



AUDLEM
PARISH COUNCIL

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

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 10 January 2022 at 7.00pm Youth Club Room, Audlem Village Hall

Present – Cllrs D Winskill (Vice chair), P Salt, M Duys, R Warburton, J Stainthorpe, P Cawood
In attendance: Clerk O Hembry, Ward Cllr R Bailey and one member of the public.

In the absence of the chairman Cllr R Warburton nominated, Cllr M Duys seconded and the Council **resolved** that Cllr D Winskill would chair the meeting.

167/21 Apologies

An apology was received from Cllr J McGregor.

168/21 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.

169/21 Public speaking open forum and public participation

There was no public participation.

170/21 Request for dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

171/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

172/21 Minutes

Cllr R Warburton proposed, Cllr P Salt seconded and the Council **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2021 as a true record to be signed by Cllr D Winskill as the chairman of the meeting in the absence of Cllr J McGregor.

173/21 Matters arising

There were no matters raised at this item from the minutes of the last meeting held 8 November 2021.

174/21 Committees and Working Groups

Finance Committee

- Budget documentation was circulated to Members. Cllr P Salt proposed, Cllr P Cawood seconded and the Council **resolved** to approve the proposed budget and precept request for 2022/23. The precept request of £56,394, was indicated by Cheshire East Council to be the

level at which current Band D Council Tax would remain at £52.49. Cheshire East Council have requested the return of the precept notification form by Friday 14 January. The Clerk was thanked for the work undertaken in preparing documentation. Cllr P Salt proposed, Cllr D Winskill seconded and the Council **resolved** to publish the budget report.

- The Finance Committee met on 16 December and approved the bank reconciliation up to the 6 December statement date, and the available schedule of payments and receipts.
- Paperwork has been submitted to add Cllrs P Salt and J McGregor as bank account signatories.
- At the meeting on 11 October the Council agreed to continue with an annual payment of £72 for the provision of a digital information screen in a local store. The screen has not been in use due to Covid. For further consideration the return of this screen would require a volunteer to manage and create the information for display. Cllr R Warburton **volunteered** to manage and create the information for the screen.

Turnpike Field Working Group

- The Council considered approval of the installation of a gate to replace a stile next to the canal. The gate is to be supplied free of charge by Cheshire East Council Public Rights of Way. Written approvals have been requested from Cheshire East Council and the Canal & River Trust. Cllr D Winskill is liaising with volunteers from the working group regarding a risk assessment. Cllr R Warburton proposed, Cllr J Stainthorpe seconded and the Council **resolved** to approve the installation of the gate.
- A damaged gate and fence on Whitchurch Road leading to the canal is being investigated.
- The working group is investigating a solution to a muddy section of footpath near Green Lane. Cllr P Cawood proposed, Cllr D Winskill seconded and the Council **resolved** to agree in principle to a solution and the obtaining of quotes for consideration by the Council.
- Cllr M Duys suggested a meeting of the working group was held before the next council meeting.

Asset Management Working Group

- Cleaning of the base of the monument/lamp in the square and re-enameling of lettering has been completed. Cllr D Winskill **volunteered** to investigate the painting of the metal lamp and column.
- Members discussed the cost for repair and replacement benches. Cllr D Winskill **volunteered** to provide a list of benches in need of repair work so that a quote can be obtained.
- The installation of a new noticeboard next to the toilet block is yet to be undertaken. Cllr R Warburton **volunteered** to contact a company regarding the installation.
- Front door locks to the ladies' and gents' toilets have been replaced. Plumbing work has been undertaken on a leak in the ladies toilet and a loose tap. The cistern flush into the gents' toilet urinal has been examined and is to be monitored. The automatic door control mechanism has been repaired by an electrician and the mechanism for the ladies' toilet needs replacement. The cost of the replacement part is quoted at about £200. Cllr D Winskill proposed, Cllr R Warburton seconded and the Council **resolved** to approve work to undertake the replacement.

Tourism & Business Working Group

- The proposed Village Meeting was deferred until Spring. The meeting has been proposed to be held in the first week of May. Cllr P Cawood **volunteered** to investigate the organisation of the meeting.

Management & Communications Working Group

- Cllr J Stainthorpe volunteered to write news items on the key points following meetings. News items to be agreed with the Chairman before publication. The Clerk is to notify community website Audlem Online when agendas and minutes are published.
- A leaflet is to be drawn up to provide details about the Council, its functions and responsibilities.
- Examination of the Neighbourhood plan was deferred to this year.

Safety Working Group

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

Planning Working Group

175/21 Planning Reports

Applications:

21/3505N Change of use from use class C3 (residential) to sui generis (wedding venue) THE PARKES, MONKS LANE, AUDLEM, CHESHIRE, CW3 0HP

The following comment was made by the Council to the Cheshire East Council planning website: 'Audlem Parish Council acknowledges the revised plans for the proposed wedding venue in Monks Lane. The removal of the need for a marquee should contribute greatly to noise reduction for neighbouring properties. Should the applicants agree to the proposed operating hours suggested by Cheshire East Environmental Services this again reduces both noise levels and impacts on times of vehicles leaving the venue in the early hours. However, should the applicants have objections to these operating proposals the Parish Council would like the applicants to advise how they intend to limit the impact on neighbouring properties of vehicles leaving in the early hours of the morning. The Parish Council would have no objections should these conditions be met.'

Cllr R Warburton proposed, Cllr P Cawood seconded and the Council **resolved** to approve the comment.

21/6066N Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on application 20/5597N - Proposed side and front single storey extension to existing GP practice AUDLEM MEDICAL PRACTICE, 16, CHESHIRE STREET, AUDLEM, CREWE, CHESHIRE, CW3 0AH

Last date for comments: 19 January.

Cllr R Warburton proposed, Cllr P Cawood seconded and the Council **resolved** to raise no objections.

21/6079N Proposed 1800mm high close boarded fence to the west and east boundaries AUDLEM MEDICAL PRACTICE, 16, CHESHIRE STREET, AUDLEM, CHESHIRE, CW3 0AH.

Last date for comments: 26 January.

Cllr R Warburton proposed, Cllr P Cawood seconded and the Council **resolved** to raise no objections.

21/6128T Lawsons Cypress (T1): To fell to a high stump, in order to allow for stump to be carved. The roots of the tree appear to be causing the path to be lifted, causing a trip hazard for elderly church goers. The tree is in close proximity to the church building, and its removal would allow for further replanting AUDLEM METHODIST CHURCH, SHROPSHIRE STREET, AUDLEM, CREWE, CHESHIRE, CW3 0AE

Last date for comments: Date is unavailable.

176/21 Financial investigation

Cllr J Stainthorpe proposed, Cllr Ralph Warburton seconded and the Council **resolved** to discuss this item in Part B.

177/21 Longhill Moss

Cllr J Stainthorpe proposed, Cllr Ralph Warburton seconded and the Council **resolved** to discuss this item in Part B.

178/21 Highways

The Council discussed the meeting of Parish Council representatives organised by CEC Ward Cllr R Bailey regarding Cheshire East Council's proposed Top Up Highways Maintenance pilot scheme. Cllr P Cawood represented Audlem Parish Council at the meeting. A neighbouring parish council is to draft a response to the proposal which will be provided for consideration by the Audlem Parish Council.

179/21 Playing field

Cllr J McGregor is to contact Cheshire East Council about whether the playing field assets are available for the Council to consider the possibility of taking ownership.

180/21 Grant applications

- Grant application by Touring Arts Visiting Audlem (TAVA) for £200 to help fund advertising materials for the next show in March and reach out to new members of the community. Cllr R Warburton proposed, Cllr D Winskill seconded and the Council **resolved** to approve the application.
- Grant application by Audlem District Amenities Society (ADAS) for £500 to provide financial support for the dressing of the village for Christmas and the Big Switch On evening. Cllr J Stainthorpe proposed, Cllr M Duys seconded and the Council **resolved** to approve the application.

181/21 Buttermarket booking requests

- There were no requests.

182/21 Clerks report

- Cheshire Community Action has contacted the Council asking it to consider renewing its membership for £50. The Clerk has provided Members with more information. Cllr D Winskill proposed, Cllr R Warburton seconded and the Council **resolved** to renew the membership.
- The Countryside Charity (CPRE) has contacted the Council asking it to consider renewing its membership for a recommended sum of £36. The Clerk has provided Members with more information. Cllr D Winskill proposed, Cllr R Warburton seconded and the Council **resolved** to renew the membership.

183/21 Report from Ward Councillor

- Cheshire East Council is conducting a consultation on its speed strategy.
- Cheshire East Council has been collecting traffic data on Cheshire Street with regards to whether a pedestrian crossing is necessary to the Heathfields Road area.

184/21 Parish Council Matters & Policies

- Cllr M Duys has reviewed the policy for grant applications for consideration. Cllr P Salt proposed, Cllr R Warburton seconded and the Council **resolved** to approve the policy.

- Cllr P Salt has reviewed the policy for code of conduct for consideration. Cllr P Salt proposed, Cllr R Warburton seconded and the Council **resolved** to approve the policy.
- Cllr R Warburton **volunteered** to obtain a quote for the reprinting and installation of a tourism sign detailing the historic links of the parish to the canal.
- The Clerk has given notice to leave the position. The Council thanked the Clerk for their work.

185/21 Correspondence

- A local store contacted the Council to thank the Councillor who visited and provided them with information on business grants.
- Audlem Public Hall has contacted the Council to say a CCTV system installed when the annexe was built is operational. Before the pandemic there was discussion about the Council wanting to install another camera attached to the same system which might look over the nearby part of the football field. The Public Hall would have no objection to this in principle. The funding would have to come from the Council. Cllr R Warburton **volunteered** to report back to the Council regarding proposals for additional CCTV coverage.
- 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. One street light has been repaired and another with a damaged stem is as yet unrepaired. Cllr D Winskill **volunteered** to compile a list of broken street lights in the parish and inform Cheshire East Council.
- A member of the public has contacted the Council to ask whether it can provide support for the provision of a replacement flag to be flown from the church. The Clerk has suggested they submit a grant application form for consideration by the Council.

186/21 Community Infrastructure Levy Fund (CIL)

A payment of £29,074.50 was provided to Audlem Parish Council on 12 November 2019. CIL monies received by the Council are to be spent within five years or face being 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 review.

- A road crossing near the new housing development on Cheshire Street has been suggested as a possible project.
- Redecoration of the toilet block was suggested as a possible project.

187/21 Items for future agenda

- Discussion on how to generate community engagement for project ideas for the CIL funds.
- Discussion on how the Council can advocate on roading issues.

188/21 Date of next meeting

Until further notice the Parish Council monthly meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month, except for August during which there are no meetings. Members to consider the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council currently set as being held at **7.00pm** on **MONDAY 14 February 2022**. Future planned dates: 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

Discussion was held as set out in confidential Appendix 8/2021.

Longhill Moss

Discussion was held as set out in confidential Appendix 9/2021.

The meeting closed at 9.49pm