

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
MONDAY 13TH JULY 2015 AT 7.30PM
METHODIST MEETING ROOMS, SHROPSHIRE STREET, AUDLEM

PRESENT:

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

In Attendance: K Dixon (Clerk)**Present:** Mr & Mrs Bentley, Mr B Cartwright (AOL), CEC Cllr Rachel BaileyPUBLIC FORUM15.33 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllrs Tilling, Down and Johnson were received and accepted.

15.34 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Cllr Jones declared an interest in item 15.37.4, and Cllrs G and P Seddon also declared an interest in this item.

15.35 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Clerk reported that she had made a small amendment to the unconfirmed minutes and subsequently the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record. The confirmed minutes will be posted on the website.

15.36 MATTERS ARISING

Naming of the Play Area – Cllr Christie reported Mr Stockton is happy for a dedication to be made. The Clerk is still awaiting a response from the appropriate authority at CEC.

Long Service Award – Cllr Jones reported that Cllr Down had spoken to Mrs Furber and this will now be progressed.

Windmill Drive Open Space - Mr & Mrs Bentley spoke about the trees next to their property on Windmill Drive, the Clerk confirmed that she had been in contact with Cheshire East Council and they have raised a job number for the issue to be looked at but she will chase them up. It was agreed to copy in CEC Cllr Rachel Bailey should there be no response from CEC.

Green Lane Footbridge – The Clerk reported that, thanks to Cllr Higham's actions, a CEC team had been out to repair the footbridge and it had been reported on AOL that it had now been reopened.

Wishing Well Fingerpost in Coxbank – The Clerk sought clarification of which residents had raised this issue so that she could ensure that the fingerpost was placed in the correct place.



15.37 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

37.1 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Jones reported that the Neighbourhood Plan is nearing completion. There was a discussion about the settlement boundary including the Little Heath and Heathfield Road sites. Also housing numbers for Local Service Centres generally and Audlem Ward and Audlem Parish specifically were discussed. Cllr Siddorns raised concerns about the phrase “locally identified need” used for the housing number. Cllr Jones responded that the underlying documentation expands and clarifies this statement. There was also a discussion about the recent announcement by the Government concerning the development of brownfield sites, and sustainability of the locality with regard to rural industry. Cllr Jones then explained the timetable once the Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to CEC and that the appointed Examiner may ask questions via meeting or mail. Cllr Thompson asked about services such as sewerage. It was explained that sewerage is referred to in the NP but in practice United Utilities are obliged to provide services to all developments. It was then proposed and agreed to delegate the submission of the NP to the Steering Committee with the target date of 1st August. Cllr Jones extended her thanks to the Steering Committee, volunteers and Steve Elliott in particular for his work finalising the NP and Cllr Higham also thanked Cllr Jones for all of her work.

37.2 Green Space Designation AND 37.3 Community Asset Register

Cllr Jones explained that the document on Green Spaces was an update as it had been found the information in the CEC Local Plan (submission version 2014) was incomplete. Cllr Jones sought permission for inclusion of the Open Space document and list of potential Community Assets in the Neighbourhood Plan. This would then inform the next stage of the CEC Local Plan so their records would be updated. This was unanimously agreed. Cllr Jones commented that further work would need to be done on these two issues as part of the Neighbourhood Delivery Plan.

37.4 Report on Meeting with Development Company

Cllr Christie and the Clerk had met with a development company called BLOC. BLOC had requested to meet with the Parish Council as they are working with the landowner of the fields adjoining Moorsfield Avenue and the top of Tollgate Drive on a plan to develop this land. The BLOC representative Mr Richard Thomas and his surveyor Mr Dan Mitchell of Barton Willmore wished to explain the way in which they work. They are interested in working with the community, though it was clear that they will look to develop the land with or without community engagement. Cllr Christie reported that she had explained about the Neighbourhood Plan, of which they were aware, and also the concerns about the sustainability of the village and that the land lies outside the settlement boundary.

37.5 Planning Applications

15/2803T Work on a TPO tree at 3 Sycamore Close, Audlem – No objections were raised.

15.38 FINANCIAL MATTERS

38.1 Finance Report

The Clerk reported that the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015 have now been audited by the appointed Internal Auditor Allan Davenport and the Annual Return has been submitted to the External Auditor. Mr Davenport had no concerns with the completion of the accounts but advised the Clerk, as RFO, to follow up on the older unrepresented cheques,



particularly the 3 issued to the same person. He then commented on the proposed purchase of the Playing Field Complex stating that Parish Councillors “need to be aware of the potential double council tax charge and also the potential risks of individuals in owning these ‘assets’.”

The Clerk had also reconciled the accounts for the first quarter to the bank accounts and produced performance to budget summary with simple year end predictions. The income and expenditure for the Public Conveniences showed that the income was as predicted and that expenditure was following the budget prediction as well.

38.2 Authorisation of cheques

1473	K Dixon	Salary	£400.90
1474	G Davies	street cleaning	£353.50
1475	K Dixon	Office Expenses	£37.61
1476	Audlem Angels	Public Conveniences	£180.00
1477	Audlem Methodist Hall	room hire	£40.00
1478	Stage Tech	Party on the Park	£1,200.00
1479	PHS Group	Public Conveniences	£141.34
1480	Then Media	Web Services	£144.00
1481	A J Davenport	Audit	£110.00

Recommendation: that the above accounts be approved for payment.

38.3 Payments made in the last month

1470	HMRC	Payroll Services	£297.40
1471	Flower Divas	floral tribute	£35.00
1472	Audlem Youth Club	GRANTS	£300.00

Recommendation: that the above account be approved for payment retrospectively.

38.4 Receipts for the first quarter 2015-16

The receipt of income from honesty box (Public Conveniences) and Bank Interest received in the first three months of the financial year 2015-16 and other receipts were noted.

1.4.15	Santander	INTEREST	£5.38
2.4.15	Co-op AC	INTEREST	£1.68
13.4.15	Public Conveniences	HONESTY BOX INCOME	£39.93
1.5.15	Santander	INTEREST	£5.20
5.5.15	Co-op AC	INTEREST	£1.81
20.5.15	Public Conveniences	HONESTY BOX INCOME	£68.10
1.6.15	Santander	INTEREST	£5.38
5.6.15	Co-op AC	INTEREST	£2.06
15.6.15	Public Conveniences	HONESTY BOX INCOME	£63.50
18.6.15	Groundwork UK	NP GRANT	£3,060.00
26.6.15	HMRC	VAT REBATE	£1,022.90
1.7.15	Santander	INTEREST	£5.21
3.7.15	Co-op AC	INTEREST	£1.28

15.39 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Letter from James Morgan – The Parish Council considered the business proposal that Mr Morgan, a resident of Hankelow, had put forward regarding benches with paid advertising



on the backs. Councillors concluded that there was no requirement for particularly in light of the recent investment of the new Public Information Displays throughout the village, the established trade directory issued to all residents through the Parish Newsletter each year and the Village Website. Additionally, comments were made about the negative visual impact especially in conservation areas.

(ii) Email from Geraldine Leighton – Mrs Leighton had contacted the Clerk about the large amount of grass cuttings left on the verge opposite the top of Green Lane and the trellis at the same site. After investigation, the Clerk was able to inform Mrs Leighton that it is now CEC Highways policy to leave grass cuttings on the verge off roads with a speed limit of 40mph or less and ‘let nature take its course’. The Clerk had personally ensured that the bulk of the grass cuttings was removed. Additionally, ADAS had been unable to resolve the trellis issue due to a nesting blackbird, this will be dealt with once the nest is empty. The Parish Council agreed that a letter should be sent to CEC Highways suggesting that an alternative strategy be employed when cutting longer grass, left uncut for weeks because of daffodils in the verge, which had been the issue in this instance.

(iii) Email from The Clerk of Hankelow Parish Council: Hankelow Parish Council is seeking a meeting with Mr Morris of Morris Care to discuss the permissive path through the land at Corbrook Court and extended an invitation for a representative from Audlem Parish Council to attend the meeting. Councillors and also CEC Cllr Rachel Bailey discussed this matter and the impact on free bus transport for Hankelow children should an official footpath be created. It was agreed that Cllr Hill, who has prior knowledge of this matter, and Cllr Higham, as Youth & Education portfolio holder, would attend if possible.

15.40 Playing Field Complex Report

The business report to be submitted to Cheshire East had been drafted, a copy of which had been published on the Parish Council webpages with this meeting’s agenda, and was considered by Councillors. Cllr G Seddon commented that he was very concerned about the high level of costs attached to the ownership of the Playing Field Complex which would have to be passed on to residents in the form of a raised precept. He also commented that he considered there to be only risks and no direct benefits to owning the complex. Cllr Siddorns also raised concern, particularly in relation to double taxation as Cheshire East will not redirect funds gathered from Audlem residents and currently used on the maintenance of the Complex and therefore residents will be paying twice when the Parish Council precept has to be raised. There was discussion about the potential charging for facilities and also the conflict between grants being given and the perception there would be free use of facilities. The funding of the Annexe to the Public Hall was also mentioned. Cllr Thompson, when asked for his perspective as the newest Councillor, stated that, though he is largely in support, he could see the liabilities and that the complex would need to be carefully managed. A majority of Councillors then voted in favour of submitting the business report to Cheshire East.



15.41 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS**41.1 Appointment of Portfolio Holders and other reporting roles**

Access & Inclusion	Cllr Christie			
Commons & Greens	Cllr Down	Cllr Thompson		
Communications	Cllr P Seddon			
Community	Cllr G Seddon			
Devolved Services	Cllr Hill	Cllr Higham	Cllr Consterdine	
Health	Cllr Jones			
Highways & Transportation	Cllr Hill			
Law & Order	Cllr Siddorns			
Local Tourism & Business	Cllr Johnson			
Planning	Cllr Johnson			
Street Lighting	Cllr Tilling			
Wildlife & Ecology	Cllr Consterdine			
Youth & Education	Cllr Higham			
ADAPT (incl. Allotments)	Cllr Tilling	(pending)		
ADCA	Cllr Christie			
APHAx Committee	Cllr Siddorns			
Audlem Traders	Cllr Johnson			
Burial Committee	Cllr Down	Cllr Jones	Cllr Christie	Cllr Consterdine
Canal & River Trust Forum	Cllr Higham			
CHALC	Cllr G Seddon	Cllr Hill	Cllr Consterdine	
Community Projects	Cllr Hill			
Parish Plan	Portfolio holders will work with the relevant groups when the Parish Plan is updated			
Patient Participation Group	Cllr Jones			
Public Hall Committee	Cllr Down			
Wildlife & Ecology Group	Cllr Down			

41.2 Appointment of Working Groups

Heritage & Localism	Cllr Higham	Cllr Jones		
Highways	Cllr Hill	Cllr Siddorns	Cllr Christie	Cllr G Seddon
Playing field complex	Cllr Hill	Cllr Thompson	Cllr Christie	Cllr Consterdine
Policies	Clerk	Cllr Jones	Cllr G Seddon	
Planning	Cllr Johnson	Cllr Christie	Cllr Down	Cllr P Seddon
	Cllr G Seddon	Cllr Jones		

41.3 Appointment of Finance Sub-Committee

Cllrs G Seddon, Siddorns and Thompson were appointed.

41.4 Use of the Buttermarket

The Parish Council approved ADAPT's application to use the Buttermarket for an Apple Pressing event on 3rd October 2015.

41.5 Public Conveniences

Minutes of Meeting held on 13 July 2015



The current cleaning contractor for the toilets has handed in notice of termination with effect from next month, there was a discussion about the matter and it was agreed that the Clerk work with the Finance Sub Committee to resolve this matter.

41.6 Repairs and Renewals

It was agreed that the Clerk should meet with the new Finance Sub-committee to progress the maintenance of Parish Council assets including:

- (i) the CCTV system – and potential for applying for grants from CEC & the Police & Crime Commissioner
- (ii) Conservation Area Fencing
- (iii) Public Conveniences & Noticeboard
- (iv) Buttermarket

15.42 **COPTHORNE BENCH**

This item was deferred. Cllrs Higham and Consterdine are to meet at the proposed site.

15.43 **REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS & COMMITTEES**

43.1 Highways & Transportation – The Highways Working Group are to meet with Mr Dave Chan of CEC Highways in the next few days to discuss the issues with village centre and to raise other highways issues for him to relay to his colleagues. Cllr Tilling had asked that the state of the road surface on Stafford Street, particularly at the westerly junction with Salford be reported. Other Councillors concerns will also be forwarded to those attending the meeting.

43.2 Community – Cllr G Seddon reported that Councillors and other community representatives are meeting with Cheshire Community Action as part of the Community Spirit Award judging process on 14th July. Cllr Jones commented that The Party on the Park had again been a successful night and that thanks should be relayed to the organisers.

(i) Community Projects Committee – nothing to report.

(ii) Public Hall – including APHax – Cllr Siddorns reported that things with APHax were proceeding well but pledges of financial support for the remaining £50,000 are now being sought. A presentation outlining funding requirements will be made to Audlem Parish Councillors during August. Ralph Warburton and Rodney Cottrell are spear-heading the fundraising process and some local organisations have already pledged funds. The intention is to approach all local area Parish Councils. Cllr Consterdine reported that Mrs Olive Stretch had been fundraising already by holding a raffle at The Party on the Park with great success.

(iii) Audlem Burial Committee – The next meeting is on 15th July.

43.3 Youth & Education – Audlem Youth Club had had a successful launch event.

43.4 Law & Order – Cllr Siddorns reported that at the Cluster meeting he learned that there are minimal local issues. The main focus is on speeding of certain vehicles in certain areas. The issue of drones flying over private land was raised and it is deemed to be a Civil Aviation Authority issue. Cllr Siddorns also reported that, at the recent meeting held by Police & Crime Commissioner John Dwyer, he had raised the issue of poor road-markings in road collision investigations. John Dwyer had agreed with Cllr Siddorns and promised to write to CEC about this matter on behalf of all Parish Councils. Cllr Siddorns had also asked, on behalf of residents, about cyclist meets and bells on bicycles. He reported that there is no



requirement for cycle clubs to report meets to the Police and, though a bicycle must have a bell on it when sold, there is no legal requirement to have one on a bicycle at all times.

43.5 Local Tourism & Business – The Wheelyboat is scheduled to be up and running before the end of the month.

43.6 Heritage & Localism – currently covered by Neighbourhood Plan

43.7 Wildlife & Ecology – No report.

43.8 Health – Cllr Jones reported that the Patient Participation Group had discussed Section 106 and are to ask the Cheshire Federation whether other medical practices had had issues related to the NHS England policy. Two morning blood testing sessions had been provided at the Medical Practice, serviced by Leighton Hospital, bringing it in line with other Practices in the area.

43.9 Communications – Cllr P Seddon reported that, due to personal reasons, Ms Nicholls is currently unable to produce the Newsletter so Cllr P Seddon is doing the work in her place. The deadline for articles is 15th July.

43.10 Access & Inclusion – Cllr Christie reported that the continuing issue is the recruitment of volunteer drivers. A further appeal will be made on AOL.

43.11 Devolved Services – See 15.40

(i)Public Conveniences – see 15.41.5

43.12 ADAPT – No report

43.13 Commons & Greens Committee – No report

43.14 Street Lighting – Cllr Consterdine reported that No. 4 light on Hillary Drive is out and the demolished light by Little Heath still has not been repaired.

15.44 **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED**

No further reports.

15.45 **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING**

Leader Programme – awaiting CEC project

Copthorne Bench

Drops in Water Pressure

Report from Finance Sub Committee on Repairs & Renewals.

Report from Finance Sub Committee on Cleaning Contractor.

Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Plan.

15.46 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 7th September 2015**

CHAIRMAN _____

Date _____

