

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE **COUNCIL MEETING** held in Wood Lane Community Centre, Apedale Road, Audley on 18th July at 7.00pm

Present: Chairman: Mr T Sproston
 Councillors: Mr B Proctor, Mr P Breuer, Mr A Weymss, Mr N Blackwood, Mr C Cooper, Mrs B Kinnersley, Mrs A Beech, Mrs C D Cornes, Mr D Cornes, Mr M Dolman
 Acting Clerk Mrs C Dillow
 11 members of the public were present

No.	Item	Action
1.	To receive apologies Apologies were received from: Mrs K Davison, Mr E Durber, Mrs V Pearson	
2.	To consider approving and signing minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting on 20th June 2013 The minutes were approved and signed as a true and accurate record. It was noted that item 15 Audley LAP should have read Mrs Beech not Mrs Pearson. Mr Proctor requested that an emergency item be added to the agenda for consideration. Resolved to allow the item to be added to the agenda as item 13a.	
3.	Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda <i>(Note member should notify Monitoring officer within 28 days if not already)</i> No declarations of interest were declared.	
4.	Public Participation: Resolved to move item 6 Bateswood Lake to open committee, several members of the public in attendance reported that they would like the lake to be split 50/50 to be used half for fishing and half for wildlife and a proper fishing club set up, so the fishing can be policed to ensure there is no danger to wildlife, possibly in partnership with the Parish Council and Newcastle Borough Council? Several members of the public reported that residents have recently had to rescue a duck that had a pike plug through both feet and are concerned about the wildlife if this indiscriminate illegal fishing is allowed to continue unrestrained. There is currently no clear ruling if fishing is allowed on the lake. A proposal was put forward that the matter is looked into further with the possibility of forming a partnership with the Parish Council, Residents and the Borough Council to manage a fishing club so children and such like are not denied rights, the proposal was put to a vote – 10 for, 0 against and 1 abstention. Resolved Mr Sproston to come back with further information following a meeting between public present, others interested in volunteering their services and a Newcastle Borough Council officer to ascertain if this would be possible. Resolved to move item 7 Halmer End High Street to open committee, Mr Weymss reported that he had complained about the state of the Highways and resurfacing with new gullies was supposed to have been done in the financial year 2012/13, to date just patching has been done and the grids are blocked. Several members of the public added that new road signs are needed and there is a lack of route signs, they seem to have disappeared over the years, visitors to the area do not know where to go. Resolved County Councillor Mrs A Beech will look into the matter. Closed Committee at 7.40pm all members of the public left the meeting.	<p style="text-align: center;">TS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AB</p>
5.	Planning - To consider any planning applications received, including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of single storey front extension Linden Lea Apedale Road Wood Lane Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8PH Ref. No: 13/00475/FUL / Vill Env / Del Resolved to raise no objection to this application	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Dwelling House Land Adjacent To 189 Heathcote Road Miles Green Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST7 8LL Ref. No: 13/00474/OUT / Vill Env / Del <p>Resolved to raise no objection to this application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed extensions to form breakfast room/ kitchen, utility room, extended study and bedroom with balcony above and access to loft area 66 Tomfields Wood Lane Staffordshire ST7 8PJ Ref. No: 13/00512/FUL / Vill Env / Del <p>Resolved to raise no objection to the application but the parish council would like to express a concern regarding the balcony in relation to the adjacent property being overlooked.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed conversion of barn to residential unit Parkfields Farm, Park Lane, Audley Ref No: 13/00469/FUL / Greenbelt / ?? <p>Following a vote: 6 for, 3 against, 2 abstention it was Resolved to raise no objection to this application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audley Conservation area review – to receive update Mr Blackwood Nothing further to report 	
6.	Bateswood Lake – Mr Sproston - Item moved and considered under public participation	
7.	Halmer End High Street – Mr Weymss - Item moved and considered under public participation	
8.	Hedge Cutting Hougher Wall – Mr B Proctor reported that the hedge is so overgrown it is pushing people to walk in the road. Resolved if possible clerk to find out land owner through land registry. Mrs A Beech to contact environmental health at the Borough Council asking them to contact the owner	Clerk AB
9.	Bus Shelter Church Street – Mrs Cornes reported that she has received several complaints from residents about strange smells surrounding the bus shelter, it has only been during the hot weather spells Resolved clerk to contact County Council to request it be cleaned and if that doesn't work will look into the matter again.	Clerk
10.	Margarets Garden (previous community chest application last agenda) – Mrs V Pearson is absent from the meeting but has requested through the clerk the following: Motion 1 - the council accepts the withdrawal of the application to the community chest funding. Resolved the council accept the withdrawal. Motion 2 -The Parish Council Puts in place a management plan for Margarets Garden which they have recently purchased, so that it is properly maintained from the start, with a view to continuing maintenance and purchasing 2 new seats for the area (approx costs provided). Mr proctor reported that he had done a 10 day survey of the area at various times and from the results one seat would be adequate. Resolved members are in favour in principal, with a view to looking into a cheaper alternative for one seat or the possibility of a pre-used seat and wish to leave the matter to be discussed in more detail upon Mrs Pearsons return. Clerk to add to next agenda.	Next agenda
11.	To report delegated authority action taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To open & Close play area to allow installation of equipment and remove safety tape • To carry out repairs to damaged porta cabin at Halmer End Bowling Club • To carry out repairs to vandalised sign on Alsagers Bank Clerk reported the actions taken and this was noted.	
12.	Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas inc: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note Play Area Monthly Inspection for July 2013 and approval of any action required or taken 	

	<p>The report was noted, Resolved clerk to provide members with a copy of the maintenance contract previously agreed and it was noted that all playing field areas grass cutting needs addressing especially around the railings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive update with regards to Fitness Trail Equipment and awards for all The clerk reported that as funding had been received toward the cost of the equipment from Awards For All it was a requirement that the Big Lottery Fund logo is placed on the equipment. Fresh Air Fitness offers a bespoke signage service free of charge. Resolved clerk to arrange for Fresh Air Fitness to provide appropriate signage. To receive and consider quotation for annual play area inspections and valuations for asset register <p>The clerk explained that although the valuations for the asset register had been previously agreed to be carried out by Digley Associates, they had now gone into liquidation and the play area inspections were also now due. The clerk tabled alternative quotations from other inspection / valuation companies for consideration. Resolved to appoint The Play Area Inspection Company to carry out both the inspections and stock valuations for insurance purposes at a cost of £400.00 excl VAT for all 8 sites.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
13.	<p>To receive an update from Audley LAP – Mr Proctor informed the council that The Chair of LAP (Mrs Lancaster) son in Australia had recently passed away. Resolved to send a letter of condolence on headed paper from the Parish Council.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
13a.	<p>Emergency item requested at the start of the meeting to be added to the agenda – Mr Proctor has received reports that a fence has been erected on the land below 41 Boon Hill adjacent to the Farmers Field, the parish council has a seat on the side of the footpath which is now being blocked in as well as the view to the green belt. The clerk has checked via land registry and the land is showing as unregistered. Mr Proctor has contacted the enforcement officer at the Borough Council who has spoken to the person in question erecting the fence stating that the fence should be no more than 1 metre high, but in fact it has been erected at 2 metres high. A proposal was made that the parish council make claim to the land through land registry as it is currently unclaimed, this was seconded a vote was taken: 7 for, 1 against, 3 abstained. Resolved to make a claim through land registry for the land.</p>	
14.	<p>Correspondence and circulars received for information only (see Appendix A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review other items as listed for information and consider for next agenda To receive Community, Council & Clerks Newsletter - Received To consider SPCA Bulletin Electronic Banking – The clerk read out an email received from SPCA regarding the law and use of electronic banking by Parish Councils. Resolved to revert back to using cheques for all payments as long as they are still in use. 	
15.	<p>Clerks Update – See appendix B No further action required.</p>	
16.	<p>Councillor Reports (for information only/further actions and decisions must be included on next agenda)</p> <p>Mr Weymss reported that the sign for lorries on Chester Road has been changed and gone back up.</p> <p>Mr Proctor reported that regarding the restorative service he was very impressed with the input of the police, fire service and other outside bodies and a tremendous amount of support was given. Natalie Snell NUBC had carried out a substantial amount of work; a presentation was given and feels that a large amount of children will benefit from the exercise.</p> <p>Mrs Beech reported that the Fresh Air Fitness equipment recently installed on Queen Street was being well used.</p>	
17.	<p>Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider request from Audley Parish Bowling Club The clerk tabled a request for support from Audley Parish Bowling Club 	

	<p>towards the cost of buildings insurance. Resolved to support the cost of the building insurance and re-imburse the bowling club for the payment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive update regarding Audley Allotments The clerk reported that following the decision taken at the last meeting for the Allotment Association to take over the responsibility of Audley Allotments, a letter of confirmation had been written to the association. The clerk has now received a reply from the association confirming the action taken. 	
18.	<p>Accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve the Accounts for payment - Appendix C The clerk reported that the outstanding balance to Fresh Air Fitness was now due and needed to be added to the account for payments, therefore the amount for transfer would need to be increased. Resolved to add the payment and the accounts were approved for payment. <p>To note latest bank reconciliation – Appendix C This was noted.</p>	
	To consider the following items on the agenda to 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).	
19.	<p>Contractual issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood Lane Youth Funds / Re-surfacing work – Mr Proctor After unsuccessfully chasing for a number of years Mr Proctor proposed that a solicitor be appointed to resolve the matter. Mr Cooper made an amendment to the proposal that the council do not appoint a solicitor but instead report the matter to the police, this was seconded, and a vote was taken: 11 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions. Resolved to report the matter to the police. 	

The Chairman then declared the meeting closed at 20.50pm