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AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
ON MONDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2013 AT 7.30PM
AT THORNTON HOUSE

Present: Cllr P Johnson (Chair) Cllr Mrs FM Christie Cllr R Furber
Cllr D Siddorns Cllr Mrs P Seddon Cllr G Seddon
Cllr J Langston Cllr M Hill Cllr D Higham

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

Also Present: Mr B Cartwright, Mr J Tilling, Mr D Taylor, other local residents.

PUBLIC FORUM – Mr D Taylor spoke on behalf of residents in Paddock Lane about their opposition to the planning application for a touring caravan and camping site (item 12.142.1 – 12/3872N).

12.139 APOLOGIES – were received from Cllr Mrs Jones and Cllr Mrs Down and these were accepted.

12.140 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Cllr Mrs Christie declared an interest in item 12.142.1 (Paddock Lane Campsite)
Cllr Furber declared an interest in item 12.142.1 (Public Hall Extension)

12.141 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2013 were accepted as a true record.

12.142 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

142.1 To consider recent planning applications submitted to Cheshire East Council

12/3872N Touring Caravan and Camping Site @ Paddock Lane, Audlem

Cllr Mrs Christie withdrew for this item.

The Councillors discussed the issues raised in the Public Forum including loss of amenity to neighbouring residents due to the close proximity as well as the size and unmanned nature of the proposed site. The poor access to the site for towing vehicles due to the junction with the main road and the narrowness of Paddock Lane as well as its regular use by agricultural contract machinery. The land is also subject to localised flooding and the site is not compliant with Caravan Club specifications and councillors also commented on the amenity block being oversized for a campsite of this size.

Resolved: To lodge a formal objection to this application – Unanimous Decision

Cllr Siddorns noted that Cllr Mrs Bailey, as CEC Councillor for this ward, was not present to learn about the deep concerns the Parish Council and local residents have on this matter.

13/0075N Alterations to Side Entrance to Public Hall @ Audlem Public Hall, Cheshire Street, Audlem

After a brief discussion (without Cllr Furber) - **Resolved: no objections.**

13/0242N Outline Planning for 5 Dwellings and Vehicular Access @ 25 Stafford Street, Audlem

The councillors discussed the position of this significant development on the edge of the conservation area and the high number of properties that would be accessing the A525 within the pinch point stretch from one access point. The greatest concern was as to whether the cul-de-sac would be accessible by amenity vehicles, particularly bin lorries and fuel tankers, as a vehicle of this type stopping on the highway at this point for a protracted length of time would be likely to cause a blockage.

Resolved: No formal objection but comments of the concerns will be lodged with the Planning Department.

13/0283N One and Half Storey Extension to Rear & One Storey Extension to Side @ 18 Heathfield Road, Audlem

Resolved: No objections

142.2 To note responses made in respect of applications with response date prior to 4th February

13/0042N Extension & Alterations to 1 Armstrong Close, Audlem

It was noted that no objections had been raised but the planning committee had commented on the proposed extension being oversized in relation to the situation of the property.

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- 12.143 LOCAL PLAN – It was commented that the consultation period was an unacceptable length of time in which to respond to such a large document. It was agreed that Cllr Johnson would head a small group of councilors to consider the Parish Council's response.
- 12.144 PARKING IN THE CENTRE OF THE VILLAGE - Cllr Hill reported that there was local disquiet about the reallocation of the on-street parking on Shropshire Street outside the Co-operative Store. There was a discussion about the Parish Council's involvement in the process that brought about this change and how it had been originally suggested by the Highways Officer from Cheshire East (or its predecessor). There were differing opinions on whether the change has been beneficial to pedestrian safety, driver safety and overall vehicle speed and congestion.
- 12.145 BICYCLE RACKS - A local resident had raised the issue of the bicycle rack by the Buttermarket, which has proved difficult to be utilised by more than 2 bicycles at a time, and is frequently used as a place to put banners advertising local events instead. Alternative sites for a bicycle were also suggested by the resident. There was a brief discussion.
Resolved: To add this to the list of projects for the next financial year.
- 12.146 SUPERFAST BROADBAND – There is still no clarity as to where the village stands. It was noted that there is now only one provider bidding to supply 90% of Cheshire with Superfast Broadband. A meeting with a consultant is being arranged.
- 12.147 REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS & COMMITTEES
- 147.1 Highways & Transportation (Cllr Hill)** – The councillors discussed CEC Highways Department's recent handling of the planned road closures by Scottish Power and their failure to consult with the Parish Council and to consider the impact on local residents when making decisions. The Clerk reported that, after communicating the councillors' displeasure at the lack of regard for local residents being inconvenienced by a weekend without power, she had received confirmation that the road closure on Whitchurch Road had been re-instated to 4th and 5th March.
Resolved: To write to complain about CEC Highways and their consultation process.
- 147.2 Community (Cllr Seddon)** – Scottish Power's refurbishment project. The planned work necessitating the road closure on January 29th was achieved and although some damage was inflicted on the verges on Kettle Lane, they were quick to make a really diligent repair. The work in the Whitchurch Road area on 31st has also been completed; the next planned work will be at Chapel End on 14th February. Cllr Seddon is to meet Mr Steve Allcock for an update meeting, he agreed to pass on concerns that some of the contractor vehicles are driving too fast along the lanes. It was agreed however that Mr Allcock is to be commended for his diligence in project managing this complex project.
Community Power Scheme: Cllr Seddon confirmed that this sort of initiative is being pursued by a large number of borough and district councils and considers that it is something that Cheshire East should be investigating. He has spoken to iChooser and there is no minimum number of subscribers so a smaller venture than that of South Lakelands Council is viable. Cllr Seddon then suggested that a letter is sent to all residents inviting them to register an interest, he also mentioned that he had spoken to Kevin Dawson (locally known as The Oil Baron) who is of the opinion that many of his subscribers would be interested in the scheme. The Parish Council would be the first point of contact initially but then the Management Company (ichooser) would administer the auction etc. Interested residents would submit details of their tariff and usage, this information would be used by the successful power company to supply them with a quote, they are not obliged to accept the quote. It was also agreed that Cllr Seddon should contact residents and also neighbouring Parish Councils to ascertain whether they would also be interested in the scheme.
- 147.3 Youth & Education (Cllr Higham)** – Nothing to report
- 147.4 Law & Order (Cllr Furber)** – Cllr Siddons reported that the village has a new Police Officer, PC Sarah Marson. He had voiced his concerns over the lack of visibility of the Police in the village at the local meeting and discovered that there will be a change in manning strategy to leave community officers focussed on their work in the community rather than assigned to other tasks. He also mentioned the importance of using the 101 number to ensure that incidents are logged and will impact the Police's statistics, thus giving a clearer picture of issues occurring in the Parish.
- 147.5 Local Tourism & Business (Cllr Langston)** – Cllr Langston reported that it is now hoped that The Shroppie Fly will be open by Easter.
- 147.6 Planning (Cllr Johnson)** – Nothing further reported.
- 147.7 Wildlife & Ecology (Chairman)** – Nothing reported.
- 147.8 Health (Cllr Mrs Jones)** – Nothing reported.

147.9 Communications (Cllr Mrs Seddon) – Cllr Mrs Seddon commented that the Newsletter which has just been published is of a very good quality and that the next edition will be the Spring issue containing the directory of local contacts.

John Tilling then spoke about The Cloud. This has the potential to be a very useful village facility and is already being used to create a History Archive for the Village. The advantages and concerns about this new technology-based facility were discussed. It was agreed to discuss the Parish Council's use of The Cloud at the next meeting.

147.10 Access & Inclusion (Cllr Mrs Christie) –

(i) **Social Housing Survey** – Cllr Mrs Christie thanked her fellow councillors for their help with the survey.

Cllr Mrs Christie also reported that ADCA have managed to secure funding through the Innovations Grant for the time being. Cllr Mrs Christie was also able to confirm that residents affected by the redevelopment of Thornton House would be guaranteed a home in Audlem on completion even if temporarily relocated elsewhere.

147.11 Devolved Services (Cllr Siddons) – Nothing to report.

147.12 Allotments Committee (Cllr Johnson) – The next ADAPT meeting is on Wednesday 6th February.

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

147.14 Street Lighting (Cllr Langston) – Cllr Langston reported that the light in Mill Lane has been upgraded in priority by Dewi Sides of CEC. It was suggested that the damaged lights from Kettle Lane be kept for spares rather than reinstated as they were not required.

12.148 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

148.1 Village Meeting It was agreed that the Village Meeting would be held on 26th March with the central theme of Housing. Cllr Higham agreed to talk to Roger Millns of ADCA about presenting the Rural Social Housing Survey results at this meeting.

148.2 Co-option of New Councillor – There was one applicant, Mrs Carole Loweth, who was duly co-opted onto Audlem Parish Council by a majority vote.

148.3 Review of Standing Orders – The Clerk explained that Matters Arising may be included in the agenda for Parish Council Meetings provided that no decisions were made as a result of any new information obtained, therefore it is to be used solely for the sharing of information on an item from the previous meeting. Any decision required in light of this new information would be listed as an item for the next meeting. The Clerk was tasked to draft this as a new point to added to the existing Standing Orders, to be submitted for approval at the next meeting.

148.4 Confirmation of Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting on 26.11.12 – accepted as a true record.

12.149 FINANCIAL MATTERS

149.1 RFO's report – The RFO reported that higher interest instant access accounts were not available, it was agreed to look into the possibility of using a 3 month access account for some funds in the new financial year. He also circulated notes on section 137.

149.2 Authorisation of cheques

Mrs K Dixon – office expenditure	£14.10
G Davies – monthly salary	£298.30
Mr J Kemble – monthly salary	£50.60
Mrs K Dixon – monthly salary	£303.26
Audlem Angels - Cleaning of Public Toilets - January 2013	£162.00
M Hill (for Public Toilet Supplies)	£53.46
PHS - Quarterly Service Charge for Public Toilets	£211.69
Wulvern Housing – Room hire for Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb APC meetings	£80.00
United Utilities – Quarterly water bill for Public Toilets 31.10.12 – 23.1.13	£49.58
HMRC – Quarterly Payment	£468.80
Audlem Electrical Services – Repairs to lights on the Buttermarket	£76.62

Resolved: the above accounts were approved for payment.

12.150 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES – Nothing to report.

12.151 AUDLEM BURIAL COMMITTEE - Cllr Furber reported that the AGM had been held and no increase was made to the precept required.

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- 12.152 AUDLEM PUBLIC HALL – Cllr Seddon reported that the primary news was the aforementioned planning application for modifications to the entrance to the hall from the car park. Councillors requested that the Public Hall committee liaise with those marking out the car park in March to ensure that the markings would marry with the new entrance and also work on ensuring that the disabled access ramp cannot be blocked by parked vehicles.
- 12.153 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED - none
- 12.154 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED
Dog Fouling on Canal Towpath and in Residential Areas Dog fouling continues to be an issue not only on streets and pavements as well as the playing field but additionally on the canal towpath. A letter about this from a local Lock-ranger volunteer was received; whilst the Parish Council is sympathetic to the issue, the canal towpath is the responsibility of the Canal & River Trust. Dog fouling is illegal in all public areas and dog owners are legally obliged to pick up after their dogs.
- Letter from R Warburton The Parish Council confirmed continued support for the Audlem Carnival, ADAS and the Audlem Music and Arts Festival as sought by Mr Warburton on behalf of the relevant groups.
- 12.155 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING
 Cllr Langston proposed that the Parish Council should consider the option of councillors being assigned a geographical area of responsibility (for example: Coxbank).
 Community Power Scheme
 The Village Meeting
 The Cloud
 Standing Orders Amendment
- 12.156 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 4TH MARCH

 CHAIRMAN

 Date