



AUDLEM
PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk:
Owen Hembry
88 McKelvey Way
Audlem, Crewe CW3 0FJ
e-mail: audlempc@gmail.com

MINUTES OF MEETING OF AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL (APC)

Held Monday 8 November 2021 at 7.00pm Youth Club Room, Audlem Village Hall

Present - Cllrs J McGregor (Chair), P Salt, M Duys, R Warburton, J Stainthorpe, P Cawood, R Warburton

In attendance: Clerk O Hembry, Ward Cllr R Bailey and eleven members of the public.

I45/21 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr D Winskill and Cllr J Bower.

I46/21 Councillor vacancies and co-option of new Members

There are currently four vacancies on the Parish Council which have been or are currently being advertised as casual vacancies in accordance with current governance guidelines. The Clerk is to provide information to a member of the public who has expressed an interest in becoming a councillor.

I47/21 Public speaking open forum and public participation

A member of the public speaking on behalf of two local groups said they believed the Council should declare an environmental climate emergency and commit to change the detrimental impact of humankind on the planet. The Council was asked to consider adopting a proposal for declaring a climate emergency. The member of the public said Audlem was being impacted by changing weather conditions and was having a contributing impact on climate change in the most affected countries around the world. Limiting the global temperature increase required global, local and individual action. The Council was asked to take a leadership role and make an action plan for the parish to reduce emissions and reach a net zero position.

I48/21 Request for dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation

I49/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

I50/21 Minutes

Cllr P Salt proposed, Cllr J McGregor seconded and it was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 4 October and 11 October 2021 as true records to be signed by the Chairman Cllr J McGregor.

I51/21 Matters arising

There were no matters raised at this item from the minutes of the last meeting held 11 October 2021.

I52/21 Committees / Working Groups

Finance Committee

- Paperwork to add Cllrs P Salt and J McGregor as signatories to the bank account is to be completed and submitted to the bank following the approval of the minutes from the meeting held on October 11. Cllr J Stainthorpe proposed, Cllr M Duys seconded and the Council **resolved** to reconfirm the addition of Cllr P Salt and Cllr J McGregor as signatories to the bank.
- Budget planning documents for next year have been issued to the committee members. Cheshire East Council have requested the return of the precept notification form by Friday 14 January for the financial year commencing 1 April 2022.
- Audlem Printers have invoiced £40 for carpark signage ordered for temporary parking in Turnpike Field. Cllr J McGregor proposed, Cllr R Warburton seconded and the Council **resolved** to approve the invoice.

Turnpike Field Working Group

- The Turnpike Field Working Group meeting scheduled for October 27 was postponed due to the availability of Members of the Group.
- Three quotes for the construction of a car park are expected. It was suggested that once the quotes were received that Council return to the community to discuss the potential cost.
- Once the quotes are received a meeting of the Group will be held.

Asset Management Working Group

- The base of the monument/lamp in the square has been cleaned. Painting of metal lamp and column is yet to be undertaken.
- Quotes for the replacement of benches will be provided for consideration at the next meeting.
- Cllr J McGregor proposed, Cllr M Duys seconded and the Council **resolved** to approve a location next to the toilet block for a new noticeboard.
- The moving of the Council bins to the cemetery is to be organised with the collection service.
- Steve Potter Property Maintenance was scheduled to replace worn and faulty front door locks to the ladies and gents toilets. A key has been found to the toilet doors. Instructions have been found for setting the automated access locking system. Once the door locks have been replaced the access system can be investigated and if necessary, an electrician may be needed if it is not functioning correctly. A plumber is to be engaged to undertake work on the cisterniser to ensure water flushes correctly into the urinal in the men's toilet.

Tourism & Business Working Group

Management & Communications Working Group

- Cllr J McGregor proposed, Cllr R Warburton seconded and the Council **resolved** to approve Cllr J Stainthorpe to join the Group.
- A review of paperwork and storage is to be undertaken.
- Legal documents are to be retrieved from solicitors.
- An information leaflet is to be drawn up to provide details about the Council, its functions and responsibilities.

Safety Working Group

- Cllr J McGregor volunteered to represent the Council the next parish cluster meeting due to be held by the Police in January.

Planning Working Group

I53/21 Planning Reports

Applications:

21/5358N Single storey side/front extension, bay window to front elevation and pitched roof to front elevation. 3, WINDMILL DRIVE, AUDLEM, CW3 0BE. Last date for comments 9 November.

Cllr J McGregor proposed, Cllr M Duys seconded and the Council **resolved** to raise **no objection**.

21/5479N The proposed development comprises the conversion of two agricultural buildings PADDOCK HOUSE, PADDOCK LANE, AUDLEM, CHESHIRE, CW3 0DP. Last date for comments 1 December.

Cllr J McGregor proposed, Cllr M Duys seconded and the Council **resolved** to raise **no objection**.

21/5453N Proposed rear extensions, internal remodelling and external reconfiguration including new access point and proposed stable. SPOUT FARM, LONGHILL LANE, AUDLEM, CW3 0BZ. Last date for comments 22 November.

Cllr J McGregor proposed, Cllr M Duys seconded and the Council **resolved** to raise **no objection**.

I54/21 Financial investigation

Cllr J McGregor proposed, Cllr P Salt seconded and the Council **resolved** to discuss this item in Part B.

I55/21 Longhill Moss

Cllr J McGregor proposed, Cllr P Salt seconded and the Council **resolved** to discuss this item in Part B.

I56/21 Highways

CEC Ward Cllr R Bailey is organising a meeting of Parish Council representatives to discuss Cheshire East Council's proposed Top Up Highways Maintenance pilot scheme. Cllr P Cawood agreed to represent the Council at the meeting, which was proposed for 15 November.

I57/21 Playing field

Update on the possibility of the Council taking ownership of the playing field assets. Cllr J McGregor is awaiting a reply from Cheshire East Council about whether the playing field and potentially associated assets are available.

I58/21 Audlem Carbon Emissions Reduction (ACER)

Cllr Warburton attended a meeting of ACER at which questions directed at the Council included the rewilding of hedgerows and verges, installation of at least one electric charging point on the carpark, how to increase the recycling of plastics, how to increase use of bus services and ensuring all footpaths are well signed and kept clear. ACER supplied details of a poll of the public undertaken at an event in the village which showed four favoured options being electric vehicle charging points, improved walking and cycling provision, support a plastic free/recycling campaign and promotion of sustainable practices in agriculture. Cllr P Cawood drafted a response on behalf of the Council. With regards to providing electric vehicle charging points the Council could not favour one mode of personal transport over others. There would be questions of location, installation, maintenance and covering the cost of charging.

Alternatives to personal transport should be developed such as bus services. There were benefits to encouraging walking and cycling in the community. Provision of cycling lanes could be

a challenge due to high costs. The Council was supportive of ideas for plastic recycling campaigns. Farms were autonomous businesses for which the Council held no authority. Agriculture had a rigorous regime of regulation designed to minimise greenhouse gases. The response said efforts as a community to reduce the greenhouse gas contribution would be well focussed on reducing the impact through transport and how effectively homes were heated. Cllr J McGregor proposed, Cllr P Salt seconded and the Council **resolved** to approve the response.

I59/21 Grant applications

A grant application for £500 has been received from Audlem District Amenities Society (ADAS) to support its efforts to plant winter bedding. Cllr J McGregor proposed, Cllr R Warburton seconded and the Council **resolved** to approve the grant application.

I60/21 Buttermarket booking requests

- A booking request has been received from Audlem and District Acting Positively for Transition (ADAPT) for Saturday 4 December 2021, 10am-2pm, Homemade Christmas Event. Cllr P Salt proposed, Cllr R Warburton seconded and the Council **resolved** to approve the booking request. The Clerk was asked by a Member to request re-sight of the insurance certificate.
- Cllr P Salt undertook a review of the booking conditions for the Buttermarket. A condition of only being able to book the Buttermarket twice a year was removed and a contact number of St James Church has been added to help with communications. Cllr J McGregor proposed, Cllr M Duys seconded and the Council **resolved** to approved the updated booking conditions.

I61/21 Clerks report

- Cheshire Community Action has contacted the Council asking it to consider renewing its membership for £50. Clerk is to provide Members with more information on this organisation for consideration at the meeting in December.
- The Countryside Charity (CPRE) has contacted the Council asking it to consider renewing its membership for a recommended sum of £36. Clerk is to provide Members with more information on this organisation for consideration at the meeting in December.

I62/21 Report from Ward Councillor

Ward Cllr R Bailey asked the Council to consider how it could promote the recently launched 'go-too' bus service. Cheshire East was planning to undertake a review of bus services. Cllr Bailey raised a concern that the contribution to rural bus services could be reduced in light of the new on-demand 'go-too' service, which is funded by a three-year government grant.

I63/21 Parish Council Matters & Policies

- Cllr J Stainthorpe volunteered to write brief news items for publication following meetings.
- The Clerk is to circulate a list of upcoming training courses.
- Cllr R Warburton had been approached by a member of the public with trees they wished to plant in the village, which can be discussed at the next Turnpike Field Working Group meeting.
- Members discussed ensuring responses to correspondence were as timely as possible.
- Members discussed the possible benefits of a traffic survey.

I64/21 Correspondence

- Members discussed correspondence from a member of the public who contacted the Council to say they had been offered an automated external defibrillator (AED) device for the community in Coxbank and enquire as to whether the council could help with the installation. The Clerk is to reply advising the correspondent to submit a grant application for the Council to consider.
- A proposal was submitted by a member of the public for the declaration of an environment and climate emergency. A Councillor spoke to say the Council did not have the time, members and ability to carry out the proposal. A member of the public spoke to ask the

Council to support the proposal to affect the direction of public opinion. A member of the public spoke to urge the Council to express an opinion. A member of the public asked the Council to take a leadership role and send a message to the community that it was a serious issue and that everyone had a responsibility and should do what they can. The Council was asked to set up a committee with support from local people to ask what action should be taken. Cllr J McGregor proposed, Cllr P Cawood seconded and the Council **resolved** to not declare a climate emergency at this point in time.

I 65/21 Items for future agenda

- A member of the public previously contacted the Council regarding the need to repair damaged street lighting and the speed of traffic in Stafford Street. Cllr D Winskill was to make enquiries of Cheshire East Highways, reply to the member of the public and report back to the Council.
- Community Infrastructure Levy Fund (CIL): A payment of £29,074.50 was sent to Audlem Parish Council on 12 November 2019. CIL monies received by the Council are to be spent within five years otherwise it will be clawed back by Cheshire East Council. The funds can be spent on anything that supports the development of the area. Members are to suggest possible projects for the Council to review in the New Year. One project suggested for consideration is a road crossing near the new housing development on Cheshire Street.

I 66/21 Date of next meeting

Parish Council monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, except for August during which there are no meetings. The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled to be held at **7.00pm** on **MONDAY 13 December** at Audlem Public Hall (location to be confirmed nearer the time).

Future planned dates: 10 January 2022, 14 February 2022, 14 March 2022.

Part B

The Council agreed to enter into Part B due to the confidential nature of the business to be conducted.

Financial investigation

Cllr J McGregor provided an update on the financial investigation as set out in confidential Appendix 6/2021.

Longhill Moss

Cllr J McGregor provided an update on Longhill Moss as set out in confidential Appendix 7/2021.

The meeting closed at approximately 9.40pm

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2021 which are signed by the Chairman of the meeting held on 10 January 2022 as a true record.

Signed:

Position: