

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE **COUNCIL MEETING** held in Wood Lane Community Centre on 17 January 2013 at 7.00pm

Present: Chairman: Mr H Proctor.
Councillors: Mrs V Pearson, Mr P Breuer, Mr N Blackwood, Mrs K Davison,
Mrs C D Cornes, Mr A Wemyss, Mr E Durber, Mr C Cooper
Clerk –Mrs C. Withington

No.	Item	Action
1.	<p>To receive apologies Apologies were received from Mr T Sproston, Mrs B Kinnersley, Mrs A Beech, Mr M Dolman and Mr D Cornes,</p>	
2.	<p>To consider approving and signing minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting on 20th December 2012 The following amendments were made: Item 13 – Inclusion of “Applicants to be invited to attend and represent the application.” Item 14 – Deletion of “and removal of any diseased trees”. The minutes on were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>To suspend Standing Order 11(a) and to ratify the decision shown in Minute 13 of 20th December 2012 relating to the Community Chest decision taken Noted that as further information had come to light relating to the earlier decision taken in November, the decision taken on 20th December 2012 overruled the earlier decision. However Standing Order 11(a) was not suspended in order to rescind the decision on 20th December 2012. Therefore in accordance with advice from Peter Lacey at NALC it was RESOLVED to suspend Standing Order 11(a) and ratify the decision shown in Minute 13 of 20th December 2012 relating to the support for the Beat the Cold Community Chest application for £1000 for energy advice and home visits.</p>	
3.	<p>Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda Mr Blackwood reported a declaration of interest in the Millennium Green Trust planning application – which was for information only.</p>	
4.	<p>Public Participation: No members of public present.</p>	
5.	<p>Planning - To consider any planning applications received, including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13/00004/FUL Proposed single storey rear extension Grasmere 84 Nantwich Road Audley Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8DL - Village Env/Del Auth <p>There were no concerns with this application therefore it was RESOLVED that this be SUPPORTED.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOR INFO ONLY - 12/00831/TCA T1 - Sycamore. To fell diseased tree to ground level T2 - Sycamore. To raise crown over bus stop area, and to obtain Highways clearance (5.2m) T3 - Sycamore. To raise crown to obtain Highways clearance G1 - Wild cherry Group. To coppice selected stems which are growing out over the road We are planning to enhance the existing hedge around the nearby Motte with native species. This will include hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, dogwood, hazel, field maple. We hope that there may be some regrowth on the Cherry which is being coppiced. If there is no regrowth, we do not plan to replant as there is unlikely to be sufficient light. Audley Millennium Green New Road Bignall End Stoke On Trent Staffordshire – Noted. • FOR INFO ONLY - 12/00806/TWA Fell One Ash Tree Holly House Bignall Hill Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8LS – Noted. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12/00818/FUL Rear conservatory 54 High Street Wood Lane Bignall End Stoke-on Trent Staffordshire ST7 8PB – Village Env/Del Auth <p>There were no concerns with this application therefore it was RESOLVED that this be SUPPORTED.</p> <p>Clerk to report the unauthorised removal of a tree and hedge at Turnpike Cottage, Nantwich Road in the Conservation area.</p> <p>Noted that a Silver Birch tree has been removed from a verge on Ryehills, which had been planted by the Parish Council. The land is thought to be in the ownership of the Borough Council. Clerk to ask Streetscene if they know anything about this. Mr Proctor to supply exact location details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCO.55/2013 M – To provide comments on the Scoping opinion for Surface Coal Mining and Restoration Scheme at Land at Bignall End, Newcastle under Lyme <p>Noted that residents had raised concerns about the Diglake Disaster burial site being disturbed. There was also concern that this was a short timescale to respond and was prior to the public information meetings and public meeting. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would submit the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise concerns on behalf of the Parishioners and request assurances that the remains of the bodies following the Diglake Mining disaster will not be disturbed as a result of this project; That ecological issues remain of concern to the people in the area –if the Project goes ahead then assurances are sought to say that the land will not just be returned to agricultural land but will reinstate the pools, wildlife, footpaths, and any woods that are being removed as a result of the work; That existing footpaths are reinstated with the same status; To request that assurances are given that there will be no industrial units or residential dwellings build on any of the land following the end of the Project; To request assurances that this is not stage 1 of a further development to continue open casting elsewhere in this area. That the land remediation is not infilled with imported landfill, and is just uncontaminated and quality top soil; That the work carried out will have no detrimental impact on the monument and any damage caused will be rectified; That no HGVs will be travelling through Audley or Bignall End, and will stick to the planned routes through to the A500 by Talke. In the event of any change in route as planned in the proposals, then the Parish Council are consulted before any changes are implemented. <p>Noted that public drop in sessions were planned by UK Coal on the following:</p> <p><i>Monday 4th Feb 2013 – Audley Methodist Church, New Road, Bignall End – 4pm to 8pm.</i></p> <p><i>Friday 8th Feb 2013 – Red Street Community Centre, 2pm to 6pm.</i></p> <p>In addition it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council will also call a Public Meeting to hear residents views following the drop in sessions. This is expected to take place on Tuesday 12th February at Audley Methodist Church. Posters to be put up in shops by Councillors, advert placed in Audley Community News, noticeboards, library and delivery of flyers. Clerk authorised to print A4 and A3 posters.</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>CW BP</p> <p>CW</p>
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6.	<p>To consider resolving that the Chair and Vice Chair to sign the deed of dedication between Fields in Trust, CARA and Parish Council for Wereton Road play area</p> <p>Noted that the field would change its name to QEII - Wereton Road Community Park. It was also noted that the land would require approval from the Fields in Trust in the event of change of use or disposal. Also that alternative provision would need to be found.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Chair and Vice Chair, witnessed by the Clerk, be authorised to sign the Deed of Dedication.</p>	CW
7.	<p>To report back on the findings from the youth survey information collated by Sir Thomas Boughey High School – Mr Proctor</p> <p>Mr Proctor reported he was very pleased and impressed to receive the information collated by the Head Girl and Head Boy, plus members of the School Council following our request to learn about where the pupils like to spend their time after school. They are now asking the pupils what they want to provide a wish list – which will be presented after half term.</p> <p>Noted that the older pupils seem to be asking for space to hang around uninterrupted.</p> <p>Next agenda to consider prizes for the completed surveys to reward those who have taken part. The Parish Council would also like to formally recognise the input of the Head Boy and Girl.</p> <p>Mrs C D Cornes to look into the activity bus project provided by County Council.</p> <p>Chair and Vice Chair to attend a School Council meeting to provide a presentation on the Parish Council.</p>	<p>Next agenda</p> <p>DC</p> <p>BP/VP</p>
8.	<p>To consider the advice from Staffordshire Community Council regarding funding availability for Parish Plan development</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the Staffs Community Council had advised that Awards for All funding and County Councillor funding had been used in the past towards the costs of the Parish Plans.</p> <p>The Parish Council cannot apply for funding for at least another year from date of award for Awards for All funding.</p> <p>Noted that this would need to be an item on a future agenda for detailed discussion as to the way forward – after the Open Cast planning application has been resolved.</p> <p>Clerk to ask what the plans are with regards to Borough Council's Neighbourhood Plans in the meantime, and what the threat is to the green belt in the Parish.</p>	<p>Future Agenda</p> <p>CW</p>
9.	<p>To consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To call the next Allotment Committee date of 21st March 2013 at 6.30pm – This was approved to be held at Pensioners Hall. Public Surgeries to be brought forward to 6pm for that night. • To authorise the collection of rent for 2013/14 at a charge of £7 per plot for Audley and Halmer End – The rent collection was approved. Noted that it would continue to increase each year by £1 until £10 had been reached. RESOLVED that rent to be waived for new tenants taking on previously unworked plots for one year only. Noted that new security arrangements had been put in place with a combination lock for pedestrian access and a key for deliveries. Letter of thanks to be sent to 	<p>CW</p> <p>CW</p>

	<p>Steve Hough.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider annual membership for the Parish Council at a cost of £55 (net) to join the National Allotment Society (NSALG) – RESOLVED that this be approved. To consider issuing a 7 year lease with Audley Allotment Associations for the old Allotment site – RESOLVED that this would be obtained and issued to Audley Allotment Association, signed by the Chair and Vice Chair. To consider revising the tenancy agreement notice period for tenants and including an item regarding carpets brought onto the sites – RESOLVED that the notice period required from tenants would be reduced from 12 months written notice to 4 weeks written notice. To consider approving a skip for one day for waste collected on the Allotment site – RESOLVED that carpets would not be allowed to be laid on the allotments. Rules to be reissued on this basis. Skip to be provided, funded by the Parish Council through the Allotment Association for the two Audley sites to allow the removal of allotment rubbish and carpets. This was on a one off basis only. 	<p>CW</p> <p>CW</p> <p>CW</p> <p>CW</p>
10.	<p>To approve Community Chest applications received (balance £650): <i>To consider an application from CARA for play equipment</i> - This was considered and it was RESOLVED to be supported for £650.</p> <p>Noted that PAMS would be asked to make an application in 2013/14 due to this year being their 3 year of application, although this would fall one or two days prior to their event. Clerk to clarify where the remaining funds were spent due to the reduction of the cost of the St Johns ambulance.</p> <p>Balance now stands at £0.</p>	
11.	<p>To consider the location of the Chairs and Honours Board and any associated costs</p> <p>Noted that the Church would not allow 2 boards to be fixed. It was RESOLVED that the clerk would ask the library if they could be fixed in the Library. If not then potentially the Pensioners Board. Further discussion to be held if the requests are not acceptable.</p>	<p>CW</p>
12.	<p>Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas inc: <i>To note Play Area Monthly Inspection for January and approval of any action required or taken</i></p> <p>Noted that the action has been taken with regards to the cradle seat adjustment. Mr Hough to be asked to lower the flat seat at Halmer End also.</p> <p>Mr Hough to be asked to strim behind the seat on the new section at Scot Hay playing field.</p> <p>Mr Hough to be asked to repair the missing slat on the seat at Balterley by Wagon and Horses (not thought to be in the parish ownership) so using General Powers of Competence.</p> <p><i>To consider the advice regarding the Trees at Leddys Field – Mr Proctor</i> Mr Proctor to bring quotes back for the coppicing of Leddys Field to the next meeting.</p> <p>Noted that the Awards for All funding bid had been successful and the Council has provisionally been awarded £10,000 for the fitness trail equipment at 2 sites, thought to be Alsager Road and Wereton Road. Mrs Pearson to be present on the location of the Alsager Road equipment and Cllr Beech for the</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>CW</p> <p>CW</p> <p>BP Next agenda</p>

	Wereton Road site. The documentation was signed at the meeting due to the short timescale. Standing Orders were suspended to allow this to take place, as this was considered to be a carry-over of a previous decision taken. Noted that comparative 3 quotes had been received, but in order to appoint the contractor on which the bid had been based Financial Regulations would need to be suspended.	
13.	To receive an update from Audley LAP – Mr Proctor No meeting has been held since the last. Report back to the next Parish Council meeting.	BP
14.	Correspondence and circulars received for information only (see Appendix A) - To review other items as listed for information and consider for next agenda: Appointment of School Governor at Wood Lane Primary – No objections raised to Mr Boden continuing for another term. Best Kept Village Competition 2013 – Noted.	CW
15.	Clerks Update – See appendix B This was noted.	
16.	Councillor Reports (for information only/further actions and decisions must be included on next agenda) Mrs Pearson reported an issue with the springer chicken installed by Wicksteeds at the Alsager Road Play area. Clerk to request remedial action taken. Village sign rescission to be included on the next agenda – all those present (9) at the meeting agreed to put the motion forward, plus Mr D Cornes. Mr Hough to liaise with Mr Proctor regarding straightening the Audley Britain in Bloom sign at Church Bank, as it is currently on an angle. Mr Wemyss reported that Borough Council name plates for Alsager Bank, High Lane, High Street and Woodlands Terrace were still outstanding. Clerk to contact Farida with regards to a request for financial support £100-200 for the Adult Learning event on 18 - 25 th May. Audley Parish Council letter head review. Mr Breuer supplied the Clerk with the missing bus stop timetable information. Clerk to pass to First Bus. Leycett tip consultation to be on next agenda. Clerk to report private sign by Nantwich Road mini-roundabout (under Highways signs). Noted that the rubbish is excessive at Bateswood due to the disbanding of Halmer End Wildlife Trust. Excess funds will be used to supply corn for the ducks. Simon Long to be asked to carry out a litter pick using the volunteers. Mr Proctor reported that the Police surgery with the Parish Council has now been arranged for the first Wednesday of every month at Audley Community Centre. Times to be confirmed. This will assist in the achievement of Quality Status. Clerk to put up information in Notice Boards.	CW Next agenda CW/BP Next agenda Next agenda CW Next agenda CW CW

17.	<p>Accounts To approve the Accounts The accounts were authorised as per the attached schedule.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the income from the Government grant received to reduce the impact of a reduced Council Tax Band D base had been received from the Borough Council earlier that day, and was circulated at the meeting. Noted that the Precept had been set at the December meeting on the basis of last year £46,460, which was regardless of any grant income being taken into consideration to retain the individual tax payers at this year's rate. This was accepted.</p>	
<p>It was RESOLVED that the following items on the agenda be of a private nature that should be discussed at the exclusion of the Public and Press, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 1 (2).</p>		
18.	<p>Contractual issues <i>To consider the quote and work required at Riley's Field (pooling of water) Mr Proctor</i> Mr Proctor reported that the situation is not good. As it was a well-used facility 2 further quotes (suspending standing orders for tenders) were to be obtained. Clerk to ask Mr Holland and Mr Proctor to provide details of a third contractor. Noted that a future job should include the removal of the floodlights which no longer work.</p>	BP/CW
19.	<p>Staffing Issues <i>To consider the arrangements for the Temporary Maternity Cover for the Parish Clerk/RFO</i></p> <p>Mr Proctor reported that he and the Clerk had held a meeting with Mrs Dillow who had expressed an interest in the post of temporary maternity cover. Mrs Dillow has lots of valuable prior experience of working in the same environment and Local Councils. References have been taken up and these were more than satisfactory. Mrs Dillow is also due to be reaccredited for CiLCA. Noted that mileage would increase due to distances between the clerks home and the Parish – however this would be kept to a minimum. Councillors will take care of the noticeboards. Maternity cover would start on 4th March and run for up to 9 months plus any accrued leave.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Mrs Dillow be offered the post of the same terms and conditions. All other applications will no longer be invited or considered and the advert will be withdrawn.</p> <p><i>To consider an urgent response to a complaint received through the Clerk regarding the actions taken</i> A complaint had been received from a resident regarding the discussion and actions taken in response to issues raised with the Parish Council, within the approved minutes. The matter was considered at short notice due to the nature, and the standing orders were suspended. A draft response was circulated for consideration.</p> <p>Mr Proctor reported that there was no wish to change the private arrangements made. However Mr Proctor reported that he took exception to the implied comments regarding the Clerk's working practices in between meetings, and the offensive tone of the complaints towards the Clerk and Council. He also noted that the Clerk's husband had been extremely offended by the complaint and insinuations made, especially due to the Clerk's current condition.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the response be agreed and issued. A further letter was agreed to issue to CI Hulme to clarify arrangements.</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>CW</p>

The Chairman then declared the meeting closed at 21.40pm