

## AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 13 May 2013 at Thornton House, Audlem at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Cllr K Down                      Cllr FM Christie                      Cllr R Furber  
                 Cllr C Loweth                      Cllr P Seddon                      Cllr G Seddon  
                 Cllr M Hill                              Cllr D Higham                      Cllr P Johnson

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

**Also Present:** Mr J Tilling, Mr B Cartwright, Mr B Consterdine

- 13.01 APOLOGIES Received and accepted from Cllr Siddorns, Cllr Jones and Cllr Langston.
- 13.02 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN Retiring Chairman Cllr Down proposed Cllr Johnson as new chairman and his nomination was seconded by Cllr Christie. No other proposals were made. His appointment was unanimously agreed.
- 13.03 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN Cllr Christie proposed Cllr Jones as new vice-chairman and her nomination was seconded by Cllr Down. No other proposals were made. Her appointment was unanimously agreed.
- 13.04 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – No new declarations were made, Cllr Furber had previously declared an interest in item 13.9.1
- 13.05 APPOINTMENTS – the following appointments were made:  
Highways: Cllr Hill, Cllr Siddorns(subject to his approval), Cllr G Seddon, Cllr Christie  
Community: Cllr G Seddon  
Youth & Community: Cllr Higham, Cllr Loweth  
Law & Order: Cllr Furber, Cllr Siddorns (subject to his approval)  
Local Tourism: Cllr Langston (subject to his approval)  
Planning: Cllr Johnson, Cllr Down, Cllr Christie, Cllr Hill, Cllr Jones, Cllr G Seddon  
Wildlife & Ecology: Cllr Down  
Health: Cllr Jones (subject to her approval)  
Communications: Cllr P Seddon  
Access & Inclusion: Cllr Christie  
Devolved Services: Cllr Siddorns ( subject to his approval)  
Allotments: Cllr Johnson  
Commons & Greens: Cllr Furber  
Street Lighting: Cllr Langston (subject to his approval)
- Public Hall Rep: Cllr Loweth  
Community Projects Committee Rep: Cllr Hill  
ADCA Rep: Cllr Christie  
Burial Committee Reps(4): Cllr Furber, Cllr Down, Cllr Jones (subject to her approval), Cllr Loweth  
Canal & River Trust User Forum Rep: Cllr Jones (subject to her approval)

PUBLIC FORUM - Mr Consterdine commented on the steady progress of the Parish Council since his retirement and that he looked forward to this continuing under Cllr Johnson's chairmanship.

13.06 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 11<sup>th</sup> April and 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013 were accepted as a correct record.

13.07 MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Higham enquired whether a planning application had been submitted relating to the Gladman proposed development, which, so far as the Council and clerk were aware, had not.

13.08 REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS & COMMITTEES

**8.1 Highways & Transportation** Cllr Hill reported that the next Nantwich LAP Highways meeting is on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Following a discussion, the following **resolution** was unanimously passed:

Audlem Parish Council wishes to see the prioritisation of a pinch point being created on the A525 Whitchurch Road at the canal bridge to increase pedestrian and road user safety.

Cllr Higham drew the council's attention to flooding at the bottom of Whitchurch Road on the western edge of the village, which occurred during the previous two days, had been investigated by United Utilities and also reported to CEC Highways.

**8.2 Community** Cllr G Seddon has drafted a letter to Scottish Power which will be circulated in due course.

**(i) Community Projects Committee** – Cllr Hill reported that the Committee is looking into the possibility of re-establishing the footpath along the old railway line. There was a discussion about establishing public rights of way and Mr Consterdine clarified historical details relating to the footpath between the playing fields and the canal towpath.

**8.3 Youth & Education** Cllr Higham reported that he attended the Scout and Guide Hall AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> May and was pleased to be able to report that currently 120 young people are members of the Scout and Guide's various groups and the hall enjoys a footfall of 250 people a week. He also reported having been in touch with the school about Superfast Broadband.

**8.4 Law & Order** Nothing to report

**8.5 Local Tourism & Business** Nothing to report

**8.6 Planning** Cllr Johnson reported that Cllr Jones had spoken on behalf of the Parish Council at the recent Cheshire East's Local Strategy consultation meeting. CEC suggested that the Parish Council raise a petition within the community. This petition has already been placed at Williams' Newsagents, the Co-op and the Post Office as well as being available on-line. Cllr Down reminded councillors that the deadline for submission of the petition is 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

Cllr Higham reported that he had received information about the Localism Act and community land from a meeting he attended on behalf of ADCA, which he passed to Cllr Johnson for the planning committee to look at.

Cllr Johnson stated that he wished the Parish Council to be the catalyst for an action group from within the village and to engage the community. Mr Cartwright assured the Parish Council that the website team would lend their support in any way they could. It was agreed that the Parish Council should also put pressure on Audlem's MP and other local MPs. It was noted that Stephen O'Brien's next surgery in Audlem is on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

The Clerk read out a letter received from Adrian Fisher of CEC's Spatial Planning team responding to the Parish Council's request for information on CEC's Local Plan's timescales. There was further

discussion on the other sites in Cheshire East and the Planning Group agreed to meet to progress the above issues.

**8.7 Wildlife & Ecology Nothing to report.**

**8.8 Health** Nothing to report.

(i) Dog Signage Quotes for signage have been sought.

**8.9 Communications** Cllr P Seddon reported that the Spring edition of the newsletter had now been published and Cllr Johnson asked that she pass on the council's thanks to Ms Nicholls for her hard work as the newsletter editor.

**8.10 Access & Inclusion** Cllr Christie reported that, because of the imminent closure of Thornton House, ADCA's Day Club will be moving to the Hankelow Methodist Hall. Cllr Christie also reported that Allan & Jo Brown, landlords of The Lord Combermere, have generously offered to host the Friday Coffee Mornings in the pub free of charge and ADCA will be able to supply their own cakes. The pub will supply coffees for £1.

**8.11 Devolved Services** Nothing to report.

**8.12 Allotments Committee** Cllr Johnson reported that local residents have been volunteering pieces of their own gardens as allotments for the group. There was a discussion about the Canal & River Trust and the possibility of a village orchard at Lock 8.

**8.13 Commons & Greens Committee** Nothing to report.

**8.14 Street Lighting** Nothing to report.

13.09 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

9.1 CEC Local Plan consultation

As reported in 13.8.6

9.2 To consider recent planning applications submitted to Cheshire East Council

The council raised no objections to either of the following planning applications

13/1541 retrospective application for boundary wall @ Swanbach Mill Farmhouse, Mill Lane, Audlem

13/1364N Extension to form kitchen/dining & conversion of store to office @ 1, Sunnyside, Paddock Lane, Audlem

13.10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

10.1 To receive RFO's report.

Information on the final accounts, the public conveniences and the new budget was received.

10.2 Draft final accounts 2012/13

The final accounts for the year 2012/13 were received and discussed.

Resolved unanimously: to approve the final accounts for submission to the external auditors.

Resolved unanimously: to approve the signing of the Governance Statement for the final accounts.

10.3 Asset inspections 2012/13

The RFO explained the asset register, in particular the Buttermarket and its rebuild cost vs actual value due to it not being a saleable asset.

10.4 Asset Register/Risk Register

The updated Asset Register and Risk Register were received from the RFO and Clerk.

Resolved: to accept the Asset Register for 2013

Resolved: to accept the Risk Register for 2013

**Recommended: that the updated Asset Register and Risk Register be approved.**

10.5 Authorisation of cheques

K Dixon - monthly salary	£303.26
G Davies – monthly salary	£200.80
J Kemble – monthly salary	£50.80

Audlem Angels – public toilets April	£156.00
Delmar Press – Spring Newsletter	£420.00
Zurich Municipal – Insurance	£856.66

**Resolved: the above accounts were approved for payment.**

10.6 Authorised donations paid

Audlem Festival Committee	£1,250.00
Audlem Carnival Committee	£500.00
Audlem Scouts (C Colgan) – Donation for Camping Equipment	£443.53

10.7 Authorisation of Cheques issued prior to 13.5.13

Cheshire Community Action – entry fee	£35.00
M Hill - Toilet supplies	£27.73
CVS – payroll fee	£152.00

**Resolved: the above accounts were approved retrospectively.**

10.8 To Note the Receipt of the Following:

Council Tax Support Grant	£2,633.00
Precept	£18,764.50
CEC	£1,150.00

10.9 Council Tax Support Grant Ringfencing

The Clerk recommended that the sum of £2,633 received as a Council Tax Support Grant be ringfenced so that it may be used to discount the precept for 2014/15.

10.10 Audlem Football Club Request

The Council received a letter from Audlem Football Club, but until a Balance Sheet has been received the councilors felt unable to progress the request for funding.

Resolved unanimously: to reserve making a decision on funding Audlem Football Club until a Balance Sheet has been received.

10.11 Request for funding for village bunting

The Council had received a letter requesting funding for the flags and bunting that decorate the village. There was unanimous agreement to pay the expected £400 costs.

**13.11 SUPERFAST BROADBAND**

The registration of properties rose to 52% by 30<sup>th</sup> April and has continued to rise after this date (50+ registrations received since). Letters of support were also sent to the consultants Grey Sky by local businesses. It is hoped that it will be clear by the end of the summer whether Audlem is part of the 90% rollout but the village is now also well-placed should it not be. Cllr G Seddon thanked all those councilors who had helped with letter delivery and also Buerton and Hankelow Parish Councils. Special thanks were extended to John Tilling and Geoff Smethurst for all their hard work in this project.

**13.12 FORMATION OF WORKING GROUPS FOR POSSIBLE FUNDING PROJECTS**

Playing Field – Cllr Hill, Cllr Christie, Cllr Siddorns, as previously agreed, with the addition of Cllr Down.

Public Hall Extension – as there is already a public group working on this project, it was agreed that the Parish Council should appoint a single representative to the group. It was agreed that this representative should be a councillor who is not a member of the Public Hall Committee or other interested party such as ADCA. The Parish Council decided that Cllr Siddorns should be asked to

fulfill this role on his return.

Allotments & Recreation Equipment – in light of recent developments, Cllr Johnson confirmed that the allotment group was not looking for funding at present.

13.13 PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Hill had previously circulated financial information on the costs of running the facility, which was discussed. It was agreed that the working group would progress the matter by talking to Cheshire East to collect further information, covering the playing field, the car park, tennis courts and surrounding land.

13.14 FUTURE MEETING VENUE

The Clerk confirmed that Thornton House would be available for the next meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Furber reported that the costs of using the Methodist Hall rooms would be £28 and £40 for the small and large rooms respectively and that neither are regularly used on Mondays.

13.15 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Nothing to report.

13.16 BURIAL COMMITTEE

There was nothing of note to report from the last meeting.

13.17 AUDLEM PUBLIC HALL

The AGM had been held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013, the committee was re-elected en bloc, with Roland Hall as vice-chairman. Geoff Stretch is to retire as chairman halfway through the year and Geoff and Olive Stretch are to retire from cleaning duties. Work in the next year has been agreed to include re-decoration, a new stage, re-sealing the floor and insulating the roof as well as the entrance extension.

13.18 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr Higham and Cllr Loweth attended New Councillor Training at ChALC

13.19 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

A letter from Wulvern Housing in response to the Parish Council's letter concerning services charges for Thornton House was read out and it was agreed that the letter be passed to Roger Millns of ADCA.

The Clerk reported that CEC's Highways Department had responded promptly to the Parish Council's request to clear up disposable signs after road repairs, though Cllr Furber reported that the clear up had not been as comprehensive as it could have been.

Letter of Thanks from Audlem Festival was read out.

13.20 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

Planning Group Report

Project Group Report

13.21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 10th JUNE

The meeting closed with thanks to Cllr Down for her excellent work as chairman of the Parish Council, led by Cllr Furber.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

UNCONFIRMED