

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
MONDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.30PM
METHODIST MEETING ROOMS, SHROPSHIRE STREET, AUDLEM

PRESENT:

Cllr Siddorns	Cllr Jones (Chair)	Cllr Christie	Cllr Thompson
Cllr G Seddon	Cllr Hill	Cllr P Seddon	Cllr Parsons
Cllr Consterdine			

Attending: Mrs K Dixon (Clerk), CEC Cllr Rachel Bailey, Mr B Bugeja, Mr B Cartwright (AOL), Mr A Jones (AOL), Mr J Tilling, Mr R Hall, Mr J Stretch, Dr R Waters, Mr H Waters, Mrs S Smith.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr B Cartwright raised the issue of the lack of a post office in the village and suggested an increase in media pressure may help the process. Cllr Jones reported that a meeting with Mr Richard Hall of The Post Office was arranged for the next day and that the Parish Council continues to press for a resolution and encourages Audlem's MP and Ward Councillor to lend their support.

Dr Waters spoke about the problems that the residents of School Lane have been having with parking in the road. Issues include access to entrances being blocked and the access along the road for larger vehicles, including ambulances visiting the nursing home. Damage to property and threatening behavior towards individual residents was also mentioned, and incidents have been reported to the Police. The residents wish to seek the support of the Parish Council in their efforts to find a solution. Cllr Rachel Bailey commented that before any parking restrictions could be put in place, a review would have to be carried out. She invited Dr Waters to liaise with her direct and she would pass the details of the relevant Highways officer to the Clerk. The Council resolved to support residents by encouraging CEC Highways to make a review of the parking situation in School Lane.

16.62 APOLOGIES

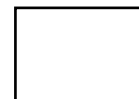
Apologies were received from Cllr Down, Cllr Higham and Cllr Johnson, all due to family commitments and these were accepted. Cllr Consterdine had informed the meeting that he would be delayed.

16.63 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Cllrs Jones, P Seddon, Parsons & G Seddon all reconfirmed their interest in 16.67.3 (ii)16.64 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 5th September 2016 were accepted as a correct record and Councillors resolved to confirm the resolutions therein.

16.65 APHAx

Mr Roland Hall spoke on behalf of the APHAx committee. He explained the challenges that they have had with the tendering process when all 5 came in above budget, how they have been successful in both reducing the price and securing an increase in funding from the Big



Lottery to cover the difference. Research into the Fitness Club aspect of the project is going well and the next round of fundraising is scheduled to coincide with the building. It is anticipated that the work will commence late October/Early November and it is a 44 week programme so should be completed in September 2017.

16.66 MATTERS ARISING

- (i) Bus Shelter on Whitchurch Road – The Clerk is awaiting information from CEC Highways on the site requirements (footpath dimensions, road visibility etc) for a bus shelter so that it can be determined whether the site would be feasible for a shelter.
- (ii) Bench at Emberton Place – This also awaits information about bus stop specification.
- (iii) 22 Heathfield Road – The Clerk reported that Mr Hockenhill had responded to the letter sent and has arranged for a contractor to attend to the garden.

16.67 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

67.1 Local Plan & Planning Appeals

Cllr Rachel Bailey reported that the Local Plan Examination was in the middle of 6 weeks of public hearings and good progress was being made so far. There is no definite date for its conclusion so far. Cllr G Seddon asked what had happened regarding the Green Gap, Cllr Bailey responded that CEC had made its case and an outcome is awaited. Cllr Bailey also commented that CEC and Suffolk County Council were due at the Supreme Court in the new year to seek legal protection for local planning powers and prevent building developers riding 'roughshod' over local development policies which are supported by the local communities.

67.2 Meeting with Highways Officer re: Bird's Nest

Cllr G Seddon and Cllr Hill met on site with Paul Hurdus and his colleague from CEC to discuss the proposed path along Little Heath Green from the Bird's Nest site. Following the meeting, Mr Hurdus confirmed by email that the path was not acceptable and that the developer would be compelled to revise their plans. Since the meeting, the planning application has been refused at the recommendation of the Planning Officer who wrote the report and was not submitted to the Southern Planning Committee for consideration as originally expected. The Officer's Report cited a number of reasons including the application being contrary to policies within the Audlem Neighbourhood Plan (ANP) and also the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

67.3 Planning Applications

It was agreed that the Planning working group would consider a response on behalf of the Parish Council on the Technical Consultation of Neighbourhood Planning issued by the government.

- (i) The application 16/4536N was discussed and Councillors resolved to raise no objection. The timescales for decisions and the withdrawal of the application 16/2146N were noted.

(i) 16/4536N	36, WINDMILL DRIVE, AUDLEM, CW3 0BE	Erection of a single storey glazed canopy	Decision Date 12/10/2016	Resolved: No objection
16/4198N	The Mount, MILL LANE, AUDLEM, CW3 0AY	Erection of single story timber garage and carport. Demolish existing garage and landscape to garden	No Objection	Awaiting Decision



16/1131N	Land at Little Heath, Audlem Road, Audlem CW3 0HE	Reserved Matters - APPEARANCE, LANDSCAPING, LAYOUT AND SCALE OF OUTLINE PERMISSION FOR UP TO 120 DWELLINGS	Objections - document submitted	Decision Date 19/10/16
(ii) 16/0725N	Land At, MOORSFIELD AVENUE, AUDLEM	Outline application for development for up to 87 dwellings, incorporating self-build plots, open space provision, landscaping and access	OBJECTION - document submitted	Decision Date 19/10/16
16/3040N	Birds Nest, AUDLEM ROAD, AUDLEM, CW3 0HF	Proposed Housing Development on Land adjacent Birds Nest for 20 dwellings	Objection - document submitted	REFUSED
16/2146N	Rose Cottage, Damson Lane, Coxbank, Audlem. CW3 0EU	Conversion of existing detached garage/workshop to form a detached two bedroomed house and new garage/workshop	Concerns submitted - lack of compliance with previous conditions	Application Withdrawn

16.68 FINANCIAL MATTERS

68.1 Finance Report

The half year audit is in progress. It was reported that income from the toilets was slightly ahead of budget.

68.2 Payments Made

extra energy	Public Conveniences	£	23.91
then media	Web services	£	24.10

Resolved: the above accounts were approved for payment retrospectively.

68.3 Authorisation of cheques

Resolved: the following accounts were approved for payment

1540	K Dixon	salaries	£	501.10
1541	G Davies	street cleaning	£	500.40
1542	K Dixon	Office Expenses	£	24.53
1544	Audlem Methodist Church	Room Hire	£	45.00
1545	Royal British Legion	Wreath (Section137)	£	50.00
1546	K Dixon	Public Conveniences	£	48.00

Additionally, the Clerk was given authority to make a payment to 3 Counties Cleaning on receipt of their monthly invoice for cleaning the Public Conveniences.

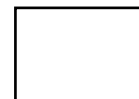
68.4 Receipts

The following receipts were noted:

TOILETS	HONESTY BOX INCOME	£49.29
SANTANDER BANK	INTEREST	£23.76
TOILETS	HONESTY BOX INCOME	£103.31

16.69 POST OFFICE (see also Public Forum)

The ongoing lack of a Post Office in the village was discussed including the criteria for closing Post Offices and contrasts between urban and rural settings. Cllrs Johnson and G Seddon as business and community Councillors respectively have been investigating the set up in



Delamere of an Outreach Post Office service. The meeting tomorrow with Mr Richard Hall of The Post Office will give Councillors the opportunity to strongly emphasise their stance on the lack of resolution of the issue by The Post Office, ask questions about the business models offered to interested parties in relation to the rural nature of the village and stress the importance of Post Office services to different sectors of rural communities. A mobile PO option should also be explored. It was agreed that the Parish Council will also continue to press Royal Mail on the matter of reinstating the Sorting Office.

16.70 PLAYING FIELD COMPLEX

A letter recently received from CEC Asset Transfer was read out. This included a new proposal that would see Fields in Trust being involved in the lease of the playing field which would secure its continuing use as a community open space irrespective of any changes in the views of either the landlord or the tenant. The Car Park, which cannot be included in a Fields in Trust scenario, is offered under a separate 30 year lease along with the play area. It was agreed that a meeting with CEC representatives should be set up as soon as possible. Further to Cllr Hill's statement at the last meeting, ChALC had been consulted and the advice given was that an internal review with suggestions for lessons learned was the appropriate way forward. Accordingly, Cllrs Thompson and Parsons, as the newest and therefore least involved Councillors, were asked to review Cllr Hill's paper in conjunction with the minutes of council meetings. They have carried out this review and were keen to clarify that this is not a witch hunt but will be treated in a wholly positive way. Their initial confidential draft report will be released to Councillors in the morning.

16.70 PARISH PATHS

A meeting is being set up for 20th October to include representatives from Audlem Ramblers Society. Cllr Siddorns asked about the checking of accessibility of paths at present. The Public Rights of Way team at CEC are responsible for the main paths and have a schedule of cutting which varies from path to path. If accessibility is an issue they will investigate. Cllr Jones explained for the benefit of the members of the public present about the requirement of all paths to be recorded by 1 January 2026.

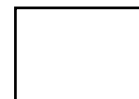
16.71 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

72.1 Memorial Plaque

Cllr Hill outlined the quotes that he had obtained and the council resolved to accept the quote from Oxleys for a granite plaque, fitted and maintained for £170.

72.2 Buttermarket

The Clerk reported that a Structural Engineer (Tim Mallinson of Hodgkinson Mallinson Ltd, Chester) had been instructed and made a report on the condition of the Buttermarket. This was shared with the CEC Conservation Officer. The Buttermarket was cordoned off whilst the inspection was awaited and once the Structural Engineer had inspected it, the cordon was removed as he deemed that there was no immediate risk. Further to the report, which recommended that remedial repairs be made, a stone mason has made recommendations for the repair to the column. These have been forwarded to the Conservation Officer and her response is awaited. The specification for the planned repairs to the roof of the Buttermarket have now been approved by the Conservation Officer and will not require listed building consent. It is anticipated that the roof repairs will be carried out in the next couple of months when weather permits.



72.3 Longhill Moss

(i) The Clerk reported that she had 2 quotes for the replacement fencing. However, the tenant had indicated to Cllr Hill that he would carry out the work if the Parish Council paid for the timber posts. This will be investigated by the Clerk who will also check the terms of the lease with regard to responsibility for fencing.

(ii) Wooded Area – A letter from Mr Kington who lives near Longhill Moss was read out and there was a discussion about the nature of the site and the importance of the Moss as a wildlife habitat. The matter of access and maintenance has been raised by Mr C Knibbs. It was agreed more information was required and former Parish Councillor Richard Furber would be contacted as well as Cheshire Wildlife Trust's Dr Rachel Giles. Cllr Christie left the meeting.

73.4 Training

Councillors were asked to indicate their availability for Asset Transfer training in conjunction with Frodsham Town Council and CCA via the weblink that had been sent round.

A date for the Planning training with Councillors from Tattenhall will be circulated.

The Chair and the Clerk are discussing with ChALC some community engagement training for all Councillors.

72.5 Teenshelter

The Clerk reported that CEC had now decided that they were unwilling to pay for this. The Clerk has asked CEC to provide a quote for moving it without delay as the building is due to start shortly.

72.6 Finance Meeting date

This will be arranged for November.

16.72 **CORRESPONDENCE**

School Lane – Mr Latham & Mr Waters - see Public Forum.

Cheshire Playing Field Association – AGM notice was noted.

ADAPT – have asked to use the Buttermarket for their annual apple pressing. Councillors resolved to give consent for this.

CRT initiative – Cllr Jones has communicated with Mr Farmer about the initiative and where it is hoped it will lead. Cllr Siddorns asked that the poor state of the towpath near Bagley Lane bridge be reported to CRT again, Cllr Higham will be asked to raise this at the next forum. Cllr Jones reported that a Green Flag Award is being applied for and Parish Council support is being sought. There will be a canal closure after Christmas for essential repairs.

ChALC – AGM is to be held on 20th October.

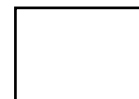
CCA Awards – Cllrs G Seddon, Thompson, P Seddon & Down will be attending on 13th October.

CEC Street Trading Consultation – it was agreed to not comment as it was not relevant to the village; Cllr Siddorns asked if this was on the CEC website and commented that many consultations are not well publicised to the public by CEC.

16.73 **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY** - To receive reports on actions required.

73.1 Highways & Transportation – It was reported that the drain on Cheshire Street just south of Daisybank Crescent which collapsed previously is sinking again. Councillors agreed that this should be reported to United Utilities without delay.

It was agreed to ask CEC when the gullies in Audlem would be cleared especially those outside the Co-op, at Coxbank/Bagley Lane and Churchfields.



The review of Hatherton Bends was not reported about at the recent Hatherton & Walgherton Parish Council Meeting as had been promised. The Clerk will follow this up with CEC Cllr Janet Clowes.

73.2 Community – It had been suggested by a resident that the poor mobile phone coverage in the centre of the village would be improved if a mast was placed on the Fire Station. The Clerk will write to Cheshire Fire Service to enquire whether this would be feasible. The delays in the SFBB rollout to Buerton and outlying areas in the Parish were discussed. It was agreed to contact Connecting Cheshire for an update.

73.3 Youth & Education – No report.

73.4 Law & Order – No report.

73.5 Local Tourism & Business

(i) Tourism Group – Mr Cartwright will advise Cllr Johnson once a meeting date has been confirmed.

73.6 Heritage & Localism – No report.

73.7 Wildlife & Ecology

(i) Conservation Area Working Group – an initial meeting is being arranged for 18 October, led by Cllr Down. The idea is to draw up an initial plan of light touch maintenance.

73.8 Health – Cllr Jones reported that at the last PPG meeting the level of diesel pollution in the village centre was raised. Enquiries will be made as to whether Cheshire East Council carry out such surveys and hold any data, and, if not, a survey will be requested. The new method for ordering repeat prescriptions was discussed and Cllr Jones will take back Councillors' concerns about accessibility for the elderly and infirm.

73.9 Communications – The deadline for the next newsletter is 14th October and progress is being made on resolving the distribution issue.

73.10 Access & Inclusion – No report.

73.11 Devolved Services – see 16.70

73.12 ADAPT – it is hoped a meeting with CEC about the 20mph zone can be made this month.

73.13 Commons & Greens Committee – see 16.72.3

73.14 Street Lighting – Cllr Consterdine reported that there were 2 street lights out on Shropshire Street, 2 out on Cheshire Street near Little Heath and 2 out in Broadways. The Clerk will ensure that these are reported using the CEC online reporting system which is available to members of the public to use.

16.74 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED

Meeting with CRT – Cllrs Jones & Higham (report already circulated to Councillors)

16.75 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

Clerk's Role & Salary

Meeting Dates for 2017, Finance Meeting Date, internal training dates.

16.76 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2016

CHAIRMAN _____

Date _____

