

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5TH MARCH 2012

Present: Cllr R Furber (Chair 11.139-142.3) Cllr B Consterdine (Chair 11.142.4-152)
 Cllr Mrs F M Christie Cllr M Hill Cllr P Johnson
 Cllr J Langston Cllr D Siddorns Cllr Mrs P Seddon
 Cllr Mrs H Jones Cllr G Seddon Cllr Mrs J Sanders

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

Also Present: Cheshire East Councillor Mrs R Bailey

PUBLIC FORUM – No residents present.

11.139 **APOLOGIES** – Cllr Mrs Down's apologies were accepted.

11.140 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS** – None made.

11.141 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH FEBRUARY 2012**

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

11.142 **REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS & COMMITTEES**

142.1 Law & Order (Cllr Furber) – Cllr Furber reported that suspicious individuals had been seen in the vicinity of Wood Orchard Lane.

142.2 Community (Cllr Consterdine)

(i) Community Pride Competition 2012 – It was noted that Best Newsletter, Best Website and Best Kept Village sections had been entered. Mr Warburton's offer to complete the remaining entry form was gratefully accepted.

(ii) Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – Reports of several planned neighbourhood celebrations were received.

(iii) Bunting – ASET's request for new bunting, costing approximately £500, was considered.

Resolved: that Mr A Smith purchase bunting on behalf of the Parish Council.

142.3 Local Tourism & Business (Cllr Langston)

(i) Superfast broadband – Nothing further to report.

(ii) Request for litter bin at Bagley Lane bridge – It was noted that Cheshire East had declined to supply and empty an additional bin on grounds of cost. Approaches were being made to British Waterways as most of the litter originated from canal users.

(iii) "Audlem Lass Boat Service" – Cllr Mrs Christie reported that the service would run from Good Friday to late October and that volunteers had formed a committee with a constitution, logo, etc.

142.4 Highways & Transportation (Cllr Hill)

(i) Nantwich LAP Highways subgroup – CEC Councillor Mrs Bailey described the procedure for deciding the annual works programme. Sound School, where the speed limit was currently 60 mph, had been judged the highest priority. In Audlem, public notices for proposed changes to Shropshire Street parking bays had been processed but it had been decided that pinch points would not be installed until after new parking arrangements had been evaluated. Funding was still earmarked however.

(ii) Flood at Coxbank – It was noted that recent flooding (now subsided) had been extremely troublesome. Cllr Siddorns thanked Cllr Mrs Bailey for her efforts on behalf of residents.

Resolved: that the need for patching be reported and that Highways be reminded that this road, though minor, is residents' only access to their homes.

(iii) Flood on A525 near Co-op – It was noted that United Utilities would be working (overnight) on the manhole in the near future. There was no collapse but accumulated silt/grease was possibly causing odour.

Resolved: that Highways be asked to make good defective work carried out by Muller as a matter of urgency.

(iv) Whitchurch Road: footway – It was noted that this had only recently been correctly reported, i.e. to Streetscape.

(v) Review of winter gritting arrangements – Clerk to contact Highways regarding collection of grit bag located at Cllr Furber's property.

(vi) Cheshire Street footways from Boots Chemist to the Health Centre

Resolved: that Highways be informed of the hazardous condition of the footway.

142.5 Planning (Cllr Johnson) – Cllr Johnson would again press for action.

142.6 Wildlife & Ecology (Chairman) – No report.

142.7 Health (Cllr Mrs Jones)

(i) Training of First Responders – Cllr Hill reported that First Responders was now a Charity and that advanced training would commence on 31st March. Responders had requested permission to use grant monies to cover petrol costs for minor personal use of the vehicle whilst staff were On Call as NWAS had refused to do so.

Resolved: that the Parish Council approve use of grant monies as described; also that the Parish Council meet increasing accommodation costs arising from “Heartstart” training sessions.

142.8 Youth & Education (Cllr Mrs Sanders)

(i) Request for goal posts on playing field – Deferred, pending discussions with CEC’S Parks Development Manager.

(ii) Proposal for dedication of playing field – It was noted that Cllr Hill would discuss opportunities with CEC’s Project Manager.

(iii) Children’s play area: safety inspections – Report of recent inspection received.

(iv) St James’ IEB

Resolved: that the temporary Headteacher be invited to the Parish Council meeting on 11th June.

142.9 Communications (Cllr Mrs Seddon)

(i) Annual Village Meeting – It was agreed that Cllr Johnson would approach his contact at Cheshire East to organise a suitable presentation on superfast broadband before 1st June. Local arrangements would be put in hand when the date had been confirmed and Cllr Consterdine agreed to act as Lead Councillor. In the meantime, interim notices would be displayed on the web site, notice board and in the school newsletter.

(ii) Radio Stoke in Audlem – Cllr Mrs Seddon provided details of the visit which would take place on Monday 19th March between 8 and 11 am.

142.10 Access & Inclusion (Cllr Mrs Christie) – Councillors were urged to become members of the ADCA charitable company and application forms were distributed. ADCA’s AGM would be held on 29th June.

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

142.12 Allotments Committee (Cllr Johnson) – Cllr Johnson agreed to investigate reports of charity land at Brown’s Bank.

142.13 Commons & Greens Committee (Cllr Furber)

(i) Lease of Longhill Moss – Councillors noted the fees quoted in a letter from Barbers Rural dated 17th February.

Resolved: that Barbers Rural be instructed to negotiate with the tenant to introduce a new contract and rental, payment to be made by Standing Order.

(ii) Request for modification to Definitive Map: path between playing field and Shroppie Fly - It was noted that the application made on 22nd March 2005 was now No. 2 on the waiting list.

(iii) Footpath No. 24 (Salford to Mill Lane) – Clerk to report that the path was impassable due to flooding.

142.14 Street Lighting (Cllr Consterdine) – Faults at Churchfields and Swanbach were noted.

11.143 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

143.1 RFO report – It was reported that the current year’s accounts would close on 31st March. In future, the RFO would forward monthly income and expenditure figures to Councillors.

143.2 Asset inspections 2011/12 – Cllr Langston reported that he had completed asset inspections and that a number of seats and benches required attention.

143.3 Double taxation – The contents of Cheshire East’s letter dated 9th February were noted. A further letter dated 1st March, concerning a non-specific parish grant of £1,741.00 for the financial year 2012/13 was received.

143.4 Authorisation of cheques

G Davies – street cleaning	£172.42
Mrs J White – salary	£361.88
Mr J Kemble – salary	£50.80
Audlem Angels – cleaning of public toilets	£192.00
CVS Cheshire East – PAYE services October 2011 – March 2012	£144.00
Mrs J White – office expenditure October 31 – January 20	£78.89
Mrs J White – office expenditure January 20 – March 5	£52.15
Mr David Cooper – purchase of replacement lamps for public conveniences	£11.52
ChALC – Councillor training (H Jones)	£30.00
Cheshire Community Action – entry fee Community Pride competition	£35.00

Resolved: that the above accounts be approved for payment.

11.144 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

144.1 Spatial Planning Consultations: Mineral Issues/Town Strategies – No response to be made.

144.2 CEC Planning application:

12/0652N Steel framed building for storage of grain @ Fields Farm, Sandy Lane

Resolved: that attention be drawn to the size of the proposed building which suggested that use would be industrial rather than agricultural.

11.145 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Resolved: that Financial Regulations adopted on 10th January 2011 be rescinded; and that new Regulations circulated on the 29th February 2012 be adopted.

11.146 AUDLEM BURIAL COMMITTEE – Cllr Furber reported that stone for paupers' graves had been ordered using donated funds.

11.147 AUDLEM PUBLIC HALL – Cllr Seddon reported on proposals for improvements - these included additional emergency lighting, under-stage storage facility, new flooring to stage and a new condensing boiler.

11.148 ChALC CONSULTATION: REVIEW OF AREA MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

It was agreed that Cllrs Consterdine and Hill would discuss proposals with representatives of other parish councils and report back.

11.149 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED – There were no additional reports.

11.150 CORRESPONDENCE – The following items were received:

Cheshire East Council/ChALC – Bulletin: Standards & Member Conduct (Localism Bill 2011)

Clerks & Councils Direct – March 2012

Cheshire Community Action – Newsletter 2012

Mrs V Price – E mail dated 27th February with comments about traffic flows and parking in the village centre.

11.151 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING – No additional items.

11.152 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 2ND APRIL

The meeting closed at 9.34 pm.

_____ Chairman

_____ Date