

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** held Wood Lane Community Centre on 18th September 2014 at 7.00pm

Present: Chairman: Cllr H Proctor
Councillors: Mr T Sproston, Mrs V Pearson, , Mr C Cooper, Cllr A Beech, Cllr A Wemyss, Mrs B Kinnersley, Mr P Morgan, Mr M Dolman, Mr M Joynson, Revd J Taylor and Lewis Moore (STBH rep)

Clerk – Mrs C. Withington

1 members of public were in attendance for Item 1 and 2.

No.	Item	Action
1.	<p>New Councillors to sign the Acceptance of Office Mr M Joynson and Revd J Taylor signed the Acceptance of Office forms in the presence of the Clerk.</p>	
2.	<p>Awards for 2014 Cllr Proctor stated that as agreed at the last meeting, the following awards would be presented to the following people.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community – Reg and Pauline Johnson for their work at Audley Theatre. 2. Environment – Mr Trevor Tooth for his previous work in maintaining the areas of the Parish. 3. Outstanding Young Person (new award) – Lewis Moore, pupil of Sir Thomas Boughey High School in recognition of his contribution over the last year to the Parish Council. <p>Cllr Proctor presented Lewis with the award at the meeting and he was thanked by all. Unfortunately the others were not able to be present which will be presented to them outside of the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p>To receive apologies Apologies were received from. Mrs C D Cornes, Mr D Cornes, Mr P Breuer and Mr E Durber.</p>	
4.	<p>To consider approving and signing minutes of Parish Council meeting on 21st August 2014 These were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
5.	<p>Declaration of interest in any item None received.</p>	
6.	<p>Public Participation No members of public raised any issues.</p>	
7.	<p>Planning - To consider any planning applications received, including:- Cllr Proctor left the chair and Mr Sproston took over.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Proposed barn</u> Land Adjacent To Honeysuckle Cottage Wereton Road Audley Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8HE - 14/00606/FUL - Green Belt/Delegated RESOLVED to support this application for a store for animal feed and implements only. 2. <u>Proposed replacement of one double and one single garage with triple garage</u> Crackley Gates Farm Leycett Lane Silverdale Newcastle Staffordshire ST5 6AW - 14/00597/FUL – Green Belt/Delegated RESOLVED to support this application, as it was considered an enhancement to the green belt, from the current situation. 3. 14/00636/FUL Hallmark Power Ltd - Installation of 1no. 500kw wind turbine (maximum tip height 77m) and associated infrastructure, including an access 	

	<p>track. Diversion of public footpath. Land South Of Field Farm Church Lane Betley Click here to view – ADJACENT TO PARISH BOUNDARY ONLY</p> <p>RESOLVED to request that a satisfactory traffic management plan is provided by the applicant to demonstrate there is no negative impact on the Audley parish residents from HGVs and construction traffic entering and leaving the site, and it is also to the satisfaction of Betley Parish Council. In the event of a satisfactory traffic management being received to demonstrate this, then the Parish Council will be in support.</p> <p>4. Land Rear Of 78 To 94 Chapel Street Bignall End Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire - 14/00503/.... Approval of the conditions - NOTED</p> <p>5. Land Adjacent 10 And 8A Boon Hill Bignall End Staffordshire Ref. No: 14/00142/ Approval of conditions – NOTED.</p> <p>Cllr Proctor returned to the position of Chair.</p>	
8.	<p>Update on Audley Library review by Staffordshire County Council</p> <p>Cllr Proctor reported that there was a further meeting tonight with the County to discuss the implications for library locals in more detail. A representative who has many years of professional experience is attending to report back to Cllr Proctor on the outcome. The earlier meetings were considered to be meaningless as the Officers were not in a position to answer simple questions, although clarity was given by Cllr Lawrence. Ultimately it is clear that the library will not be retained in its current form, and there is only the option of volunteers (unqualified and unpaid) who would be responsible for providing a service specified by the County, through a legal agreement. Although Cllr Lawrence did state that if the library wasn't taken forward by a community group, then it could be relocated to another premises such as a school. Existing staff are expected to be absorbed within the overall library service.</p> <p>It was noted that Parish Councils would be acting illegally if they funded a service through the Precept, as this would be double taxation. The Borough Council legal services and SPCA have confirmed this. A petition has been collated by the LAP of 588 signatures and 104 letters of objection to closure.</p> <p>Cllr Proctor will report back at the next meeting.</p>	
9.	<p>To revise the adopted Standing Orders to take account of the new 2014 Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 publicity – filming/photography etc</p> <p>RESOLVED that the standing orders be amended to delete the provisions as follows: Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is not permitted without the Council's prior (written) consent. (Deleted in accordance with the Openness of Local Government bodies Regulations 2014)</p>	
10.	<p>Grants – Community Chest (uncommitted balance £1676)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alsagers Bank Preschool – to note the outcome <p>This was noted that the Borough Council had confirmed that it was not acceptable to use the Community Chest to maintain church buildings.</p>	
11.	<p>Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas/Allotments inc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note Play Area Monthly Inspection for September <p>This was noted, Clerk has instructed the following repairs: Goal posts to be refixed – Scot Hay Cradle seat to be levelled – Halmer End Rileys Field vandalised fencing section – Clerk has been requested to seek three quotes for the next meeting to replace it for the final time. In the meantime</p>	Clerk

	<p>an article explaining the cost of this to be put in Wood Lane newsletter pointing out that this extra cost is taking funding away from providing new facilities.</p> <p>Clerk to request that Staffordshire County Council repair the broken fence and kissing gate at the Millennium Green entrance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority – Halmer End play area clean up, broken toilet at Audley Bowling Club This was noted and approved for payment. • To consider an extra over to contract – painting 3 items of play equipment following Mr Hough’s opinion It was agreed to paint the swings at Albert Street and Halmer End and the see saw at Miles Green. The handrail at Halmer End also to be painted. <p>It was agreed that an agenda item will be included for December with regards to upgrading play equipment for each ward. Cllr Wemyss reported he had been approached by parishioners to update the toddler play equipment. There was also the evidence of need from the outcome from the Sir Thomas Boughey High School youth consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To instruct the annual play area inspection £50, valuation £10 and Disability Discrimination Act Audit £10 (if required) - per site plus VAT Clerk to instruct Play Inspection Company to carry out a DDA audit and annual inspection for the 8 sites. • Leddys Field – latest position on tree work/marking and formation of Leddys Field Management Group The work schedule was noted and the trees have now been marked for thinning. With regards to the path, it was not clear if the work involved the path from Hall Street down the steps towards the pond. Clerk to clarify. In the event of it being the steps then it was felt that due to the way the water runs down the hill at that point, and following previous attempts to improve the path, it is impossible to avoid ongoing damage from water. With regards to the trimming of formal and informal paths – it was agreed that Mr Hough would be carrying this out as part of the Annual Maintenance contract. However the Parish Council did not agree to the trimming of informal paths, as they feel people should stick to the formal paths due to safety concerns. The hedge along New Road has already been cut back. RESOLVED that the Clerk is to request Newcastle Borough Council to provide a quote (overseen by a qualified arborist) with respects to thinning the sub compartment as marked and also to grind and remove tree stumps on the formal path. Horse logging was not considered to be suitable due to the access issues and expense. The logs should be removed from the site or chipped. Quote to be considered at the next meeting. <p>The decision regarding the formation of a Management Group will be taken once there is an approved plan of action and a clear understanding of the extent of work required following quotes being sought. Clerk to inform the interested parties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluebell Woods – to consider if further action is required at this stage The opinion of Tim James was considered at the meeting, and it was felt that at this stage no work was required immediately. RESOLVED to continue to inspect on a routine basis for health and safety reasons, but not to carry out any work at this stage. • Consideration of request from resident for further work to Miles Green footpath Cllr Proctor reported that the extensive work had been carried out as agreed and that a request for further work to the boundary has been requested, which he considered unnecessary. It was agreed that the Clerk should carry out a 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>December agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Next agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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	land registry check to determine whose boundary/responsibility this is – as it was thought the developers originally.	
12.	<p>To agree action regarding Leddys Field/adjoining back of Hill Terrace – Cllr Proctor</p> <p>Mrs Pearson had visited the site with Mr T James (Arbologist) whose opinion was that it was not creating any danger or damage being only bind weed and brambles. Clerk to inform the resident of this and to instruct Mr Hough to clear the strip behind that property only.</p>	Clerk Mr Hough
13.	<p>Allotments and their cost to the Parish in relationship to the rent paid – Mr Mike Joynson</p> <p>Mr Joynson asked if there would be any consideration in handing over the allotments to the community. The current situation with the Parish Council having a duty to supply allotments (if it is able to do so and there is demand) and the incremental rent increases was explained. No further action at this stage.</p>	
14.	<p>Halmer End Miners Institute current status and usage (if any), funding options, condition – Mr Mike Joynson</p> <p>The history of the community group running the premises was discussed in detail, along with the options that had been explored to facilitate this. Noted that due to a large bill of repairs the community group who had expressed an interest declined to take it on when approached. The building and land has been confirmed as being in the ownership of the County Council. It is understood that Peak Pursuits are in the process of agreeing a lease to take this building and the football ground over, seeking external funding to do so.</p>	
15.	<p>To consider the request to sign the surrender existing lease for Halmer End Bowling Green and enter into new lease with Staffs County Council</p> <p>The Parish Council considered the request from the County Council to surrender the lease for the bowling club to allow new tenants to take over the management of the whole site. As there are no binding reassurances in place to provide that the Bowling Club will be able to use the toilet facilities, receive help to seek funding and also the rent levels for the next 3 years are set as previously agreed, the Parish Council RESOLVED that they do not wish to surrender the lease at this moment in time as they consider this would be the demise of the Halmer End Bowling Club.</p>	Clerk
16.	<p>Request for signage egressing the village and information signs for Minnie Pit, Bateswood Wildlife, Halmer End Community woodland parks etc. – Mr Mike Joynson</p> <p>This item was brought forward on the agenda. It was agreed that Mr Joynson and Cllr Beech will liaise about the request for tourist signage for Bateswood and other community facilities in Halmer End. Cllr Beech to then approach Graham Williams at the Borough Council with the request.</p>	MJ AB
17.	<p>To consider Minnie Pit Disaster anniversary plans and tribute to the brave men of the village – Mr Mike Joynson</p> <p>Noted that the centenary anniversary is in 2018. It was agreed that nearer to the time plans should be considered along with the Chapel and others.</p>	
18.	<p>To approve the arrangements for Remembrance Day (WW1 Centenary event) Sunday 9 November 2014 – proposed route:</p> <p>AUDLEY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet at Bridge Close, Bignall End at 10am accompanied by Audley Brass Band. Proceed along Stephens Way - Gresley Way - Boyles Hall Road - New Road – Nantwich Road to roundabout – <u>Chester Road/Deans Hollow</u> ending at Church 	

	<p>Street by the cenotaph at St James Church (10.45 a.m.) ALSAGERS BANK</p> <p>2. Service in Halmer End Chapel St John's at 10 a.m. with procession to the cenotaph on Church bend, Alsagers Bank at 10.45 a.m.</p> <p>The arrangements for the Remembrance day were approved. It was RESOLVED that the poppy wreath at Alsagers Bank would be laid by Mr Sproston and Lewis Moore would lay the wreath at Audley. The arrangements for the band are in place at both sites. Clerk to send out invite letters as per usual.</p> <p>Cllr Proctor to ensure that people can announce the wreaths and to speak to the Minister who will be taking the memorial.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>BP</p>
19.	<p>To approve the renewal of Annual Insurance 1/10/14 to 30/09/14 at a cost of £2795.40 with Came and Co (Aviva)</p> <p>Discussion over the quote was held. It was RESOLVED that this be approved, subject to the Clerk enquiring to confirm that we are receiving value for money and that the insurance provider does not outsource the customer services/claims etc.</p>	Clerk
20.	<p>To receive an update from Audley LAP and Police / Parish Liaison Committee – Cllr Proctor</p> <p>Cllr Proctor reported that LAP had held a successful “Tracks to Trenches” event which provided a buffet lunch along with a visit to the Apedale Heritage Centre to commemorate the start of WW1 for 32 older people with 45 pupils from Sir Thomas Boughey High School.</p> <p>A monthly litter pick is being held on the 1st Friday of every month. Friends of Audley Cemetery have formed to help look after the closed Cemetery through cutting grass and litter picking – to enhance the service provided by the Borough Council. It was agreed that pending the success of this group, one will be considered for Alsagers Bank cemetery.</p> <p>It was agreed that the police surgery will now be held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month – which falls before every Parish Council meeting.</p>	
21.	<p>Correspondence and circulars</p> <p>To review other items as listed for information and consider for next agenda inc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NBC Polling District Review deadline 31st October – No comments although it was suggested that potential election candidates may wish to encourage people to take up the option of postal votes if there is no polling station nearby as in the case with Ryehills. - Consideration of application for planting scheme NBC deadline 27/09/14 - Clerk to submit an application for 10 trees at the Audley Cemetery to be planted by the Parish Council, which had previously been agreed by Steve Middlehurst. - Thank you letter from Audley Millennium Green Trust – noted. - Footpath CPI bid 18 – water works – noted that as there was ongoing legal issues over the position of the footpath, the CPI bid had been refused. <p>Other items – Thank you letter from Breast Cancer Awareness Pink Week for Audley was noted. In particular the momentum has grown and lots of retailers are joining in. Clerk to confirm exact dates.</p> <p>Staffordshire Playing Fields AGM and Community Council of Staffordshire AGM papers were circulated.</p>	Clerk
22.	Clerks Update – This was noted.	
23.	Councillor Reports	

	<p>Cllr Wemyss requested that the painting of the “white rails” and a sign over the Audley Bowling Club be included on the next agenda</p> <p>Mr Sproston asked about the hedge belonging to 69 High Street. If no further work has been carried out within a week, then the Clerk is to instruct Helers to cut that and also by overgrown hedges by Miles Green Farm, Peggys Bank. Clerk to chase up Jeff Green at Highways to find out the position, then if no further progress to do the work in default.</p> <p>A thank you letter for the bin arranged by Cllr Beech at Boyles Hall Road was noted.</p> <p>Mr Morgan reported that a footpath leading from Wereton Road to Nantwich Road had electric fencing up although there were no signs. Clerk to ask for signs.</p> <p>Cllr Proctor stated that he would like two agenda items regarding hedges and also signage for Boon Hill Road by Bignall End Cricket Ground.</p> <p>Mr Morgan also stated that the roadworks were not appropriately signed for Junction 16, to be on the next agenda. Clerk to inform contact at BAM.</p>	<p>Clerk Next agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Next agenda</p> <p>Clerk Next agenda</p>
24.	<p>Report back from the Newcastle Borough Council meeting held on 02.09.14 regarding the concurrent funding review and allocation of the Grant received</p> <p>Cllr Proctor and the Clerk provided feedback from the meeting. A recommendation will be made in October by the Scrutiny panel to Cabinet for a decision. Overall it was felt that a strong case was made, but cuts are to be expected which could result in an increase in precept.</p>	
25.	<p>Administration – Disposal of old office printers</p> <p>It was approved that the 2 old printers can be disposed of. Clerk to provide an article to Wood Lane newsletter and Audley Community News offering them to community groups on a first come first served basis.</p>	Clerk
26.	<p>Accounts - To approve the Accounts and note current budget position</p> <p>RESOLVED that the payment schedule be approved for payment as per Appendix A and the budget position statement noted.</p>	Clerk
27.	<p>Contractual issues</p> <p>None discussed.</p>	