

**AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2013 AT 7.30PM**  
**METHODIST MEETING ROOMS, SHROPSHIRE STREET, AUDLEM**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Jones	Cllr Hill	Cllr Furber	Cllr Higham
Cllr Christie	Cllr P Seddon	Cllr Siddons	Cllr G Seddon
Cllr Down	Cllr Langston		

In Attendance: K Dixon (Clerk), J Kemble (RFO)

Also Present: Mr B Cartwright (AOL), Cllr Rachel Bailey (CEC), Mr H Pocock (Oxtail & Trotter), Mrs J Benson (William's Newsagent), Mr V Miles & Mrs D Miles (The Deli), Miss B Nixon (ADAS), Mrs A Berrows (TAVA), Mrs L Smith (Post Office), Mrs C Murray (Oxley's)

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Mrs Berrows spoke on behalf of TAVA to thank the Parish Council for supporting the group that is approaching its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Mr Pocock spoke, on behalf of Audlem Traders, about their concerns regarding the lack of parking in the centre of the village (item 13.123.1i). There was a discussion regarding the re-marking of the car park that led to a reduction in the number of parking spaces, the on-street parking time limits and issues over parking tickets being given to traders who were unloading from their vehicles. Councillors were supportive of the traders' position and suggested lobbying of CEC. Cllr Rachel Bailey (CEC ward councillor) spoke about the restrictions on line marking in the winter months. Cllr Bailey reported that CEC are minded to devolve responsibility for public car parks, she is lobbying for Audlem to be prioritised in this initiative and it could happen in the next financial year. There was discussion on road markings and changes that could happen in the car park after devolvement. It was agreed for a representative of Highways to be invited to meet with a parish councillor and a trader representative without delay.

Mrs Murray of Oxley's funeral directors spoke about her frustration at not being able to list her business on Audlem On-line, the chair invited Mr Cartwright (AOL editor) to respond and he was happy to assure Mrs Murphy that the web team had already agreed to put the details on the website but as she was unaware of this there must have been a breakdown in communication. Mrs Murray was pleased to receive his assurances.

Mrs Benson wished to clarify the use of the Buttermarket which is controlled by the Parish Council. This matter was discussed and it was agreed the Clerk would draft a clear, written policy for the February meeting. The matter of street traders who are not using the Buttermarket was also discussed, with Cllr Rachel Bailey suggesting a suitable contact at CEC for advice on this matter. The street trader that had attended The Big Switch On had made a donation to ADAS as a goodwill gesture.

**13.116 APOLOGIES**

Cllr Johnson (family holiday) and Cllr Loweth (illness)

**13.117 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Furber and Cllr G Seddon are voluntary members of the Public Hall Committee  
 Cllr Higham and Cllr Christie are voluntary members of ADCA



**13.118 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**13.118.1** The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were accepted, with minor amendments, as a correct record.

**13.118.2** The minutes of the finance meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were accepted as a correct record.

**13.119 MATTERS ARISING**

**67.13 Sparrowy Spout** - repairs to brick wall

**Resolved: to proceed with the repairs.**

**103.1 CEC response to request for line remarking etc**

The Clerk had been notified that the work had been placed in the schedule of works by CEC Highways. Cllr Higham reiterated his skepticism of the reasons why line marking is not carried out in the winter months and there was further discussion with Cllr Rachel Bailey on this matter.

**13.120 USE OF THE BUTTERMARKET**

See Public Forum.

**13.121 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

Cllr Higham explained that CEC have made money and second hand vehicles available for groups to bid for to support community initiatives. ADCA are looking to develop the community transport service in Audlem – the hospital visiting service. ADCA would like the support of Audlem Parish Council in this bid rather than financial input. There was a discussion about the insurance situation, which is covered by a national agreement with insurance companies.

RESOLVED: This Parish Council supports ADCA in its initiative to improve the voluntary community transport scheme that operates in Audlem and the surrounding district. (Unanimous vote)

**13.122 PLAYING FIELD PROJECT**

Cllr Siddons reported that he had received an email earlier in the day from CEC stating that the matter had been referred to the appropriate persons: Peter Hall and Kirstie Hercules. He will now be seeking to clarify the steps involved in devolvement as well as the financial implications. Cllr Rachel Bailey commented that as CEC were already minded to devolve public car parks in the borough (see Public Forum), she had suggested that CEC look at the whole package together. She stated that she was keen to help with this process. There was a discussion about the use of honesty boxes and Cllr Siddons stated that details were not yet fixed and that he hoped to include the land to the rear of the Public Hall earmarked for the proposed extension (APHEX) in the initial negotiations.

**13.123 REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS & COMMITTEES**

**123.1 Highways & Transportation (Cllr Hill)** – Cllr Siddons reported that CEC had carried out his request to replace the salt bin on Bagley Lane and ensure that all the salt bins in the parish were refilled. He had also been pursuing the emptying of the gullies by the canal bridge on Bagley Lane which are blocked and causing flood water to run down the road to the Coxbank junction, which would cause treacherous conditions in the event of freezing conditions. He asked Cllr Rachel Bailey to intervene on behalf of residents as this side road does not appear to be being prioritised.

(i) Parking in the village centre – see public forum

**123.2 Community (Cllr G Seddon)** – Nothing to report

(i) Community Projects Committee – Nothing to report

**123.3 Youth & Education (Cllr Loweth)** – No report.

**123.4 Law & Order (Cllr Furber)** – Cllr Furber reported the recent break-in at Oxtail & Trotters. Cllr Hill reported that there had been vandalism of trees and hedges in the village and drug paraphernalia found by the damage in Chapel Close. Cllr Furber will be liaising with the Police on this matter. There was a discussion about CCTV.



Cllr Siddorns agreed to ask about the speed gun that Audlem Parish Council part funded at the next cluster meeting. The Clerk drew the councillors attention to the letter from John Dywer, Police & Crime Commissioner, and agreed to forward any questions that councillors may have for the PCC.

**123.5 Local Tourism & Business (Cllr Langston)** – Cllr Langston reported that one café had closed in the village but that additional café services were being offered within The Deli. The Co-op is now closed for refurbishment including the cash machine, but cash can be withdrawn at the Post Office. The Shroppie Fly is now open. The Big Switch-On was a great success and attended by many residents including young families. The councillors agree to send a letter of thanks to the Chair of ADAS. The matter of winter moorings was discussed, Cllr Jones reporting on her communication with CRT. and requires Councillors views on whether representation should be made to CRT to re-open the winter moorings for the next season

**123.6 Planning (Cllr Johnson)** – Cllr Jones reported that the response to the appeal on application 13/2224N Land west of Audlem Road had been submitted in triplicate. The Strategic Planning Board will now determine on the second application 13/3746N on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014. The planning working group have submissions prepared but these will not be submitted until the Planning Officer's report has been seen. The recurring delay on determination was discussed and if Cllr Jones does not receive a response from the case officer for her query on this matter it was agreed that a formal letter would be sent reiterating this query.

Local Plan Consultation Response.

RESOLVED: The planning working group will work on the Parish Council's response using the previous letter with an updated first paragraph. (Unanimous vote)

**123.7 Wildlife & Ecology (Cllr Down)** - Minutes of the last meeting will be circulated.

**123.8 Health (Cllr Jones)** – Cllr Jones reported on the Patient Participation Group. Cllr Jones also reported that unused prescription drugs can be handed in to the Medical Practice (rather than the Pharmacy) so that they can be recycled for use in non-EU countries. This will be put into the Newsletter. The Clerk is to ask for a speaker from Healthwatch to attend a council meeting in the New Year.

**123.9 Communications (Cllr P Seddon)** – The deadline for the next Newsletter is 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

**123.10 Access & Inclusion (Cllr Christie)** – Cllr Christie reported on the recent ADCA committee meeting including news that the new assistant co-ordinator has now been appointed and the tender for funding has been finalised. Other groups (Stapeley Parish Council) have expressed interest in ADCA as an example of good practice. She re-iterated their request that people put forward the names of elderly residents who would benefit from ADCA's services.

**123.11 Devolved Services (Cllr Siddorns)** – see 13.122 Playing Field Project

**123.12 Allotments Committee (Cllr Johnson)** – No report

**123.13 Commons & Greens Committee (Cllr Furber)** – Nothing to report.

**123.14 Street Lighting (Cllr Langston)** – Cllr Langston reported that there had been complaints about the overgrown hedge on the footpath near the conservation area blocking light. It was agreed the clerk would write to the householder concerned.

## 13.124 PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

### **124.1 Small Grants Policy (clerk)**

It was agreed that the parish councillors would review and comment on the draft policy that had been circulated before the next meeting to allow the clerk to draw up possible amendments.

### **124.2 Purchase of Laptop for RFO**

It was agreed that the RFO should purchase a laptop dedicated solely to APC finance within a limit of £500.



**13.125 FINANCIAL MATTERS****125.1 To receive RFO's report** including:

## (i) Revised Draft Budget

There was a discussion about the budget and the precept that should be set. CEC have not yet decided on figures that inform the setting of the precept and this decision will have to be taken at the January meeting of the Parish Council. There was discussion about precept reduction, the possible freezing of precepts by government legislation and the alternative of more spending on projects, including APHEX and the playing field devolvement. RESOLVED: To place the setting of the precept early in the agenda of the January meeting with an option to call an extra meeting. (Unanimous vote)

**125.2 APHEX – request for support**

RESOLVED: To make £500 available as seed corn money for the APHEX project. (Unanimous vote)

**125.3 ASET – request for release of funds**

There was a discussion about the £3000 (+VAT) request and total amount of funds currently ringfenced for ASET.

RESOLVED: To pay £1658.48 (the ringfenced total) and the balance upon sight of the Balance Sheet. (Majority vote)

**125.4 Requests from Community Projects Committee**

## (i) Crime Prevention Fund

There was a discussion about the proposed film project.

RESOLVED: To grant £1000 to this project. (Majority vote)

## (ii) Public Information Displays

The decision on this grant request was deferred.

**125.5 Authorisation of cheques**

K Dixon - monthly salary	£303.26
G Davies – monthly salary	£321.60
J Kemble – monthly salary	£50.60
K Dixon - Office Expenses	£61.45
Audlem Angels – Public Conveniences (November)	£144.00
Audlem Printers – Invoice 132 (questionnaires)	£48.00
Audlem Methodist Church (Room Hire- November Meetings & December Meeting)	£92.00
Delmar Press – Autumn Newsletter	£294.00
ChALC – Training session	£30.00
M Hill – Public Toilet supplies reimbursement	£36.24
Blitz Fireworks – New Year's Eve Display	£1,380.00

***Resolved: the above accounts were approved for payment.***

**125.6 Authorisation of cheques issued prior to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

Audlem Printers – timesheets	£48.00
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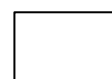
***Resolved: the above accounts were approved for payment retrospectively.***

**125.7 To note the issuing of cheques for previously approved items**

ADCA (2013/14 Budgeted contribution)	£1,000.00
Audlem Football Club (106.4)	£370.25

**13.126 HERITAGE FUND**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

**13.127 LOCALISM ACT – deferred to the next meeting.****13.128 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES –Nothing to report.**

**13.129 SUPERFAST BROADBAND**

Cllr G Seddon reported on the recently released coverage map that shows that although the main village will be covered by the main Superfast Broadband rollout, outlying areas will not be. Though the outlying areas are meant to be covered, Cllr G Seddon voiced concern that the government's Rural Community Broadband Fund, aimed at funding provision to outlying rural areas, is being wound up in March 2014.

**13.130 PUBLIC HALL – No Meeting****13.131 AUDLEM BURIAL COMMITTEE – No Meeting****13.132 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Cllr Higham reported that he had attended a meeting with members of Hankelow PC to talk about their proposal to create a Parish Plan along the lines of Audlem's.

**13.133 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

The high level of traffic accidents at Hatherton Bends was discussed.  
Letter regarding PCC John Dwyer's meeting (discussed at 13.123.4)

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

Small Grant Policy

Heritage Fund

Localism Act

Winter Moorings

**13.135 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014**

**CHAIRMAN** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

