

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2015 AT 7.30PM
METHODIST MEETING ROOMS, SHROPSHIRE STREET, AUDLEM

PRESENT:

Cllr Siddorns	Cllr Jones (Chair)	Cllr Christie	Cllr Johnson
Cllr G Seddon	Cllr Hill	Cllr P Seddon	Cllr Consterdine
Cllr Thompson	Cllr Down	Cllr Higham	

In Attendance: K Dixon (Clerk)**Present:** Mr Richard Furber and Mr Alvar Jones (AOL)

Cllr Jones presented a long service award to retired councillor Richard Furber, who stepped down in May having joined the Parish Council in December 1989. He was Chairman when the first Parish Plan and the Village Design Statement were created, both important documents to the community of Audlem, and was also instrumental in the management of Longhill Moss. He has been an excellent and valued advocate for the agricultural community and the Parish Council continues to draw on his knowledge and wisdom. He was presented with a framed painting of Shropshire Street by local artist Sheila Webster.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions from the public.

15.90 APOLOGIES – None.15.91 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None.15.92 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2015 were considered and Cllr Siddorns asked that the following was inserted into 15.86.8:

“Cllr Jones confirmed that she would take the issues that Cllr Siddorns had previously raised concerning non-referral incentives (15.72.8) to the November PPG meeting.”

The minutes were then approved and signed as a true record.

The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 23rd November 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record.

15.93 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT93.1 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Jones spoke about the letter sent to David Cameron on 18th November by Audlem Parish Council on the subject of the influence of developers on the Local Plan asking for George Osborne MP and the other 4 CEC MPs to convene a public forum so that the community can voice their concerns on the lack of local influence



over strategic documents. This letter has been acknowledged but a response is still awaited. The Congleton NP group has since written, on 27th November, to Greg Clark MP the Secretary of State for Community and Local Government with similar concerns and circulated to other local communities developing Neighbourhood Plans including Audlem Parish Council. It was agreed that the Audlem Parish Council letter should be circulated to the same recipients as the Congleton letter and also published on AOL with an explanation on context provided by the Council. Cllr Jones went on to explain that queries have been received by the NP Review Group from the initial Independent Examiner, Liz Beth, and the group has responded to these. The expected date for the outcome of the Independent Examination is 23rd December and as a consequence the referendum is likely to be held in mid-March at the earliest. The Inspector's response to the amended CE Local Plan is expected in mid-December.

Cllr G Seddon reported that the second grant for the NP was for expenditure until the end of October. The accounts have now been completed; £2,222 of the £3,060 grant was spent so a repayment of £838 will be made. Once the repayment has been made, a third grant will be applied for to pay for final document printing costs, newsletters and potential consultancy costs, such as a biodiversity assessment. Cllr Consterdine reported that the Parish Council should expect a letter from ChALC concerning parish councils collaborating to buy in expertise in support of their defence of local and neighbourhood plans. This will be circulated on receipt. Cllr Siddorns asked for clarification on the NP's stance on infill/garden development outside the settlement boundary. It was explained that this is only permitted if the site is immediately adjoining the settlement boundary and the development is within the existing cartilage of the property.

93.2 Communication with CEC

Cllr Jones reported that CEC Cllr Michael E Jones had responded to the Parish Council's letter about its concerns about the planning department's lack of consideration of Neighbourhood Plans. In his letter, Cllr Michael E Jones voiced CEC's support for Neighbourhood Plans. He agreed that the ANP was not given proper consideration in the case of the application 15/1548N which was given approval this year despite being contrary to the emerging ANP. He has also offered a meeting between the Parish Council and the Cabinet Member responsible for Planning and Head of Planning.

CEC Cllr Jones' letter was discussed and it was agreed that it would be appropriate to give residents and Parish Councillors and also members of the NPSC the opportunity to submit questions for those Parish Councillors who will attend this meeting to ask the CEC representatives. The meeting will be held in January in Crewe on a date which should be confirmed shortly.

93.3 Planning Applications

The applications (i) and (ii) were discussed and resolved upon. Applications (iii) to (viii) were noted. It was also noted that the application for outline planning permission for 21 houses on the land adjacent to Birds Nest, Audlem Road (ix) has been withdrawn.



(i)	15/4937N	THE OLD POST OFFICE, DAMSON LANE, COX BANK, CHESHIRE, CW3 0EU	New Entrance Porch and Landscape Works	No Objection
(ii)	15/5162N	8 , Stafford Street, Audlem, Cheshire, CW3 0AA	Proposed conservatory and window alterations	No Objection
(iii)	15/4202N	Mount Pleasant Farm, MOUNT PLEASANT, AUDLEM, CW3 0BS	Proposed Balcony off First Floor Bedroom	No objection APPROVED
(iv)	15/4962N	15, TOLLGATE DRIVE, AUDLEM, CW3 0EA	Convert Garage to Living Space and Construct Bedroom & Shower Room Above	No objection No Decision
(v)	15/4763N	25, STAFFORD STREET, AUDLEM, CW3 0AR	Non Material Amendment to Approval 15/3354N	No objection APPROVED
(vi)	15/4457N	18, SALFORD, AUDLEM, CW3 0AZ	First Floor One-Room Side Extension over Existing Ground Floor Bedroom	No objection APPROVED
(vii)	15/4567N	PHEASANTS RISE, DAMSON LANE, AUDLEM, CHESHIRE, CW3 0EU	Demolition of Conservatory to Allow New Rear Single Storey Extension with Thermal Improvements to Existing Structure with New External Materials	No objection No Decision
(viii)	15/3923N	21 STAFFORD STREET, AUDLEM.	Listed Building Consent to re-position the existing brick entrance piers and associated brick walling as granted under 13/0242N	Concerns raised. APPROVED with strict conditions on materials and construction
(ix)	15/3257N	LAND ADJACENT TO BIRDS NEST, AUDLEM ROAD, AUDLEM.	Outline application for a housing development for 21 dwellings with access	WITHDRAWN



93.4 Application 15/1964N Green Lane House, Green Lane

The refused application has been sent to appeal. It was resolved to make a submission in support of the original decision by the deadline of 18th December.

93.5 Application 14/0428 Kynsal Farm

To discuss the farm access and its impact on Bagley Lane. Cllrs Down and Siddorns spoke of their concerns about the unfinished farm access. The mud on Bagley Road and the state of the vergeside culvert were mentioned. After some discussion, including comments sent to the Clerk by Norman Huntbach of Swanbach, the councillors asked Mr R Furber if he would talk to the farm owners on the Council's behalf to ascertain the timeframe for completion and to request that the mud on the road is regularly removed.

15.94 **MATTERS ARISING**

(i) Play Area Repair – The Clerk reported that she had met with Elaine Webster and Steve Cooper of ANSA who are responsible for the maintenance and safety of the play areas in Cheshire East. They inspected the soft play surface and the equipment and Mr Cooper will action a repair on the the soft play by the roundabout. It was reported that the basketball post in the car park will be removed on health & safety grounds as a car park is not a suitable site for play equipment. It was agreed that the hoop should be retrieved after removal and would be stored by a councillor in case suitable alternative site can be identified, perhaps after the annexe to the Public Hall is completed.

(ii) Buttermarket – The Clerk reported that the quote for repairs was for about £9,000 and alternative quotes are being sought.

(iii) CCTV – The Clerk reported that the new CCTV has now been installed and works very well. The installation company has provided a quote for extending the system to replace the wireless camera opposite the Public Conveniences close to Cheshire Street. It was resolved to do this work at the quoted price of £820 plus VAT including installation costs.

Cllr Consterdine reported that he has located the portable CCTV and confirmed that he would ensure that it was delivered to the Clerk for safekeeping.

(iv) Churchfield Gullies – The Clerk reported that she had had a frustrating conversation with CEC Call Centre about the matter. Cllr Consterdine provided further information and CEC Cllr Rachel Bailey offered to supply the Clerk with a suitable contact email so that the matter can be resolved swiftly.

(v) Mayoral Visit – The Clerk reported that the Mayor, Cllr Hilda Gaddum, will be attending the Carols round the Tree event on 18 December. The Mayor will be met by members of the ADAS committee as they lead the event; she has been informed of all Audlem's successes this year.

(vi) Defibrillators – The Clerk reported that she had been in communication with the British Heart Foundation about the nature of the grant they offer and also with Audlem First Responders. There was a discussion about possible locations for a 24/7 facility and the Clerk will circulate the location of the current defibrillators in the village. It was agreed that the Clerk should proceed with the grant process by talking to the local Ambulance Service which is a requirement of the grant process.



(vii) United Utilities – The Clerk reported there are works scheduled in the centre of the village and on Whitchurch Road for January. To date there has been no response to enquiries about their review of Audlem’s infrastructure. It was agreed that the letter should be directed to the Chief Executive.

Cllr Consterdine reported that there is a damaged manhole cover (foul water) on Kettle Lane outside Ashtree Farm. The Clerk will report this.

15.95 FINANCIAL MATTERS

95.1 Finance Report

The Clerk presented the current level of expenditure in comparison with the budget, which continues to be favourable. The takings for the Public Conveniences continue to be in line with predicted income and the expenditure below that budgeted.

Councillors were asked to consider further the matter of how to spend the £200 prize money.

95.2 Authorisation of cheques

1270	K Dixon	Salaries	£400.90
1271	G Davies	Street Cleaning	£357.00
1272	K Dixon	Office Expenses	£59.92
1273	Audlem Methodist Church	room hire (x3)	£120.00
1274	Delmar Press	Newsletter	£297.00
1275	Wiston Electrical & Security Ltd	cctv refurbishment	£2,689.20
1276	J Kemble	re-issued cheque from 2014-15	£152.63

Resolved: the above accounts were approved for payment.

95.3 Authorisation of Payments made in the last month

1269	United Utilities	Public Conveniences	£143.63
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Resolved: the above account was approved retrospectively.

95.4 Budget 2016-17

In light of recent additions to expenditure, it was agreed to finalise the budget at the January meeting when the precept will also need to be finalised. The Clerk reported that she had received a provisional taxbase figure but this would not be confirmed, as previously reported, until 17th December. Cllr Jones urged her fellow councillors to raise any issues with the latest version of the draft budget with the Clerk in advance of the next meeting so that the Finance Sub-Committee can, if necessary, meet to make further amendments prior to the January Parish Council meeting.

15.96 CORRESPONDENCE

Grant funding opportunities information had been received from Tesco and Ruby. It was agreed that Cllr G Seddon would investigate the Tesco option with a mind to the outdoor gym proposal that had been suggested in the past and that Cllr Higham would look at the Ruby option. Both are for community amenities such as open spaces.

The Parish Council had received an invitation to a “Thank You” event by APHax on 9 December - Cllrs Consterdine and Higham will attend.

Councillors were asked to consider attending the APHax Dinner Dance on March 19th 2016.



15.97 COPTHORNE BENCH

Nothing to report.

15.98 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

98.1 Councillor Vacancy

The Elections Team at CEC have given the go ahead for co-option. The vacancy will be advertised.

98.2 Meeting Dates for 2016

The list of dates for Meeting dates was received and accepted. The list will be posted on the Parish Council Noticeboard and on the Audlem Online calendar.

98.3 Staff Pay

(i) It was resolved to raise the Lengthsman's hourly rate by 20p in line with the recent rise in the minimum wage, effective from October 2015.

(ii) It was resolved to pay the Clerk overtime for attending 2 recent training courses.

15.99 AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

To receive reports on actions required.

99.1 Highways & Transportation (Cllr Hill)

Cllr Hill reported that the Parish Council has written to Kevin Skillings about its concerns about the lack of progress with the safety measures on A525 over and above the proposed speed limit changes. This was copied to the other PCs affected and Newhall PC had acknowledged receipt.

It was reported that the Chair of ChALC, Phil Jackson, has announced that the Nantwich Highways LAP is to return.

Cllr Siddorns spoke about the poor state of local roads, included roadmarkings, recounting recent communications with PCC John Dwyer and the PCC's letter to Cheshire East on the matter and its duty of care to road users. The Councillors discussed how to prioritise this matter for Audlem.

99.2 Community (Cllr G Seddon)

(i) Community Projects Committee – Nothing to report.

(ii) Public Hall – including APHax – Nothing to report.

(iii) Audlem Burial Committee – Nothing to report.

99.3 Youth & Education (Cllr Higham)

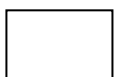
Cllrs Higham and Thompson had been to the Conservation Area to take part in a session with the "Green Team" from Audlem St James School led by the Audlem in Bloom group. They helped with coppicing hazel and bug hotel building.

99.4 Law & Order (Cllr Siddorns)

Nothing to report.

99.5 Local Tourism & Business (Cllr Johnson)

The Big Switch On has been a successful event despite very poor weather. It was agreed to write an open letter of thanks on AOL to all the volunteers who have worked so hard to make the village look so beautifully festive and to make the event



such a success. The letter will also be displayed on the Noticeboard for those with no internet access.

Councillors congratulated Cllr Johnson on his recent award for customer service excellence at Sainsburys.

99.6 Heritage & Localism (Cllr Higham)

Nothing to report.

99.7 Wildlife & Ecology (Cllr Down)

The latest minutes of the Ecology and Wildlife Group had been circulated to Councillors.

99.8 Health (Cllr Jones)

Cllr Jones reported that there are to be 1.5 days more per week of dispensing time offered at Boots. Cllr Jones reported that the matter of rewards for non-referrals had been raised and considered at the latest PPG meeting but the finalised minutes of that meeting are yet to be issued.

99.9 Communications (Cllr P Seddon)

Nothing to report.

99.10 Access & Inclusion (Cllr Christie)

Cllr Christie reported that the ADCA Christmas Lunch is being held on 8th December. Whilst alterations are being carried out at Hankelow, both groups are meeting at The Lord Combermere. The Charity Quiz on 15th December at The Lord Combermere is in aid of ADCA. Cllr Higham reported that funding is being sought to support the car service for people attending hospital appointments

99.11 Devolved Services (Cllr Hill)

(i)Public Conveniences – Cllr Down commented that there was a loose tile on the roof.

99.12 ADAPT

Cllr Johnson reported that a link councillor is still required to attend the monthly Wednesday night meetings. Cllr Higham will endeavour to attend the next meeting.

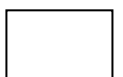
99.13 Commons & Greens Committee (Cllr Down)

Nothing to report.

99.14 Street Lighting

The Clerk reported that 2 residents had been in touch with details of a street light on Heathfield Road which is not working. The Clerk had reported it using CEC's on-line system; it is 1 of 4 currently marked on the system as having a problem. Cllr Consterdine reported that another, at the top of Cheshire Street, is also not working. This will also be reported on the CEC system.

The Clerk reported that Norman Huntbach of Swanbach had written in opposition of a new street light at the junction of Bagley Lane and A529 (Green Lane) however councillors were still minded to pursue this.



15.100 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr Consterdine reported that Paul Hancock of Cheshire Fire and Rescue had spoken at the latest ChALC meeting about the 4 new fires stations and the savings required of them. Their Headquarters are moving into the Police Headquarters in Winsford as a cost saving measure. Mr Hancock commented that Audlem Fire Station is safe due to its geographic location as well as its relatively low running costs.

Cllr Higham had attended a meeting on Disability Support in CEC – he will circulate the meeting minutes/notes once he has received them.

15.101 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

- Communications Policy
- Staff Pensions Scheme
- Precept and budget
- Register of Assets to include painting(s)
- Grants policy guideline changes
- 2x minor errors identified in audit review
- Teen shelter and basketball hoop location
- Chalc winnings

15.102 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 11th JANUARY 2016

CHAIRMAN _____

Date _____

