

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2014 AT 7.30PM

METHODIST MEETING ROOMS, SHROPSHIRE STREET, AUDLEM

PRESENT:

Cllr Johnson	Cllr Jones (Chair)	Cllr G Seddon	Cllr Hill
Cllr Furber	Cllr Higham	Cllr P Seddon	Cllr Down
Cllr Langston	Cllr Christie		

In Attendance: K Dixon (Clerk)

Present: CEC Cllr Rachel Bailey, local residents.

PUBLIC FORUM

Ralph Warburton appealed to the Parish Council to take the opportunity to take ownership of the playing field, car park, playground & tennis courts, saying that villagers are willing to work with the Parish Council. Roy Plume spoke saying that the assets were fundamental to the village and its vibrancy and that being in control of this valuable piece of land was important even if costs did escalate. Rodney Cottrell voiced his confidence in the Parish Council being able to run the assets. Peter Morgan voiced concern about the nature of the ownership because insurance costs for some types of organisation would be much higher than for others.

Roland Hall urged the Parish Council to consider that the use of village facilities including these assets will evolve over the next 20 years.

14.93 APOLOGIES

Cllr Siddons – Illness

Cllr Down was delayed until 8.15pm

14.94 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Furber – 14.98.3(i)

14.95 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

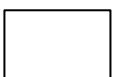
The minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2014 were unanimously approved.

14.96 MATTERS ARISING

CCA Community Pride Awards – Three awards were achieved: Audlem On-line again won the Best Village Website, The flower beds in front of Audlem Methodist Church won a Little Gem Award and Audlem as a whole again won the Best Village of its population size. Audlem was also successful at the North West Britain in Bloom Awards winning a Silver Gilt Medal, thanks to the hard work of ADAS/AiB and their volunteers. It was agreed that letters of thanks would be sent to the groups whose hard work was instrumental in the village's success.

14.97 TRANSFER OF ASSETS – this item was delayed until Cllr Down arrived at 8.15pm and was raised after 14.102

The councillors discussed the possibility of CEC transferring ownership of community assets (namely playing field, car park, playground and tennis courts off Cheshire Street) to the Parish Council. Cllr Langston raised the issue of councillor vulnerability should a Parish Council become bankrupt, Cllr G Seddon commented that he thought a clear and more accurate financial picture was required, the running of these facilities had far more serious implications than the running of the public toilets. Cllr Johnson stated that he saw it as an excellent opportunity for the village that should not be lightly



cast aside but the Parish Council should not be steamrollered into a quick decision, he advised caution as councillors are custodians of the villagers' money. Cllr P Seddon concurred with Cllr Johnson. It was suggested that the Parish Council could proceed in principle but the councillors need to satisfy themselves that it is the correct action to take by ensuring due diligence is carried out. Cllr Higham commented that he had always thought that the village should control these assets but he was wary of CEC's sudden change in attitude, becoming suddenly helpful on the matter. He also suggested that the Parish Council needed to be very careful, in today's litigious society, about protecting the individuals who become involved - trustees, councillors, volunteers, staff – from personal liability.

CEC Cllr Rachel Bailey then explained that CEC had become more helpful due to her pressure, CEC had not previously prioritised the work required to produce the information requested by Audlem Parish Council because they do not have an active asset transfer programme at present and therefore no staff solely allocated to such work, Cllr Higham offered his apologies and Cllr Jones thanked CEC Cllr Rachel Bailey for her input in progressing the process.

Cllr Langston then proposed the following: ***Audlem Parish Council agrees in principle to the concept of taking over the ownership of these assets*** (playing field, car park, playground and tennis courts) ***subject to due diligence***. Cllr Furber seconded the motion and it was ***resolved*** by majority (1 abstention).

There was then a discussion on the way forward. In light of Cllr Siddorns being unwell, Cllr Hill and Cllr Christie, as members of the working group, will lead the process of due diligence, in collaboration with the Clerk, and report back.

14.98 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

98.1 Neighbourhood Plan

(i) Report from the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee held its first meeting with John Heselwood from CCA attending to answer questions raised by the new committee. The Steering Committee is due to meet again next week. The Committee will be coming back to residents with recommendations before Christmas, a questionnaire covering Parish Plan and Neighbourhood Plan issues is to be used.

(ii) Administrative Support for the Steering Committee – to discuss and resolve whether the Parish Council will fund administrative support.

The Steering Committee asked whether there was a possibility of the Parish Council paying for some administration as this cannot be paid for from the grant funding and the task of collating the paperwork evidence will be considerable. The Steering Committee considered it prudent to ask for 150hrs of administration so therefore no more than £1,500. Cllr Jones reported that news had just been received that additional grant funding will be available between January and April but again this will not cover administrative support. ***Resolved: To provide a contingency fund for administrative costs for the Neighbourhood Plan up to £1,500*** (1 abstention)

(ii) Summer Competition

Cllr Jones reported that the judging had taken place and a prizegiving was being organised. Although there had not been as many entries as hoped, the judges commented on their high quality.

98.2 Planning Application

(i) 14/4921N Ancillary residential accommodation within single storey outbuilding at 74, Cheshire Street, Audlem, CW3 0HE

The planning documents were examined and councillors asked that guidance be sought from CEC planning department regarding restrictions on usage to residential only and measures to ensure suitable standards of building materials and construction are utilised.



(ii) 14/3976N Outline application for erection of up to 26 dwellings, access and open space at 22 Heathfield Road, Audlem

Cllr G Seddon reported that the Planning Group has been meeting again and is in the process of drawing up a statement against the application for the meeting of the Southern Planning Committee on 19th November. The group is awaiting the Planning Officer's report which will be published on 12th November as the statement needs to refer to this report. Statements will be made on 19th November on behalf Audlem Parish Council, the Residents' Association, Audlem Medical Practice and the Village Design Statement group.

98.3 Planning Appeals

(i) Land to the West of Audlem Road

Cllr Jones reported that no outcome has been reported.

(ii) Land to the East of 22 Heathfield Road

Cllr Jones reported that, should the latest application be refused, the Appeal would be likely to be heard early in the New Year.

14.99 FINANCIAL MATTERS

99.1 Finance Report

Cllr Jones reported that John Kemble had decided to retire as Responsible Finance Officer. Cllr Langston proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Kemble for his years of dedication and hard work.

99.2 Cheque Signatories

It was agreed that the RFO's name be removed from the list of cheque signatories for all of the Parish Council's bank accounts.

99.3 Authorisation of cheques

K Dixon	Salaries	£306.28
J Kemble	Salaries	£50.81
G Davies	Salaries	£391.58
K Dixon	Office Expenses	£13.29
Audlem Angels	Public Conveniences	£144.00
Audlem Methodist Church	Room Hire	£136.00
H Jones	Expenses	£16.97
K Dixon	NP Expenses (Map)	£79.95
Npower	Public Conveniences	£155.36
PHS Group	Public Conveniences	£141.34
D Espley	Safety Inspection of Playground	£40.00
K Dixon	Public Conveniences (Toilet Rolls)	£41.40

Resolved: the above accounts were approved for payment.

99.4 Authorisation of Cheque issued prior to the meeting

HMRC	Salaries	£268.00
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Resolved: the above account was approved for payment retrospectively.

14.100 COPTHORNE DRIVE BENCH

Cllr Higham reported on his recent meeting with residents of Copthorne Drive. It was felt that the initial proposed location for a bench was not acceptable due to visibility issues and the residents asked that the Parish Council consider 2 alternative locations, one by Matthews Way or if this is not



viable, perhaps the land on the village side of the junction with Copthorne Drive. It was further requested that should any behaviour issues arise the bench will be removed.

14.101 CORRESPONDENCE

Peter Silvester wrote regarding the installation of shutters at the Co-op store, but they are to be internally mounted so not a conservation matter.

Information about the CCA AGM had been received.

HS2 Letter from Michael Jones of CEC had been received by Cllr Jones.

14.102 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

102.1 Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk reported that there had been no applications and that in accordance with regulations she would continue to advertise the vacancy and asked that councillors consider whether they are aware of individuals who might be approached for co-option. Cllr G Seddon commented on this matter stating that it was disappointing that there had been no applicants and whether the attitude towards parish councillors, who are all volunteers, from some residents might have had an impact.

102.2 List of Meeting Dates for 2015

The Clerk circulated a list of dates, explaining that they followed the general policy of falling on the first Monday of the month when this is not a bank holiday, however in June and July the meetings are moved back to more evenly distribute them as there is no August meeting. Councillors were asked to consider the list and forward their comments, if any, to the Clerk.

102.3 Review of ChALC and east Cheshire Councils Draft Charter

It was agreed that the Clerk will collate councillors' written comments and forward to ChALC by 28th November 2014.

14.103 REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS & COMMITTEES

103.1 Highways & Transportation (Cllr Hill) – No meeting.

(i) Road Safety – The Clerk will follow up with Cllr Rachel Bailey regarding the Pedestrian crossing idea for the centre of the village. The footpaths on Stafford Street are being resurfaced whilst the A525 is closed at Woore.

103.2 Community (Cllr G Seddon) – Cllr G Seddon reported that United Utilities have been working on the pumping station by The Shroppie Fly to resolve the flooding issue. Cheshire East have been working on the playing field and the field barriers have been replaced and repaired as requested and they have also been clearing the undergrowth around the car park.

(i) Community Projects Committee – No meeting

(ii) Public Hall – It was reported that the first tranche of lottery funding has been received and the planning application is now proceeding, it was noted that the transfer of the land to the rear of the Hall will be made once there is planning consent.

(iii) Audlem Burial Committee – Cllr Furber reported that the Burial Committee will not be asking for a precept this year.

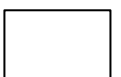
103.3 Youth & Education (Cllr Higham) – Cllr Higham reported that he is meeting Ms Jewitt (the Headteacher of Audlem St James) and Mrs Furber, the Chair of Governors, later this week.

103.4 Law & Order (Cllr Furber) – Cllr Siddons had circulated information from the latest meeting.

103.5 Local Tourism & Business (Cllr Langston) – Cllr Langston asked that the letter from last year be sent again to CRT with regard to the lack of winter moorings in Audlem.

103.6 Heritage & Localism (Cllr Higham) – covered by Neighbourhood Plan.

103.7 Wildlife & Ecology (Cllr Down) – The next meeting is on 12th November.



103.8 Health (Cllr Jones) – Cllr Jones will circulate the minutes once they are published, the positive comments that are made in the community were discussed and it was agreed that the surgery should be encouraged to give people the opportunity to compliment the surgery.

103.9 Communications (Cllr P Seddon) – The latest Newsletter has been issued.

103.10 Access & Inclusion (Cllr Christie) – Thornton House complex is progressing well and the first residents are scheduled to move in on 17th November, the unveiling of the plaque was discussed. ADCA still need a larger pool of drivers and the options available for advertising for drivers were discussed.

103.11 Devolved Services (Cllr Siddons) – To receive reports, and:

(i)Public Conveniences – Cllr Hill reported that the door on the Ladies toilet has been repaired and a soap dispenser has been put in.

103.12 ADAPT (Cllr Johnson) – The next meeting is on Wednesday.

103.13 Commons & Greens Committee (Cllr Furber) – The contractor for the fencing has been appointed.

103.14 Street Lighting (Cllr Langston) – No issues at present.

14.104 **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Cllr Higham reported on a CRT meeting, noting that Audlem's canal will be closed from 2nd to 20th February 2015 for repairs at Moss Hall and Adderley and that the weather pattern had caused havoc with the grass-cutting, total costs for grass cutting had amounted to £750,000.

Cllr Higham reported on a meeting on Fracking, there were 3 speakers and most notable was the difference in depth of the fracking layer in the UK (1.2km) and that in the USA (200m).

Cllr Hill reported on a local door to door sales representative selling solar panels in the area using false information about uptake by local residents.

14.105 **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING**

ADAPT – cycle racks

Pedestrian Crossings

Conservation Area

14.106 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 1st DECEMBER 2014**

DATE OF FINANCE MEETING – THURSDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2014

CHAIRMAN _____

Date _____

