

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 15 July 2013 at the Methodist Meeting Rooms, Shropshire Street, Audlem at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Cllr K Down	Cllr FM Christie	Cllr R Furber
Cllr C Loweth	Cllr J Langston	Cllr D Siddorns
Cllr M Hill	Cllr D Higham	Cllr P Johnson
Cllr H Jones	Cllr G Seddon	Cllr P Seddon

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

Also Present: Mr B Cartwright, Mr J Tilling, Mr M Mason, Mr P Oxley, Mr G Smethurst, Mr S Bruce, Mr S Morris and other residents.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak. Mr Oxley thanked the Parish Council for the leaflet that they had sent out about the planning application for the land off Audlem Road. He then asked whether the Parish Council can have confidence in the process of planning applications and the appeals process should the application fail, the Chairman replied that they had no choice in how this was dealt with and that they had to have faith that Cheshire East would carry out the processes correctly and with rigour. Mr Smethurst then asked whether the Parish Council had any plans to involve the local MP in this planning issue, and councillors confirmed that they had already been in communication with Rt Hon Stephen O'Brien MP. Mr Bruce asked whether the Parish Council thought that anything was needed to galvanise action to object because although it appears that villagers generally object there were relatively few recorded on the website. Cllr Jones spoke on the need to overcome the perception that objecting to the initial consultation was enough and hopefully the leaflets and posters together with the information on Audlem on-line would help with this. Mr Morris made observations about the on-line comments recording facility.

13.39 APOLOGIES – None

13.40 REGISTER OF INTERESTS – Cllr Furber reiterated his interest in item 13.43

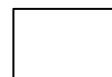
13.41 MINUTES – The minutes of the meeting on 10th June 2013 were received and accepted by a majority.

13.42 MATTERS ARISING – None

13.43 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

43.1 Report from Planning Committee - Cllr G Seddon spoke on behalf of the group. The planning group has met at least 4 times recently and have scrutinised every line of every document submitted as part of the outline planning application submitted by Gladman Developments. In order to ensure that the best possible objection is put forward by the Parish Council, it has been decided to appoint a consultant. This will ensure that the correct terminology is used and all appropriate objections are raised. The draught response has been received today. The documents lodged included a document written on behalf of several large building companies and is likely to be used for similar development applications throughout the country, posing a challenge for many parish and town councils. The final response will be approved by the planning committee of the Parish Council.

43.2 Neighbourhood Plan - Mr Tom Evans of the Spatial Planning Dept. at Cheshire East Council was invited to attend this meeting, however the department will not allow staff to attend meetings for this at present due to their current workload. The Clerk explained that she is working with clerks from the neighbouring Parish Councils to arrange a meeting with Mr Evans at his office in Crewe to gain further insight into the benefits and costs of



creating an LNP, which Cllr G Seddon had enquired about.

43.3 To consider recent planning applications submitted to Cheshire East Council

13/2224N Outline Planning for Proposed Residential Development of up to 120 Dwellings, Highway Works, Public Open Space and Associated Works @ Land to the West of Audlem Road - The Parish Council confirmed their opposition to this application (see 43.1)

13/2703N Convert Garage to bedroom and create car parking and turning area @ 17, Chapel Close, Audlem, CW3 0BG - Cllr G Seddon raised the potential issue of surface water run-off. It was agreed that this would be reflected in the Parish Council's response of no objection.

43.4 To note the responses made for recent planning applications submitted to Cheshire East Council

The following responses were noted:

13/2130N Ground floor extension @ Rope Bank Cottage, Audlem Road, Audlem, CW3 0HF - No objections

13/2172N Demolition of existing utility and replacement with single storey side and rear extension to provide extended utility and kitchen. @ Meadowbank Cottage, Moblake, Audlem CW3 0HU - No objections

13/2458N Single storey front and rear extension @ The Paddock, 30, Heathfield Road, Audlem, Cheshire, CW3 0HH - No representation required.

13.44 PLAYING FIELD– The meeting with CEC representatives has been confirmed for 23.7.13

13.45 REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS & COMMITTEES

45.1 Highways & Transportation (Cllr Hill) – Cllr Hill reported on the meeting that the chairman and he had attended on the highways issues in and around Audlem.

In order to regulate the flow of traffic through the village both the canal bridge by The Bridge Inn and New Bridge on Stafford Street/Woore Road will have pinch-points created prioritising traffic leaving the village, the removal of the centre line might also be employed. The canal bridge will also have a new footpath.

The parking in the centre of the village (A525 and A529) will be reviewed again.

The resurfacing of the A529 Cheshire Street will be put back on the list for completion.

The 40mph speed limits in Swanbach and Chapel End and also the improved signage for the junction at Chapel End have been passed to the highways department for costings so that they will be ready for implementation. The road markings on Green Lane (A529) are to be redone to help speed reduction, this straight will either be a 50 or 60mph when the 40mph scheme is put into Swanbach, to allow overtaking of farm machinery etc.

The de-priming of the signs (changing them from green to white) on the A525 is still in the pipeline.

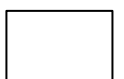
Cllr Siddons asked whether the previous assertion that the Green Lane Swanbach speed limit project would be completed by the end of the year was still in place, Cllr Hill confirmed that this had not been indicated.

Cllr Langston commented that the warning lights at the top of the narrow section of A525 Stafford Street were no longer working, Cllr Hill agreed to pass this information on.

45.2 Community (Cllr G Seddon) – Cllr G Seddon commented that The Party on the Park was wonderful, and it was agreed to write and congratulate ASET.

(i) Community Projects Committee – The minutes of this meeting will be circulated.

45.3 Youth & Education (Cllr Loweth) – Cllr Loweth reported that she had attended the recent AGM of the Audlem Scout Group at which the officers had been re-elected for a further year. Detailed accounts of the activities in the past year were given and The District Commissioner spoke, praising the work and achievement of the groups. The Gift Aid scheme is now in place and the next fund-raising project is for a trailer for equipment. A big thank you was extended to the Parish Council for their donation for new camp catering equipment. Cllr Loweth also reported that she was still trying to gain the opportunity to meet with the Head Teacher of St James' Primary School. Cllr Higham reported that the playground equipment has been repaired but the issue with the play surface is yet to be resolved.



45.4 Law & Order (Cllr Furber) – The recent meeting of the local Law and Order meeting had brought up the issue of opportunist gangs working in Cheshire East, one using transit vans and another, high performance cars. It was commented on that people need to remember, especially in the hot weather, not to leave the front of the house vulnerable to opportunists with open windows etc, when they are outside to the rear of their home. However there was good news that only one case of anti-social behaviour had been recorded in the village in recent months. The Police informed the meeting that Punch Taverns intend to replace the licencee at The Shroppie Fly after recent issues. The Police will be continuing with traffic speed enforcement in the area as well as engaging with the local youth.

45.5 Local Tourism & Business (Cllr Langston) – The Chairman moved that this item be held over until the end of the meeting, without the public present.

45.6 Planning (Chairman) – see 43.1

45.7 Wildlife & Ecology (Cllr Down) – The minutes will be circulated.

45.8 Health (Cllr Jones) – Cllr Jones and the Clerk are continuing to work to get approval for the dog signage. Cllr Siddons asked what the impact on the existing level of healthcare available for residents should a large housing development be built in the village. Cllr Jones said that she would investigate this potential issue further as part of the Planning committee.

45.9 Communications (Cllr P Seddon) – Cllr P Seddon reported that the next issue of the Newsletter will be issued in the first week of August and extended thanks to Kira Nicholls for her continued work as editor.

45.10 Access & Inclusion (Cllr Christie) – Cllr Christie reported that the last ADCA meeting on 1st July was cancelled, the next meeting will be on 26th July. Wolvern Housing are installing a metal ramp at the Hankelow Methodist Hall so that the Lunch Club can commence meeting there on Tuesday 6th August, the Friday Coffee mornings at The Lord Combermere will start on Friday 2nd August. Cllr Jones commented that she had visited the Exhibition of the plans for Thornton House and that it was a shame that the number of units is not increasing and yet some will be two bedroomed rather than a like for like replacement with one bedroomed unit, and might this mean that the previous occupants might be unable to return because they are not eligible to have a bigger unit. Cllr Siddons commented that he had attended the Ageing Well Group and had spoken to CEC Cllr Janet Clowes about Thornton House. Cllr Higham reported that the celebration of Thornton House and its contribution to the village had been well attended by between 60 and 80 people and was opened by Michael Thornton. It was also reported that the ADCA 20 week draw tickets are now on sale.

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

45.12 Allotments Committee (Cllr Johnson) – Cllr Johnson reported that the informal use of pieces of people's gardens was growing with more and more people volunteering small pieces of garden.

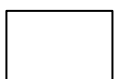
45.13 Commons & Greens Committee (Cllr Furber) – Nothing to report.

(i) Common Land at Bunsley Bank – The Clerk reported that, as requested, the temporary shed has now been removed from the land and the vegetation has regrown on the area.

45.14 Street Lighting (Cllr Langston) – Nothing to report.

13.46 FINANCIAL MATTERS

46.1 To receive RFO's report – The RFO reported that the final accounts had been approved by the Internal Auditor and had been submitted to the Audit Commission. The Internal Auditor had commented on the large amount of money held. RFO expects the annual rent on Longhill Moss to be paid in full this month and made a request for the acquisition of a pad of timesheets for the lengthsman.
Resolution: The purchase of pre-printed timesheets was approved unanimously.



Cllr G Seddon requested that the expenditure on the RFO's monthly financial report be shown exclusive of VAT in future.

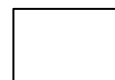
Resolution: The cost of £1,000 - £1,100 (ex-VAT) plus a capped amount of £250 (ex-VAT) for out-of-pocket expenses for the planning consultant (see minute 43.1) was approved with one vote against and no abstentions

46.2 Authorisation of cheques

K Dixon - monthly salary	£303.26
G Davies – monthly salary	£192.70
J Kemble – monthly salary	£50.60
K Dixon - Office Expenses	£31.81
Audlem Angels – Public Conveniences cleaning (up to 14.7.13)	£222.00
PHS – Public conveniences 20.7.13 – 19.10.13	£141.34
Audit Commission	£510.00
HMRC – periods M1, M2, M3	£435.60
Audlem Methodist Church – room hire (July mtg)	£40.00
AJ Davenport – Audit Services	£110.00
M Hill – Public Conveniences Supplies	£106.92
Mr M Collis-Smith – Union Flag for St James' Church	£226.56
Audlem Public Hall – Hall Hire (x3 – committee mtg, annual mtg, extraordinary mtg)	£180.00

Resolution: the above accounts were approved for payment by a majority vote.

- 13.47 CANAL & RIVER TRUST – Cllr Jones reported that she had met with Paul Corner of CRT. Mr Corner is to review the ownership of the land by Lock 8 with their estates department. CRT are to have a presence at the Transport Festival and Cllr Jones suggested that they use Audlem On-line to promote their volunteer activity weekends. CRT are also looking for sponsor, such as the Parish Council and other local organisations, for portions of the canal bank, this sponsorship need not be financial but could be, for example, planting it with herbs or trees. Cllr Siddorns asked how public liability would work for this, whose responsibility would this be for a sponsored portion of canal bank and any work done on it. Cllr Jones will ask CRT about this.
- 13.48 SUPERFAST BROADBAND - The Connecting Cheshire representative had failed to attend the recent meeting that the Clerk had attended. Cllr Johnson will contact Andrew Arditti to ask for an update.
- 13.49 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES – Cllr Siddorns reported that there had been serious vandalism to the Ladies Toilet over the weekend and that this had been reported to the Police. The Police have taken a copy of the CCTV recordings to examine it for evidence of the perpetrators.
- 13.50 AUDLEM PUBLIC HALL – Cllr Loweth reported that the tenders for the new porch extension are expected in soon and progress is being made regarding the roof insulation. The proposed extension to the rear was discussed and is proposed to be 14metres by 20metres. Local groups have been invited to register their requirements from the new facility (eg. Football club). Cllr Siddorns voiced his concerns regarding some repairs that were visibly required and Cllr Loweth agreed to pass these on to the Public Hall Committee.
- 13.51 AUDLEM BURIAL COMMITTEE - The next meeting is on 17th July.



13.52 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED

The Clerk reported that she had had a two hour meeting with the CEC Community Warden, they walked the village and spoke to the Lengthsman on the matter of dog fouling as well as littering. The Community Warden is keen to work with the Parish Council to make a concerted effort to reduce the dog fouling issue throughout the village and councillors agreed to support this initiative which may have a small cost for the chalk sprays used to stencil temporary signs on footpaths.

13.53 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

A copy of the letter that ADAS have submitted in opposition to the planning application for the Gladman Development on Audlem Road was received and the chairman expressed the council's gratitude for this response.

A letter was received from P & J Kenshole regarding the speed limit reductions expected on the A525 and A529 as well as dog fouling on the path to Sparrowy Spout. The Clerk will write to respond to their enquiries.

At this point, Cllr Michael E Jones, leader of Cheshire East Council, arrived with Cllr Rachel Bailey, CEC councillor for the Audlem ward, and, when invited by the chairman, he spoke about Cheshire East Council's stance on speculative housing development and answered questions from the public and parish councillors. CEC Cllr Jones spoke about how housing should be built where the jobs are and, in the case of South East Cheshire, it is envisaged that most of the housing development will be in the Crewe area which is enjoying considerable business investment leading to job creation. He spoke about the importance of sustainable development in important villages like Audlem and how Audlem is seen as a benchmark for its initiatives by other parishes. He said that Cheshire East will stand by Audlem. He also commented that in the next phase of the Local Plan, which will be published in September, the 20 year housing supply figure for Audlem is likely to be around 70, less than the previous figure of 100. When asked by Cllr Christie about the strategy for Audlem objecting he said that it was important to have the best possible objections as these would be important not just at this stage but also in the event that the developer makes an appeal against a planning application refusal. It was noted that Cllr Michael Jones agreed with Audlem Parish Council that the development would have a negative impact on the educational and health resources of the village and he praised Audlem's Village Plan and Village Design Statement, which clearly lay out the community's agreed plan for sustainable growth in the future.

Following the discussion with Cllr Michael Jones, the Chairman concluded the public part of the meeting so that Item 13.45.5 could be, as agreed by the other councillors, deliberated in private.

13.54 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

Cllr Rachel Bailey to be asked to report.

13.55 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER

CHAIRMAN _____

Date _____

