



AUDLEM
PARISH COUNCIL

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

c/o Cheshire Association of Local Councils
Park View Business Park
Combermere
Whitchurch
SY13 4AL
Phone: 07507 732832
Email: parishcouncil@audlempc.co.uk

Minutes of meeting of Audlem Parish Council
held in the Methodist Church, Shropshire St. Audlem
on Monday 13th March 2023 at 7.00pm.

Present: Kate Down [KD], Paul Cawood [PC], Tim Lawton [TL] (Vice Chair), Chris May [CM], Adriana Roscoe [AR], Geoff Seddon [GS] (Chair) and Jean Stainthorpe [JS].

In attendance: Katrina Chalk (Clerk to APC), Dr Kate Howe (Locum Clerk), Jackie Weaver (ChALC).

PART A

Members of the public in attendance: 12

GS introduced the new Clerk to those attending. Thanks Kate Howe – locum Clerk for all her hard work and effort over the past 10 months, during a very difficult time. And expressed his sincere thanks to all the Councillors for their time and commitment.

22/145 Apologies for absence:

Council **NOTED** formal apologies received from Cllr. Steve Elliott, Rachel Bailey (Cheshire East Ward Councillor),

22/146 Public participation

A representative from ADAS outlined some of the suggested projects in and around Audlem: the purchase of benches in Turnpike Field; review the entrance into Turnpike Field, to ease access; renovation of the monument; purchase of village flags – this would be funded by ADAS and ASET

The Chair noted Bellyse monument is listed and will therefore CE Planning/Conservation will need to be contacted prior to any work being carried out.

TL thanked ADAS for their support.

A member of the public requested clarification on 22/153 'Fields in Trust', asking why residents have not been given the opportunity to either agree or disagree with Turnpike Field being registered, by Deed, with Fields in Trust. The resident stated the response recently received from the Chair of APC did not give enough detail or openness.

The Chair noted the comments made. He stressed Turnpike Field would not be taken into Fields in Trust's ownership if the Deed were signed and the ownership and management of the land would remain with APC, on behalf of the residents of Audlem.

A member of the public asked for clarity regarding the AoL website and whether it is run by APC and if there was anyone related to those who oversee the AoL. The Chair advised the AoL is independent of APC and the Parish Council has no remit over the site. One member of the Parish Council is related to someone on the AoL editorial team.

JS updated those present about the APC website which has been updated recently. It is hoped it is now easier to search for documentation etc.

22/147 Declarations of Interest - None.

22/148 Requests for Dispensation - None.

22/149 Confirmation of Minutes

CM proposed, PC seconded, Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on **13th February 2023**. Signed as accurate minutes of meeting by APC Chair – Geoff Seddon.

22/150 Planning Matters

Update from Chair on Planning Matters.

Application	Address	Details	Decision
23/0185N	Beech Tree House, Woore Road	Listed building consent for the replacement of five single glazed windows with heritage slim double-glazed windows	No objections
23/0526N	Bunsley Bank Farm, Bunsley Bank	Prior approval for a proposed change of use of barns to dwellings	No objections.

23/0814N	Pheasants Rise, Damson Lane, Cox Bank	Outline permission for 3- bedroom bungalow	No objections raised, but please see comments below
----------	---	---	--

23/0814N – comments raised by Members:

- The site is very narrow to accommodate the planned bungalow.
- The access would be onto a very narrow road and a significant section of hedging would need to be removed.
- Particularly as Cox Bank is a Conservation Area, the design should be in keeping with and more sympathetic to the area.

Members noted the wording on the planning portal regarding outline planning in a conservation area is as follows:

Outline planning permission is not normally accepted in conservation areas as it is difficult for councils to evaluate the impact of a proposal without seeing the full details.

22/4588N: Parkes Cottage, Monks Lane, Audlem - Notification under Terms of Article 8 Schedule 1 Concerning a Planning Application - Outbuilding with overall height of 3.6m – **no objections.**

CAN034 /11496: Preliminary Inquiry – Laurel Bank Farm, Woore Road, Kinsey Heath, Audlem – **Members noted this inquiry, no comment required.**

AR proposed the responses to the applications, seconded by CM. 1 abstained. Comments APPROVED by Members

Update on Cheshire East Planning Decisions received.

22/3207N: Boots Pharmacy - Advertisement consent for 2no. replacement fascia logos, 1no. replacement externally illuminated projecting sign and 2no. replacement glazing graphic. Approved - APC objected to the graphic on window facing Cheshire St.

22/1106N: The Dairy, Bagley Lane, Audlem – proposal Conversion and extension of existing barn into one dwelling with access, single-storey outbuilding and solar panels. Approved

22/151 Financial Matters

For information only:

The payment schedule has been uploaded on to the website and the minutes from the November 2022 Full Council Meeting, which were not visible, due to an IT issue, can now be viewed.

- a) Members **RESOLVED** to approve the amended Financial Regulations

Proposed by TL and Seconded by GS – All in favour.

- b) Members **NOTED** the finance update set against the budget projection.

Members **NOTED** the verbal update on:

- a) Claim actioned to Santander Bank – **no response received from the Bank. The account has been frozen. Thanks to ChALC for their continued support.**
- b) Claim actioned to Financial Services Ombudsman – **no response from the submitted claim.**

APPROVED

ChALC/APC Payments of Schedule 11 February to 7th March 2023

Filing Number	Date	Supplier	Invoice NO.	Item	Net cost	VAT	Total	ChALC confirmed payment		
1	15/02/2023	LCC	488	Locum fees for January 23	£ 4,096.69	£ 819.34	£ 4,916.03	23.2.23		
2	14/02/2023	TechMedia	26705	Clerk's laptop initial setup and IT support for Aud 22 to Jan 23	£ 748.40		£ 748.40	23.2.23		
3	13/02/2023	Methodist Church	019	Room hire 13/02/2023	£ 40.00		£ 40.00	23.2.23		
4	15/01/2023	Ralph Warburton	V02056766254 and V02066779086	Clerk's mobile phone charges for 2 months	£ 48.62	£ 10.58	£ 59.20	7.3.23		
5	01/03/2023	B Counties Cleaning	737	Public Toilet Cleaning 24 days Feb 23	£ 360.00		£ 360.00	07.03.23		
6	17/02/2023	EDF	E19473423019	Electricity supply Public Conveniences	£ 103.30	£ 95.46	£ 198.76	23.2.23		
7	03/02/2023	Waterplus	wp-INV01118279	Water supply Public Conveniences	£ 167.96		£ 167.96	7.3.23		
8	22/02/2023	TechMedia	26714	KC Laptop final data sync and handover 20th Feb	£ 75.00		£ 75.00	7.3.23		
9	01/09/2022	thenMedia Ltd	TMS-13864	1st Sept 22	£ 60.00	£ 12.00	£ 72.00	n/p	As referred to in email	
10	01/12/2022	thenMedia Ltd	TMS-13863	1st Dec 22				23.02.23	Please refer to payments 10th Jan to 10 Feb 23	
11	01/01/2023	thenMedia Ltd	TMS-14021	1st Jan 23				23.02.23	Please refer to payments 10th Jan to 10 Feb 24	
12	01/02/2023	thenMedia Ltd	TMS-14156	1st Feb 23				23.02.23	Please refer to payments 10th Jan to 10 Feb 25	
13	01/03/2023	thenMedia Ltd	TMS-14333	1st March 23	£ 41.00	£ 8.20	£ 49.20	n/p		
14	23rd Jan to 24th Feb 2023	Michael Dolan	Individually dated	23rd Jan to 24th Feb 2023 total of 50 hours			£ 580.00	07.03.23		
					Total Amount	£	7,145.35			

Members **NOTED** and **RESOLVED** the payment schedule 11th Feb to 7th March. **Proposed by TL, seconded by CM – All in favour.**

APPROVED

Members **NOTED** a correction to the figure recorded against the payment to LCC ON 26th January 2023. The correct amount paid was £3390.78 not £3,390.27.

Members **NOTED** payments to thenMedia Ltd listed in the payment schedule 10th Jan to 10th Feb 23 were paid, but the confirmation date was not added.

22/152 Communications

Members **NOTED** the following publications.

Report of TFWG meeting 6 Feb - 15 Feb
No Proceeds of Crime – Grant Application for Turnpike - 21 Feb
The Problem of Audlem's Highways - 23 Feb
Turnpike field and FiT - 24 Feb
Go-Too Roadshows - 27 Feb
Audlem and Dog waste - 2 Mar

22/153 Turnpike Field

Council is requested to consider a report from Chair of Turnpike Field Working Group meeting:

- a) Councillors **APPROVED** the following bookings.
Detectorists Victoria Cavill 9/4/23 - 10/4/23
Detectorists David Pudney 8/2/23
Village Fete ADAS 25/8/23 - 28/8/23
- b) Approval to sign the Fields in Trust Deed of Dedication; **Agenda Item WITHDRAWN as Members had not received a copy of the aforementioned.**
- c) For information - update on Green Lane entrance, maintenance, tree inspection, seasonal leaflets, pond dipping platform, dog poo campaign – **Members noted information.**
- d) Councillors **NOTED** correspondence from ADAS:
 - Donation of benches
 - Ongoing discussion as to whether ADAS can assist with funding the alterations to the entrance into the field.
 - Clarification requested regarding putting Turnpike Field into 'Fields in Trust.'

22/154 Village Management

The Chair of the Village Management Group advised the Terms of Reference had been reviewed and accepted by Members of the group.

Council **NOTED**

- a) February Crime Data for Audlem supplied by PCSO Nick Jarvis – not received.
- b) Clerk sent correspondence to Cheshire East requesting a site visit to Stafford Street re concerns about the speed of traffic using this road and the potential structural damage to properties on this stretch of road.
- c) Correspondence sent to Borough Cllr Browne regarding the conditions of highways in and around Audlem.
Members encouraged those present to report any highways issues to Cheshire East to apply more pressure to the Unitary Authority.
- d) APC are investigating how to improve the experience of young people in Audlem – **VMG will continue to discuss the implications of finance being available since the demise of the youth club and will follow up, with Cllr Bailey, potentially working alongside CE.**

- e) Fact-finding with CE on current policy change relating to the Playing fields is ongoing.
- f) Coronation Plans and funding streams.
Members were advised that VMG are looking at ideas for Coronation Celebrations and will update Full Council once ideas collated.

Councillors **NOTED** the correspondence from ADAS:

Monument

- ADAS willing to fund repair work to metal lamp base and lamp bracket by the monument and Audlem signs at entrances to village
- ADAS monitoring the condition of the Little Heath and Tollgate signposts and proposing to provide new sign on Woore Road.

Village flags

- ADAS proposing to purchase all the flags until such time the PC can accommodate this expenditure.

Churchfields conservation area - tree works.

- ADAS proposing to pay for tree works to be carried out and request a Councillor to be present at a meeting with a tree surgeon who will be assessing the work required.

The Canal area

- ADAS are currently engaged with Inlands Waterways association (IWA) to establish a partnership with Canal and River Trust (CRT) to improve ~~address the poor state of~~ the canal area from lock 1 to 15. The partnership proposal document will be issued to CRT in early March. The document covers items such as walls around the Shroppie Fly pub, fencing along the canal area and the "Welcome to Audlem" sign amongst other things.

Dog Poo issue

- There seems to be many discussions about this subject which although not a new problem, it seems to have worsened. We have discussed this in our committee and wish to put forward a few suggestions which of course the PC may have already considered.
- Include an article in "Around Audlem" or a leaflet drop to highlight the law on this matter, the health risks and the unsociable nature of dog owners who don't pick up their dog's poo.
- Article on Audlem online in line with "around Audlem" article.
- Spray paint stencils onto pavements as was done a few years ago.
- Put up poo bag dispensers around the village. However other villages have found these expensive and people remove the bags for other purposes.

CM thanked ADAS for their continued support and commitment.

22/155 Report by Ward Councillor - an update from Cllr Bailey was read out to the meeting.

As per my post on AoL, following the likely loss of Arriva Buses, D&G have stepped up to cover some of the main non funded routes, I remain concerned as to the impact this may have on rural services, in particular home to school transport; the bus service team at CE are aware of this.

The Go-Too Bus Promotion at Overwater Marina went well. Feedback suggested that if dogs were allowed onto the bus with their owners it would result in an increase in numbers of users.

Kings Coronation: CE are waiving road closure fees for residents and groups organising events. These need to be applied for by 31/3/23. A link is available on the CE website which includes details of the lottery funding.

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/leisure,_culture_and_tourism/events-whats-on-guide/celebrating-the-coronation.aspx

22/156 Office Matters

Council **NOTED** the verbal update from Clerk:

- a) Arrangements to open a new Lloyds Bank Account have been started. It is hoped the new account will be operating in April.
- b) VAT reclaim re-submission – the re-submission will not be submitted until the new bank account is open.

22/157 Items for Future Agenda

- Review of Asset Register - TL

22/158 Date of Next Meeting

Council **NOTED** the next meeting will be held on **Monday 3rd April 2023 at 7 pm** in the **Methodist Church, Shropshire St, Audlem, Crewe CW3 0AE.**

Exclusion of Public

At this point Council asked that the press and 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.

PUBLIC meeting closed at 8.47pm. The Chair thanked members of the public and Jackie Weaver for their attendance.

PART B

22/159 Council to DISCUSS meeting regarding the possibility of recovering APC finances.

The locum Clerk advised the Members of the recent meeting between Cllrs Seddon and Lawton, the locum Clerk, Jackie Weaver and an advisor who has come forward offering pro bono advice.

Members RESOLVED to accept the recommendation from the above meeting to:

- Accept Jackie Weaver's offer to contact the Police Commissioner – John Dwyer – regarding the Police Investigation.
- To have the continuity with the ongoing Police investigation and recovery of the APC finances through an Officer – Kate Howe – to continue in this role.
- Council also approved the pro bono advice/support from a professional in this particular area.

Proposed by GS, seconded by CM, ALL in favour.

CONFIDENTIAL section of meeting CLOSED at 8.47pm.

Minutes of 13th March 2023 APC Council meeting signed as approved by Full Council at March 2023 Council meeting.

Signed by Chair (Name)

Signature

Date (signed at meeting) on