record on 13 September 2021.