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AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7TH JANUARY 2013 AT 7.30PM AT THORNTON HOUSE

Present:

Cllr Mrs K Down (Chair)	Cllr Mrs FM Christie	Cllr R Furber
Cllr D Siddorns	Cllr Mrs P Seddon	Cllr G Seddon
Cllr P Johnson	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 S Allcock, Mr R Millns

PUBLIC FORUM – before the meeting commenced, Long Service Awards were presented to retired Parish Councillor Bill Consterdine and retired Parish Clerk Mrs Jean White by the Chair of the Parish Council Cllr Mrs Kate Down.

The Chair then asked Mr Steven Allcock of Scottish Power to address the meeting. Mr Allcock carefully explained the outcome of the local supply survey and showed the areas which will be affected by the scheduled work commencing later this month. Mr Allcock also explained how residents would be informed of the work that affects them, in addition to cards through letterboxes and road signage, Audlem On-line will be used to help this process as well as the Parish Council Noticeboard. The Council thanked Mr Allcock for his thorough explanation of the work and for his efforts to ensure that residents are affected as little as possible by this essential work. Mr Roger Millns then addressed the meeting on behalf of ADCA. The Rural Housing Needs Survey will be going ahead later this month and, once volunteers have delivered and collected the survey questionnaire throughout the parish, Cheshire East will analyse the collated data. It is hoped that the outcome of the survey will help, in conjunction with other surveys recently conducted in nearby parishes, to gain funding for future social and supported housing for the community.

12.121 **APOLOGIES** – were received from Cllr Mrs Jones and Cllr Langston and accepted.

12.122 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – none.

12.123 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2012 were accepted as a true record.

12.124 **REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS & COMMITTEES**

124.1 Highways & Transportation (Cllr Hill) – Cllr Hill reported that the CEC Highways Dept had recently been given an extra £2,000,000 for the pothole repair budget. Cllr Siddorns asked whether the re-surfacing programme from Cheshire East might be improved as well and Cllr Hill agreed to raise this matter at the next LAP Highways meeting in February. Cllr Furber raised the poor condition of the pavement between the Medical Practice/Public Car Park and the centre of the village, which is impossible to safely negotiate with a wheelchair. Though the councillors agreed, Cllr Siddorns pointed out that unfortunately even in this condition it still met the standards that the CEC Highways Dept have to work to. The Clerk reported that the Highways Small Works Budget had been allocated for 2013/2014 and that the implementation of a 40mph limit through Swanbach was on the list to be completed. Cllr Mrs Christie enquired about the proposed work on the A525 to Buerton, this work however is a major project and so not allocated monies from the same budget. Cllr Mrs Seddon reported that the householder that has overhanging vegetation over a footpath in Coxbank will be cutting it back in due course.

124.2 Community (Cllr Seddon) – Cllr Seddon reported that he had been in touch with the South Lakeland council that have provided a community electricity supply sourcing service and explained the process that they used to offer this cost-saving option to their local residents. After some discussion, Councillors agreed that in order to further examine this concept, it should be an agenda item for the February meeting.

(i) Steve Allcock from Scottish Power spoke at the start of the meeting about work scheduled in the area.

124.3 Youth & Education (vacancy) – Cllr Higham has agreed to fill this vacancy.

124.4 Law & Order (Cllr Furber) – Cllr Siddorns commented on the continuing difficulty to get people to report incidents to the Police through, for example, the 101 number, which negatively impacts on the allocation of Police resources to the village as unreported crime/anti-social behaviour does not appear on the Police statistics. Cllr

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Siddorns agreed to take questions to a local meeting with the Police on 8th January concerning the visibility of the police in the village and the utilisation of the CCTV footage available from the village.

124.5 Local Tourism & Business (Cllr Langston) – The Shroppie Fly has now closed and there is an unconfirmed report that the refurbishment work will commence in the middle of the month.

124.6 Planning (Cllr Johnson) – Nothing reported.

124.7 Wildlife & Ecology (Chairman) – Nothing to report.

124.8 Health (Cllr Mrs Jones) – Nothing reported.

124.9 Communications (Cllr Mrs Seddon) – The Parish Newsletter deadline is on 10th January. Possible items for inclusion were discussed.

124.10 Access & Inclusion (Cllr Mrs Christie) –

(i) **Social Housing Survey** – Mr Roger Millns of ADCA reported on the progress of the survey at the start of the meeting. Cllr Mrs Christie reiterated the need for volunteers for delivering and collecting the questionnaires for all households within the parish.

Cllr Mrs Christie spoke about her recent attendance of the HeartStart course and how useful it would be for all ages within the community.

Cllr Mrs Christie will be attending an ADCA meeting on Friday 11th January, in which they will be re-tendering.

124.11 Devolved Services (Cllr Siddorns) – Nothing to report.

124.12 Allotments Committee (Cllr Johnson) – The next ADAPT meeting is in February.

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

124.14 Street Lighting (Cllr Langston) – Cllr Langston sent a report that the Street Lighting team at CEC were chasing up the sub-contractors that have yet to complete the work on the light in Mill Lane, Swanbach. Cllr Hill commented that this supposedly unadopted street light is clearly marked as adopted on a map that he has had sight of.

12.125 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

12.125.1 Vacancy – The Clerk reported that the process for appointing a new councillor had commenced with the posting of the statutory notice which gives electors the opportunity to call for an election for the vacancy. After some discussion councillors agreed that, should there be no demand for an election, the post will be advertised immediately so that applications can be considered and a co-option made at the next Council meeting.

12.126 SUPERFAST BROADBAND – The Clerk reported that Chris Capes of Connecting Cheshire had confirmed that the configuration of the 90% coverage for Superfast Broadband would not be known before mid-February but that the process for finding a contractor for the remaining 10% was continuing as far as possible. Cllr Johnson confirmed that he would be attending a meeting with Connecting Cheshire on 10th January and welcomed any other councillors to attend as well.

12.127 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES – Cllr Hill drew the councillors' attention to the vandalism that had been reported on Audlem On-line and that the Public Conveniences continue to be on budget.

12.128 FINANCIAL MATTERS

128.1 2013/2014 Precept Arrangements and Council Tax Support – Information on the changes were received from Cheshire East.

RESOLVED: To claim the same precept for 2013/14 as was claimed in 2012/13.

128.2 RFO's report – The councillors received 2013 budget which had only minor alterations from that received at the Finance Committee Meeting in November.

RESOLVED: To accept the revised budget for 2013/2014.

128.3 Authorisation of cheques

Mrs K Dixon – office expenditure	£27.45
G Davies – monthly salary	£168.85
Mr J Kemble – monthly salary	£50.80
Mrs K Dixon – monthly salary	£303.26
Audlem Angels - Cleaning of Public Toilets - December 2012	£156.00
Cllr Mrs Down – Chairman's Allowance (section 137)	£100.00
G Davies – bonus payment	£100.00

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Audlem Scout & Guide HQ – annual donations for 2011/12 and 2012/13

£1,000.00

RESOLVED: the above accounts were approved for payment.

- 12.129 PUBLIC CAR PARK – Cllr Hill reported that the marking of the car park is scheduled for March.
- 12.130 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
130.1 To note responses made in respect of applications with response date prior to 7th January
12/4770N Proposed Office Outbuilding @ 1 Witton Close Audlem CW3 0HZ - the planning committee raised no objections to this application.
 The newly received application 13/0042N Extension & Alterations to 1 Armstrong Close, Audlem will be circulated to the members of the Planning Committee.
- 12.131 AUDLEM BURIAL COMMITTEE - Cllr Furber reported that the AGM is being held on 16th January 2013.
- 12.132 AUDLEM PUBLIC HALL – Cllr Seddon reported that the next film to be shown will be Skyfall. Also, the 20week draw tickets are now on sale.
- 12.133 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED – None.
- 12.134 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED
 A letter from Mr Smith & Ms Maxwell of Swanbach Mill Farmhouse explaining the outcome of their appeal to the Planning Inspectorate was received.
RESOLVED: To write to the Planning Inspectorate to ask for the reasons why the views of the local residents had been ignored.
 A letter from Ms D Brookshaw concerning her land adjacent to Moorfiends Avenue and Tollgate Drive was received. Reports from Nantwich Local Area Partnership had been received and the councillors requested that these be circulated for their information.
- 12.135 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING
 Local plan consultation.
 Co-operative electricity purchasing.
 Councillor vacancy.
- 12.136 MEETING DATES FOR 2013 – The meetings for the year will be as follows:
 4th February
 4th March
 15th April
 13th May – AGM of the Parish Council
 10th June
 15th July
 2nd September
 7th October
 4th November
 25th November – Finance Committee Meeting
 2nd December
- The date of the Annual Village Meeting will be agreed at the next meeting once the nature of the meeting has been decided upon but is likely to be held in March.
- 12.138 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 4TH FEBRUARY

 CHAIRMAN

 Date