

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
MONDAY 11TH JANUARY 2016 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 John Tilling (AOL), Mr Alvar Jones (AOL), Mr & Mrs ShawcrossPUBLIC FORUM - none

15.103 APOLOGIES - Cllr Hill had sent word that he would be delayed. Cllr Consterdine asked to be excused from the meeting early due to a prior engagement.
 CEC Cllr Rachel Bailey had also sent her apologies.

15.104 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Cllrs Jones, P Seddon & G Seddon declared an interest in Moorsfield Development Consultation (see 15.109(iii))

15.105 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
 The minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2015 were agreed as a true record with one spelling correction in 19.93.1 “curtilage” not “cartilage”.

15.106 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Cllr Hill joined the meeting.

106.1 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Jones reported that the Independent Examiner’s report is now due to be received on 15th January by CEC, who will fact check it as the Commissioning Body. It is hoped that the ANP review group will meet with CEC the following week to go through the report.

106.2 Communication with CEC

In response to the letter of complaint sent to the Leader of CEC in September, a meeting with senior Council representatives was offered. Therefore, on 7th January Cllrs Jones, P Seddon and G Seddon met with CEC Cllr Ainsley Arnold, portfolio holder for Planning & Development, and Head of Planning at CEC Mr Sean Hannaby. Parish Councillors felt that it was a worthwhile exercise. Their notes of the questions asked and answers received will be posted on the APC website and linked to a synopsis published on AOL.

106.3 ChALC request for joint funding for planning consultant (Local Plan – green gap)

Cllr Jones summarised the request which is for local councils in the vicinity of the Nantwich/Crewe green gap to contribute to being collectively and professionally represented at the hearing for the CEC Local Plan. The cost of this will be no more than £3,333 (net of VAT) in total, of which Audlem is being asked to contribute £182. There was a discussion about the merits of the green gap. Cllr Siddorns asked whether APC would



have a say in what the consultant's brief is and Cllr Jones commented that it was essential that there was a representative from APC at every ChALC to ensure involvement in the process. It was resolved to contribute towards this up to a sum of £250.

106.4 Planning Applications

(i)	15/5761N	Land to the south of, MILL LANE, AUDLEM, CW3 0AY	Outline application for erection of 2no. dwellings and access works (all matters reserved except for access)	Object – submission to be prepared by Working Group.
(ii)	15/5729N	7 , Chapel Close, Audlem, Cheshire East, CW3 0BG	Alterations and Extension	No objection
(iii)	15/5791N	7, SYCAMORE CLOSE, AUDLEM, CW3 0EZ	Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and chimney	No objection
	15/4937N	THE OLD POST OFFICE, DAMSON LANE, COX BANK, CHESHIRE, CW3 0EU	New Entrance Porch and Landscape Works	No objection AWAITING DECISION
	15/5162N	8 , Stafford Street, Audlem, Cheshire, CW3 0AA	Proposed conservatory and window alterations	No objection AWAITING DECISION
	15/4962N	15, TOLLGATE DRIVE, AUDLEM, CW3 0EA	Convert Garage to Living Space and Construct Bedroom & Shower Room Above	No objection AWAITING DECISION

(i) The application was discussed and Cllr Jones read out a letter from resident Mr S Rayne, who was unable to attend in person. Councillors commended Mr Rayne on his letter in which he had raised objections linked to the Audlem Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors agreed that the application was no different from the previous application for the land (which was part of a larger proposal) and that the Parish Council would strenuously object to this application. It was agreed that the Planning Working Group would work on the submission and send it round for approval. It was agreed to request the Ward Councillor to call in this application.

(ii & iii) No objections were raised for these applications.

15.107 MATTERS ARISING

(i) CCTV – The Clerk is awaiting a date for the installation of the final new camera. The Clerk will arrange to train some councillors and Police representatives on how to use the new system.

(ii) Mayoral Visit – The May of Cheshire East enjoyed her visit to Carols on the Square and was very complimentary of Audlem's community. Cllr Jones extended her thanks to the ADAS Committee for hosting the event and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to convey the Parish Council's thanks.

(iii) Access Road at Kensal Farm – ongoing, Mr R Furber has the matter in hand.



(iv) Tesco Grant – Cllr G Seddon reported that the initial grant application was successful and he had had to quickly put in a fuller application for the next round. He and Cllrs Consterdine and Hill had met with a representative from Caloo who supply outdoor gym equipment. A suitable site was in a clear area the far side of the Playing Field from the car park and sufficiently far away from the pitch for safety requirements. Caloo have quoted for a set of 8 pieces of equipment for £8995 including installation and this was used for the application. The decision from Tesco should be received next month.

(v) United Utilities – No response has been received to the Parish Council’s enquiry about the outcome of the review of Audlem’s infrastructure. It was agreed to write to the Chief Executive Officer by recorded delivery asking for this information and also about the regular tanker visits to the sewerage plants and the sustainability of the sewerage infrastructure once new housing is built in the village.

15.108 FINANCIAL MATTERS

108.1 Finance Report

The financial statements were discussed. The Clerk reported that the Finance Sub Committee had met prior to this meeting and to examine the amended budget and decide upon its recommendation to the full Parish Council on the Precept (108.5 and 108.6).

The following amendments to previously minuted financial transactions were noted:

15.38.2 Chq 1469 issued to nPower for £96.75 on 13th July 2015

15.52.3 Chq 1484 issued to K Dixon on 7th September 2015 was for £53.70 not £53.07

108.2 Audlem Youth Club – Cllr Higham reported on a letter received about Audlem’s Youth Club, asking whether the Parish Council would agree to financially supporting this important asset for the community. Councillors agreed that Cllr Higham would explore this in conjunction with the Finance Sub-Committee. It was also agreed that the youth of Audlem should have input into this exercise. It was then unanimously resolved that the Parish Council would in principle support the Youth Club and look at means and methods of doing so.

108.3 Authorisation of cheques

1278	G Davies	street cleaning	£341.40
1279	K Dixon	Salaries	£400.90
1280	Audlem Methodist Church	Room Hire	£45.00
1281	K Dixon	Office Expenses	£15.44
1282	Audlem Public Hall	Room Hire	£40.00
1283	3 Counties Cleaning	Public Conveniences	£318.50
1284	PHS Group	Public Conveniences	£141.34
1285	HMRC	Salaries	£300.60

Resolved: the above accounts were approved for payment.

108.4 Authorisation of payments made

Community Rights (chq 1277)	repayment of NP grant	£838.00
Extraenergy	public conveniences	£40.81

Resolved: the above accounts were approved for payment retrospectively.

108.5 Budget 2016-17

The Councillors resolved to accept the Budget as presented by the Finance Sub-Committee and the Clerk/RFO.

108.6 Precept

Cllr Seddon explained that the Council tax support grant which has been paid to the APC in addition to the Precept by CEC in recent years has been halved from £1,743 to £872 for



2016-17 and will be abolished entirely in 2017-18. This is because central government has withdrawn the funding to Local Authorities for this initiative entirely. He then explained that this, in conjunction with the increase in anticipated expenditure once the Playing Field Complex has been passed to the Parish Council and the support of other community initiatives such as APHAX, led the Finance Sub-Committee to decide to recommend an increase in the precept by 2% (£751) to £38,280. It was agreed that this decision needs to be clearly explained in the public domain, both on AOL and in the Parish Newsletter. The Parish Council then unanimously resolved to increase the precept to £38,280 for 2016-17.

15.109 CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) There was a discussion about the closure of the locks for repair (6&7) and the impact on the public footpath from The Vale to Green Lane. Cllr Higham agreed to contact CRT about the alternative route directions which are lacking in one direction. There was also discussion about the condition of the towpath towards Bagley Lane and Cllr Higham agreed to pursue this also, though the high levels of rainfall were considered to be the main issue.
- (ii) Letters had been received from 2 residents about the state of the footpaths on the A529 Green Lane towards and in Swanbach. Cllr Christie voiced similar concerns about the pavements on the A525 Woore Road as it leaves the village. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to CEC Highways about this as previously footpaths have been cleared of soil and undergrowth by their community team.
- (iii) Barton Willmore wrote to the Parish Council as well as residents in the Tollgate Drive and Moorsfield Avenue area of Audlem inviting comments on their development proposal for the land adjoining Tollgate Drive as part of their consultation process. The matter was discussed and those councillors eligible to vote agreed unanimously for the Parish Council's objection to the proposal (particularly that it appears to go against the spirit of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan) to be communicated to Barton Willmore by 20 January.

15.110 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

110.1 Use of Buttermarket

ADAPT had requested to use the Buttermarket for two events of Home Produce sales, one in May and another in August. However after discussions, it was agreed to approve the August use only primarily because of the required repairs to the Buttermarket are anticipated to be carried out in late spring.

110.2 Pension Scheme

It was agreed that the Finance Sub-committee should continue to pursue the NEST option.

110.3 Communications Policy

The draft policy was discussed and it was agreed that a paragraph should be added about meetings. A few other points were raised and a revised draft will be distributed prior to the next meeting.

110.4 Teen Shelter

Cllr Hill reported that the teen shelter needs to be moved as soon as possible and recommended a suitable new site at the far end of the playing field.



110.5 Recycling Bins

The removal of the bins is being pursued. It was agreed that, as suggested by Cllr Hill, this be publicised and the reasons explained in the Parish Newsletter.

110.6 CCA Award Prize Money

It was agreed that the £200 prize money should be used for signage for the outdoor gym (see 108.7(iv)) should the grant application be successful.

15.111 AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

To receive reports on actions required.

111.1 Highways & Transportation (Cllr Hill)

(i) A525 – It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Chris Shields to ask why her previous letter to CEC Highways in November about the A525 review had not been responded to. The lack of cats eyes on the main roads leaving the village was also discussed. Cllr Hill stated that the removal was done with the agreement of the Parish Council for safety reasons. It was reported that the water gushing at the Cox Bank.Bagley Lane junction which could pose a risk in frost and the Clerk will report this to CEC Highways.

111.2 Community (Cllr G Seddon)

- (i) Community Projects Committee – nothing to report
- (ii) Public Hall – including APHax – the next meeting is on 18th January.
- (iii) Audlem Burial Committee – no report.

111.3 Youth & Education (Cllr Higham)

see 15.108.2

111.4 Law & Order (Cllr Siddorns)

There is a meeting next week with the Police & Crime Commissioner. Cllr Siddorns reported that he had mentioned the speeding issue on the A529 Green Lane to PCSO Nick Jarvis. The Police have used the speed camera in the area but without finding much evidence to support local concerns. The speed camera is shared between officers so is not available at all times.

111.5 Local Tourism & Business (Cllr Johnson)

Cllr Johnson is intending to attend the next traders' meeting.

111.6 Heritage & Localism (Cllr Higham)

On hold, currently covered by Neighbourhood Plan.

111.7 Wildlife & Ecology (Cllr Down)

No meeting.

111.8 Health (Cllr Jones)

Cllr Jones will circulate the minutes once they have been received from the PPG and hopes to attend the NHS Safety and Quality Improvement event in Crewe on 25th January.

111.9 Communications (Cllr P Seddon)

Cllr P Seddon reported that the deadline for items for inclusion in the next Parish Newsletter is 15th January.

The AOL team has written to the Parish Council explaining that this year the webteam has decided to focus on development of the website and so will not be entering the CCA Best Village Website Competition for 2016.



111.10 Access & Inclusion (Cllr Christie)

Cllr Christie reported that the Quiz Night at the The Lord Combermere before Christmas had raised around £2,000 for ADCA. Volunteer Drivers continue to be needed. The Tuesday Day Club are enjoying their temporary venue at The Lord Combermere. The Hankelow Methodist Hall repairs should be completed by mid-March.

111.11 Devolved Services (Cllr Hill)

The Clerk reported that she had heard from CEC officer Richard Christopherson stating that he would have an update shortly on the devolution of the Playing Field Complex after he had met with the CEC Asset team.

(i)Public Conveniences

The Clerk reported that there had been a leak from the urinal just before New Year; she had contacted Dale Booth (of S Booth & Son, Audlem) who attended and repaired the leak the same day.

111.12 ADAPT

Cllr Higham reported that ADAPT will be holding their formal meetings every three months from now on, with talks etc in the intervening months.

111.1 Commons & Greens Committee (Cllr Down)

Nothing to report.

111.14 Street Lighting

Norman Huntbach had written expressing his concerns about the proposed street light at the junction of the A529 and Bagley Lane at Swanbach with respect to highway safety. Councillors discussed the matter further and agreed to consider possible alternatives and speak to the residents in the vicinity.

15.112 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllrs Siddorns and Higham attended the Cheshire East Town and Parish Conference in December, at which the CEC Design Guide was released.

15.113 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

Register of Assets
Councillor Vacancy
Design Guide
Environmental Assessment
Village Meeting

15.114 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2016

CHAIRMAN _____

Date _____

