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**AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2012 IN THE PUBLIC ROOM,  
THORNTON HOUSE**

**Present:**

Cllr Mrs K Down (Chair)	Cllr Mrs FM Christie	Cllr J Langston
Cllr D Siddorns	Cllr Mrs P Seddon	Cllr G Seddon
Cllr P Johnson	Cllr Mrs H Jones	Cllr D Higham

**In Attendance:** Mr J Kemble, RFO, Mrs K Dixon, Clerk

**Also Present:** Mr B Cartwright, Mr J Tilling, Ms J Searles, Mr D Owen, Mr R Millns

**Public Forum**

Ms Jane Searles explained her recent research of Volunteer Lock Ranger work based on the canalside community in Audlem, analysing the outcomes of the volunteering scheme, which showed a positive range of benefits to the community, some more tangible than others. A question and answer session followed, Mr Dek Owen explained that there is an open access policy for canal towpaths and that an independent company is responsible for cleaning the canalside toilets, not the volunteers. The volunteers are embarking on a lockgate painting programme over the winter. The Councillors congratulated the volunteers on their hard work and the positive impact they have on the canalside community.

Roger Millns from ADCA then spoke on need to refresh the local housing needs survey so that future developments within the village and surrounding villages are appropriate for the local population's needs. Support for collating the survey has already been gained from Janet Clowes, Health & social Care Portfolio Holder for Cheshire East Council. There was a discussion on social housing.

12.101 APOLOGIES were received from Cllr Hill and Cllr Furber.

12.102 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – none.

12.103 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November were received as a true record.

12.104 REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS & COMMITTEES

**104.1 Highways & Transportation**

(i) Footpath Audlem/Hankelow – There was a discussion concerning the re-opening of the footpath through the Corbrook Court grounds between Audlem and Hankelow. Councillors raised issues including liability insurance, continuing maintenance costs and re-establishment costs. The matter of Corbrook Court wishing to re-open the alternative road access point as their main vehicular access was also discussed.

(ii) Subsidence on Cheshire Street – The Highways department had finally investigated the issue and referred it to United Utilities in order for the underlying drains issue to be rectified. United Utilities have commenced work and placed temporary traffic lights around the roadworks. Cllr Langston raised the issue of a leak across the road from the site.

Cllr Siddorns still awaits a response from David Chan concerning their previous meeting on highways matters. Other matters that have been raised with Highways include the need for gulley clearing (including in Coxbank) and a missing grid on Wood Orchard Lane as well as a significant pothole in the same road. Overhanging vegetation on rights of way was also discussed.

**104.2 Community (vacancy)** – Cllr Geoff Seddon agreed to fill this vacancy.

Cllr Seddon raised the idea of looking into the co-operative purchasing of electricity for the benefit of the whole community. Cllr Higham agreed that this was an area worth investigation. Cllr Seddon will look at the matter further.

**104.3 Youth & Education (vacancy)** – None

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**104.4 Law & Order (Cllr Furber)** – Cllr Siddons attended the Local Cluster Meeting. Current issues include antisocial behaviour including mudthrowing and harassment of cashpoint users. Cllr Siddons had had notification that there had been 7 youths apprehended earlier in the day in relation to the antisocial behaviour issues. The importance of the public notifying the Police of issues using the 101 number was discussed and possible ways of advertising this.

**104.5 Local Tourism & Business (Cllr Langston)** – Cllr Langston reported that The Big Switch-on event was very successful and that thanks should be given to ADAS. The Deli has re-opened in the middle of the village.

**104.6 Planning (Cllr Johnson)** – Cheshire East acknowledged the Audlem Village Design Statement and confirmed that it is part of the group of documents used as material consideration in planning decisions.

**104.7 Wildlife & Ecology (Chairman)** – Minutes of the latest meeting will be circulated.

**104.8 Health (Cllr Mrs Jones)** – It was agreed that the costs of signage about dog fouling should be investigated.

**104.9 Communications (Cllr Mrs Seddon)** – The next website is due to be launched soon and a presentation will be made at the next meeting.

**104.10 Access & Inclusion (Cllr Mrs Christie)** – To receive reports, also:

(i) **ADCA** – Roger Millns spoke to the council at the beginning of the meeting concerning updating the local Rural Housing Needs Survey. A request was made for financial support for the updating the survey.

**Resolved: The Parish Council will support the principle of funding the survey up to a limit of £300.**

(ii) **CAB** – Cllr Mrs Jones reported that CAB in Cheshire East is facing a 5% cut in its £175,000 budget but due to the changes in the grant giving process the maximum sum available in future will be less than 50% of the current budget.

**104.11 Devolved Services (Cllr Siddons)** – Nothing to report.

**104.12 Allotments Committee (Cllr Johnson)** – Cllr Johnson reported that his recent meeting with members of ADAPT, Dahlia and Audlem On-line was constructive and amicable with the additional subjects of a community orchard and a community garden discussed.

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

**104.14 Street Lighting (Cllr Langston)** – The unadopted light in Mill Lane is to be repaired by CEC.

(i) **Churchfields Footpath** – The sycamore trees have been cut back and Tony Seabridge had quoted for the cutting back of the two overhanging holly trees.

**RESOLVED: To cut back the two holly trees on the boundary of the conservation area & Churchfields footpath**

(ii) **ADAPT request for timers on street lighting** – Cllr Langston explained the prohibitively high cost of putting timers into street lighting. Cllr Johnson will report back to ADAPT.

## 12.105 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

**105.1 Long Service Presentations** – Cllr Mrs Down to invite Mr Consterdine and Mrs White to the start of the next meeting

12.106 **SUPERFAST BROADBAND** – Still no confirmation as to whether Audlem is within the 90% coverage.

12.107 **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES** – To be discussed when Cllr Hill is present.

12.108 **VOLUNTEER LOCK-KEEPER SCHEME** – Jane Searle and Dek Owen presented to the council at the beginning of the meeting.

## 12.109 FINANCIAL MATTERS

**109.1 RFO's report** – Verbal report received, including a request for the payment of previously agreed donation to the Audlem Scout & Guide Hall.

### **109.2 Authorisation of cheques**

Delmar Press	£294.00
Mrs K Dixon – office expenditure	£13.70
G Davies – monthly salary	£270.10
Mr J Kemble – monthly salary	£50.60
Mrs K Dixon – monthly salary	£303.26
United Utilities	£149.22
Audlem Angels - Cleaning of Public Toilets - November 2012	£162.00
M Hill (for Public Toilet Supplies)	£3.45
G Davies (back pay)	£124.25
Royal British Legion (Remembrance Sunday Donation) (Section 137)	£50.00

**Resolved that the above accounts be paid.**

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- 12.110 FIRE SERVICE CONSULTATION – Councillors whilst welcoming that there are no proposed changes to Audlem's service did not support the option of a loss of a second engine at Crewe. The Council also did not support the increase in the Fire Service Precept.
- 12.111 PUBLIC CAR PARK - Nothing to report.
- 12.112 CONSERVATION AREA - see 12.101.14(i)
- 12.113 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
**113.1 To consider recent planning applications submitted to Cheshire East Council**  
12/4212N out of area.  
12/4213N - No representations made.  
**113.2 To consider Technical Reforms of Planning Appeals – Consultation** to be circulated.
- 12.114 RIGHTS OF WAY - local residents are independently exerting their right of way over local fields.
- 12.115 AUDLEM BURIAL COMMITTEE – nothing to report
- 12.116 AUDLEM PUBLIC HALL – The recent film screening had an attendance of 54.
- 12.117 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED – None.
- 12.118 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None.
- 12.119 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING - None
- 12.120 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Date