

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 23RD MAY 2011

Present:

Cllr Mrs K Down (Chair)	Cllr Mrs F M Christie	Cllr B Consterdine	Cllr R Furber
Cllr M Hill	Cllr P Johnson	Cllr J Langston	Cllr D Siddorns
Cllr Mrs P Seddon	Cllr Mrs I Stockton		

In Attendance: Mrs J White, Clerk; Mr J Kemble, RFO.

Also Present: Mr G Seddon, Mr & Mrs J Tilling, Mr B Cartwright.

11.22 APOLOGIES – There were none.

The Chairman welcomed councillors, stating that the purpose of the Extraordinary Meeting was to consider how the Parish Council might operate in future to manage its changing responsibilities and raise its profile to encourage interaction with residents. It was -

Resolved: that discussions would conclude at 9 pm or earlier.

11.23 OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The Chairman reviewed changes which had taken place over recent years. The Parish Council had gained direction, along with increased opportunities for liaison with local groups, as a result of the production of Parish Plans in 2005 and 2010. In conjunction with members of Parish Plan groups, the Parish Council should now be able to act as a catalyst to make progress. Recent introduction of Unitary Government had brought the Parish Council more contact with the top layer of local government and more opportunity to influence local events. The Parish Council should work as a team, and should be able to state its objectives and strategic direction.

There was a short discussion concerning strategic direction, during which Cllr Johnson drew attention to the Parish Council's response to the consultation on the LDF for the years up to 2030 (lack of employment opportunities and low-cost housing for young adults) and suggested that the Parish Council should become a driving force for progress. He also reminded Councillors it would be necessary to ensure protection of Conservation Areas during further consultations on the LDF.

Resolved: that further discussions concerning the Parish Council's strategic direction and objectives take place at the meeting on 6th June

11.24 FUTURE WORKING METHODS

It was agreed that in future each councillor would act as "lead" for a particular aspect of the Parish Council's work and that new flexible working groups, shadowing the organisation of the Parish Plan groups, should be formed. These working groups would report regularly to the Parish Council and make recommendations as appropriate. The following appointments were made:

<u>Working Group</u>	<u>Lead Councillor</u>
Law & Order	Cllr Furber
Community Projects	Cllr Consterdine
Tourism & Business	J Langston
Transport	Cllr Hill

Planning	Cllr Johnson
Wildlife & Conservation	Vacancy
Health	Cllr Mrs Stockton
Youth & Education	Cllr Mrs Down
Communications	Cllr Mrs Seddon
Access & Inclusion	Cllr Mrs Christie
Devolved Services	Cllr Siddons

Resolved: that the Parish Council be represented on Parish Plan working groups in accordance with the above appointments.

11.25 PROFILE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Discussions centred on residents' need to be able to recognise and approach Councillors. It was intended that a in the very near future a photograph and short paragraph about each Parish Councillor should appear on www.audlem.org and in the notice board. A letter suggesting improvements to Parish Council meetings had been circulated and it was agreed to adopt several of the suggestions. Meetings would in future be held in the school assembly hall, with tables and chairs appropriately arranged, and members would use name labels. In advance of Parish Council meetings, agenda "headlines" would be advertised on the web site and whenever possible a member of the web team would summarise proceedings shortly after meetings (Chairman to do this in absentia).

11.26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 6TH JUNE 2011

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

_____ Chairman

_____ Date