

12/08

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCILMINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 9th JULY 2012 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,  
AUDLEM PUBLIC HALL

**Present:**

|                         |                             |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Cllr Mrs K Down (Chair) | Cllr P Johnson (Vice Chair) | Cllr J Langston |
| Cllr D Siddorns         | Cllr Mrs P Seddon           | Cllr G Seddon   |
| Cllr Mrs FM Christie    | Cllr R Furber               | Cllr M Hill     |
| Cllr Mrs J Sanders      | Cllr Mrs H Jones            |                 |

**In Attendance:** Mrs J White, Clerk

**Also Present:** Mrs K Dixon, Mr D Barnes (St James' IEB)

At the Chairman's invitation, Mr Barnes spoke about future management of St James' School. The new Head Teacher would take up her duties at the beginning of the Autumn term. The 10 members of the new Shadow Governing Body, all appointees of the local authority, would meet shortly and would act under delegated powers for 18 months. The IEB would cease at the end of the Autumn term. Membership of the full Governing Body would be decided by parental vote. A Parents' Forum had already commenced, its first task being to work on communication methods. Mr Barnes thanked those Councillors who had attended the recent Open Day and stressed that, as the school prospered and its reputation grew, the Parish Council's support would be invaluable. The Chairman thanked Mr Bales, who agreed to provide another report at the meeting 5th November.

12.32 APOLOGIES – There were none.

12.33 CODE OF CONDUCT

**Resolved: that the current Code of Conduct be extended until such time as a new Code is adopted.**

12.34 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None made.

12.35 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11TH JUNE

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

12.36 VACANCIES

36.1 Parish Councillor

**Resolved: that the vacancy be advertised immediately, the appointment to be made on 3rd September.**

36.2 Parish Clerk

Recruitment Committee members reported that the position had been offered to and accepted by Mrs Kirstin Dixon who would commence employment on 6th August. The current Clerk would cease employment on 31st August. Councillors endorsed the Committee's decisions to date and indicated that contractual matters should be finalized.

**Resolved: that the Parish Council's PC and printer (book value nil) be deleted from the asset register and remain in the current Clerk's possession.**

12.37 REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS & COMMITTEES

**37.1 Youth & Education (Cllr Mrs Sanders)**

*(i) St James' School* – See notes above.

*(ii) White lining of playing field* – It was noted that CEC would white line the field and erect goal posts at the beginning of the season. The Clerk would remind CEC that the pitch needed to be repositioned due to creation of a new path to the children's playground and request that the Parish Council be advised of the date and time when white lining would be carried out. Investigations and enquiries about devolvement of responsibilities would resume when work had been carried out and revenue streams in place.

*(iii) Children's playground* – Cllr Mrs Sanders agreed to inspect the playground to ensure that CEC had acted on the safety inspection report dated 9th February 2012.

**37.2 Law & Order (Cllr Furber)**

PCSO Jarvis had advised Cllr Furber that officers had been given instructions to attend PC meetings briefly if they were on duty in the village. He was currently dealing with complaints that youngsters were climbing on to the school

roof and misbehaving on the playing field - the neighbourhood had been leafleted and the situation was being monitored. The Co-op ATM showed signs of interference and it was agreed that the Parish Council's mobile CCTV equipment should be re-located. Councillors agreed that Audlem Post Office's cash withdrawal facility should be more widely publicised. Damage to grass verges at Tollgate would be drawn to the attention of organisers of the Music Festival.

*(ii) Cluster meetings* – Cllr Siddorns and Cllr Furber requested agenda items for the Cluster meeting 17th July.

*(iii) Car park CCTV* – Cllr Hill reported that EPG would carry out a free inspection in the near future.

### **37.3 Community (vacancy)**

*(i) Reduction in mobile library services* – Results of the recent consultation were received, together with CEC's response to the Parish Council's observations about the conduct of consultations generally, i.e. that procedures were being reviewed and comments would be taken into consideration.

*(ii) Music Festival*

**Resolved: that the organisers be thanked and congratulated on the success of the event.**

### **37.4 Local Tourism & Business (Cllr Langston)**

*(i) Litter bin at Bagley Lane* – The Chairman reported that collections were now taking place.

*(ii) Bike stand @ The Square*

**Resolved: that the matter be considered at the Finance Committee meeting on 26th November.**

### **37.5 Highways & Transportation (Cllr Hill)**

*(i) Nantwich LAP Highways subgroup* – Cllr Siddorns reported on recent meetings. He was confident that pot holes in the Kinsey Heath area would be dealt with in the near future, and hopeful that pavement repairs at Cheshire Street would be carried out during the current financial year.

*(ii) Overhanging trees on Whitchurch Road* – A resident's complaint was noted. As the Council had recently pressed Highways vigorously on this issue without result, no action could be taken at the moment. The situation would be monitored.

**37.6 Planning (Cllr Johnson)** – Cllr Johnson commented supportively on plans for changes at 11 Cheshire Street.

**37.7 Wildlife & Ecology (Chairman)** – Nothing to report.

### **37.8 Health (Cllr Mrs Jones)**

*(i) Dog fouling on playing field* – Cllr Mrs Jones reported that a Dog Warden was now working on a "Responsible Dog Ownership" project with children at St James' School. CEC had been reminded of the agreement to review signage on the playing field.

*(ii) "Healthwatch"* – Cllr Siddorns reported that a consultation was currently being carried out prior to the end of LINK arrangements in March 2013. The Clerk would make further enquiries and invite a speaker to a future meeting.

### **37.9 Communications (Cllr Mrs Seddon)**

*(i) "Around Audlem"* – Councillors noted that articles were required by 10th July.

*(ii) Review of Annual Village Meeting arrangements* – It was agreed advertising and arrangements had been successful - a total of 51 had attended. Cllr Johnson thanked colleagues for their input, especially Cllrs Mrs Jones and Sanders for dealing with refreshments.

**37.10 Access & Inclusion (Cllr Mrs Christie)** – Cllr Mrs Christie reported on ADCA's recent AGM when Cllr Mike Hill had been thanked for his work to ensure continuation of this service to Audlem's elderly people. The coffee club was thriving and a new befriending service had been introduced.

**37.11 Devolved Services (Cllr Siddorns)** – Nothing to report.

**37.12 Allotments Committee (Cllr Johnson)** – Nothing to report.

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

**37.14 Street Lighting** – Cllr Langston reported that arrangements had been made for repair of a lighting column at Churchfields. The Parish Council accepted with thanks Cllr Langston's offer to take over responsibility of Street Lighting issues.

- 12.38 **SUPERFAST BROADBAND** – Cllr Johnson reported that it had become obvious that the service would not be delivered to Audlem by the main providers before 2016 at the earliest, if at all. A group had been therefore been formed, led by Cllr Seddon and himself to make progress. Representatives from Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley Parish Council, already experienced by way of an unsuccessful bid, were collaborating and expressions of support had been received from Stephen O'Brien MP and CEC Cllr Mrs Rachel Bailey. Flyers had been hand delivered to every household and excellent publicity obtained from Audlem Online. The result was that over a third of households had responded, and over a third of the business community. A consultancy (Grey Sky) had compiled Audlem's bid which had now been submitted to Defra. Cllr Johnson thanked everyone involved (including Audlem Post Office, Audlem Online and volunteers) for a remarkable effort over the previous 3 weeks.

- 12.39 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES – Members reported on issues discussed at the ad hoc meeting on 15th June. It was confirmed that: First Responders now held a RADAR key; enquiries (so far unproductive) had been made regarding a dedicated phone number for emergency calls; a risk assessment had been carried out but further specialist advice would be sought. Cllr Hill reported that, if necessary, the contractor would replace the timed lock without charge. He agreed to obtain and distribute keys as requested.
- 12.40 FINANCIAL MATTERS  
 40.1 RFO's report – Received.  
 40.2 Arrangements for payments during July/August break  
**Resolved: that the Parish Council authorise payment of any urgent invoices received between 9th July and 27th August, all payments to be confirmed on 3rd September.**  
 40.3 Request for donation: ADCA  
**Resolved: that the Parish Council make a contribution of £330 towards the cost of staff training.**  
 40.4 Authorisation of cheques
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|---|----------|
| C Griffiths – ironworks – annual donations to Audlem Public Hall (Min 11.98.1 refers) | £2052.00 |
| Delmar Press – leaflets re broadband  | £24.00   |
| Audlem Angels – cleaning of public toilets (June 5-19)                                | £72.00   |
| Audlem Angels “ (June 20-July 9)  | £102.00  |
| PHS Group – waste collection and disposal (July to October)                           | £205.92  |
| Mrs H Jones – speakers' refreshments, etc. Annual Village Meeting                     | £17.09   |
| G Davies – street cleaning (June)   | £294.95  |
| Mr J Kemble – salary  | £50.60   |
| Mrs J White – salary  | £365.48  |
| Mrs J White – office expenditure  | £78.25   |
- Resolved: that the above accounts be approved for payment.**
- 12.41 AUDLEM BURIAL COMMITTEE – Cllr Furber reported that the Dedication Ceremony for the memorial to paupers' graves had taken place on 14th June.
- 12.42 AUDLEM PUBLIC HALL – It was noted that new gates had been installed at the Cheshire Street entrance.
- 12.43 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED – Cllr Mrs Seddon reported on a constructive meeting held with residents of Kingbur Place, Wincanton and the Co-op when parking and loading issues had been discussed.
- 12.44 ACCOMMODATION FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS  
**Resolved: that the next meeting of the Parish Council take place at Thornton House.**
- 12.45 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (\*circulated) – The following items were received:  
 \*Citizens' Advice Bureau – Letter of thanks for £500 donation.  
 \*CEC – Notice of LAP Open Meeting on Wednesday 11th July at 6 pm at Nantwich Football Club, Waterlode.  
 \*British Waterways – Letter announcing transfer of undertakings to the “Canal & River Trust”.
- 12.46 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING – “Matters Arising”
- 12.47 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER

At the end of the meeting the Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, presented Mrs White with flowers and thanked her for providing an excellent service to Members over the past 10 years.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Date