

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7.30PM

METHODIST MEETING ROOMS, SHROPSHIRE STREET, AUDLEM

PRESENT:

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

In Attendance: K Dixon (Clerk)

Present: Mr B Cartwright (AOL), Mr R Hall & Mr J Stretch (APHAx)

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Roland Hall spoke in support of the APHAx project and of its origins in the first Audlem Parish Plan in 2005 and progress from then on. He reminded the Parish Council of the community support for the Annexe, that funding had been received from the Lottery Reaching Communities Building Fund and that the Public Hall is contributing from its own reserves for this community initiative. £30,000 is being sought from local fundraising initiatives and the APHAx committee asked for the Parish Council to continue its support with a contribution of £20,000.

15.47 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllrs Tilling and Johnson and CEC Cllr Rachel Bailey were received and accepted.

15.48 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - None

15.49 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record with the following amendment:

15.41.1 Wildlife & Ecology Cllr Down (not Cllr Consterdine)

15.50 MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk commented that little progress had been made with items that involve input from Cheshire East as she had had little or no response from any departments which she had contacted during the summer holiday period. It was agreed that it may be appropriate to write to CEC Cllr Rachel Bailey should this trend continue.

15.51 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

51.1 Neighbourhood Plan

The consultation period for the Audlem Neighbourhood Plan finishes on 21st September. There are paper copies available in the village and the location of these has been publicized. There was a discussion about the housing supply figures contained in the revised Cheshire East Local Plan and how this may impact on the figure expected in Audlem.



51.2 Planning Applications

(i) 15/3257N Land Adjacent to Bird's Nest, Audlem Rd, Little Heath, Audlem.

Outline application for a housing development for 21 dwellings with access

The initial draft response drawn up by the Planning Working Group was discussed and was commended by Cllr Consterdine. The Parish Council then unanimously resolved to object to the application as the site is outside the settlement boundary, the application is contrary to the policies in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and on various other material grounds. Comments were also made about historical evidence of the water table being very high in the locality of the site. It was agreed that the Planning Working Group would finalise the response and circulate to the other councillors prior to sending it to CEC. The enabling project aspect of the application was also discussed, including it being for an initiative at Highfields which is outside the Parish.

(ii) 15/3923N Hollyhouse, 21, STAFFORD STREET, AUDLEM.

Listed Building Consent to re-position the existing brick entrance piers and associated brick walling as granted under 13/0242N

It was agreed that a site visit was required and therefore the Planning Working Group would visit the site and discuss the application. Their recommendation will be circulated to the other councillors before submission.

(iii) 15/3686N 25 Stafford Street, Audlem.

Installation of a 4,000 litre underground Calor Gas tank to serve multiple dwellings.

The application was discussed, concerns were raised about the location of the tank in relation to health and safety. It was agreed that Cllr Higham would look at the HSE advice on such tanks and pass on his findings on to the Planning Working Group to inform them appropriately for a site visit. It was also agreed to ask for CEC Highways' opinion on the application with regard to access.

(iv) 15/3768N Willow Farm, Bunsley Bank, Audlem.

Proposed first floor extension to form bedroom and ensuite and alterations

No objections were raised.

51.3 Fracking Licence Areas

Cllr Jones reported that she had asked for further information on the Fracking Licencing from Audlem's ward councillor but had been informed that this is a matter for MPs. It was agreed to write to Audlem's MP Antoinette Sandbach requesting information on the matter.

15.52 FINANCIAL MATTERS

52.1 Finance Report

(i) Conservation Fence Repairs – The council resolved to contract Tony Seabridge to carry out the work (£230).

(ii) CCTV Renewal – The council resolved to, subject to scrutiny of the technical detail, contract Wistonia Electrical & Security to carry out the work (£2241 + VAT).

(iii) Electricity Supplier – The council resolved to enter a one year contract for electricity supply to the Public Conveniences with Extra Energy.



(iv) Cleaning Contract – 3 Counties Cleaning are carrying out the cleaning work on an interim basis to an excellent standard. The Clerk hopes to have a recommendation for the Parish Council regarding the contract for the October meeting.

52.2 APHAX request for funding commitment

Cllr G Seddon explained the Finance Sub-Committee's work and recommendations. Using a spreadsheet displayed using the overhead projector, he demonstrated the impact on Parish Council funds (including the level of precept required) of the expected devolution of the Playing Field Complex and then the impact of two different funding options for supporting APHAX. The Parish Council considered that the first option of a £10,000 grant and an interest-free loan of up to £10,000 repayable over 5 years once the Annexe is up and running would be the preferred proposal as it would meet the immediate needs of the APHAX project whilst offering longer term stability to the Parish Council budget and minimise the increase in Precept required. It was then unanimously resolved to proceed with this option. Mr Hall thanked the Parish Council for taking the matter so seriously.

52.3 Payments made in August 2015

1482	Wright Marshall	Survey of Playing Field Complex	£600.00
1483	JA's	Meeting Expenses	£24.00
1484	K Dixon	Cleaning Supplies	£53.07
1485	G Davies	street cleaning	£455.00
1486	K Dixon	salary	£400.70
1487	Audlem Angels	Public Conveniences	£72.00
1488	Shropshire Union Canal Society	Subscriptions	£25.00
1489	H Jones	Meeting Expenses	£16.70
1490	Audlem Electrical Services	Public Conveniences	£112.50
1491	United Utilities	Public Conveniences	£105.70

Resolved: the above account were approved for payment retrospectively.

52.4 Authorisation of cheques

1492	K Dixon	Salary	£400.90
1493	G Davies	Street Cleaning	£346.50
1494	K Dixon	Office Expenses	£12.24
1495	Delmar Press	Newsletter	£432.00
1496	Delmar Press	NP Insert	£222.00
1497	Bromac Nurseries	Bedding Plants etc	£1040.00
1498	J Thompson	Councillor Travelling Expenses	£30.60
1499	3 Counties Cleaning	Public Conveniences	£221.00
1500	Then Media	PID monthly charge 2015	£144.00
1501	D Siddorns	Councillor Travelling Expenses	£31.68

Resolved: the above accounts were approved for payment.

15.53 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) A letter had been received from R Warburton about Audlem Football Club being charged to use the Playing Field, asking the Parish Council to cover this cost. It was agreed that the Clerk should advise Mr Warburton to apply for a Grant which includes submitting full financial accounts for the club. Grants will be considered by the Finance sub-committee as part of the budget process which starts shortly.

(ii) The Next Police & Crime Commissioner's meeting in on 17th September in Congleton.

(iii) Ms Cottrell had supplied the Parish Council with a letter she had sent to Cheshire East,



regarding the lack of grass cutting by the junction of Whitchurch Road and Copthorne Drive but also complaining about how difficult it is to communicate with the Borough Council.

15.54 PLAYING FIELD COMPLEX REPORT

The Submission Document had been sent to Cheshire East at the end of July but the Clerk, despite follow up requests, had not received confirmation that the document has been received. Cllr Hill had just received confirmation from CEC that the document had been received.

Cllr Consterdine reported that the Merry-go-round was not working in the play area as the bearings had gone and that the soft play surface around it was damaged. The Clerk agreed to report this to CEC.

15.55 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

55.1 Mayor's Civic Service

The Chair will send regrets on behalf of the Parish Council.

55.2 CCA Community Pride Awards 2015

The Awards are being held in October; Cllr G Seddon and Cllr Down, who collated the applications for the awards, will be attending. Mr Cartwright was asked whether any representatives of AOL would like to attend the awards. Mr Cartwright will speak to his colleagues and liaise with the Clerk.

55.3 Terms of Reference for Finance Sub-Committee

The Terms of Reference were discussed and it was confirmed that the Sub-Committee will be largely reviewing the work of the Clerk in her capacity as Responsible Finance Officer and making recommendations to the Full Parish Council. The Terms of Reference were accepted by the Parish Council.

55.4 Conservation Area

The Clerk confirmed that she had asked Tony Seabridge to mow the paths in the Conservation Area as requested by Cllr Consterdine and that ADAS/AiB will be working with the school in the Conservation Area to promote nature study. It was confirmed that Cllr Down and Cllr Higham are willing to work with them. ADAS/AiB are aware that all work in the area must have prior approval of the Parish Council.

55.5 Procedures for Meetings

Cllr Jones spoke about the feedback process used by councillors. In order to save time at meetings it was agreed that minutes of meetings attended should be circulated to other councillors and only pertinent matters and action points be raised in the meetings.

15.56 REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS & COMMITTEES

56.1 Highways & Transportation (Cllr Hill)

Cllr Hill reported that further to the meeting with Mr Chan of CEC Highways, he had concerns that the work on A525 that had been promised earlier in the year was not happening. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Cheshire East about these concerns and copy in Audlem's Ward Councillor. Information on what had been agreed earlier will be



redistributed to Councillors by the Clerk.

Cllr Consterdine reported that the gullies in Churchfields are blocked because the CEC vehicle is unable to access the road so they need to be cleared by hand. Cheshire East will be asked to do this. Cllr Higham commented that the gullies on Whitchurch Road are blocked again, this will also be reported.

56.2 Community (Cllr G Seddon) – Cllr G Seddon asked that ADAS be written to about the removal of the broken trellis and overgrown bush at the junction of Tollgate Drive and Whitchurch Road.

(i) Community Projects Committee – No report

(ii) Public Hall – including APHax – see 15.52.2

(iii) Audlem Burial Committee – No meeting. Cllr Consterdine, as a new member, asked to be advised of the date of the next meeting.

56.3 Youth & Education (Cllr Higham) – No report

56.4 Law & Order (Cllr Siddorns) – Cllr Siddorns reported that a result of questions asked at the last Police & Crime Commissioner meeting about Police personnel patrolling together, and they are also supplied with a car without sirens or blue lights. The PCC has responded to say that the concerns have been forwarded to the local Police management and Cllr Siddorns is due to speak to them soon. He will inform Councillors of the outcome of this conversation. The PCC has also responded to Cllr Siddorns concerns about poor maintenance of road junction markings, reporting that CEC Highways have assured him that they have a programme of re-marking underway.

56.5 Local Tourism & Business (Cllr Johnson) – Cllr Johnson's written report celebrated the success of The Party on the Park and also the Transport Festival. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to ASET for all their hard work for these events. Cllr Johnson also reported that he has made himself known to many of the traders in the village as the new Parish Council portfolio holder for tourism and business.

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

56.7 Wildlife & Ecology (Cllr Down) – No report

56.8 Health (Cllr Jones) – The PPG has been publicising new procedures about repeat prescriptions in the village. The Practice was not fully informed of developments approved by other Parish Councils in their catchment area and it was proving difficult to plan properly for the future. A number of options were being considered but the CCG is under the impression that the Parish Council will receive funds which could be used to help expand the practice (probably via CIL). This will be debated further at the next PPG meeting. Whether a group approach from the local ChALC group would be of benefit will also be considered. It was also noted that Dr Muirhead has now retired from the practice.

56.9 Communications (Cllr P Seddon) – Cllr P Seddon reminded Councillors that the deadline for the next newsletter is 14th October and confirmed that she is continuing to edit the newsletter for the time being.

56.10 Access & Inclusion (Cllr Christie) – The most recent meeting was cancelled, however the AGM is being held at the end of the month and will be advertised. More volunteers are still needed.

56.11 Devolved Services (Cllr Hill) – see 15.54

(i) Public Conveniences – Cllr Consterdine reported that there had been instances of vandalism to the disabled toilets, which was reprehensible. Efforts are being made to identify the culprit(s). Cllr Consterdine had put a new lock on the cupboard in the toilets,



put the new soap dispenser up and re-affixed the paper holder. He also commented that 3 Counties Cleaning were doing an excellent job.

56.12 ADAPT – No Report

56.13 Commons & Greens Committee (Cllr Down) – Cllrs Down and Thompson have met with retired councillor Richard Furber to familiarise themselves with the Moss. Some of the older fencing needs attending to and the Clerk will request quotations when full details are provided by Cllrs Down and Thompson.

56.14 Street Lighting (Cllr Tilling) – Cllr Consterdine reported that with the evenings drawing in, he will liaise with Cllr Tilling and have a drive round to assess the lighting throughout the village.

15.57 **COPTHORNE BENCH**

Cllr Higham reported that he had met with Cllr Consterdine at the proposed site but the outline that they put in place had been removed when a resident mowed the grass shortly afterwards.

15.58 **WATER SUPPLY ISSUES**

There was a discussion about anecdotal evidence of significant dips in water pressure in various parts of the parish and the possible causes. It was agreed to contact United Utilities about this matter and also ask for an update on their review of the village infrastructure.

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

Cllr G Seddon had attended a ChALC local area meeting in July and his notes had been circulated to councillors. The next meeting is on Wednesday 23rd September but Cllr G Seddon would be unable to attend this meeting.

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

15.61 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 5th OCTOBER 2015**

CHAIRMAN _____

Date _____

