

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
MONDAY 2ND MARCH 2015 AT 7.30PM
METHODIST MEETING ROOMS, SHROPSHIRE STREET, AUDLEM

PRESENT:

Cllr Johnson	Cllr Jones (Chair)	Cllr G Seddon	Cllr Furber
Cllr Siddorns	Cllr Langston	Cllr P Seddon	Cllr Down

In Attendance: K Dixon (Clerk)

Present: Mr T Bevington and Mr S Barnes of Cheshire Fire Service. Mr B Cartwright, Mr J Tilling, Mr B Consterdine, Mrs C Bloor, Mr I Bloor, Miss B Nixon.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Tim Bevington and Mr Steve Barnes of Cheshire Fire Service gave a presentation on the service's new strategy consultation. Mr Bevington spoke about how the service has worked to be more effective and efficient and about the key challenges and opportunities that it faces in the next 5 years. They highlighted new working practices, from regional and cross-service collaborations to new thinking on staffing and response tactics. Cllr Higham asked about the impact of being on a regional border, not just a county border and was assured that all services are mindful of the impact on other services when considering changes near borders and they have a good relationship with both Staffordshire and Shropshire. They spoke about the co-responder service that they supply in support of the ambulance service in Nantwich. Mr Barnes spoke about Audlem's fire station and how it is manned. Although it is a very quiet station, it acts as back up for both Nantwich and Malpas, its officers provide important community engagement and they are keen to recruit more personnel in the village. Cllr Jones spoke on behalf of the council stating that Audlem is keen to continue having a fire station in the village.

Mrs Celia Bloor spoke on behalf of ADAPT about the cycle rack proposals, reiterating that the costs of just installing one cycle rack was uneconomical and that Mrs Moseley who owns the land by the Fire Station entrance was concerned that a cycle rack might damage the tree there. She also informed that meeting that ADAPT are working on maps of fairly safe cycle routes from Audlem to local towns. The Clerk then read out the letter received from Mrs Bloor as Chair of the Audlem and District Historical Society which questioned the church's ownership of the cobbled area by the churchyard wall between the chemist's shop and the Buttermarket. Mr Bill Consterdine then asked to speak, commenting that the Church's ownership of the land had not been in question when he had been involved with the placement of the Millenium Stone and that such a cycle rack was not of interest to cyclists using the café and not the best position for the other shops either. Mr Consterdine also commented that he was delighted to see Cllr Siddorns back at council meetings following his illness. Miss Bryony Nixon, Chair of ADAS and Britain in Bloom committee spoke, saying that ADAS opposed the placing of a cycle rack in middle of the focal point of the village for the floral displays that help Audlem to be an awarding winning village. Cllr Jones inquired whether the option of having loops on the side wall of the Co-op store had been looked into. Mrs Bloor said that they would look into this idea. It was also agreed that the Parish Council would look into its archives for any evidence of ownership.

Mr Consterdine also asked that the Parish Council ensure that the forthcoming election be promoted to encourage new candidates to stand, the Clerk responded that she had been to Cheshire East's Election Briefing and that she was working with them to this end.



14.1 APOLOGIES

Cllr Hill - away

Cllr Christie – away

CEC Cllr Rachel Bailey had offered her apologies as well.

14.147 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

14.148 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was resolved to accept as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd February 2015.

14.149 MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that CEC have issued a TPO for the development site on the Land west of Audlem Road, Audlem (Little Heath).

14.150 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

150.1 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Jones reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee have been working on the policies for the Neighbourhood Plan. The policies have been reviewed by NP volunteers and also the CEC Planning and Development officers and are now being refined.

Cllr G Seddon reported that the housing questionnaire process had been completed. 45.9% of the questionnaires had been returned, which CEC representatives considered to be exceptionally high and the Steering Committee is very pleased with the level of response. Cllr G Seddon then reported on the analysis of the responses. 93% agreed with the vision and 82% favoured a limit on the size of any future developments of under 20 houses. Most respondents considered that 2-3 semi-detached houses were the most needed type of property. Cllr Siddons sought clarity on why the some aspects of the questionnaire were relevant in the light of the two developments being given planning permission. Cllr G Seddon and Cllr Higham explained that the Neighbourhood Plan can help influence the reserved matters on these developments as they are on greenfield sites, including the type of housing allowed, so it is important to have clear evidence of residents' views. Cllr G Seddon also reported that the questionnaire highlighted residents' concerns about roads, parking and other impacts on infrastructure that growth in the size of the village may have. The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee is this Wednesday 4th March and there is to be a workshop for all residents at the Public Hall on Thursday 12th March which is about to be advertised. The Committee is also looking to revisit Brine Leas Secondary School to talk to the Audlem pupils who attend the school again.

150.2 Planning Applications

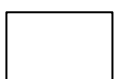
The following Planning Applications were reviewed.

(i) 15/0476C Construction of a single storey Timber Garage at The Old Barn Woodhouse Lane Buerton – No objections were raised.

(ii) 15/0775N Removal of Condition 3 relating to the Provision of Social Housing on Site of Thornton House, Emberton Place, Audlem – The Councillors discussed the application and unanimously resolved to object to the removal of condition 3 and strongly assert that the site of Thornton should remain entirely for social housing into the future.

(iii) 15/0903N Formal Request to Discharge the S106 requiring Education and Health Care Contributions on Planning Permission 14/3976N (22 Heathfield Road) – This application was discussed, Cllr Jones reported that Cllr Rachel Bailey intends to ask for this application to be 'called in'. The Councillors unanimously resolved to object to this application.

(iv) 15/0781N Amendments to planning permission 14/1716N - erection of detached garage at The Cottage, Mount Pleasant, Audlem, CW3 OBS - No objection was raised.



14.151 FINANCIAL MATTERS**151.1 Finance Report**

The financial information was reviewed. The Clerk reported that there had been no recent unexpected expenditure for the Public Toilets and that the monthly income over the winter months was consistently around £44. The expenditure against budget figures was examined and Cllr P Seddon asked about the cost centres with overspends. The Clerk explained that the Administration cost was over due to the purchase of an external hard drive for security of data, Bench Repairs had been under-budgeted and Public Toilets was over budget due to the large backdated electricity charges. The Clerk will report back to Councillors about the overspend in Repairs & Renewals once she had examined the detailed accounts.

151.2 Authorisation of cheques

1241	K Dixon	Salaries	£705.44
1242	G Davies	Salaries	£248.57
1243	K Dixon	Office Expenses	£30.29
1244	Audlem Methodist Church	Room Hire	£40.00
1245	Audlem Angels	Public Conveniences	£144.00
1246	Audlem Printers	General Printing	£6.00
1247	United Utilities	Public Conveniences	£85.25
1248	Delmar Press	Newsletter	£297.00
1249	K Dixon	Toilet Rolls	£41.40
1250	Cheshire Community Action	Competition Entry Fee	£35.00
1251	H Jones	meeting expenses	£13.10
1252	H Jones	NP expenses	£10.82
1253	Audlem Printers	NP printing	£116.00

Resolved: the above accounts were approved for payment.

151.3 Repayment of Neighbourhood Plan Grant

Cllr G Seddon reported that £1,405 remained unspent and will be repaid.

151.4 Lengthsman's contract

The Clerk reported that the Lengthsman's payrate will be increased to £7 per hour, backdated to October 2014 in line with his current contract. Cllr Jones and the Clerk are still in the process of completing their review and will report back at the next meeting.

14.152 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Communication from Mrs V Jones – Mrs Jones, who lives near the Co-op Store, had been in touch with Cllr Jones about the loose grid in the middle of Shropshire Street which is causing disturbance. The Clerk had reported this to Mark Bone at CEC Highways in the usual way but has recently learned that sadly Mr Bone has left the department due to ill health. Mr Bone has always been a most constructive and helpful member of CEC Highways and will be missed. CEC Highways staff have apologised that his email account had not been deleted and have assured the Clerk that Mr Phil Grocott will be dealing with Audlem's highways issues in future. She is awaiting his response on this matter. Cllr Siddons suggested that the Councillor with the highways portfolio as well as CEC Cllr Rachel Bailey be asked to intervene in ensuring that the outstanding issues with Highways are resolved.

(ii) Letter received from Ms C Bloor – see Public Forum

(iii) Email from Green Energy – this will be considered at the next meeting.

(iv) Letter received from United Utilities – Further to the letter sent by the Clerk about the impact of



the new housing developments on the sewage infrastructure, United Utilities responded to confirm that they were aware of the developments and were in dialogue with CEC. They have stipulated that the sewage system will only be available for foul water and all surface water must be disposed by systems put in place by the developers. Additionally they are undertaking an engineering survey of the infrastructure in Audlem. They refused to comment on any communications that they may have had with the developers. They also confirmed that the issue which had caused sewage overspill into Audlem Brook had been investigated and resolved. The Clerk is to seek confirmation that the recurring issue in the centre of the village has also been resolved.

14.153 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

153.1 Playing Field Complex Project

Cllr Furber reported that Mr Warburton of Buerton had written to him to ask when the Playing Field Complex was being taken over by the Parish Council, Cllr Furber stated that the correct process had to be carried out according to 12.1 of the Financial Regulations and that a premature decision would not be made. Cllr Furber also reported that they were still awaiting responses from Cheshire East on several matters. As part of due diligence, Cllr Furber asked that funding be made available for a valuation report to be carried out by a chartered surveyor. It was **resolved** that £500 would be allocated for this.

153.2 Grants Policy

This item was moved to next month's meeting.

153.3 Subscription review

The Clerk listed the current annual subscriptions (Cheshire Community Action £50, Cheshire Playing Field Association £18, Shropshire Union Canal Society £25, ChALC £512.30, Fields in Trust £50) and Councillors were asked to consider for the next meeting whether a subscription for CPRE might be worth taking on.

153.4 Community Pride Awards 2015

Cllr Down reported that 4 categories are to be entered: Community Spirit, Best Kept Village, Website and Newsletter. Local individuals and groups have been helping with the applications and they are on target for being submitted by their specific deadlines.

153.5 Annual Parish Meeting

The NPSC have agreed to use the Village Meeting as part of their consultation process but a date, possibly in April, has yet to be set.

14.154 COPTHORNE DRIVE BENCH

Cllr Higham reported that he had had 10 responses from residents in the area of the proposed bench. 9 out of the 10 were in support of a bench with 8 of those preferring the site on the village side of Copthorne Drive. Cllr Higham will now look at bench costs. The Clerk will communicate with CEC Highways.

14.155 REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS & COMMITTEES

1551 Highways & Transportation (Cllr Hill) – Cllr Hill sent a report on the meeting with CEC Highways which he attended with Cllr Christie and CEC Cllr Rachel Bailey. They met with Mr Kevin Skillings, the new Senior Road Safety Engineer at CEC, along with representatives from Newhall, Buerton and Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley Parish Councils, to discuss the A525. Mr Skillings tabled 2 maps of suggested improvements, one produced by a private company and one produced by CEC. Details of the Audlem section included extending the 30mph zone from the Weaver Bridge up towards Brown's Bank and traffic calming measures to ensure that vehicles slow down. Cllr Hill and Cllr



Christie asked that the area of Paddock Lane and Chapel End be given further thought as well. Mr Skillings assured councillors that the maps were a starting point and his department would review the matter and return to the table with a revised plan. He also indicated that revisions were likely to include a pedestrian crossing in the village. It was agreed that a representative of the Highways Dept be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to review this and other Highways issues including a review of the change in parking arrangements in the village centre which had been promised after 12 months.

155.2 Community (Cllr G Seddon) – Nothing to report.

(i) Community Projects Committee – Nothing to report.

(ii) Public Hall – including APHax – The next grant application process has been completed and the outcome should be known in May/June 2015.

(iii) Audlem Burial Committee - Nothing to report.

155.3 Youth & Education (Cllr Higham) – Nothing to report.

155.4 Law & Order (Cllr Furber) – Nothing to report.

155.5 Local Tourism & Business (Cllr Langston) – Cllr Langston reported that the Canal was fully open again and that the plans for the Music Festival are going well. Cllr Langston mentioned that Audlem Pine was closed, Miss B Nixon (ADAS) reported that the closure is temporary whilst the premises is refurbished. Cllr Langston asked Ms Nixon about the trellis at the corner of Tollgate Drive and Whitchurch Road; she responded that ADAS intended to remove the old shrub and trellis and replace it with a flowering cherry. The ADAS/Britain in Bloom team will be carrying out gardening work in the village, including this, in the next month.

155.6 Heritage & Localism (Cllr Higham) – currently covered by Neighbourhood Plan

155.7 Wildlife & Ecology (Cllr Down) – Nothing to report.

155.8 Health (Cllr Jones) – The next meeting is on 3rd March.

155.9 Communications (Cllr P Seddon) – Nothing to report.

155.10 Access & Inclusion (Cllr Christie) – Cllr Higham reported that the ADCA driving scheme has transported 96 people since it started last April, a significant increase on previous levels, however they continue to seek more drivers. There are 20 people attending the Day Club and a similar number attend the Coffee Club. Cllr Higham reported that the High Sherriff's visit in February had been a most successful occasion. Cllr G Seddon reported that he had been invited, in the Chair's absence, to the Audlem Pantomime which was a most successful production and enjoyed by the audience of all ages. The cast and production team were to be congratulated on their excellent efforts.

155.11 Devolved Services (Cllr Siddorns) – Nothing further to report (see 14.153.1):

(i) Public Conveniences – Nothing to report.

155.12 ADAPT (Cllr Johnson) – Cllr Johnson reported that the Heat Pump talk had been delivered and the ADAPT team are working on the next raft of events; he will forward this diary of events once it has been confirmed.

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

155.14 Street Lighting (Cllr Langston) – Cllr Langston reported that 2 issues had arisen. The street light in Stafford Street, damaged by a passing high-sided vehicle, had been repaired by CEC. A second street light had fallen down in Little Heath and Cllr Langston is pursuing the issue with CEC as he suspects that it had fallen over due to corrosion rather than impact by a vehicle.

14.156 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED

The Clerk reported on the Election Briefing that she attended at CEC's Sandbach offices. Current councillors, and any potential candidates, should submit their nomination forms through the Clerk by 26th March. The Clerk will then deliver them in person to the Elections Team at the CEC offices in Sandbach by the end of the month. The forms cannot be filled out before 9th March. The Clerk will distribute forms to councillors and ensure that the election and nomination process is promoted in



the village to attract other prospective candidates.

14.157 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

- Leader Programme – awaiting CEC project
- FOI and H&S policies
- Grant Policy
- CPRE Membership
- Highways

14.158 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 13th APRIL 2015

CHAIRMAN _____

Date _____

UNCONFIRMED

